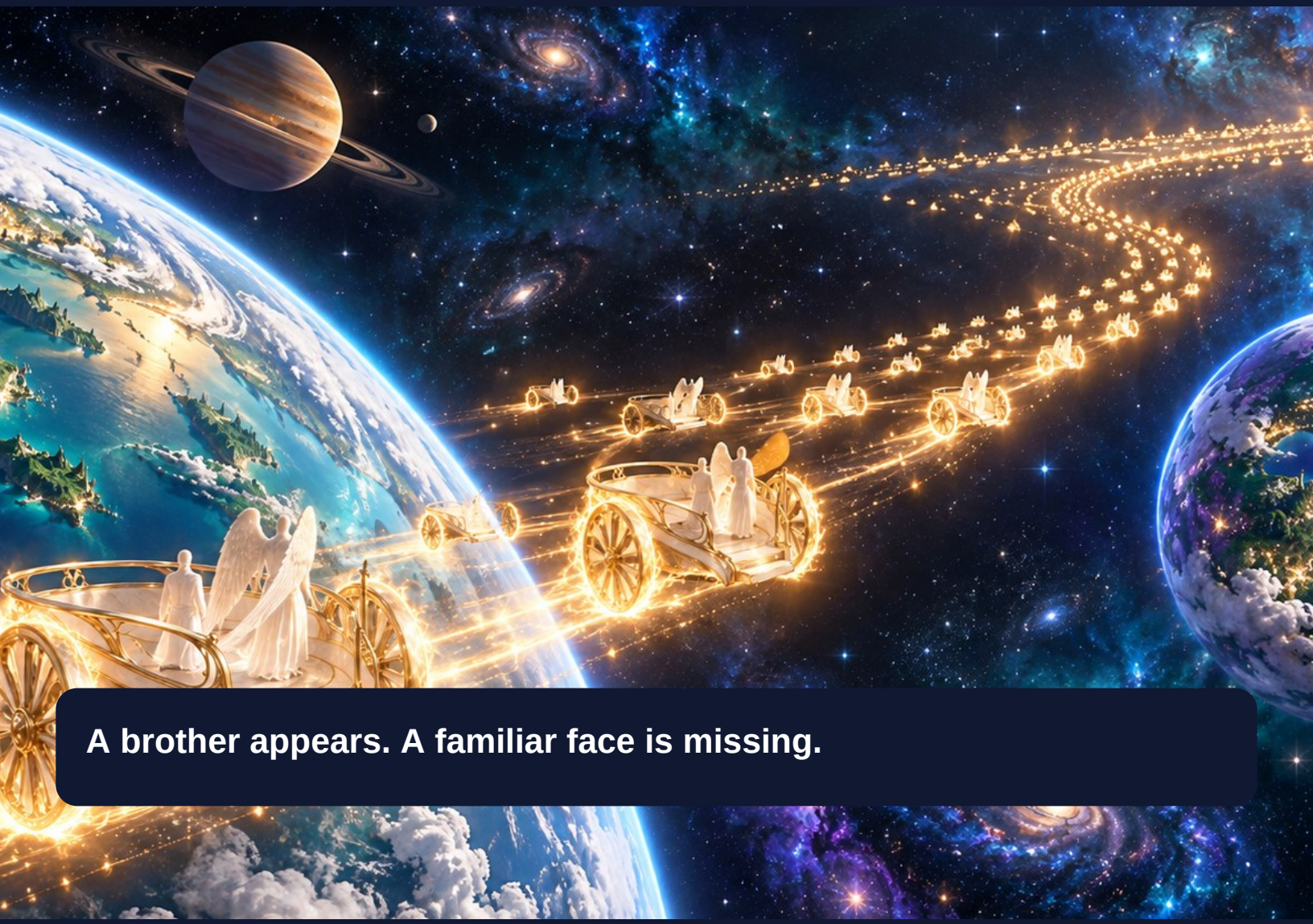
ISSUE 05 / VOLUME 1



A brother appears. A familiar face is missing.

FACES WE NEVER EXPECTED

Why is the narrator's brother present while some apparently religious people are missing?

WATCH / NOTICE / ASK

Stay with the narrator’s question



Existing movie environment concept / final scene still to be selected

Why is the narrator's brother present while some apparently religious people are missing?

Return to this part of Heaven’s Diary. Describe what the narrator sees, what surprises him, and what he has not yet understood. Read the Bible before accepting the story’s explanation as a doctrine.

Read / Observe

Open the Bible together

EPHESIANS 2:1-10

The passage begins with helplessness and moves to life by grace through faith. Good works follow God’s saving initiative. How does this order explain why the narrator cannot credit his brother’s presence to family status or merit?

LUKE 15:11-32

Observe the father’s welcome and the older brother’s resentment. The parable reveals grace that disrupts human rankings. It does not supply the fictional brother’s biography. What attitude does it challenge in those who assume they know whom God can reach?

MATTHEW 7:15-23 + 2 PETER 3:9

Religious claims and impressive deeds do not substitute for belonging to Christ. God desires repentance rather than destruction. How can these truths coexist without making obedience a price paid for salvation?

Look deeper

From the passage to Christ

THE CONNECTED PICTURE

Set the brother's welcome beside the father welcoming the lost son in Luke 15:11–32. This is a gospel parallel about grace, not proof of the fictional brother's conversion history.

THE CENTRAL QUESTION

Luke 23:39–43: What hope does Jesus give a repentant criminal? Ephesians 2:1–10: What saves, and what follows salvation? Matthew 7:15–23: What distinguishes profession from allegiance? 2 Peter 3:9: What does God desire?

EXPLAIN IT IN THREE SENTENCES

First: what the passage says in its original setting. Second: how the Adventist understanding brings the passages together. Third: how the movie illustrates that conclusion. Do not let an attractive scene substitute for the argument. Ask which connection reveals Christ’s work or character.

PHOTOTHEOLOGY / MAP THE TEXT

Trace the biblical movement

1

HUMAN EXPECTATION

The narrator assumes he knows who will be present.

↓

2

GOD’S SAVING GRACE

Ephesians 2:8-10 / Christ saves and transforms.

↓

3

HUMBLE TRUST

1 Corinthians 4:5 / Resist final verdicts about hidden hearts.

Use the passages to explain each step. A solid link needs textual support; use a dotted link for an illustration or a proposal that remains uncertain.

A fair objection

Questions worth taking seriously

CAN I WAIT UNTIL THE LAST MOMENT?

Luke 23:39-43 displays grace to a dying criminal. It does not promise everyone time to postpone repentance. Hebrews 3:7-15 warns against a hardening heart. Grace invites response now, not calculation about how late one can safely wait.

DO GOOD WORKS PROVE WHO IS SAVED?

We can observe fruit, but we do not possess God’s full knowledge. Matthew 7 challenges empty profession; Ephesians 2 rejects earning. A changed life matters as the fruit of faith, not a substitute for Christ’s righteousness.

WHAT ABOUT MY MISSING LOVED ONE?

The scene is fictional. It gives no authority to declare the destiny of an actual relative. Acknowledge grief and uncertainty. God’s justice and love are the basis for trust; the leader must not manufacture a verdict.

VISUAL STUDY / YOUR TURN

Build the picture yourself

Draw two empty portrait frames labeled My assumptions and God knows the heart. List attitudes rather than names of people you think are lost. Connect each correction with a passage.

TEXTUAL EVIDENCE

CONNECTION OR REPLY

QUESTION TO KEEP

RETURN TO THE STORY

Use your work to answer the opening question. Name one claim you can support directly, one inference, and one detail supplied by the film’s visual staging.

For activities needing more panels or columns, continue on a separate sheet.

A PERSONAL RESPONSE

Let the truth shape your life

READ AND REFLECT

Read the first passage again. Identify what it reveals about God, what it asks of you, and how Christ supplies hope or help. Pray with one specific response in mind.

Whom have you written off whom God is still inviting? What step toward Christ can you take today?

MY NEXT STEP

( ) I understand. ( ) I need more study.
( ) I would appreciate a Bible study conversation.

NEXT: Issue 6 / Saved by the Savior They Did Not Know

Participation and personal sharing are voluntary. Bring unresolved questions.

Leader companion

Guide the next conversation

75-MINUTE ROUTE

Scene and observation 10 / Bible investigation 20 / Christ-centered connection and map 15 / strongest objection 15 / visual activity 5 / response and prayer 10. Use a second meeting when the questions need it; do not force agreement to finish a schedule.

ISSUE-SPECIFIC GUIDANCE

Keep the emphasis on grace and humility. Do not ask participants to identify relatives they expect to be absent. Offer private prayer or pastoral conversation when the scene touches fresh bereavement.

SOURCE AND INVITATION

Story: Heaven’s Diary transcript, 7:27–12:23. Method: Phototheology Core Method v2. Apologetics sources and editorial limitations are mapped in the accompanying source register. This is new editorial wording, not a verbatim Ivor Myers quotation. Invite a voluntary next step and preserve unresolved questions.