BATTLING A DEFEATED ENEMY

On May 8, 1945, the German command officially surrendered to the Allied forces, which historians traditionally hold as the end of the Second World War in Europe. However, despite the surrender, some German troops continued to resist. One example is the Battle of Slivice, which occurred in Czechoslovakia from the eleventh to the twelfth of May in 1945. During this battle, Czech partisans and Soviet Red Army troops faced off against a remnant of the German Army. The Battle of Slivice, one of the last major battles on European ground in World War II, ended with the German forces’ defeat.

Looking at the greater cosmic conflict between Christ and Satan, the Bible is clear that Jesus has already won the war. However, similar to the Battle of Slivice, there are still daily battles being waged in every human being’s life. The victory over Satan was established at the cross, but the effects will not be fully realized until we see a “new heaven and a new earth,” after the first heaven and earth have “passed away” (Rev. 21:1). For now, suffering, pain, death, and evil abound in this world.

Though we know “an enemy has done this” (Matt. 13:28), having to deal with Satan’s attacks and the effects of sin, regardless of their shape or form, can be challenging. Why does God allow the pain? How are we to handle it, and in what way can understanding the metanarrative of the great controversy be helpful in dealing with this suffering? We will be exploring these questions and themes in this week’s lesson.

Read This Week’s Passage:
Job 1, 2
Write out Job 1, 2 from the translation of your choice. If you’re pressed for time, write out Job 1:18–22. You may also rewrite the passage in your own words, or outline or mind-map the chapter.
Go back to your scribed text and study the passage.

Circle repeated words/ phrases/ideas

Underline words/phrases that are important and have meaning to you

Draw Arrows to connect words/ phrases to other associated or related words/phrases

What special insights do your marks seem overall to point to?

Memorize your favorite verse.
Write it out multiple times to help with memorization.

How can knowing about the great controversy help in times of suffering?

Do you have enough evidence of God’s goodness that you can live with some unanswered questions?

Read more at
www.inversebible.org/GC07-3
After looking at your scribed and annotated text, what special insights do your marks overall seem to point to?

What questions emerge after studying this passage? What parts are difficult?

What other principles and conclusions do you find?

How can we develop a strong faith in times of relative ease so we can withstand the hard times to come?

Read more at www.inversebible.org/GC07-4
What relationship do the following verses have with Job 1, 2?

Ephesians 6:12  
Job 42  
1 Peter 5:8  
Luke 22:31, 32  
2 Corinthians 12:7–10  
1 Corinthians 10:13  
2 Timothy 3:12  
Romans 8:28

What other verses/promises come to mind in connection with the primary passage?

Review your memorized verse from Job 1, 2
How well do you know Jesus?
Is it mostly facts about Him, or do you know Him through your experiences?

How do you see Jesus differently or see Him again?

What is He saying to you personally through the text of the week?

Prayer Response:

Meditate on Job 1, 2 again and look for where Jesus is.

Read more at
www.inversebible.org/GC07-6
Review the memory verse. How does it apply to your life this week?

After this week’s study of the passage, what are some personal applications you are convicted of in your life?

What are some practical applications you must make in your attitude and actions toward people who suffer?

Read more inSight from the Spirit of Prophecy at www.inversebible.org/GC07-7
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Share insights from this week’s memory verse and Bible study as well as any discoveries, observations, and questions with your Sabbath School class (or Bible study group). Consider these discussion questions with the rest of the group.

How can you discern if a trial is from God or Satan?

Why do you think God allowed Job to serve as an example to prove His point to Satan?

How can reflecting on the stories of those who have endured trials help us grow in our faith and better face our own challenges?

Why are Christ’s followers subject to persecution and suffering?

What’s the best way to deal with God’s apparent silence and absence in difficult times?

How can we learn to trust God better even in moments of pain and suffering?

Do you think enduring trials can sometimes be a positive thing in the long run? Why or why not?

What are some lessons you’ve learned in times of suffering that you’ve later been grateful for?