

THE ALBURY CIRCLE



EXERCISE 1



A letter from the preacher Edward Irving to a friend in Scotland might have looked like this. Take turns reading it.

DEAR ROBERT:

LONDON, DECEMBER 1826

I HAVE BEEN IN LONDON FOR SOME TIME NOW AND HAVE SETTLED DOWN QUITE NICELY. JUST IMAGINE, IN THE MEANTIME I HAVE COME TO KNOW SEVERAL CLERGYMEN OF THE ANGLICAN CHURCH AND OTHER CHRISTIAN DENOMINATIONS AND CHURCHES, WHO HAVE THE SAME PERVENT INTEREST AS I IN WHAT BIBLICAL PROMISES INDICATE ABOUT OUR TIME!

DURING THE FIRST WEEK OF ADVENT THIS YEAR, WE WERE TOGETHER IN ALBURY. ALBURY IS ABOUT 50 KM FROM LONDON. HENRY DRUMMOND, A BANKER AND PARLIAMENTARIAN, HAS HIS COUNTRY SEAT THERE. HE HAD INVITED 26 CLERGYMEN AND 18 INTERESTED LAYMEN FOR THIS OCCASION.

FOR SIX DAYS WE SPENT ABOUT TEN HOURS DAILY DISCUSSING QUESTIONS OF FAITH AND SEARCHING THE HOLY SCRIPTURES. OUR DISCUSSIONS EVEN CONTINUED DURING MEALS! THE CONFERENCE WAS DEMANDING, BUT MOST INTERESTING! WE ALL FOUND IT DISAPPOINTING THAT NEW, UNSOLVED QUESTIONS AROSE AGAIN AND AGAIN. WE THEREFORE DECIDED TO HOLD A CONFERENCE IN ALBURY IN THE FIRST WEEK OF ADVENT EVERY YEAR FROM NOW ON, TO CONTINUE THE DISCUSSIONS AND STUDIES.

UNTIL THEN WE WANT TO SUPPORT THE REVITALIZATION OF CHURCH LIFE IN OUR DIFFERENT AREAS WITH ALL OUR MIGHT, STARTING IMMEDIATELY. OF COURSE, THIS IS NO EASY TASK, BUT I INTEND TO GO MORE INTENSIVELY INTO OUR CHRISTIAN DUTIES IN MY SERMONS.

THAT IS ALL FOR NOW. WHEN WE SEE EACH OTHER AGAIN, WE CAN GO INTO MORE DETAIL.

I WISH YOU A CONTEMPLATIVE ADVENT.

YOUR FRIEND

EDWARD

Theme picture: 1826 Albury Conference (contemporary painting). Henry Drummond (standing) addresses McNeile, a local cleric; Edward Irving (4 from right, as seen from McNeile)

EXERCISE 2



Below are excerpts of the discussion.
Read these and fill in the incomplete conference record!

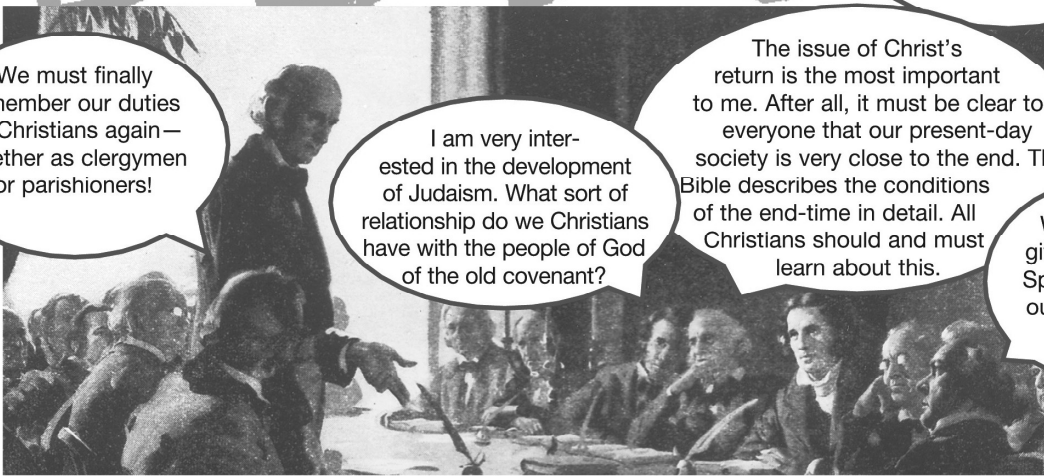
We know far too little about the actual content of the books of the Bible. We must urgently discuss the interpretation of the book of Revelation. Many statements are still incomprehensible to us. I feel the same way about the book of Daniel.

We must finally remember our duties as Christians again—whether as clergymen or parishioners!

I am very interested in the development of Judaism. What sort of relationship do we Christians have with the people of God of the old covenant?

The issue of Christ's return is the most important to me. After all, it must be clear to everyone that our present-day society is very close to the end. The Bible describes the conditions of the end-time in detail. All Christians should and must learn about this.

We need the gifts of the Holy Spirit, otherwise our seeking will be in vain.



Brief record of the Albury Conference

Location: Library of the manor house in Albury Park

Participants: 19 clergymen from the Anglican Church, three from free churches, four from the Church of Scotland, eleven laymen from the Anglican Church and seven laymen from other religious denominations.

Conference topics:

The _____ of Christian clergymen and _____

The current and future condition of _____

The books of the _____ especially _____ and _____

Christ's early _____

Ask for the _____ of the _____

EXERCISE 3



This Bible passage taken from 1 John 5: 14-15 was able to give the believers of that time hope!

**With the help of the Bible put the following lines in the correct sequence.
Write the numbers from 1 to 7 in the little boxes.**

	WHATEVER WE ASK,
	THAT IF WE ASK ANYTHING ACCORDING TO HIS WILL,
	THAT WE HAVE ASKED OF HIM.
	NOW THIS IS THE CONFIDENCE THAT WE HAVE IN HIM,
	AND IF WE KNOW THAT HE HEARS US,
	HE HEARS US.
	WE KNOW THAT WE HAVE THE PETITIONS