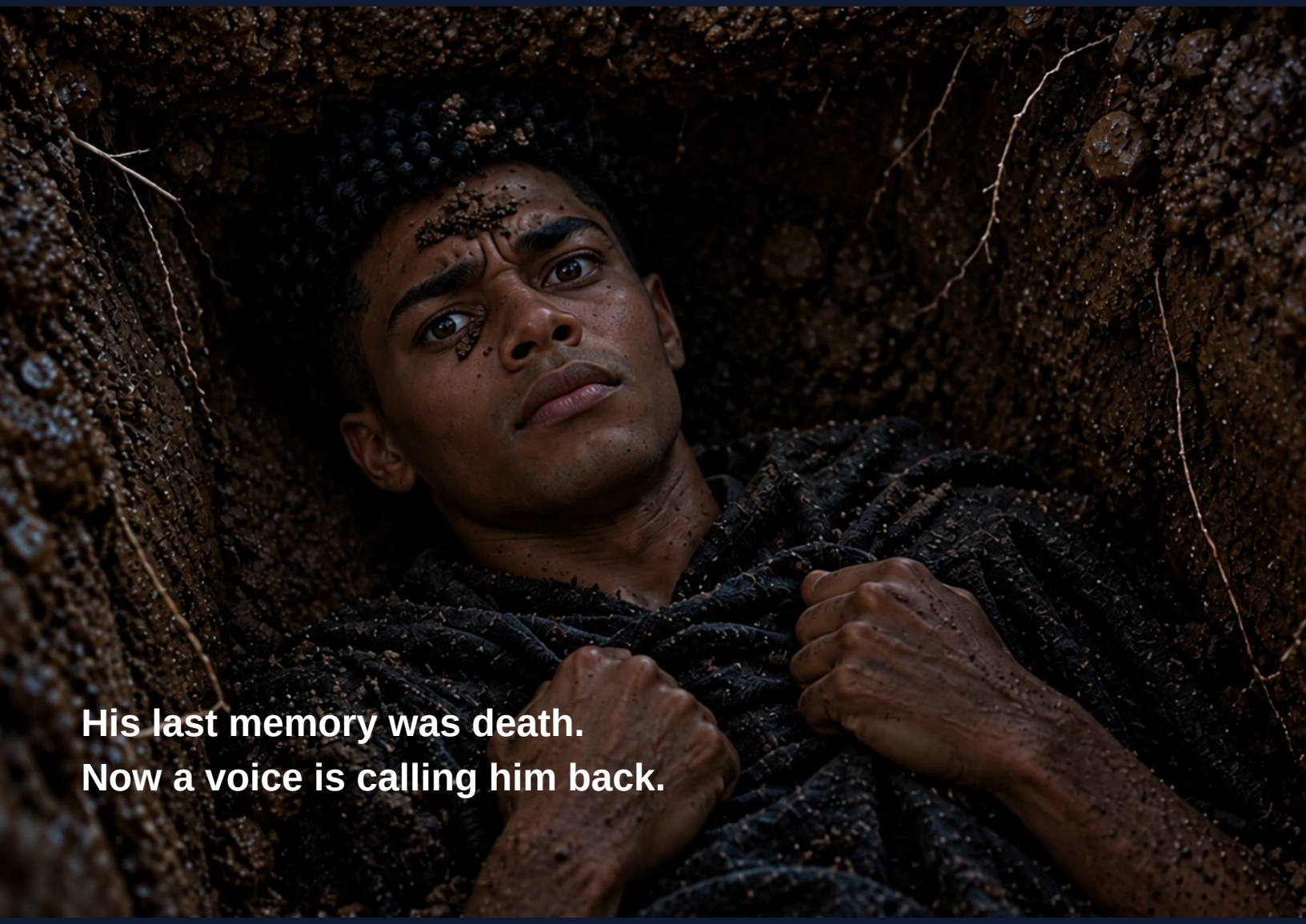
ISSUE 01 / AWAKENED



THE VOICE IN THE DARKNESS

Why does he wake inside a grave?

WATCH • NOTICE • ASK

The last thing he remembers…



He remembers slipping into death.



He awakens in a confined space.

PAUSE THE SCENE

Watch story time 0:00–2:07. His last remembered plea is for salvation. Before explaining the scene, collect the clues.

1. **What tells you that he died?**
2. **What does he trust to save him?**
3. **What would you ask the narrator?**

Captions above summarize the story. The images are production artwork, not biblical evidence.

READ • OBSERVE • DISCUSS

Who has authority over death?

01 JOHN 11:17–27

Martha expects resurrection at the last day. Jesus directs her attention to Himself.

Find it: What does Jesus claim? What question does He ask Martha?
Discuss: Is our hope only an event, or a Person?

02 JOHN 11:38–44

Read the whole scene. Jesus calls Lazarus out of the tomb.

Find it: Where is Lazarus? Who supplies the power?
Connect: What helps explain the voice in the movie?

03 JOHN 5:24–29

Distinguish the present promise of life from the future awakening.

Find it: Who will hear His voice? What two outcomes are named?
Return: Why does the narrator awaken in a grave?

Read each passage in context before writing your conclusion.

PHOTOTHEOLOGY / TRACE THE PATTERN

One voice. A greater awakening.

1

LAZARUS'S TOMB

John 11:38–44
Jesus restores Lazarus to mortal life.

2

THE FUTURE PROMISE

John 5:28–29 + 1 Corinthians 15:42–54
Christ raises the dead; the redeemed receive immortality.

3

THE MOVIE SCENE

The narrator's awakening pictures that promise.
Lighting, clothing, and glowing hands are visual choices.

YOUR DISCOVERY

Explain one connection and name its supporting verse. Which movie detail is only illustrative?

APOLOGETICS / TEST THE CASE

“Aren’t believers already in heaven?”

HEAR THE CONCERN

Many Christians believe in conscious life with Christ after death and also affirm a future bodily resurrection. State that view fairly before examining it.

EXAMINE THE ADVENTIST CASE

Read **1 Thessalonians 4:13–18**. Paul directs grieving believers to Christ’s return, the rising of the dead in Christ, and their reunion with the living.

Read **1 Corinthians 15:12–23**. Why does Paul say that without resurrection the dead in Christ have perished?

NAME WHAT THE ARGUMENT ESTABLISHES

Resurrection is indispensable. That fact alone does not prove unconsciousness. A Christian who holds another view may understand perished as ultimate loss without redemption. The wider biblical evidence matters.

BRING THE HARD PASSAGES

Luke 23:39–43 • 2 Corinthians 5:1–10 • Philippians 1:20–26
Record your question. Issue 3 explores the interval before resurrection.

REFLECT / PRAY / RESPOND

From “Lord, save me” to living hope



The narrator cannot raise himself. Read Ephesians 2:1–10: grace gives life, and the new life bears fruit.

COMPLETE THE PICTURE

The movie pictures ____.
The passage I would use to explain it is ____.
One question I still have is ____.

MY NEXT STEP

( ) I want to trust Jesus. ( ) I want to investigate further.
( ) I would appreciate a Bible study conversation.

FACILITATE DISCOVERY

A conversation, not a lecture

10	20	15	15	15
SCENE / MIN	BIBLE / MIN	PATTERN / MIN	QUESTIONS / MIN	RESPONSE / MIN

WHAT WE WANT PEOPLE TO DISCOVER

Jesus is the source of resurrection life. John 5 locates the future awakening among those in the tombs. Lazarus returns to mortal life; 1 Corinthians 15 describes the coming immortal transformation.

HOW TO KEEP THE STUDY OPEN

Ask someone to restate the opposing view fairly. Let participants write privately. Do not require bereavement stories or pronounce the destiny of a particular deceased relative. Preserve hard questions for Issue 3.

THE PHOTOTHEOLOGY MOVEMENT

Story → observation → question → warranted pattern → Christ → response.

These tools organize discovery. They do not replace context or create additional authorities.

BEFORE THE NEXT ISSUE

Carry the question into the week

A PRAYER

Jesus, help me know You as the resurrection and the life. Give me understanding, honesty about my questions, and courage to follow what You show me.

NEXT ISSUE / THE GATHERING IN THE SKY

Why do some people meet Jesus without first dying?

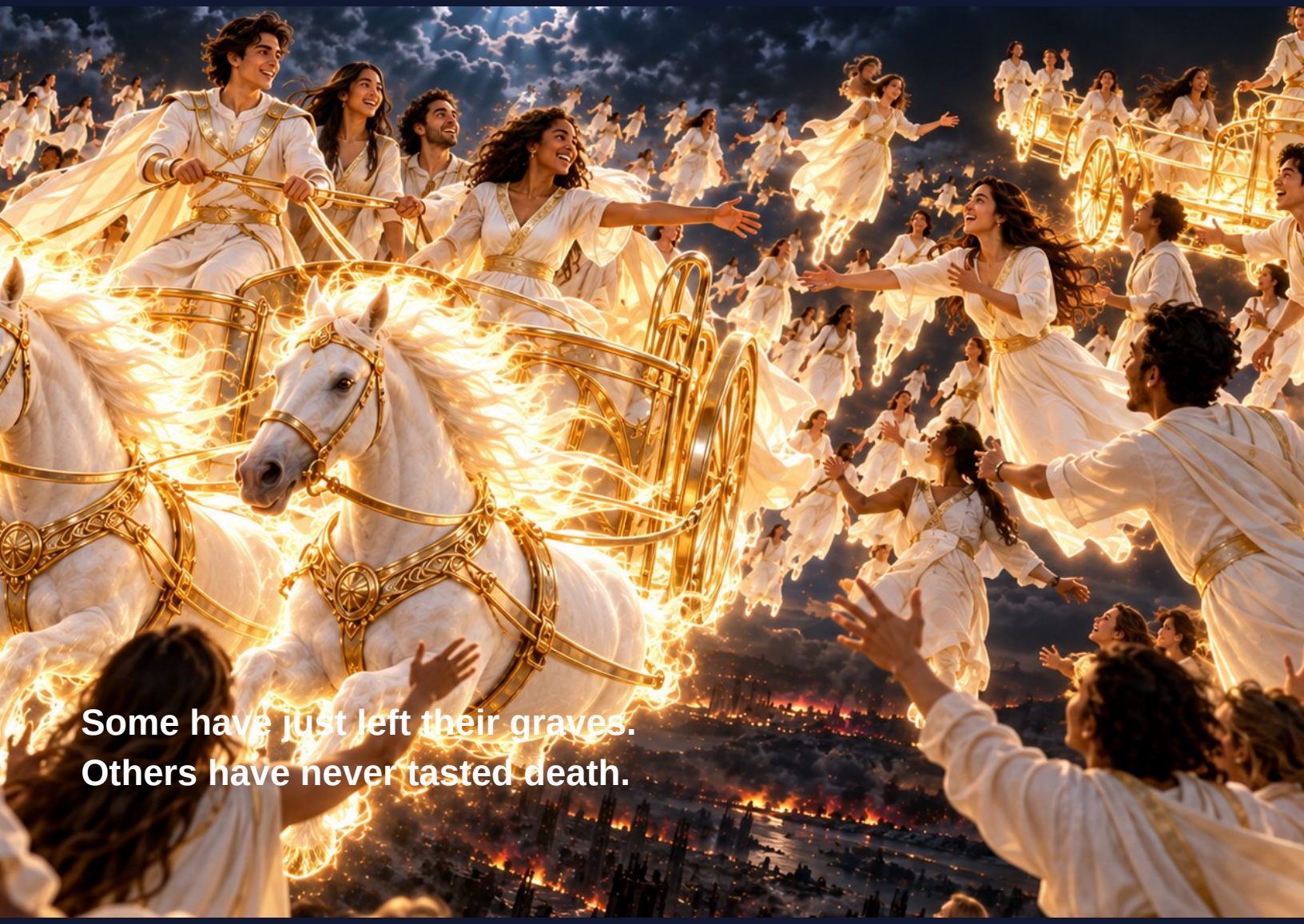
ABOUT THE SERIES

A Power of the Lamb series presenting Seventh-day Adventist understandings of Scripture. All backgrounds and honest questions are welcome. The film presents biblical teaching through a dramatized first-person journey. Its visual staging is not an additional source of revelation.

PRODUCTION AND SOURCE NOTES

Review artwork comes from the active AI movie production and awaits final continuity selection. Apologetics adapts the ministry's objections index and earlier resurrection discussion; this wording is editorial, not a verbatim Ivor Myers quotation. See the source register for complete provenance.

Read the passages in your own Bible. Final artwork, theological review, accessible editions, and website delivery remain in production. A resource download does not enroll a reader in church communications.



THE GATHERING IN THE SKY

Why do two different groups meet the same Savior?

WATCH / NOTICE / ASK

Two groups. One reunion.



The narrator sees the redeemed rising from their graves.



Then he sees living believers being lifted to meet them.

What is different about their journeys?

Watch story time 2:07-5:13. Name the two groups. What happens to both? What detail do you want to check in Scripture?

Captions summarize the story. Images are movie-production references.

Read / Observe

Follow Paul’s sequence

READ 1 THESSALONIANS 4:13-15

Paul addresses believers grieving people who have died. **Notice:** He does not forbid grief; he gives it hope.

Ask: What concern might the living have about those who died before Christ returned? What assurance does verse 15 supply?

READ VERSES 16-17

List the actions in order: the Lord descends; the dead in Christ rise; the living are caught up together with them; the gathered people meet the Lord.

Ask: Which group goes first? Who is left behind among Christ’s people?

READ VERSE 18

Paul wants this teaching to comfort people. Its purpose is not a prediction game.

Return to the story: Why can the narrator recognize living believers as part of the same redeemed family? What makes the reunion good news?

PHOTOTHEOLOGY / MAP THE TEXT

Put the reunion in order

1

CHRIST RETURNS

1 Thessalonians 4:16 / The hope begins with His action, not human escape.

↓

2

THE DEAD IN CHRIST RISE

1 Thessalonians 4:16 / Those who died are not forgotten or disadvantaged.

↓

3

THE LIVING JOIN THEM

1 Thessalonians 4:17 / Both groups meet the Lord and remain with Him.

Activity: cover this map and reconstruct it from the passage. Add a verse beside every arrow. Which details come from the film rather than Paul?

Transformation

Why do their bodies change?

READ 1 CORINTHIANS 15:35-44

Paul answers a question about the resurrection body. He uses seed imagery to explain continuity and transformation.

Observe: What contrasts does he make? Does spiritual body mean an imaginary person, or a transformed mode of embodied life?

READ VERSES 50-54

Paul describes both those who die and those who remain alive. Immortality is received in this transformation.

Compare: How does this explain the two groups in the film? Why is eternal life a gift rather than an independent human possession?

READ PHILIPPIANS 3:20-21

Christ transforms His people’s bodies to be like His glorious body.

Keep the distinction: The text establishes transformation; the film’s precise glow, costume, and movement are artistic choices. What promise matters even without those visual details?

Make the connection

A glimpse on the mountain

READ MATTHEW 17:1-9

Moses and Elijah appear with Jesus at the Transfiguration. The disciples see His glory and hear the Father direct them to listen to His Son.

Center: What does the scene reveal about Jesus?

COMPARE 2 KINGS 2:9-12 AND JUDE 9

Elijah is taken to heaven; Jude mentions a dispute over Moses' body. Adventists traditionally understand Moses as resurrected.

Evidence check: Jude does not explicitly narrate that resurrection. Name the inference instead of disguising it as a direct statement.

BUILD A CAREFUL PARALLEL

Moses and Elijah can illustrate the raised and living groups in the movie. The foundation for the two groups remains 1 Thessalonians 4 and 1 Corinthians 15.

Your task: Put a star beside the direct teaching and a dotted line beside the illustrative connection.

A fair objection

“Isn’t the rapture secret?”

FIRST DEFINE THE QUESTION

Rapture refers to being caught up. Christians disagree about its timing and relationship to Christ’s public return.

Ask someone holding a separate secret-rapture view to explain it fairly. Do not assume the word itself proves a particular chronology.

EXAMINE THE DESCRIPTION

Read 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17; Acts 1:9-11; Revelation 1:7; Matthew 24:23-31.

Adventists connect these with one visible, audible gathering at Christ’s return. Which details support that reading? Which parts of another timeline require further argument?

ADDRESS THE STRONGEST REPLY

A reader may say these describe different events. Ask what textual markers distinguish the events and what connects them. Compare passages rather than treating volume or vivid imagery as a complete chronological proof.

Write the strongest remaining question for a later prophecy study.

Another question

“One taken and one left?”

READ MATTHEW 24:36-44

Jesus compares His coming with Noah’s days and then describes two people with different outcomes.

Observe: Who is speaking, what warning is repeated, and what is the purpose of the comparison?

EXAMINE THE CONTEXT

Verses 38-39 describe people unaware until the Flood overtook them. Adventists often relate this warning to the later separation.

Be precise: Verse 39 and verses 40-41 use different Greek verbs. A shared English word alone cannot settle who is taken or the whole end-time sequence.

KEEP THE MAIN APPEAL

The passage calls for readiness. It does not tell us to assign dates or assume a second chance after Christ gathers His people.

Return: In the movie, how do the different responses to Christ’s appearing prompt you to ask what readiness means?

A PERSONAL RESPONSE

Hope for the whole person

READ AND REFLECT

Read 1 Thessalonians 4:18 and 1 Corinthians 15:58. The promised future supports comfort and faithful service now. Pray for someone facing loss, illness, or aging.

What changes today if both life and death are safe in Christ’s hands?

MY NEXT STEP

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

NEXT: Issue 3 / Seconds After Centuries

Participation and personal sharing are voluntary. Bring unresolved questions.

Leader companion

Lead toward comfort and clarity

75-MINUTE ROUTE

Scene 10 / Paul’s sequence 20 / transformation 10 / mountain parallel 10 / objections 15 / response and prayer 10.

Pages 7-8 can serve as optional follow-up. Let the group’s questions determine which objection needs attention.

EXPECTED DISCOVERIES

The dead in Christ rise before the living join them. Both groups are transformed, gathered, and with Christ. The hope centers on Him.

Do not equate every heavenly chariot detail with a literal description required by Paul. Scripture is the controlling source.

SOURCE AND INVITATION

Based on the movie transcript, the ministry’s Second Coming/death objections material, and the Phototheology method. Explanations here are editorial adaptations.

Invite further study or a conversation. A film response is not a declaration of baptismal readiness.



SECONDS AFTER CENTURIES

Why did death feel like no time had passed?

WATCH / NOTICE / ASK

The moment he realizes



His last conscious memory was slipping into death.



He now sees a world more advanced than the one he knew.

How could centuries feel like seconds?

Watch story time 5:13-5:50. The narrator says he knew and felt nothing. Separate his experience of time from the elapsed time in the world. The two-century span belongs to the story chronology; it is not a prophetic date.

Captions summarize the story. Images are movie-production references.

PHOTOTHEOLOGY / MAP THE TEXT

Two ways to describe the interval

1

EARTH'S TIMELINE

Death → a long interval → Christ's return and resurrection.

↓

2

THE NARRATOR'S AWARENESS

Final memory of dying → next conscious experience of awakening.

↓

3

THE QUESTION FOR SCRIPTURE

Does the Bible support unconscious rest until resurrection? We must examine the passages, rather than use a character's experience as independent proof.

Activity: draw two horizontal lines. Mark where time passes and where the narrator reports awareness. Explain why the movie's seconds need not equal seconds on a clock.

Foundations first

What is a living soul?

READ GENESIS 2:7

God forms the human from dust and gives life. In the KJV the man becomes a living soul; other translations use living being or living creature.

Observe: Does the sentence describe receiving a separately immortal object, or becoming a living person?

COMPARE GENESIS 1:20-24

The Hebrew word nephesh is also used for living creatures. Its meanings depend on context.

Guardrail: One word study cannot determine every passage about personal identity, spirit, or life after death. Build a case from several converging witnesses.

READ ECCLESIASTES 12:1-7

The poem describes aging and death; dust returns to earth and spirit returns to God.

Adventists understand this as life returning to its Giver, not a statement that a conscious immortal person has departed. Ask what the passage explicitly says about awareness.

Sleep and awakening

How does Jesus describe death?

READ JOHN 11:1-16

Jesus describes Lazarus as asleep, then explains that he has died. The disciples first misunderstand.

Observe: What does the comparison emphasize about Christ's ability to awaken him? How does the narrator's experience illustrate it?

READ ECCLESIASTES 9:1-10

The writer contrasts the opportunities of life with death, including the dead's lack of knowledge and participation.

Context: Notice under the sun. Readers debate the scope of this language. Do not use a line from wisdom literature without attending to its argument.

COMPARE PSALM 146:3-6

Human power and plans end in death; the psalm directs trust toward the Creator.

Synthesis: Adventists read these passages together with Jesus' sleep language as support for unconscious rest. Sleep imagery alone is not the entire argument.

The promise of life

When do we receive immortality?

READ 1 TIMOTHY 6:13-16

God is described as possessing immortality. Created life depends upon Him.

Distinguish God’s inherent life from the eternal life He gives. How does this challenge the idea that humans possess life independently of their Creator?

READ 1 CORINTHIANS 15:42-54

Paul says mortality puts on immortality in the resurrection transformation.

Ask: Why is resurrection essential? A Christian who believes in conscious survival may still affirm this bodily transformation. Address that distinction honestly.

READ 1 THESSALONIANS 4:13-18

Adventists teach that death is unconscious until resurrection; humans do not possess an independently immortal soul. At Christ’s return the righteous dead rise and receive immortality with the transformed living.

Back to the scene: This biblical teaching explains the narrator’s unexperienced interval; the two-century span is story chronology, not a prophetic date.

Objection one

“Today with Me in Paradise?”

READ LUKE 23:39-43

The criminal asks to be remembered when Jesus comes in His kingdom. Jesus promises fellowship in Paradise.

Most translations connect today with being in Paradise. The Adventist reading connects it with the assurance Jesus gives that day.

WHAT PUNCTUATION CAN AND CANNOT DO

Ancient manuscripts do not supply modern punctuation in a way that settles the disputed attachment. Moving a comma does not by itself prove the Adventist reading.

Both readings must be tested by grammar, Luke’s expression patterns, the request, and the wider biblical witness.

COMPARE JOHN 20:17

After His resurrection Jesus speaks of not yet having ascended to the Father. Adventists regard this as relevant; other Christians distinguish conscious presence from the later bodily ascension.

Explain why the Adventist synthesis fits the wider evidence without calling the objection dishonest.

Objection two

“Absent from the body…”

READ 2 CORINTHIANS 5:1-10

Do not begin with verse 8 alone. Trace the earthly tent, heavenly dwelling, nakedness, and being clothed.

What does Paul long for? What does he not want? How does verse 4 describe mortality being swallowed up by life?

STATE BOTH READINGS FAIRLY

Many Christians read verses 6-8 as conscious presence with Christ after death. Adventists emphasize Paul’s desire for the completed heavenly life and understand the interval as unexperienced.

The no-perceived-interval explanation is an interpretation, not a phrase Paul explicitly writes.

COMPARE THE RELATED PASSAGES

Read 2 Corinthians 4:14 and 1 Corinthians 15:51-54. Ask how resurrection, transformation, and presence with Christ relate.

Which reading best integrates the whole case? Name the strength of the rival reading rather than pretending this passage contains no difficulty.

Objection three

“Depart and be with Christ?”

READ PHILIPPIANS 1:20-26

Paul weighs fruitful labor, death, and being with Christ. His devotion to Christ shapes the entire discussion.

Identify his alternatives and his pastoral concern. Is he writing a detailed timetable of the intermediate state?

COMPARE PHILIPPIANS 3:20-21

Paul also expects the Savior to transform believers’ bodies. Readers who affirm conscious survival do not necessarily deny that transformation.

Adventists read his desire to be with Christ as the believer’s next experienced hope without awareness of an intervening wait.

EVALUATE THE SYNTHESIS

The immediate association between departure and being with Christ is a serious objection. The Adventist reply considers it alongside the broader teaching about death and resurrection.

Write the best case for each reading and identify what further evidence would help you decide.

Another story to examine

The rich man and Lazarus

READ LUKE 16:19-31

Read alongside the chapter’s concerns about wealth, faithfulness, and hearing Scripture. The story reverses the apparent fortunes of a wealthy man and a suffering beggar.

What does the final exchange about Moses, the prophets, and resurrection emphasize?

ASK WHAT THE STORY IS TEACHING

Adventists understand the scene as a parable using familiar imagery, not a literal diagram of the afterlife. Other Christians think it also presupposes conscious existence after death.

Calling it a parable alone is not enough; explain the literary argument and its relationship to clearer teaching.

KEEP THE CENTRAL WARNING

The rich man’s status does not prove God’s favor. Hearing Scripture must lead to response; dramatic evidence does not automatically produce repentance.

How does this challenge the idea that seeing Heaven’s Diary is enough without opening the Bible or responding to Christ?

A PERSONAL RESPONSE

Resting in the Life-giver

READ AND REFLECT

Read John 11:25-26 and 1 Thessalonians 4:18. The Christian hope is rooted in Jesus. Pray for understanding and for a person grieving a loss; do not pressure anyone to share private grief.

How would you explain the narrator’s “seconds” using a passage rather than the movie alone?

MY NEXT STEP

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

NEXT: Issue 4 / The Silent Earth

Participation and personal sharing are voluntary. Bring unresolved questions.

Leader companion

Answer questions without rushing faith

USE TWO GATHERINGS IF NEEDED

Session A: scene and timeline 10 / human life 15 / sleep and awareness 20 / immortality and reunion 15 / discussion and prayer 15.

Session B: summarize 10 / Luke 23, 2 Corinthians 5, Philippians 1, and Luke 16 for 50 / response and prayer 15.

INTERPRETIVE AND PASTORAL CARE

Separate explicit statements, biblical synthesis, and film imagery. Do not promise that a single verse removes every interpretive question. Do not ridicule a family's inherited language about death.

Allow "I need more study." Comfort should not depend upon public agreement.

SOURCES AND FOLLOW-UP

Adapted from the ministry objections index (sod-1, sod-2, sod-3), Phototheology Core Method v2, and the story transcript. New editorial wording; not verbatim Ivor Myers quotation.

Questions about Samuel, the Transfiguration, or Revelation's altar scene can be studied separately with full context.

ISSUE 04 / VOLUME 1



No cities alive. No one left to deceive.

THE SILENT EARTH

Why is Satan bound when there appear to be no human beings left to tempt?

WATCH / NOTICE / ASK

Stay with the narrator’s question



Existing movie environment concept / final scene still to be selected

Why is Satan bound when there appear to be no human beings left to tempt?

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

REVELATION 20:1-6

Mark the thousand years, the first resurrection, those who reign, and the rest of the dead. The text distinguishes two resurrection moments. What does it explicitly say, and what does it leave to comparison with other passages?

JOHN 14:1-3 + 1 THESSALONIANS 4:16-17

At Christ's literal return the righteous dead rise and join the transformed living; together they are taken to heaven. The unrighteous living die at His appearing (2 Thessalonians 2:8). During the thousand years the redeemed reign with Christ in heaven while earth has no living human inhabitants. Explain the linked passages behind this Adventist sequence.

REVELATION 20:7-15 + 21:1-4

At the millennium's close Christ, His saints, and the Holy City descend to earth. The wicked dead rise, join Satan's final rebellion, and face judgment. Fire consumes them and cleanses earth; God renews it as the redeemed's permanent home. This is the Adventist sequence, not an earthly millennium before the final judgment.

Look deeper

From the passage to Christ

THE CONNECTED PICTURE

Observe the creation reversal imagery in Jeremiah 4:23–28. Its immediate subject is judgment on Judah; its language provides a parallel for desolation, not a self-contained prediction proving every millennial detail. Distinguish the sequence in Revelation from the movie's imagery.

THE CENTRAL QUESTION

Revelation 20:1–10: Mark the two resurrections and the thousand years. John 14:1–3: Where does Jesus promise to receive His people? 2 Thessalonians 1:7–10; 2:8: What happens at His appearing?

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

RETURN AND RESURRECTION

1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 / Christ gathers His people.

↓

2

THE THOUSAND YEARS

Revelation 20:1-6 / Satan is restrained; the saints reign.

↓

3

FINAL JUDGMENT AND RENEWAL

Revelation 20:7-15; 21:1-4 / Evil ends; God dwells with His people.

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

IS THE CHAIN LITERAL?

Revelation uses symbols. Adventists understand Satan’s binding as restraint through circumstances: he has no living nations to deceive. The passage explicitly states the restraint; its physical mechanism is not described as an ordinary metal chain.

WHY NOT A MILLENNIUM ON EARTH?

Other Christians expect an earthly messianic kingdom. The Adventist reply combines the gathering to Christ, the two resurrections, and the final descent of the city. Ask which reading best explains all those features. Do not pretend the disagreement disappears with one verse.

HOW DOES JEREMIAH 4 CONNECT?

Read Jeremiah 4:23-28 in its immediate Judah setting, then compare its creation-reversal imagery with Genesis 1:2 and Revelation 20:1-3. Blueprint develops these linked pictures to explain the desolated earth. The immediate historical setting and the wider biblical connection should both be taught, rather than making one erase the other.

VISUAL STUDY / YOUR TURN

Build the picture yourself

Build a three-panel timeline. Use one color for the redeemed, one for the rest of the dead, and one for Satan. Write a verse beneath each change of state.

FIRST FRAME

Passage / observation

SECOND FRAME

Passage / observation

THIRD FRAME

Passage / observation

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.

What does a world without anyone left to deceive reveal about the results of rebellion?

MY NEXT STEP

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

NEXT: Issue 5 / Faces We Never Expected

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.

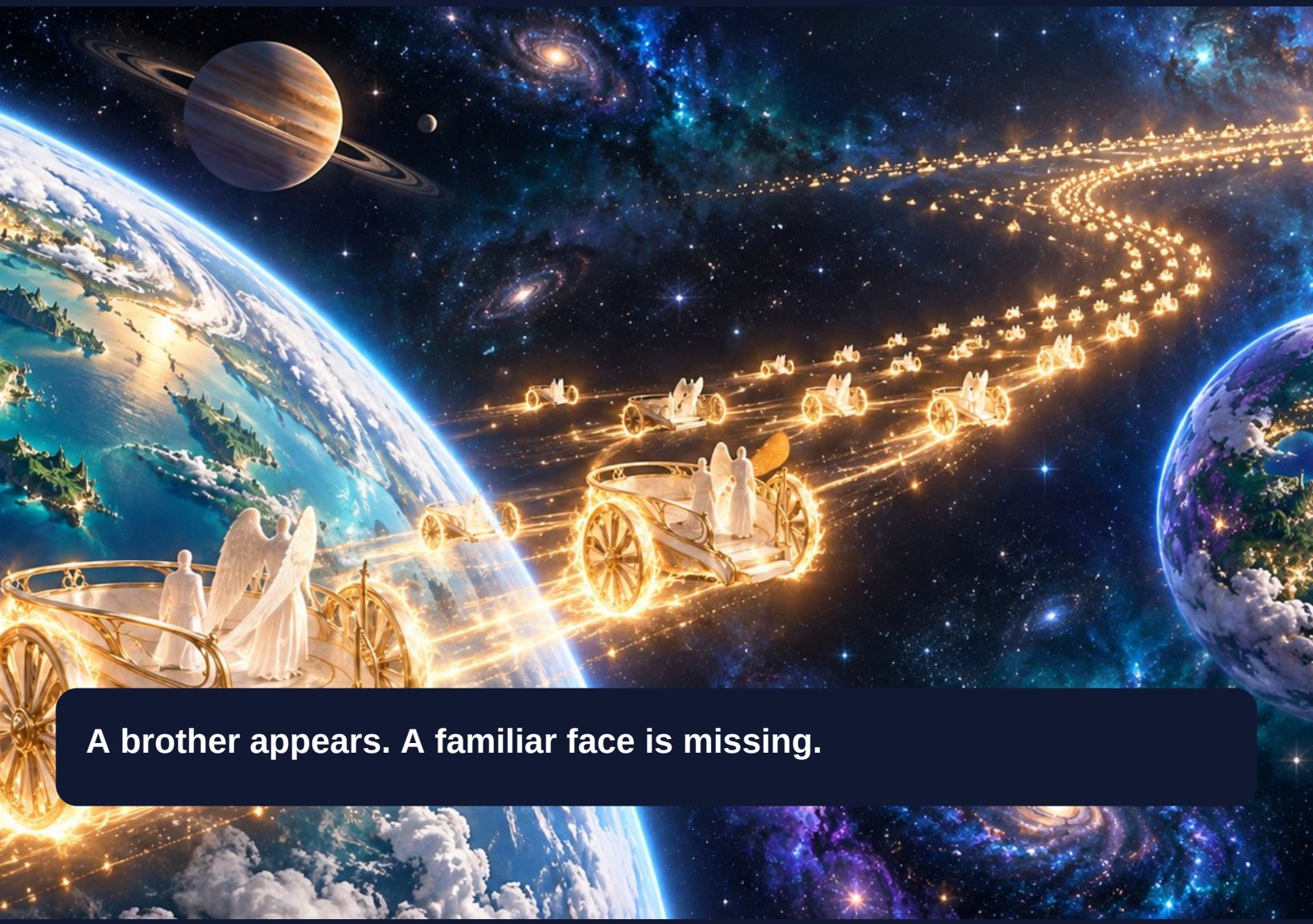
ISSUE-SPECIFIC GUIDANCE

Distinguish the plain sequence in Revelation from the synthesis about location and the film’s invisible-chain imagery. Avoid assigning dates. Explore judgment’s purpose before debating every symbol.

SOURCE AND INVITATION

Story: Heaven’s Diary transcript, 5:50–7:27. 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.

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.

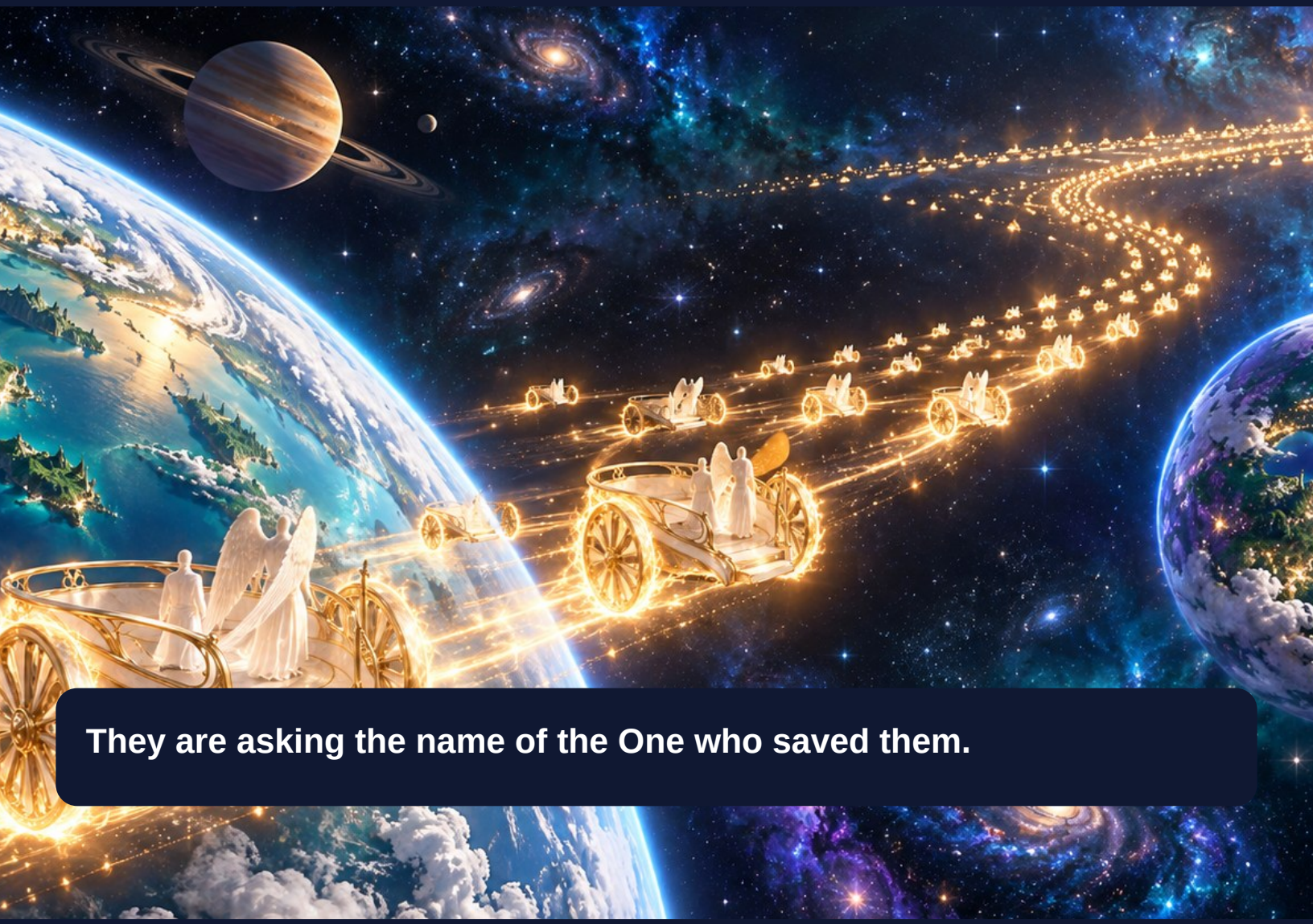
ISSUE-SPECIFIC GUIDANCE

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.

ISSUE 06 / VOLUME 1



They are asking the name of the One who saved them.

THE SAVIOR THEY DID NOT KNOW

Why are some redeemed people asking who Jesus is?

WATCH / NOTICE / ASK

Stay with the narrator’s question



Existing movie environment concept / final scene still to be selected

Why are some redeemed people asking who Jesus is?

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

ROMANS 2:12-16

Paul discusses accountability, conscience, and God’s impartial judgment. The law’s work on the heart does not make conscience an independent savior. What does the passage reveal about God judging people fairly? What does it not tell us about every individual?

ACTS 10:1-6, 34-43

Cornelius responds to God, and God brings Peter to announce Jesus. Observe both divine initiative and the importance of hearing the gospel. God’s care for a seeker is a reason to share Christ, not a reason to stop.

JOHN 14:6 + ACTS 4:12

The New Testament identifies Christ as the source of salvation. The Adventist explanation distinguishes being saved by Jesus from possessing a complete vocabulary about Him. It does not make all religious claims equally true.

Look deeper

From the passage to Christ

THE CONNECTED PICTURE

Connect God's universal pursuit with Revelation 7:9–10: many peoples, one Savior. The point is the reach of Christ's grace, not that religions offer separate saving paths.

THE CENTRAL QUESTION

Romans 2:12–16: What do conscience and accountability reveal? Acts 10:1–6, 34–43: What does God do for Cornelius, and what message does Peter bring? John 14:6 and Acts 4:12: Who is the source of salvation?

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

GOD PURSUES

Acts 10 / The seeker is not beyond God’s attention.

↓

2

CHRIST SAVES

Acts 4:12 / Salvation has one source.

↓

3

THE GOSPEL BRINGS CLARITY

Acts 10:34-43 / Witness joins the seeker to the message of Jesus.

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

IS SINCERITY ENOUGH?

Sincerity does not turn error into truth or remove the need for Christ. Romans 2 addresses accountability; it is not a declaration that everyone following an inner feeling is saved. The story explores the reach of grace, not salvation by ignorance.

THEN WHY EVANGELIZE?

Acts 10 shows God actively connecting a seeker with the gospel. Knowing Jesus brings reconciliation, assurance, discipleship, and community. Evangelism shares good news; it need not deny that God was already working before the messenger arrived.

DOES THIS MEAN UNIVERSAL SALVATION?

No. Scripture includes real judgment and rejected grace. The point is God’s impartiality and Christ’s universal provision, not a claim that every person ultimately accepts salvation. Avoid speculating about the precise size or membership of the redeemed.

VISUAL STUDY / YOUR TURN

Build the picture yourself

Make a three-circle map: God’s initiative, Christ’s saving work, the messenger’s role. Place the events of Acts 10 in the circles. Identify where your witness could cooperate with God.

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.

How can you share Christ with humility while trusting God's fairness toward those you cannot reach?

MY NEXT STEP

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

NEXT: Issue 7 / The Greater Exodus

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

Do not treat ethnicity, educational access, or denominational vocabulary as a complete measure of someone’s response to God. Invite a study partnership that honors questions and names the Adventist perspective.

SOURCE AND INVITATION

Story: Heaven’s Diary transcript, 12:23–13:25. 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.