

The Great Controversy — Study Guide

(Formally published as Thought Questions and Notes on GREAT CONTROVERSY
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References

References at the end of questions refer to page and paragraph in “Great Controversy.” Thus “19:2” gives reference to paragraph 2 on page 19. Each paragraph is considered a unit and is assigned to the page on which it begins, though it may run over to the following page. Because of a difference in the paging of two current editions—due to the larger number of illustrations in one edition — two sets of references are given. The second reference, in brackets, is to the 1926 and 1927 special and subscription editions. The reader may identify the edition he is using by noting the date of the last copyright registration, which is found on the back of the title page.

Chapter 4 — The Waldenses

1. As a motive in studying with patient detail the historical facts regarding the Waldenses, note the closing sentence of the chapter. The work which they began is to be carried to a glorious conclusion by their successors.

2. “By the beginning of the seventh century Christian Europe had reached a very low intellectual level. . . . Only in England and Ireland . . . and in a few Italian cities, was there anything of consequence of the old Roman learning.”—“History of Education,” Ellwood P. Cubberley, p. 127.

Consider the relation of this fact to the statements in History of n 62:3 [70:3] Education and intellect are accompaniments of true Christianity. The corruption of Christianity was associated with a great decline in learning. So in the reformation of Christianity, true education is restored.

3. Facing as we do the testing issues before us, it is well to note how the parental training and education given to the youth, prepared them for fortitude and fidelity under persecution. 67:1-3 [76:1-3]

4. What motives led to the attendance by some of these youth at the universities of Italy and France? What was the secret of their steadfastness? What work was uppermost in their minds while there? Were they leaders, or were they led away from their principles? “Testimonies,” Vol. V, pp. 583, 584. 69:3 to 70:1 [78:3 to 79:1]

5. What thought brought to them a realization of their solemn responsibility to let their light shine? 70:2 [79:2]

6. What outstanding issue distinguished the true from the apostate religion? 73:1. what place should the doctrine of “righteousness by faith” occupy in our experience, and work? 73:5 [81:3]

Chapter 5 — John Wycliffe [1324-1384]

1. Memorize 94:2 [105:2] or the essential portion of the paragraph. Note.—”The entrance of Thy words giveth light.” Psalm 119:130. It was after the taking away of the Bible from the common people, and the substitution of human authority for that of God’s word, that the world entered the Dark Ages. We begin now to trace the restoration of the Book and the consequent enlightenment increasing in brightness till the great Reformation. Observe how, in the story of Wycliffe, the author exalts the Scriptures as the source of his power and the cause for the results of his efforts. 2. Was Wycliffe’s work weakened or strengthened by his liberal education? Give as many reasons for your conclusion as you can find, noting especially 80:2; 81:1; 84:3; 87:2 [90:3; 91:2; 95:3; 98:2]

Note.—The disciples whom Jesus called were mostly men of limited education. We do well to remember constantly that the power of the Spirit resting upon consecrated, humble men is more effective for God than mere learning. 3. What qualifications do we find in Wycliffe that contributed to his remarkable success as a leader? 81:2; 94:1 [91:3; 105:1]

4. What were two distinctive doctrines of Protestantism. 89:1; 93:3 [100:1; 104:3]

5. What official positions did Wycliffe hold? 82:1; 84:3; 85:2 [93:1; 95:3; 96:2]

6. Against what two abuses were his first protests directed? 82:1, 2 [93:1, 2]

7. How did Wycliffe organize a “layman’s movement,” and with what success? 87:2; 88:3; 89:1 [98:1; 99:3; 100:1]

8. On what two occasions did the death of a prominent man save him in a time of crisis? 85:3; 86:1 [96:3; 97:1]

9. Before what four tribunals was Wycliffe summoned, and with what outcome on each occasion? 85:3; 89:3; 90:3 [96:3; 100:3; 101:2]

10. What was the crowning work of Wycliffe, and what was his most effective weapon against error? 88:1, 2 [99:1, 2]

11. What was the future of the movement in England which started under his leadership? 94:3; 95:2 [106:1, 2]

Note.—Helpful lessons for our own work may be drawn from the influence of the publications issued by Wycliffe. It was thus that his testimony was most quickly and widely disseminated.

Chapter 6 — Huss [1373-1415]

1. What progress had the gospel made in Bohemia, and what difficulties had it encountered before the days of John Huss? 97:1, 2 [109:1; 110:1]

Note.—The bull of Gregory VII mentioned in the text was issued in 1079 A. D.

2. The Scattering of believers by persecution or oppression has frequently been signally blessed of heaven in disseminating light. Acts 11:19-21. This is illustrated in the history recorded in this chapter. 97:1; 100:3 [109:1, 112:2]

3. Wycliffe belonged to a family of the nobility, and he had no financial difficulties to face in the acquisition of an education. Huss furnishes an example of a youth from a home of poverty. Both, however, applied themselves diligently to study, and both were exemplary in the purity of their lives. 98:1, 2 [110:2, 3]

4. What calling did Huss choose to follow, and what positions did he fill? 98:2; 99:1 [110:3; 111:1]

5. What providential circumstances led to the spread of Wycliffe's writings to Bohemia? 99:2, 3 [111:2, 3]

6. What did Huss recognize as the greatest need of the congregation to whom he was called to minister? 99:1 [111:1]

7. What incident illustrates the power of visual education? 99:3; 100:1 [111:3; 112:1]

8. What circumstances led to the placing of Prague under the papal interdict? What conditions prevailed under the terms of such an interdict? 100:3; 104:1 [112:3; 113:1]

9. What principles should guide us if we are called to choose between the counsel of Christ found in John 10:12, 13 and that found in Matthew 21:23? 101:2 [113:2] Look up references to the foregoing texts in the "Scriptural and Subject Index to the Writings of Mrs. Ellen G. White," pages 45, 58.

Note.—"Which of these two precepts must I follow? Between these two contrary recommendations, which ought I to obey? . . . I cannot say." So wrote Huss. (Bonnechose, Vol. I, p. 86). 10. What was Huss's final decision in this matter, and how did his course vindicate the assurance, "We can do nothing against the truth, but for the truth"?

11. What were the two prime reasons for calling the Council of Constance, 1414-18? 104:2, 3 [117:2, 3]

12. Note the points of contract between John XXXIII, the accuser, and Huss, the accused. 104:3; 106:2 [117:3; 119:3]

13. What tracings of the prophetic gift do we find in this chapter? 97:1; 108:1 [110:1; 122:1] "Huss also was visited by visions and prophetic dreams."—Bonnechose, Vol. II, p. 24.

14. Considering their previous privations in prison, can the courage and keenness of mind of Huss and Jerome be accounted for on natural grounds? 107:2; 112:2, 3 [121:2; 127:2, 3]

15. What was the immediate effect in Bohemia of the execution of Huss? 115:3 [131:3]

16. What success attended the efforts of the armies of Sigismund against the Bohemian defenders of the principles of religious liberty? 117:2 [133:2] 17. How was that which could not be accomplished by force, effected by diplomacy? 118:1 [134:1]

18. Who were the “United Brethren”? What was their influence in maintaining the truth? 119:1-3 [135:1-3]