LOSING ALL

Serving in an underdeveloped region, an Adventist missionary couple were saving up to purchase a living room shelf set. After praying about it, however, they found an amazingly beautiful living room shelf on sale at a luxury furniture store. The price miraculously matched what they already had in savings, so they decided to purchase it.

A few months later they received a call to work as missionaries in an even poorer area. If they accepted this call, they would need to sell everything, including their new purchase—but at a ridiculously low price! The missionary couple knew it sounded childish, but they considered declining the call because of that new set. The couple eventually recognized that by putting their heart in the gift, they were disregarding the Giver, His plans for their life, for the salvation of others, and His ability to provide for them again. The gift became greater than the Giver!

It may be challenging when we realize that following Jesus and working for Him means to surrender all to Him. What is sure is that all of us, sooner or later, will leave all our possessions behind anyway, either by death or by translation at Jesus’ second coming.

During this week we will see how a patriarchal family surrendered all their resources by investing them in God’s plan of salvation. They received their investments back manifold when the crisis was over. Noah and his family became a reference for those who will also lose all during the final global crisis but promised to receive a “far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory” (2 Cor. 4:17, NKJV).
Write out 2 Peter 3:3–13 from the translation of your choice. If you’re pressed for time, write out 2 Peter 3:10, 11. You may also rewrite the passage in your own words, or outline or mind-map it.
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 in 2 Peter 3:3–13. Write it out multiple times to help memorization.

How have you normally reacted to crises of instability around you?

How can God help changing resignation into acceptance and preparation?

Read more at www.inversebible.org/stw03-3
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 week’s passage?
What parts are difficult?

What other principles and conclusions do you find?

What do you believe is our “present truth”? (Hint: Rev. 14:6–16)

Read more at www.inversebible.org/stw03-4
What relationship do the following verses have with the primary passage?

Genesis 7
Colossians 3:1–3
Hebrews 11:7
Acts 10:34, 35
Philippians 3:12–16
1 John 1:9
Psalm 34:7–10

What other verses/promises come to mind in connection with 2 Peter 3:3–13?

Based on Noah’s account, how can someone become “perfect” before God? How does it not mean absolute absence of sin?

What is Jesus saying to you through the main text?

How do you see Jesus differently or see Him again?

Prayer: How do you respond to seeing Jesus in this way?

Read more at www.inversebible.org/stw03-6
Review the memory verse. How does it apply to your life this week?

After this week’s study, how has it personally spoken to you?

How can you share this conviction with others?

Read more inSight from the Spirit of Prophecy at www.inversebible.org/stw03-7
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.

What conditions made the time before the Flood so similar to the time that precedes Jesus’ second coming?

In what other biblical accounts was the acceptance and practice of the “present truth” at the same time as the evangelistic method?

How can God’s character, whose foundation is love, be compatible with His destroying those who reject Him?

Is it possible to trust in the message of those who do not invest anything of their resources (or who invest too little) in support of what they are preaching?

Why did Noah present a costly offering as the first thing after leaving the ark? What was his purpose? What missionary project was that offering supporting?

Does God’s present truth now require that we surrender all to support His final work, or was that a part of present truth only in Noah’s era? Why?

Noah: The Grateful Giver