The United Nations formed in 1945 to deescalate future wars and protect every human’s basic rights. Their “Universal Declaration of Human Rights,” passed in 1948 and posted on their website, says, “Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion; this right includes freedom to change his religion or belief, and freedom, either alone or in community with others and in public or private, to manifest his religion or belief in teaching, practice, worship and observance” (Article 18). This milestone document has been translated into 514 languages and has inspired many countries and regions around the world to implement their own protections of liberty.

However, today, wars and military conflicts are putting more and more people at risk. The regulations protecting human rights, which include religious liberty, are suffering unexpected setbacks, and the world is suffering in sin and sorrow in more and more graphic ways.

Perhaps people living in the twenty-first century can recognize beyond any preceding generation that no human agency will deliver the freedom this world so desperately needs. Humanism will never succeed. This world needs a deliverance from above—which is what Adventism is all about! The word “advent” means “coming,” which is why Adventists chose that word to describe our faith in Christ’s soon return. Jesus’ name means “God saves”; even His name promises freedom. This week’s lesson will focus on the final liberation that God has promised to all His children.
Write out Revelation 21 from the translation of your choice. If you’re pressed for time, write out verses 1–8. You may also rewrite the passage in your own words, or outline or mind-map the passage.
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.

Why is judgment against God’s enemies part of His people’s liberation?

How do the six preceding chapters add meaning to the liberation promised in Revelation 21?

Read more at www.inversebible.org/RL13-3
After looking at your scribed and annotated text, what special insights do your marks seem to point to overall?

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

What other principles and conclusions do you find?

How is God’s freedom, with all its boundaries, true freedom?

Read more at www.inversebible.org/RL13-4
inSpect

What relationship do the following verses have with Revelation 21?

Isaiah 25:8, 9
John 14:1–3
Revelation 7:13–17
Revelation 15
Revelation 19:1–9

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

Review your memorized verse from Revelation 21.
Meditate on the primary passage again and look for where Jesus is.

How does the promise of being a child of God comfort you? How does it motivate you?

How do you see Jesus differently or see Him again?

What is He saying to you personally through this week’s passage?

Prayer Response:

Read more at www.inversebible.org/RL13-6
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 school, family, workplace, and church life?

Read more inSight from the Spirit of Prophecy at www.inversebible.org/RL13-7
inQuire

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 do the seven last plagues liberate God’s people?

What kinds of things will we be free from in the new earth?

What does the marriage relationship teach us about freedom?

What things does God’s law protect us from?

Why is it so necessary for our freedom to be guarded by boundaries?

How can freedom of choice be dangerous? Why does God give it to us anyway?

How has Satan redefined freedom?

Why will nobody ever again choose to sin in the new earth?

What freedoms did Jesus give up to purchase our freedom?

How can we develop deep love and unshakable trust in God today?