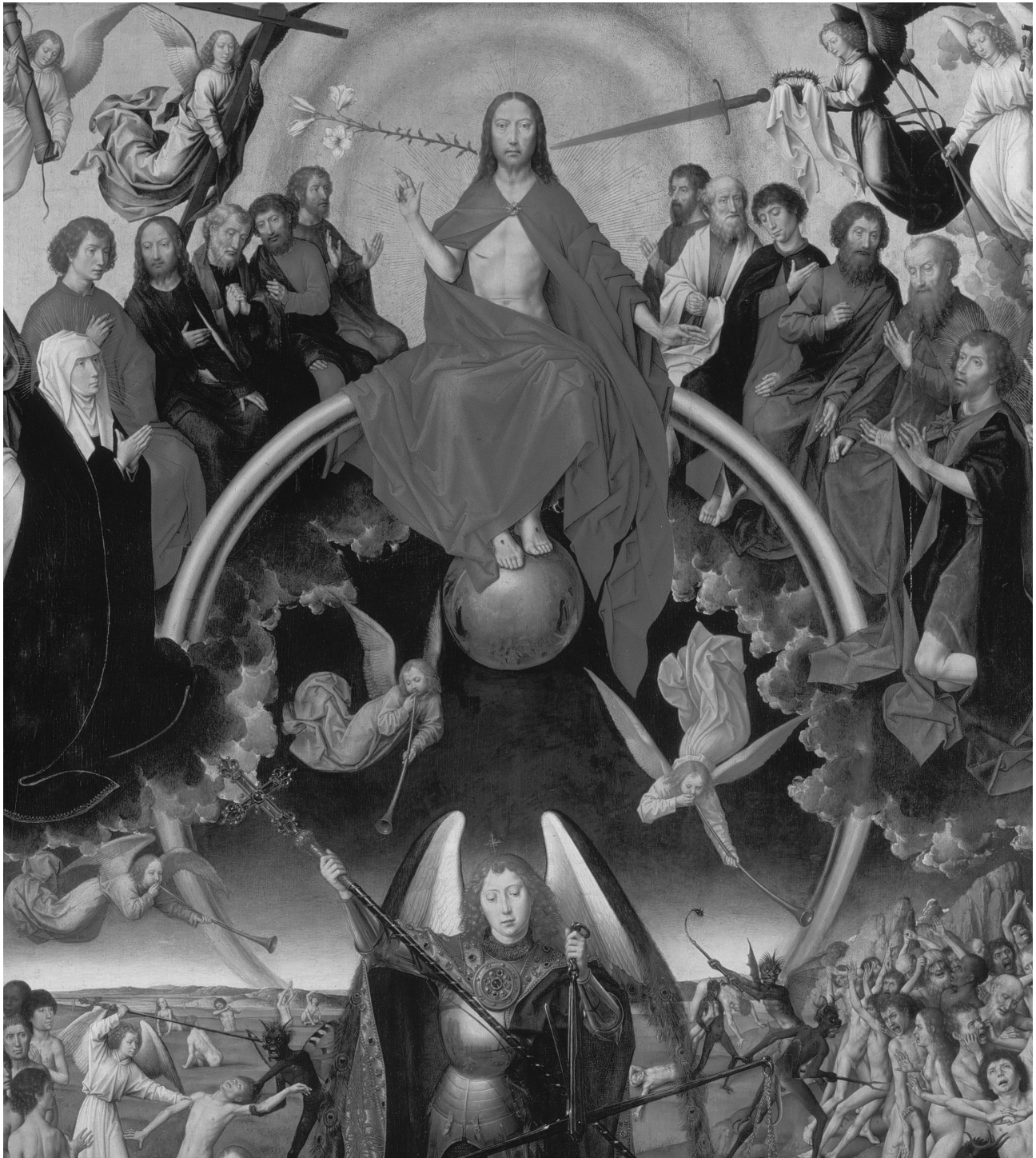


# Study Guide



COVER: *Last Judgement* (detail), by Hans Memling. SuperStock/SuperStock



LifeLight

# LifeLight Expands

Available NOW!

The Bible: An Overview  
 Genesis, Pt. 1  
 Genesis, Pt. 2  
 Exodus, Pt. 1  
 Exodus, Pt. 2  
 Wilderness Wanderings  
 Joshua  
 Judges  
 Ruth/Esther  
 1 & 2 Samuel  
 Life of David  
 1 & 2 Kings

Ezra/Nehemiah  
 Job  
 Selected Psalms  
 Proverbs  
 Ecclesiastes/  
 Song of Solomon  
 Isaiah, Pt. 1  
 Isaiah, Pt. 2  
 Daniel  
 Hosea/Joel/Amos  
 Minor Prophets  
 Nahum/Habakkuk/  
 Zephaniah

Haggai/Zechariah/  
 Malachi  
 Matthew, Pt. 1  
 Matthew, Pt. 2  
 Mark  
 Luke, Pt. 1  
 Luke, Pt. 2  
 John, Pt. 1  
 John, Pt. 2  
 Acts, Pt. 1  
 Acts, Pt. 2  
 Romans, Pt. 1

Romans, Pt. 2  
 1 Corinthians  
 2 Corinthians  
 Galatians/Philippians/  
 Colossians  
 Ephesians/  
 1 & 2 Thessalonians  
 Timothy/Titus/Philemon  
 Hebrews  
 James/Jude  
 1 & 2 Peter  
 1, 2, 3 John  
 Revelation

## LifeLight Foundations

Baptism  
 Bible Feasts  
 Creation, New Creation  
 The Christian's Mission

End Times  
 Heaven & Hell  
 Law & Gospel  
 Ministry

Miracles  
 Parables  
 Prayer

Prophecy  
 Triune God  
 Worship

## LifeLight Release Schedule

### 2014 RELEASES

LifeLight—1 & 2 Chronicles                      October

### 2015 RELEASES

LifeLight—Jeremiah/Lamentations                      January

LifeLight—Ezekiel                      April

LifeLight—Obadiah/Jonah/Micah                      July

## Last Things

### Matthew 3:2, 11–12

*Distribute before session 1 for use in session 1.  
Use enrichment magazine pp. 2–5.*

#### Resources for Worship

Use these resources for your daily study at home and at the week's assembly.

#### Hymn

Through Jesus' blood and merit  
I am at peace with God.  
What, then, can daunt my spirit,  
However dark my road?  
My courage shall not fail me,  
For God is on my side;  
Though hell itself assail me,  
Its rage I may deride.

There's nothing that can sever  
From this great love of God;  
No want, no pain whatever,  
No famine, peril, flood.  
Though thousand foes surround me,  
For slaughter mark His sheep,  
They never shall confound me,  
The vict'ry I shall reap.

For neither life's temptation  
Nor death's most trying hour  
Nor angels of high station  
Nor any other pow'r  
Nor things that now are present  
Nor things that are to come  
Nor height, however pleasant,  
Nor darkest depths of gloom

Nor any creature ever  
Shall from the love of God  
This ransomed sinner sever;  
For in my Savior's blood  
This love has its foundation;  
God hears my faithful prayer  
And long before creation  
Named me His child and heir.

(Simon Dach; tr. *The Lutheran Hymnal*, 1941, alt. LSB 746)

#### Prayer

Heavenly Father, in Your Word, You promised that Jesus will return to judge the living and the dead. I

pray that You would help me to be ready for the second coming by studying Your Word in this LifeLight series on the end times. Increase my understanding of what the Scriptures say about the last things, strengthen my commitment to lead a life that looks forward to the end; and help me always to live in hope for that day of resurrection glory. Through Jesus Christ, my Lord and Savior. Amen.

#### Digging Deep

##### My Personal Study for Week 1

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#### Day 1 • Read 2 Peter 3:4; 1 Corinthians 15:19; Revelation 7:16–17; 2 Peter 3:9; Matthew 24:14

1. Based on 2 Peter 3 and your experience, what attitudes do people today have about the end times?

2. Why are we to be "pitied" if the Christian hope is restricted to "this life only" (1 Corinthians 15:19)?

3. God makes promises about the life to come. During what conditions of life are Christians most likely to think about these promises?

4. As you prepare for Christ's return, consider: why doesn't Christ return right now?

8. In the parable of the ten virgins, what does "the kingdom of heaven" refer to?

5. What is the work that only the Church can do while she waits for the end?

9. a. Jesus will return as a judge on Judgment Day. Why will He condemn some who claim to have done "mighty works" in His name?

b. What does He really require?

.....  
**Day 2 • Read Matthew 3:2, 11–12;  
1:23; 12:28; Luke 17:21; Matthew 25:1–  
13; 7:21–23**

6. What did John the Baptist say about the end times when he preached to the people and prepared them for the coming of Christ?

.....  
**Day 3 • Read Mark 13:26–27; Luke  
21:27–28; John 5:28–29; 11:24–25**

10. How does the Gospel of Mark describe the second coming?

7. The final judgment is an essential feature in the preaching of John the Baptist, since his admonition to repent would make no sense without it. Yet, why can a person say that the kingdom of heaven (or of God) arrived when Jesus began His ministry?

11. What does the Gospel of Luke add to the description in Mark?

# Death and Dying

## Romans 6:23

*Distribute before session 2 for use in session 2.  
Use enrichment magazine pp. 9–11.*

### Resources for Worship

Use these resources for your daily study at home and at the week's assembly.

### Hymn

Jesus, priceless treasure,  
Fount of purest pleasure,  
    Truest friend to me,  
Ah, how long in anguish  
Shall my spirit languish,  
    Yearning, Lord, for Thee?  
    Thou art mine,  
    O Lamb divine!  
I will suffer naught to hide Thee;  
Naught I ask beside Thee.

In Thine arms I rest me;  
Foes who would molest me  
    Cannot reach me here.  
Though the earth be shaking,  
Ev'ry heart be quaking,  
    Jesus calms my fear.  
    Lightnings flash  
    And thunders crash;  
Yet, though sin and hell assail me,  
Jesus will not fail me.

Satan, I defy thee;  
Death, I now decry thee;  
    Fear, I bid thee cease.  
World, thou shalt not harm me  
Nor thy threats alarm me  
    While I sing of peace.  
    God's great pow'r  
    Guards ev'ry hour;  
Earth and all its depths adore Him,  
Silent bow before Him.

Hence, all earthly treasure!  
Jesus is my pleasure,  
    Jesus is my choice.  
Hence, all empty glory!  
Naught to me thy story  
    Told with tempting voice.  
    Pain or loss,  
    Or shame or cross,

Shall not from my Savior move me  
Since He deigns to love me.

(Johann Franck; tr. Catherine Winkworth, alt.  
LSB 743:1–4)

### Prayer

Gracious God in heaven, Lord of life and of death, I pray to You to forgive me my sins and to rescue me from death, which is the penalty for my sins. On account of Jesus' own death and resurrection, I know that death is not my final end but that I can look forward to heaven and resurrection also. By the power of Your Word, strengthen my faith in Him and in all Your promises made to me through Him. Through the same Jesus Christ, my Lord and Savior. Amen.

### Digging Deep

#### My Personal Study for Week 2

#### .....

#### **Day 1 • Read "Thanatopsis" (selections); Genesis 3:19; Isaiah 40:6–7**

Selected lines from "Thanatopsis" by William Cullen Bryant:

Earth, that nourish'd thee, shall claim  
Thy growth, to be resolved to earth again,  
And, lost each human trace, surrendering up  
Thine individual being, shalt thou go  
To mix for ever with the elements;  
To be a brother to the insensible rock,  
And to the sluggish clod, which the rude swain  
Turns with his share, and treads upon. . . .

As the long train  
Of ages glides away, the sons of men,  
The youth in life's green spring, and he who goes  
In the full strength of years, matron and maid,  
The speechless babe, and the gray-headed man—  
Shall one by one be gathered to thy side  
By those who in their turn shall follow them. . . .

Approach thy grave,  
Like one who wraps the drapery of his couch  
About him, and lies down to pleasant dreams.

1. What common attitude toward death does the poet encourage?
- b. Explain whether this is good news or bad news.

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**Day 2 • Read Genesis 2:17; Ezekiel 18:20, 32; Genesis 8:21; Romans 8:7–8; Ecclesiastes 7:2; Romans 7:19–20**

2. But what does Genesis 3:19 teach about the origins of death?

6. According to today's readings, why do human beings die?

3. What are some of the ways in our funeral rites and rituals that people today try to soften the impact of death?

7. Even the best people eventually die. What does this say about human righteousness and merit?

4. *For personal reflection. Sharing optional.* Reflect on the way the prophet Isaiah describes human death. What thoughts or memories do his words stir in you?

8. Do human beings *want* to sin? Why or why not?

5. a. Who is in charge of human life and death?

9. After we are Christians, do we still sin? Why or why not?