VICTORY AND DEFEAT

During Napoleon’s invasion of Russia in 1812, the Russian army employed what’s known as the scorched earth policy, destroying crops and infrastructure as they retreated further into their territory. This approach significantly weakened the French forces, ultimately leading to their defeat.

When Jesus gained victory over death and forced Satan to retreat, Satan employed his own scorched earth policy on the church. Jesus’ triumph had rendered Satan an eternally defeated enemy, and he became filled with “great wrath, because he knows that he has a short time” (Rev. 12:12). Satan focused on inflicting as much damage as possible on God’s people and mission as Christianity spread throughout the known world. The book of Acts records some of the hardships the early church faced at the hands of angry mobs and hostile authorities. Satan did everything he could to keep the gospel from spreading. He knows that God feels deep sadness and pain for every person lost, for each one of them has a special, irreplaceable spot in His heart.

We should be thankful that God didn’t go on vacation after salvation was secured at Calvary. Instead, Jesus continued His work on the earth through the Holy Spirit. The many conflicts in the two thousand years that followed Calvary are a testament to the intense fight over the continued success and mission that Jesus began on earth. This lesson will delve into the dynamics of the great controversy after Jesus returned to heaven, aiming to understand how God provided and continues to provide victory for His people.
Write out Revelation 12:10–17 from the translation of your choice. If you’re pressed for time, write out verses 11 and 17. 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 does knowing that God can turn trials into blessings embolden your missionary work?

What would you be willing to risk for God’s Word and the free exercise of faith?

Read more at www.inversebible.org/GC10-3
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?

What does it mean to be a member of the remnant church in these last days? How can you contribute to its mission?

Read more at www.inversebible.org/GC10-4
inSpect

What relationship do the following verses have with Revelation 12:10–17?

Revelation 10
Revelation 14:6–12
Revelation 12:1–9
Revelation 19:10
Daniel 12:1
John 16:33
Matthew 24:21, 22
Romans 8:31–39

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

Review your memorized verse from Revelation 12:10–17.
Meditate on Revelation 12:10–17 again and look for where Jesus is.

In which areas of your life have you not allowed Jesus’ victory to free you? What’s keeping you from surrendering them?

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:

Read more at www.inversebible.org/GC10-6
inSight

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 family, workplace, church, 
and outreach?

Read more inSight from the 
Spirit of Prophecy at 
www.inversebible.org/GC10-7
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.

Why does God allow His people to suffer persecution and hardship?

How has God provided for His people during difficult times in the past?

How do you apply Jesus’ victory in a practical way in your life?

What are some ways to testify of Christ’s triumph over the power of sin, death, and Satan to people who know nothing about God and the Bible?

What does it mean to be a Seventh-day Adventist? What has your personal journey in understanding the identity and mission of the Seventh-day Adventist Church been like?

What kinds of hostilities against believers have you experienced or witnessed?

How can we look forward to the future without being fearful of persecution and hardship?