

Document for Research Group of REL 4a

Please put all your summations, insights, paraphrase work here for your group to see and know

Section 1: Who Christ is ... (what Christ is described to be)

Bible Verses Summary: God is life, He is the world, He is everything in it, He created all, and He is eternal. He is our living connection to God and He died for all of our sin so that we may be reconnected with Him. God is the beginning and will be the end. He is a God of infinite grace and mercy and He loves us forever no matter what we do to push him away.

- John 8:58
John 3:16
Luke 9:51-56 (note what Jesus says)
John 11:25
John 1:1-5; 14
John 1:29
- Acts 17:24, 28-30
Hebrews 1:2-3
Matthew 1:23
Isaiah 9:6
- Genesis 2:7
Ecclesiastes 12:7
Job 27:3

EGW Summary: Christ is the center of all. He created the world and everything in it and made everything beautiful and in his image. God is supposed to be our partner and He will give us the tools to follow Him but we have to choose Him. Because a life without Him is no life at all

- DA 764:1-3 * {note at [bottom](#) of page for grey text}
ED 198

One Sentence/Take-Away:

For Christ is life, love, and all, with Him nothing is impossible

S1 Who Christ is - Highlights/Notes

EGW

- God is the foundation of life. Satan will be consumed in His presence.
- A life without Christ is a life in the dark. If Satan had died when he left Heaven the angels would have doubted God. Once we lose sin God's love will be vindicated.
- God has made everything beautiful to begin with and it will become even more beautiful once it is joined in harmony with God's law and protect His works

Bible Verse

- Before anything he was there.
- Christ loved us so much that He died for our sins, so that we can have eternal life
- This passage shows that the hostility between the Jews and the Samaritans was strong during the time of Jesus. However, the way the disciples dealt with the problem was very different from the way the Lord did. When the disciples were not accepted in the Samaritan village, they were furious and wanted revenge. Jesus said no.
- Christ had mercy on us. Even when we stood against Him, He decided not to punish / take away our lives. Christ went to different villages with his messengers to spread God's words and the good news.
- He is our savior and all he wants is for us to believe in him
- Jesus was with God, Jesus was God before creation. Jesus is the word. He was here in the beginning. Because of him, things were created. He knew how things were going to be. Therefore he was made fully human while fully divine to bring light into the darkness that we as humanity created.
- Jesus Christ is the lamb, a friend we can relate to, a savior we can depend on, our God who has saved us and taken the sin of the world.
- God is the creator of all and needs nothing from humans because he gives us all we have. Because of this we should know that God is not anything earthly like Gold. He is not of this world and all humans should repent.
- God spoke through Christ. Christ carried the holy message and the light of God's glory. He represents God. After his crucifixion, Christ will come back/resurrect and return to God in heaven.
- Immanuel means "God with us"
- He will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. The laws are on His shoulder.
- God gave us His only begotten Son
- God created man from dust, and He breathed life into man. We all carried God's breath.

- After humans pass, we return to the dust we were originally made from and our spirit is given back to God, the creator
- Recognizing that God and His Holy Spirit live in us.

S1 Review Questions

1. Why didn't God terminate Satan as soon as he left heaven?
 - The angels would have doubted God.
2. Why did Christ die for our sins?
 - So we can have eternal life and because He loved us greatly.
3. Why does God need nothing from humans?
 - God needs nothing from humans because He is the creator of all and provides us with everything we have.
4. What happens to humans after we pass away?
 - We return to the dust we were originally made from and our spirit is given back to God, the creator.
5. What is the meaning of the name Immanuel?
 - God is with us
6. What is the difference between the disciples behavior and Jesus' when they were not accepted in the samaritan village?
 - The disciples were furious and wanted revenge while Jesus did not seek revenge.
7. What did God make humans from?
 - God created man from dust, and He breathed life into man.
8. What does Jesus want from us?
 - Jesus wants us to believe in Him.

9. Who is the foundation of life?

-God.

10. Who was there before anything?

-God.

11. What did Jesus do so we could reconnect with him?

- He died for our sins

12. What does God expect us to do before he loves us?

- Nothing, He is a God of infinite grace and mercy and He loves us forever no matter what we do to push him away

Section 2: What was Christ's mission/purpose: remember this is FOR ALL THE GODHEAD ALL THE TIME SINCE CHRIST IS THE SAME FOREVER

Bible Verses Summary: He is telling us that what he came for is to testify the truth, and he himself is the truth and everyone on the side of truth is his side! Food symbolizes what everyone needs to live. It emphasizes the importance of obeying God, because we live in Him. Jesus isn't here to point out our flaws but to rescue us from this sinful world. He wrote this passage as something to look forward to. Not many things are as exciting as what we hear about the second coming. To some of us it can appear as scary, but in the end it will be beautiful. No matter the nationality or ethnicity: everyone is a child of God. We are His sheep and he will guide us. His primary reference was to the cross, but His words also include the resurrection and ascension in its meaning. Christ's death, resurrection, and ascension are all linked to His glorious exaltation and the drawing of sinners to Himself.

- John 18:37 (note what He links His Kingship to ...)
John 4:34
John 3:17 (linked to John 12:47-48)
John 6:39-40
John 10:11, 16
John 12:32 (interesting note on Greek that ties into John 3)
John 1:51
John 17:3 (seems unrelated at first glance but the word for know gives us an inside look at how salvation works. tie this in with story of John 21 and DA)
John 14:23
- Luke 2:30-35
John 11:50-52
Acts 17:26-27
Hebrews 1:1-2
Matthew 1:21

EGW Summary: God is responsible for everything, because He controls all things. He loves us enough to give us free choice and knowledge so that we can be responsible for our decisions. Satan cannot deny His amazing love and will be destroyed by it. Even though He finished creating, humans still depend on Him and live in His blessings. Humans could have died and returned to dust, but fortunately God's mercy and grace have been granted to us by the crucifixion of Jesus so that we all will be renewed and live eternally. God paid all prices so that we have a free ride to heaven.

- DA 25:1
DA 480:1
PP 91:2
ED 15:2
DA 22:1
DA 34:1
DA 753:1
DA 761:5
DA 626:1
DA 389:3

One Sentence/Take-Away:

Christ shows His unconditional love by sacrificing Himself on the cross to save the world.

S2 What was Christ's mission/purpose - Highlights/Notes

EGW

- To portray a character opposite to Satan, a character opposite to the pain and hurt the world would experience, Jesus came down as a humble human who people despised him.
- Christ literally puts himself in our shoes, he feels our pain and hurt as if it were his own and that is how he plans to help lead us on the right path.
- Because God saw the evil that would be in our life, He gave us a set of rules to follow so that we would be saved from that wickedness.
- If humans do not believe and obey God, they are subject to death. However, if they do, God will restore their souls.
- The purpose of Christ is for the world to be lightened, only by love. By the comparison of God's character vs Satan's character.
- God has been there since day one. He was our creator and he continues to be there for us despite the situation. He has always communicated with us according to our needs.
- Satan made the worst decision and decided to sin even though he was a friend of Gods. We humans don't even know him like that or have a bond like that and still choose to sin and listen to satan.
- When God comes to save us, he will show his love to all of us and we will get to go home with him. All sin will be left on earth and none will come to heaven.
- God forgives all our sins and by Jesus' sacrifice we are saved but we must also save ourselves and turn away from sin.
- Christ is no value to us if we do not know Him by heart as a Saviours
- All humans should follow in Christ's footsteps. He is the perfect role model. It is vital that we accept Him and know Him through our faith and love.

Bible Verses

- He is telling us that what he came for is to testify the truth, and he himself is the truth and everyone on the side of truth is his side!
- Food symbolizes what everyone needs to live. It emphasizes the importance of obeying God, because we live in Him. God is the Provider.
- Jesus isn't here to point out our flaws but to rescue us from this sinful world
- He wrote this passage as something to look forward too. Not many things are as exciting as what we hear about the second coming. To some of us it can appear as scary, but in the end it will be beautiful.
- God promises that He will raise the believers and give them eternal life on the second coming of the Messiah.

- No matter the nationality or ethnicity: everyone is a child of God. We are His sheep and he will guide us.
- His primary reference was to the cross, but His words also include the resurrection and ascension in its meaning. Christ's death, resurrection, and ascension are all linked to His glorious exaltation and the drawing of sinners to Himself
- God promises the second coming of Christ, which angels will follow Him
- the One true God and Jesus know who you are and have gifted you eternal life through Jesus.
- Christ declares that He is the Son of God and asks people to obey Him. His teachings bring goodness to us. If people love Him and obey Him, God will protect them and give them home.
- God is just. He loves everyone despite their backgrounds/conditions. Christ came to correct our mistakes and to change the world into better shape.
- When the time comes What truly lies in everyone's soul will be revealed and salvation will come.
- Christ came to save the world from being destroyed by God again, but little appreciated His sacrifice. God wants to remind us of this gracious act: Jesus died for everyone and for the union of believers with God in heaven
- God created everything, so that everything we associate will remind of God. Therefore, we will seek Him. Seeking Christ for goodness because He has always been seeking us.
- God once spoke to humans through apostles who would spread His word to the world. Then Jesus spoke the message of God to the world.
- Jesus risked everything just for OUR sins

S2 Review Questions

1. What did Jesus come to testify to us
 - The truth
2. What was the purpose of God's loving persona
 - To create a character completely opposite to Satan's character
3. What makes us relate to God so much.
 - The fact that God puts himself in our shoes and that he feels all the pain we do
4. What was the purpose of Christ
 - To lighten the world through love
5. What was the turning point for Satan, before he truly became lost?
 - He sinned against God even after he had been warned
6. When we say God controls us, do we mean he controls our decisions?
 - No. He loves us enough to give us free choice and knowledge so that we can be responsible for our decisions.
7. What are the things linked to His glorious exaltation and the drawing of sinners to Himself.
 - Christ's death, resurrection, and ascension are all
8. What was the reason behind Jesus risking everything when he died for us?
 - for our sins and we had to be saved in order to live with him forever
9. What is the reason behind comparing our sins to Satan's and connecting it with our relationship with God?
 - Satan was God's friend before he sinned. We humans don't even know him like that or have a bond like that and still choose to sin and listen to satan.

Section 3: Who is responsible for good

Bible Verses Summary: Jesus is the good shepherd who will lay down His life to bring us peace and life. God is the creator of the universe. He is the life which brings light to the world and dispels darkness. God's love is so great and always chases after us. He plans all the goodness for each one of us. However, we choose to worship Satan and/or be tempted by Satan, as a result we have to be responsible for bad consequences. Sadly, many use this as an excuse/reason to blame God. Having strong faith in God will strengthen and renew us.

- John 10:10-11
- John 1:3-4
- James 1:17
- Lamentations 3:22-23

EGW Summary: God is the fountain of life. When we choose to separate ourselves from him either by sinning or denying his presence, we are the ones responsible for choosing the darkness or death. Satan is at hand to tempt and annoy. He attacks our weak points of character and wants us to have no confidence in God. there might be a lot of temptations that are thrown upon us but staying strong by letting God in to help us will lead us to win against Satan's evil deeds. There might be a lot of questions to why God didn't just destroy Satan or just avoided evil by his power but what we should understand is Rebellion was not to be overcome by force. Compelling power is found only under Satan's government. Besides, how would we know the true power is love and mercy if God chose to go by force? We have clear laws such as the ten commandments and God's words. If we follow that, we won't fall in Satan's trap.

- DA 764:1
- ED 130:5-131:1
- ED 197:5

One Sentence/Take-Away:

Giving His own Son to save us is the ultimate sign of God's love and goodness.

S3 Who is responsible for good - Highlights/Notes

EGW

- God gives us this life on Earth, that we may develop our character and reap the result of our choices, whether good or bad.
- God is responsible for all things good. He gives us the free will to make our own choices and live with the consequences of them.
- God is life, and He shows/is the perfect example of a perfect life. So, if you are not connected with God, you are not following and in harmony with the “perfect lifestyle”, thus you are technically not living. God loved us so much that he shared his free will with us, so we can develop who and what we want to be through our decisions and through them we are “judged” and take the consequences. However, Satan cannot resist God's love and he will be destroyed by Him.
- We are all depending on God every day and moment. Without Him we wouldn't be able to live or breath.
- we ourselves are the evidence of God's Creation. Every breath we take and every word we speak must be dependent on God.
- Although God has created everything and everyone, we still depend on Him to be able to function and carry out our duties; we compare it (until a certain point) to Newton's first law: "An object at rest stays at rest and an object in motion stays in motion with the same speed and in the same direction unless acted upon by an unbalanced force," where God is the force that moves us every day, every moment, without God's interference, everything and everyone would stop "moving"; everything that happens is within God's control and permission, and everything happens because of him, without his permission, nothing would happen.
- We realize how God has control over everything, even the smallest elements. Without God's interference, we "would die and return to the dust of the earth," but thanks to God's grace, we are (everything and everyone) renewed in his presence.
- God the father is not just our creator. He is the ultimate provider. Every pleasure and life we enjoy comes from God
- God is the creator of everything and everyone. And all the things that reflect and demand emotion, reflect the permission of God and his life. For God owns life and He himself is life, so we are not worthy of living because it does not belong to us, but God with all His grace allows us to live and interact with His creation.

Bible Verses

- Jesus came so that humans can be saved and live life the best way possible. Jesus is our shepherd, he guides us.
- God is the creator of the universe. He made all things: he is life itself and gives light to humans.
- His gifts to us are good, and only good. We often blame him for the bad things, when it's either a good thing (in disguise) or from satan.
- God's love is so great that we are not eternally lost from our sin. His love for us never fails. Humans should have faith.

S3 Review Questions

1.

Section 4: Who is responsible for evil

Bible Verses Summary: Those who don't accept God's message are evil because they chose to do evil deeds. We have to let God in our lives because the further we get from God, we are more likely to fall for what Satan has planned for us. Satan will make it very easy to be evil, but staying true to God has always had a happy ending. The story of Job is a very good example for this. Satan is evil, there is no good in him. The evil will always try to snatch anyone who is standing beside God. He always tries to test God's people and prove them wrong. Job stayed strong even after everything but his life was taken away from him. We know what staying true to God until the end will lead us to at the end of the story. There are a lot of earthly desires of humans and those lead humans to be sinful. God gave a choice and they chose to be sinful with their depraved minds. At the end there is a judgement for all this and the righteous ones will go to heaven.

- John 4:44 (note how is murder is carried out—what it's tied to in the passage)
John 10:2-3
- Job 1 & 2 (note the tone of conversation between God & satan)
John 10:8, 10
Ezekiel 28:12-19
Isaiah 14:12-20
Zechariah 3:1-2
Revelation 12:9
- Romans 1:18, 24, 26, 28 (note: God's righteousness is revealed in vs 16-17 but what God's wrath is, is VERY DIFFERENT from human expression)

→ for more in depth :

[what is God's wrath?](#)

EGW's own view on this subject matured over time. Alden Thompson (from WWU) wrote on this in the Adventist Review of 1981. You can follow the ideas and their implications here:

[The Growth of Ellen G. White](#)

EGW Summary: God is the fountain of life. When we choose to separate ourselves from him either by sinning or denying his presence, we are the ones responsible for choosing the darkness or death. Satan is at hand to tempt and annoy. He attacks our weak points of character and wants us to have no confidence in God. there might be a lot of temptations that are thrown upon us but staying strong by letting God in to help us will lead us to win against Satan's evil deeds. There might be a lot of questions to why God didn't just destroy Satan or just avoided evil by his power but what we should understand is Rebellion was not to be overcome by force. Compelling power

is found only under Satan's government. Besides, how would we know the true power is love and mercy if God chose to go by force? We have clear laws such as the ten commandments and God's words. If we follow that, we won't fall in Satan's trap.

- DA 764:1-2 (note what is SEED and what is FRUIT)
DA 120:2
DA 759:1
DA 753:2
- ED 263:2
1 SM 235:1

One Sentence/Take-Away:

The real source of evil in this world is Satan and those who follow him, NOT the good Father.

S4 Who is responsible for evil - Highlights/Notes

EGW

- Those who reject God and live a life of rebellion separate themselves from God and choose death and darkness instead of light and life.
- when we let ourselves be vulnerable both physically and mentally, Satan attacks the weak points of us. Jesus however was able to rule over Satan's temptation. So we must keep our faith strong and ask God's mercy.
- Even when Christ was at the weakest stage of His life, Satan did not prevail. His faith is the infinite power that nothing can defeat it. Satan attacks humans' weakness: lack of faith.
- God could have destroyed Satan, but He is not a tyrant. He has mercy and great love for everyone, including Satan.
- Every action, thought, or lie that Satan tempts us with not only hurts us, but those around us, the people who love us, and most of all, God, because we belong to Him.
- What Satan did had made people tempted to sin and he will do anything and everything to keep us sinning.
- God gave his son to the world in order to stop sin, and he will come back when the gospel is preached to the whole world.
- The ten commandments shouldn't be seen as a way to punish you for doing it but as a way to be happy in obedience.
- Ten commandments are not a checklist of laws that is given by God, but they can guide and improve us. Accepting Christ purifies our souls and brings us eternal life.
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Bible Verses

- I don't think it means the prophet is evil. Usually prophets are unliked because they tell people to correct their ways. People do not like to be corrected so they do not like prophets. But Jesus was accepted and welcomed to Galilee. I don't see how this says who is responsible for evil?
- Those who do not accept the message of Jesus or the prophets do not accept the message because their deeds are evil and they do not want to change their ways.
- we have to let God in our lives. He is our shepherd and we have to be his sheep ready to be guided with what he has to say.
- Satan is the one responsible for evil. He is so sure that Job will renounce God, so God tells him to test Job that he can do whatever he wants except kill Job. I think one of the most important things to note from this verse is that Job's wife tell Job to curse God he tells her shall we only accept good from God and not trouble

- even when Satan himself attacks Job and all of his possessions and family and his loved ones were against him he still held strong and did not curse God.
- At that time, the opening of the sheepfold was very narrow and there was only one opening. This allows the gatekeeper to easily control which animals enter and exit. Anyone who tries to enter a pen or take an animal out of the door through another path is a thief by definition.
- Jesus compares false prophets and some people as thieves and robbers because they were impure and condemned just like them, and we enjoyed a life and hope that did not belong to us by right, but Jesus did not become corrupted like the others.
- The king of the kyre became proud and was no longer blameless.
- Because of the violence he did and he is so proud , God gives him punishment.
- Evil goes to hell, those who are righteous will go to heaven. All was good until Lucifer, who had been disgusted as a star.
- Satan is responsible for evil and he is ready to snatch up anyone who is standing by God's side
- The devil and his angels came to the earth to deceive, kill and destroy. So that God's people can't be saved.
- There are a lot of earthly desires of humans and those lead humans to be sinful. God gave them a choice and they chose to be sinful with their depraved minds.

S4 Review Questions

1.

Section 5: God's role in our choices

Bible Verses Summary: God is the light that dispels the darkness and sin of the world. Freedom is one of the ways God shows His love toward us. No matter how terrible and reckless your decision is, God will always be with you, because we are all children of God. We are all aware of conscience, the law of righteousness. Since the law is made by God's sight, it won't lead us to bad consequences. You don't need to be within the religious circle in order to be able to choose to be with God. Nonetheless, being within the religious circle doesn't guarantee that you are with God. It's what's on your heart that counts. Love is above all. With love we can have the opportunity of knowledge and understanding, of choosing between good and bad, the opportunity to choose God. The Father does many ways to reach out to us and wants us to know that we are never too far gone from Him. The love of the Father and the Son is so great that They do not want to see the world to sin and be slaves to sin. Therefore, Christ willingly chose to remove our sin and set us free. He is the only one who has the power to do so.

- John 3:18-19
John 8:34-36
- John 3:33
Acts 17: 27
Romans 2:4
Romans 2:13-15
Philippians 1:9-11 (the NCV makes the greek clearest here)

EGW Summary: God gives humans freedom and knowledge so that we can think and make our own decision and be responsible for it. For many years, we have fallen away from God despite all the messages that angels and His apostles taught us. Even when we were wicked, God's love and mercy are so great: He sent His Beloved Son, Jesus, to die for our sins. God's love is not commanded but freely given to each one of us. Every soul is known to Jesus, because we are His sheeps. If we live in God and follow Him, He will strengthen us and guide us to the way to heavenly kingdom.

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|--------------------------|-------------------------------|
| ● PK 510:4-511:0 | DA 638:2 (similitude to God's |
| DA 550:6 | character w/o knowing God) |
| DA 480:2-3 | DA 815:2 |
| ED 146 (tie with DA 302) | SC 27:2 |
| DA 22:1 | |

One Sentence/Take-Away:

God gave us a chance to choose, let us choose him.

S5 God's role in our choices - Highlights/Notes

EGW

- God loves and respects us enough to let us make our own decisions and never forces His will, even if it might be the better choice or the greater good. God of heaven is above all other gods
- God gave us freedom to think and to follow him and in Christ's kingdom there is no oppression of any sort nor any sort of behavior checks, the angels come as messengers of his mercy.
- God wants humanity to be independent thinkers and to think for themselves. There is no room for oppression and conflict in his kingdom, you don't have to conform with how someone else wants you to be.
- God does not want us to be deprived from freedom. We shall not control one another nor judge one another nor order another. That is not our purpose. He wants us use our free will and think for ourselves but do so justly by following his word
- Every soul is known to Jesus, because He died for each of them salvation. Jesus wants us to know His voice, because He sees all our hearts and knows who we are. His Holy Spirit will always be with us to draw us nearer to Jesus.
- Our faith, righteous works, and humility in God will strengthen us and will allow us to enter God's kingdom.
- God is love, and love cannot be commanded. He can destroy or smite Satan and all who follow evil not by forces but instead through love and kindness.
- Even if you are not "aligned" or apart Christianity or people you say they serve God, God knows your heart and can recognize that you are one of His children. Even if you are completely ignorant of His existence.
- If you are a breathing organism, you count as a child of God. You do not have to be a supposed christian, or a frequent scripture reader, in order to be loved by Him.
- God brings light to the world. God is the Sun of the Righteousness who can heal the dark world. People misapprehend God's purpose of putting dark into existence
- The influence of the divine Spirit is a blessing. Our works are evidence that the Holy Spirit lives in us and that we are the children of God.
- Without the love of Christ, everything we do is mute.
- Doing something as simple as admiring God through our actions, gives us strength to do something as complex as sharing His message.
- The only condition of discipleship and service that Christ asked is to love Him. This passage ties with 1 Corinthians 13:3 "If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that

- You have the free will to resist God's love and may resist Christ. But if you choose to accept God and be drawn to Christ you will be led to the path of salvation and repentance. Christ died painfully on the cross for our sins.

Bible Verses

- whoever believes in God will not be condemned, because they have recognized that he is the light.
- Christ has the power to change us from slaves to sin to a part of the family, because he's the Son of God.
- God gives us the decision to choose him or to not choose him, along with every other choice, he gives us endless options.
- God gave us free will so we can truly love and choose him. He wants us to find Him from our own will. He never leaves us.
- God is always on our side, even when we don't choose him. Because that's the way he is, he's always there for us
- You don't need to be within the religious circle in order to be able to choose to be with God, and being within the religious circle doesn't guarantee that you are with God. It's what's on your heart that counts.
- the law of righteousness is there, we all know it , the difference comes when we choose to abide by it and follow what is right. Since the law is made by God's sight it won't lead us to something bad.
- Love is above all. With love we can have the opportunity of knowledge and understanding, of choosing between good and bad, the opportunity to choose God.

S5 Review Questions

1.