

# **Is Time Running Out?**

## **A Study of Prophecy and the Bible**

**By Don Korenko**

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**The inspiration for this book and many ideas expressed  
came from a sermon entitled  
“The Big Picture” by Ivor Myers.**

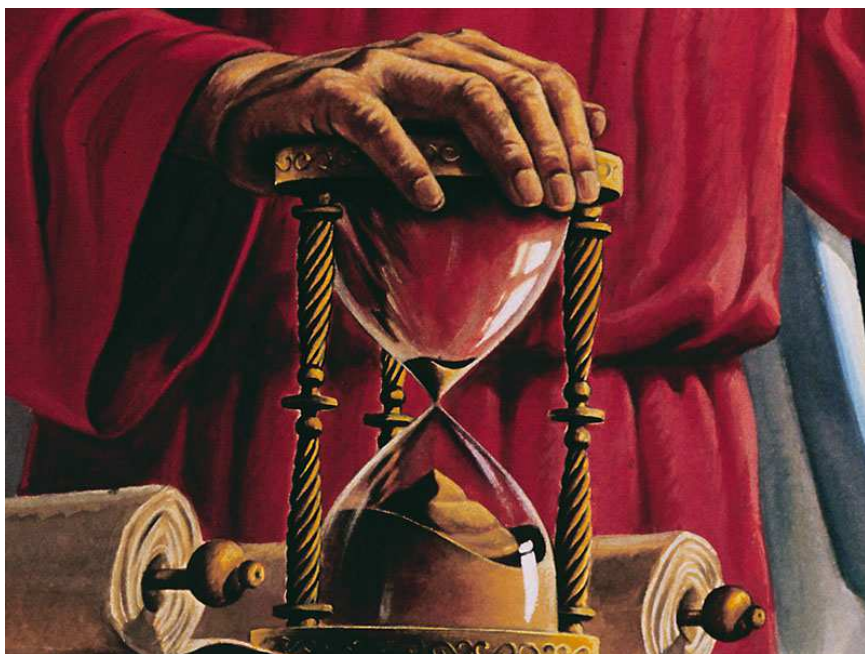
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I know that it is tempting to jump ahead to interesting lessons, but each lesson builds on the one before it, so if you jump ahead, you will miss the foundation of how we got to the lesson.



# Is Time Running Out?



## Introduction

Do you look around you today and wonder what is happening to our world? Is this world going to self-destruct? If so, will it be soon? Or, as some say, will everything calm down and we will have a thousand years of peace?

Believe it or not, what is happening around us today is part of a plan that was put in place about 6,000 years ago. And, according to that plan, this world will be destroyed in the not so distant future. But what about us? What will happen to us?

I know, you're saying that this is all a bunch of religious fairy-tales, made up to satisfy weak-minded people and those who don't know any better. BUT....what if I could PROVE to you that this was for real and not a bunch of religious myths?

## What If?

What if you met a person on the street and they told you that a certain event was going to happen to you and it did? You would call that a coincidence. Now suppose that you saw that same person again and they told you about another event, and that happened. Now, you're getting a little

freaked-out. But what if this happened four or five more times? Where would you go to find out more? Obviously back to the same person.

## Never Been Wrong

The Bible is just like that person in that it has been telling us what is going to happen, years before it happens, AND IT HAS NEVER BEEN WRONG! In all the religions in the world, there is ONLY ONE that can make this claim, and that religion is Christianity. NO OTHER RELIGION OR DOCUMENT has the prophecies that can be found in the Bible, AND ALMOST ALL OF THEM HAVE COME TRUE!! What about the ones that didn't come true? They will, because their time is still in the future.

“Well, anybody can twist Bible texts to prove what they're trying to prove.” That's true. That's why we have so many churches and you will see later in the lessons why this is true. But God made the Bible to explain itself. You don't need fancy commentaries or a doctoral degree in theology to understand the Bible. The message of the Bible is so profound that theologians can argue forever, but a child can read it and understand. What most people need is some direction or help in knowing where to go.



## “But, I Don't Believe in the Bible.”

Lesson One will try to provide SOLID EVIDENCE that proves the Bible to be true. Lesson One is designed to give you some comfort as to the authenticity of the Bible. The rest of the Bible studies will continue to reinforce and to build on what you learn in Lesson One.

## The War Between God And Satan Supported By History

This booklet guides you through a set of Bible studies that are unique from a couple of perspectives. Most Bible studies focus on various aspects of different Bible doctrines, but in this booklet we are focusing on the war

between God and Satan and how history confirms the Bible. Although it is important to know what the Bible teaches, **WHAT YOU KNOW IS NOT GOING TO SAVE YOU**. It's what you do with what you know!! Although we do touch on Bible doctrines, we put them into perspective with the underlying story and purpose of the Bible. We try to present these lessons like a story to make them interesting and easy to follow.

## **Do You Remember Your Favorite Movie?**

Can you describe what happened in your favorite movie to a friend? What made the movie easy to remember and describe to someone else? It was because you remember the story. The storyline of the movie was presented in such a way as to make it easy to remember. By knowing the storyline of the movie you can remember how the various events of the story fit in with the entire movie.

It's the same with the Bible. Most of us know that there is some type of a spiritual war going on but not everybody knows the underlying reasons for the war or the details of that war. How and why did it start, who started it, and how will it end? How does it affect me and why should I care?

Starting at Lesson Two, these lessons will provide a storyline of the Bible starting at the beginning of the war, following it through the ages and seeing the final resolution. We will look at what the Bible has to say, and compare that to what has happened historically.

## **About This Document**

These lessons are not intended to be a scholarly or an in-depth document but were written to proclaim the love of Jesus and to encourage the reader to a deeper study of the Bible. I do not apologize for the directness of this presentation. The stakes are too high to beat around the bush. Some of the material is not popular but is completely biblical. Too many people today are preaching a watered-down message that is designed to keep people happy. I do not wish to be one of those standing in the judgment before God and being accused of not presenting the straight truths of the Bible. I pray that you will see the love of God in each one of these lessons. He is reaching out to every person and wants everyone of us to be saved. But He won't force your decision. I pray your decision will be to follow God.

Many sources were used (but not copied unless identified) and the reader is encouraged to follow up on the additional reading. I've attempted to be as accurate as possible in presenting this material, and any errors found, or constructive criticism offered, will be welcomed by the author at the e-mail inside the front cover..

## **Suggested Resources**

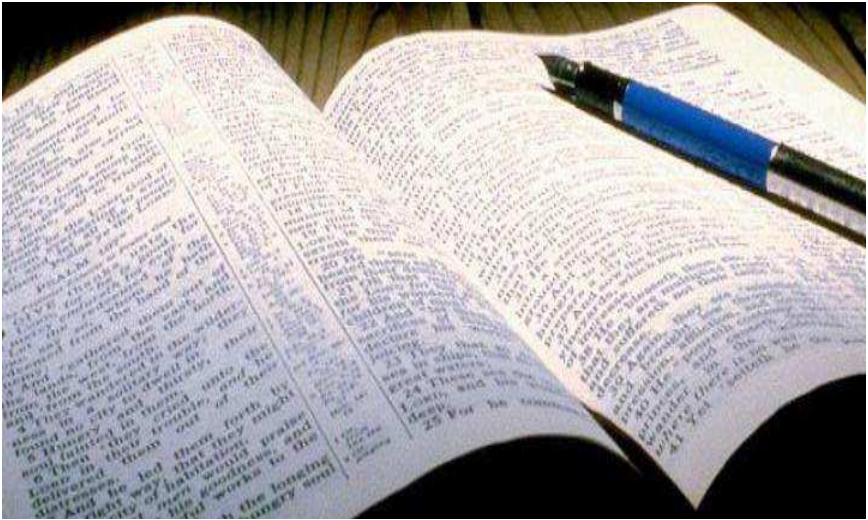
1. A Bible. You can use any version you wish although for study pur-

poses, some versions are preferable to others. I have used the King James Version in this booklet as it is in the public domain.

2. A computerized study Bible such as E-sword or The Word. These Bibles are completely free and can be downloaded to your computer. These include a tremendous number of free resources such as commentaries, dictionaries, concordances, Greek and Hebrew lexicons and historical books from authors such as Josephus, Edersheim, etc. The only resource required is time to download each resource. Just GOOGLE them and you will find them.
3. The Internet. Although Wikipedia is not a scholarly resource, the information it provides is more than adequate for our purposes. There are many good articles on history, people, the reformation, theology, etc., that will shed light on our studies.
4. A good commentary such as Barnes, Gill, Jamieson Fausset Brown, Keil & Delitzsch, or Matthew Henry, etc. These are all available for free with the above software. These can provide another viewpoint on the verse in question  
A note of caution on commentaries; These are the result of personal study and are the interpretations of the respective authors. These older commentaries are highly preferred over the newer commentaries or Bible notes for reasons that will be explained in lesson 5.
5. Greek-Hebrew Lexicon. This is free with the software in 2. above. By moving your mouse over a particular word, the Greek or Hebrew word is shown along with the original meaning of the word. That helps you see for yourself whether the translators were true to the original meaning. Translators can change the meaning of a verse by using a different word form or alternate meaning of the word in the original.



# Lesson One - Is the Bible For Real?



## Introduction

Even though the Bible has been around for centuries, many people do not believe in the Bible, and even many Christians find fault with parts of the Bible. Scholars pull it apart and analyze every single word and write hundreds of books about it. Scoffers find items that don't agree and claim that the Bible is full of errors and can't be trusted. People pull texts out of context to prove their theories, with one person proving something is white while another person proves it is black using different texts.

So, what is the Bible? Is it the Word of God or is it a bunch of stories and theories made up by various authors and grouped together into a compilation of writings called the Bible?

## It's Up To You

Only you can decide for yourself whether or not the Bible is the Word of God and whether or not it is inspired. God leaves room for doubt. There is nothing in this world that you can say with certainty. There is doubt in every facet of life. If everything was certain, there would be no room for faith. Faith is believing in something when you don't have all the facts, however, blind faith is no more than presumption and is based on nothing or almost nothing. Faith must have a basis or be built on a foundation.

The purpose of this lesson is to give enough facts to prove that there is a basis for you to have faith that the Bible is inspired. Can we prove that

every word of the Bible is inspired? No. But that's where faith comes in. It's like the old adage, "You can lead a horse to water, but you can't make him drink." If you are truly searching for the truth, you will find it in the Bible. If you are looking for proof to tear down the Bible, you will find that too. It all depends on you. But since you are reading this, it is obvious that you realize that you have a need for something more than you already have. Allow God and the Holy Spirit to work with you as you continue to study these lessons.

God has given us a glimpse into the future. Would you like to take a look?



## Before We Start

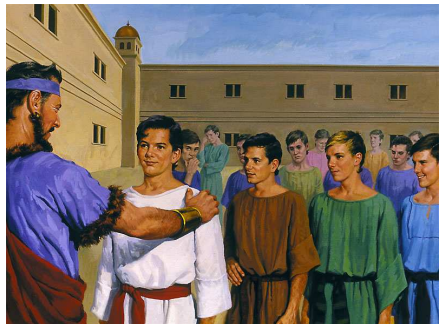
Never start a Bible study without asking God to guide you and show you what He wants you to know. If you are not used to praying, here is a short prayer you can use. "Dear Jesus, as I sit down to study your word, please give me the Holy Spirit in my heart to guide me. Help me to understand the prophecies that I am studying, and show me what you want me to do. Amen"

## When Was Daniel Written?

The study today centers around the book of Daniel. The story happens about 2,600 years ago starting at 605 B.C. Because of the historical detail provided in the book of Daniel, scoffers have tried to discredit the writer. Some tried to say that he actually lived hundreds of years later, and instead of foretelling the future, he wrote about the past. But, even given that possibility, they still could not explain how he continued to provide so many accurate details in the future beyond the time they claimed he lived. In addition, Daniel wrote about people and events that had no archeological evidence at the time. However, many archeological finds in the recent past have proven without a doubt that Daniel did live in Babylon, in the time of king Nebuchadnezzar.

## Who Is Daniel?

Around 605 B.C., the Babylonian king Nebuchadnezzar, conquered the city of Jerusalem and captured the kingdom of Judah. Among the princes that he captured was a Jewish youth, probably about 18-20 years old, named Daniel. Nebuchad-



nezzar was forward thinking for his time and instead of making slaves out of all his captives, he took the sharpest and most promising captives and trained them in his own courts to be administrators, teachers, wise men, etc. You can read the first chapter of Daniel to get an idea of what happened.

## The King's Dream

The second chapter of Daniel recounts the story of a dream that God gave king Nebuchadnezzar. Read Daniel 2:1-13 to get the details.

**Dan 2:1** *And in the second year of the reign of Nebuchadnezzar Nebuchadnezzar dreamed dreams, wherewith his spirit was troubled, and his sleep brake from him. 2 Then the king commanded to call the magicians, and the astrologers, and the sorcerers, and the Chaldeans, for to shew the king his dreams. So they came and stood before the king. 3 And the king said unto them, I have dreamed a dream, and my spirit was troubled to know the dream. 4 Then spake the Chaldeans to the king in Syriack, O king, live for ever: tell thy servants the dream, and we will shew the interpretation. 5 The king answered and said to the Chaldeans, The thing is gone from me: if ye will not make known unto me the dream, with the interpretation thereof, ye shall be cut in pieces, and your houses shall be made a dunghill. 6 But if ye shew the dream, and the interpretation thereof, ye shall receive of me gifts and rewards and great honour: therefore shew me the dream, and the interpretation thereof. 7 They answered again and said, Let the king tell his servants the dream, and we will shew the interpretation of it. 8 The king answered and said, I know of certainty that ye would gain the time, because ye see the thing is gone from me. 9 But if ye will not make known unto me the dream, there is but one decree for you: for ye have prepared lying and corrupt words to speak before me, till the time be changed: therefore tell me the dream, and I shall know that ye can shew me the interpretation thereof. 10 The Chaldeans answered before the king, and said, There is not a man upon the earth that can shew the king's matter: therefore there is no king, lord, nor ruler, that asked such things at any magician, or astrologer, or Chaldean. 11 And it is a rare thing that the king requireth, and there is none other that can shew it before the king, except the gods, whose dwelling is not with flesh. 12 For this cause the king was angry and very furious, and commanded to destroy all the wise men of Babylon. 13 And the decree went forth that the wise men should be slain; and they sought Daniel and his fellows to be slain.*

Note especially the response of the wise men in verses 10 and 11. Even they knew that no man alive could do what the king asked and only the gods had that power. In those times, the kings were part of the religious system and had many priests for each of the many gods that they

worshipped. It is interesting to note that all of these priests and even the king, could not get an answer from any of their gods.

## Daniel Volunteers

Continue reading Daniel 2:14-16.

**Dan 2:14** *Then Daniel answered with counsel and wisdom to Arioch the captain of the king's guard, which was gone forth to slay the wise men of Babylon: 15 He answered and said to Arioch the king's captain, Why is the decree so hasty from the king? Then Arioch made the thing known to Daniel. 16 Then Daniel went in, and desired of the king that he would give him time, and that he would shew the king the interpretation.*

We see that Daniel asked for time. Continue with verses 17-23.

**17** *Then Daniel went to his house, and made the thing known to Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, his companions: 18 That they would desire mercies of the God of heaven concerning this secret; that Daniel and his fellows should not perish with the rest of the wise men of Babylon. 19 Then was the secret revealed unto Daniel in a night vision. Then Daniel blessed the God of heaven. 20 Daniel answered and said, Blessed be the name of God for ever and ever: for wisdom and might are his: 21 And he changeth the times and the seasons: he removeth kings, and setteth up kings: he giveth wisdom unto the wise, and knowledge to them that know understanding: 22 He revealeth the deep and secret things: he knoweth what is in the darkness, and the light dwelleth with him. 23 I thank thee, and praise thee, O thou God of my fathers, who hast given me wisdom and might, and hast made known unto me now what we desired of thee: for thou hast now made known unto us the king's matter.*

Note that the first thing Daniel did was to gather with his friends and pray to God for an answer. God did not disappoint him, and Daniel was so thankful that he thanks God and praises Him for answering his prayer. Many times, we take everything for granted and forget to thank God for even the breath that we take each second. Continue reading verses 24-30.

**Dan 2:24** *Therefore Daniel went in unto Arioch, whom the king had ordained to destroy the wise men of Babylon: he went and said thus unto him; Destroy not the wise men of Babylon: bring me in before the king, and I will shew unto the king the interpretation. 25 Then Arioch brought in Daniel before the king in haste, and said thus unto him, I have found a man of the captives of Judah, that will make known unto the king the interpretation. 26 The king answered and said to Daniel, whose name was Belteshazzar, Art thou able to make known unto me the dream which I have seen, and the interpretation thereof? 27 Daniel answered in the presence of the king, and said, The secret which the*

king hath demanded cannot the wise men, the astrologers, the magicians, the soothsayers, shew unto the king; **28** But there is a God in heaven that revealeth secrets, and maketh known to the king Nebuchadnezzar what shall be in the latter days. Thy dream, and the visions of thy head upon thy bed, are these; **29** As for thee, O king, thy thoughts came into thy mind upon thy bed, what should come to pass hereafter: and he that revealeth secrets maketh known to thee what shall come to pass. **30** But as for me, this secret is not revealed to me for any wisdom that I have more than any living, but for their sakes that shall make known the interpretation to the king, and that thou mightest know the thoughts of thy heart.

Notice that Daniel does not take any credit and plainly specifies that no one is able to give the king his answer except the God in heaven. In verse 30, he makes it plain that he was not wiser than anyone else but that God gave him the answer to give to the king.

## The Details of the Dream

Read Verses 31-36. The king's dream was about a large statue.

**Dan 2:31** Thou, O king, sawest, and behold a great image. This great image, whose brightness was excellent, stood before thee; and the form thereof was terrible. **32** This image's head was of fine gold, his breast and his arms of silver, his belly and his thighs of brass, **33** His legs of iron, his feet part of iron and part of clay. **34** Thou sawest till that a stone was cut out without hands, which smote the image upon his feet that were of iron and clay, and brake them to pieces. **35** Then was the iron, the clay, the brass, the silver, and the gold, broken to pieces together, and became like the chaff of the summer threshingfloors; and the wind carried them away, that no place was found for them: and the stone that smote the image became a great mountain, and filled the whole earth. **36** This is the dream; and we will tell the interpretation thereof before the king.

Note that as you progress down the statue, the value of the metal decreases, gold, silver, brass, iron. One other obvious fact, there are two arms and legs and ten toes, which becomes important as

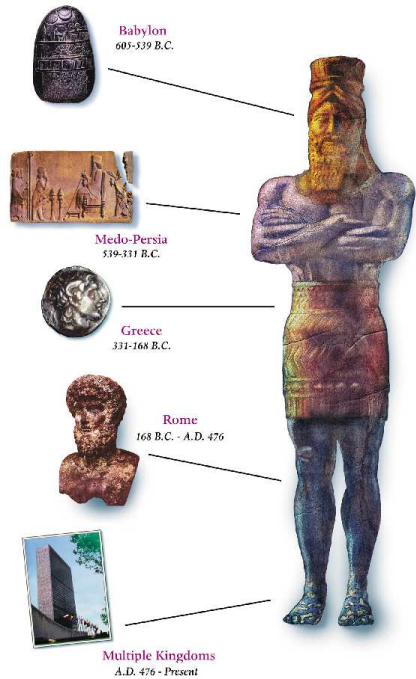


we talk about what it represents. There is a reason why a statue of a man is given in the dream.

## The Interpretation

Read Verses 37-45.

**Dan 2:37** *Thou, O king, art a king of kings: for the God of heaven hath given thee a kingdom, power, and strength, and glory. 38 And wheresoever the children of men dwell, the beasts of the field and the fowls of the heaven hath he given into thine hand, and hath made thee ruler over them all. Thou art this head of gold. 39 And after thee shall arise another kingdom inferior to thee, and another third kingdom of brass, which shall bear rule over all the earth. 40 And the fourth kingdom shall be strong as iron: forasmuch as iron breaketh in pieces and subdueth all things: and as iron that breaketh all these, shall it break in pieces and bruise. 41 And whereas thou sawest the feet and toes, part of potters' clay, and part of iron, the kingdom shall be divided; but there shall be in it of the strength of the iron, forasmuch as thou sawest the iron mixed with miry clay. 42 And as the toes of the feet were part of iron, and part of clay, so the kingdom shall be partly strong, and partly broken. 43 And whereas thou sawest iron mixed with miry clay, they shall mingle themselves with the seed of men: but they shall not cleave one to another, even as iron is not mixed with clay. 44 And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever. 45 Forasmuch as thou sawest that the stone was cut out of the mountain without hands, and that it brake in pieces the iron, the brass, the clay, the silver, and the gold; the great God hath made known to the king what shall come to pass hereafter: and the dream is certain, and the interpretation thereof sure.*



The statue represents kingdoms and powers. Daniel starts out by telling the king that he is the head of gold, so the head of gold represents Bab-

ylon. Now, at this point Daniel is taking his life in his hands because no ruler wants to hear that his kingdom will be replaced by another, more inferior kingdom. But then Daniel says that the second kingdom will be replaced by a third and then a fourth. Notice that there is no fifth kingdom. The fifth power is made up of the ten toes made of iron and clay, that cannot stick to each other, which means no one power over the whole civilized world. Now we know that there were other civilizations at the time such as the Chinese, but if you believe the Bible that the birthplace of civilization was in the Middle East and other peoples such as the Asians and Africans started there and migrated away, then these other cultures were more isolated from the rest of the world.

Now it makes sense, from Daniel's point of view, that if there are four kingdoms, there should be a sixth, seventh, etc., doesn't it? But Daniel says there will only be four major world powers, starting with Babylon, followed by a kingdom that can't stick together. On top of that, God's kingdom, a stone made without human hands, comes along and utterly destroys the other kingdoms and fills the world with His glory. What are the chances of getting all these items right? In a minute, we will see that everything except the big stone has already happened. So if everything else has happened, doesn't it make sense that sooner or later the big stone will come as Daniel has predicted?

### What Does History Say?

Babylon was a kingdom known for its luxury and gold and at one time was reputed to house The Hanging Gardens, one of the seven wonders of the world. Babylon dates from 605 B.C. to 539 B.C.

Babylon was overthrown by Medo-Persia in 539 B.C. Note that there were two powers in this kingdom, the Medes and the Persians. In the statue, this kingdom is represented



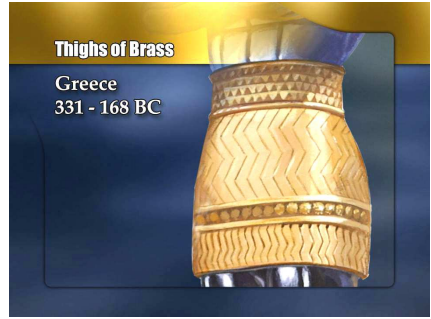
by the two arms. The kingdom was also well known for its use of silver. The Medo-Persia kingdom started with the Medes in power and by 500 B.C., the Persian kings had risen to power. At one time, 44% of the world's population was ruled by this empire.

Medo-Persia was in turn conquered by Alexander the Great of Greece in 330 B.C. Note that the Greeks were



well known for their use of brass, especially in their armor.

After Greece came Rome. Rome defeated Greece over a period of years so that one specific date is hard to pin down. The conquest of Greece started in the mid 100's B.C. and ended in 30 B.C. Rome was known as the iron kingdom because it was rapacious in its conquests, killing people or subduing them into slavery.



**Thighs of Brass**

Greece  
331 - 168 BC



**Legs of Iron**

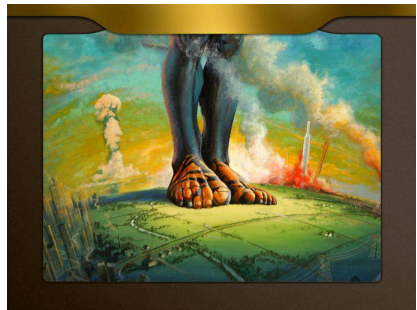
Rome  
168 BC — Mid  
4th Century AD

Now just as the statue had two legs, the Roman Empire was made up of two parts. Pagan Rome gave way to Papal Rome in 538 A.D. From 538 to 1798 A.D. the papacy was the government. However, at the same time, the Roman Empire was broken into ten tribes, with three of the tribes later being vanquished and the papal power continuing its government over the remaining seven. These

tribes became the various countries in Europe. Attempts to unite Europe by marriage and intermarriage have proved fruitless and so today we do not have any one dominating world power.

Which leaves us in the toes of the image.

Note that the two legs represent two phases of the same kingdom, Rome, just as the two arms represented the two phases of the Medo-Persia kingdom. This is important to remember as we get into further prophetic visions.



## A Concise Picture.

This dream in Daniel 2 gives us a very broad picture of the scope of history. Everything that Daniel predicted to date has happened. Before we look at two other prophecies, let's look at a biblical rule about prophecies. One of the rules about prophecy in the Bible is that later prophecies give nothing new, only more details about the first prophecy.

Now are you ready to get into the details? Believe it or not, God gives Daniel some very specific details in some later visions. These visions are found in Daniel 7 and 8. Daniel 9-11 are additional visions to explain to



Daniel the events of the vision of Daniel 8.

## A Word About Prophecy Interpretation

Before we get into the next two visions, let's look at three ways of interpreting prophecy. These three ways are called Historicism, Futurism and Preterism.



Up to the 1500's A.D., historicism was the only method of interpreting prophecy. We will not go into detail at this point because a future study will show how and why the other two methods developed, who authored the methods, and how it changes what we believe. The Bible studies presented here, are all based on the historicism principle of interpreting prophecy.

Some commentators and commentaries will interpret the next two visions differently because they follow either futurism, preterism or a combination of the two. If you read one of these commentaries, try comparing their writings with other commentaries to get a balanced view and use your own mind to decide what makes more sense.

## Belshazzar's Feast

If you read Daniel chapters, 5 and 6, you will see the transition from the Babylon kingdom to the Medo-Persian kingdom.

## The Vision of Daniel 7

Note that we are going back in time, before Medo-Persia conquers Babylon. Chapters 5 and 6 give some history and then Daniel records his prophetic visions. Daniel 7:1-14 is the vision given to Daniel. Read these verses before continuing with this study.

***Dan 7:1*** *In the first year of Belshazzar king of Babylon Daniel had a dream and visions of his head upon his bed: then he wrote the dream, and told the sum of the matters. 2 Daniel spake and said, I saw in my vision by night, and, behold, the four winds of the heaven strove upon the great sea. 3 And four great beasts came up from the sea, diverse one from another. 4 The first was like a lion, and had eagle's wings: I beheld till the wings thereof were plucked, and it was lifted up from the earth, and made stand upon the feet as a man, and a man's heart was given to it. 5 And behold another beast, a second, like to a bear, and it raised up itself on one side, and it had three ribs in the mouth of it between the teeth of it: and they said thus unto it, Arise, devour much*



**flesh. 6** After this I beheld, and lo another, like a leopard, which had upon the back of it four wings of a fowl; the beast had also four heads; and dominion was given to it. **7** After this I saw in the night visions, and behold a fourth beast, dreadful and terrible, and strong exceedingly; and it had great iron teeth: it devoured and brake in pieces, and stamped the residue with the feet of it: and it was diverse from all the beasts that were before it; and it had ten horns. **8** I considered the horns, and, behold, there came up among them another little horn, before whom there

were three of the first horns plucked up by the roots: and, behold, in this horn were eyes like the eyes of man, and a mouth speaking great things. **9** I beheld till the thrones were cast down, and the Ancient of days did sit, whose garment was white as snow, and the hair of his head like the pure wool: his throne was like the fiery flame, and his wheels as burning fire. **10** A fiery stream issued and came forth from before him: thousand thousands ministered unto him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him: the judgment was set, and the books were opened. **11** I beheld then because of the voice of the great words which the horn spake: I beheld even till the beast was slain, and his body destroyed, and given to the burning flame. **12** As concerning the rest of the beasts, they had their dominion taken away: yet their lives were prolonged for a season and time. **13** I saw in the night visions, and, behold, one like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of days, and they brought him near before him.

Now lets compare the dream of the statue with Daniel's vision. Although different symbols are used, there are many similarities between the two.

## Comparing Daniel 2 and Daniel 7

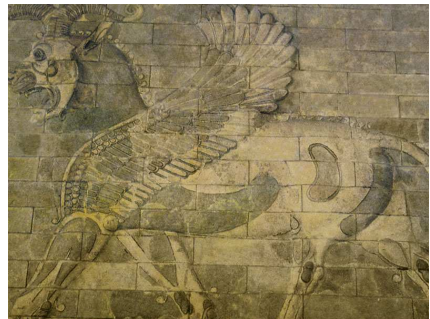
Notice that when you compare the two chapters side by side, the vi-

sion of Daniel is remarkably similar to the king’s dream. However, we have additional detail in Daniel’s vision that we did not have in the king’s dream. If you read the rest of the chapter, Daniel is told what the vision represents.

Daniel 2	Kingdom	Daniel 7
Head of Gold	Babylon	Lion With Eagle’s Wings which are Plucked
Arms of Silver	Medo-Persia	Bear, Raised on One side with Three Ribs in its Mouth
Belly & Thighs of Brass	Greece	Leopard With 4 Wings and Four Heads
Legs of Iron	Pagan Rome	Dreadful Beast With Iron Teeth and Ten Horns
Toes of Iron & Clay	Papal Rome and Ten Tribes	A Little Horn Which Removed Three of the Ten Horns
Stone Cut Out Without Hands	God’s Kingdom	Ancient of Days which destroyed all the Beasts

### Comparing History With Daniel 7

Babylon was noted for using the winged lion in a lot of its art. Often the lion and eagle were combined with the lion having wings and claws. The reference to the wings being plucked refers to another dream of the king in Daniel 4. You can read what happened in that chapter.



Medo-Persia is represented by the bear which is raised on one side. As stated earlier, the Medes were in



power first and later the Persians took over. Many commentators interpret the three ribs as representing three countries taken over by Medo-Persia; Lydia, Babylon and Egypt.

Greece is represented by the leopard with four wings and four heads. Under Alexander the Great, Greece moved swiftly in its conquests, and when Al-



exander died, the kingdom was split into four parts and ruled by four of his generals, thus the wings denote speed and the four heads, the partition of Greece under the four generals.

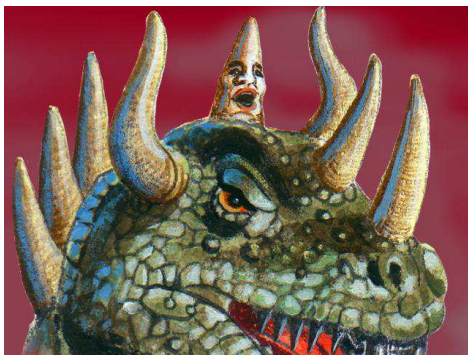
The dreadful beast with iron teeth parallels the iron legs of the image and represents the pagan Roman Empire. The little horn comes out of the beast and is the other phase of the Roman

Empire, Papal Rome.

Notice that in verse 8, the little horn is given only one verse to identify it, but the interpretation of the little horn is given four verses; 20-21 and 24-25.

**Dan 7:20** *And of the ten horns that were in his head, and of the other which came up, and before whom three fell; even of that horn that had eyes, and a mouth that spake very great things, whose look was more stout than his fellows. 21 beheld, and the same horn made war with the saints, and prevailed against them;*

**Dan 7:24** *And the ten horns out of this kingdom are ten kings that shall arise: and another shall rise after them; and he shall be diverse from the first, and he shall subdue three kings. 25 And he shall speak great words against the most High, and shall wear out the saints of the most High, and think to change times and laws: and they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and the dividing of time.*



The interpretation that the little horn was Antiochus Epiphanes IV, a Seleucid king, and the 4th kingdom is Greece and not Rome, was first advanced by a pagan defender and neoplatonist, Porphyry (c. A.D. 233-304). He was alarmed at the spread of Christianity and was one of those who contended that Daniel was written in the 2nd century B.C. not the 6th. Although a king, and he did fulfill some of the parts of the prophecy, his power was not as far reaching as a kingdom, plus his rulership was at the beginning of Pagan Rome not succeeding Pagan Rome. It has subsequently been proven that Antiochus could not possibly fit all the criteria found in this chapter. This interpretation was discarded by Protestantism until brought out of its obscurity by Hugh Broughton (1549–1612) of England.

It is now accepted in most modern commentaries not following the historicist view of prophecy.

## The Vision of Daniel 8

In Daniel chapter eight, Daniel records another vision that parallels what we have studied so far. Read Daniel 8:1-14.

**Dan 8:1** *In the third year of the reign of king Belshazzar a vision appeared unto me, even unto me Daniel, after that which appeared unto me at the first. 2 And I saw in a vision; and it came to pass, when I saw, that I was at Shushan in the palace, which is in the province of Elam; and I saw in a vision, and I was by the river of Ulai. 3 Then I lifted up mine eyes, and saw, and, behold, there stood before the river a ram which had two horns: and the two horns were high; but one was higher than the other, and the higher came up last. 4 I saw the ram pushing westward, and northward, and southward; so that no beasts might stand before him, neither was there any that could deliver out of his hand; but he did according to his will, and became great. 5 And as I was considering, behold, an he goat came from the west on the face of the whole earth, and touched not the ground: and the goat had a notable horn between his eyes. 6 And he came to the ram that had two horns, which I had seen standing before the river, and ran unto him in the fury of his power. 7 And I saw him come close unto the ram, and he was moved with choler against him, and smote the ram, and brake his two horns: and there was no power in the ram to stand before him, but he cast him down to the ground, and stamped upon him: and there was none that could deliver the ram out of his hand. 8 Therefore the he goat waxed very great: and when he was strong, the great horn was broken; and for it came up four notable ones toward the four winds of heaven. 9 And out of one of them came forth a little horn, which waxed exceeding great, toward the south, and toward the east, and toward the pleasant land. 10 And it waxed great, even to the host of heaven; and it cast down some of the host and of the stars to the ground, and stamped upon them. 11 Yea, he magnified himself even to the prince of the host, and by him the daily sacrifice was taken away, and the place of his sanctuary was cast down. 12 And an host was given him against the daily sacrifice by rea-*



son of transgression, and it cast down the truth to the ground; and it practised, and prospered. **13** Then I heard one saint speaking, and another saint said unto that certain saint which spake, *How long shall be the vision concerning the daily sacrifice, and the transgression of desolation, to give both the sanctuary and the host to be trodden under foot?* **14** And he said unto me, *Unto two thousand and three hundred days; then shall the sanctuary be cleansed.*

Another rule of prophecy is that prophecy starts at the present time of the prophet. You will notice that there is something missing in this vision; Babylon.

Babylon is exiting the scene of history and Medo-Persia is getting ready to take over so more details on Babylon are irrelevant. Note that we now also have a 2300 day prophecy, which we will cover in a later lesson. If you read verses 15-27, you will see the interpretation of this vision as given to Daniel by Gabriel.

**Dan 8:15** *And it came to pass, when I, even I Daniel, had seen the vision, and sought for the meaning, then, behold, there stood before me as the appearance of a man. 16 And I heard a man's voice between the banks of Ulai, which called, and said, Gabriel, make this man to understand the vision. 17 So he came near where I stood: and when he came, I was afraid, and fell upon my face: but he said unto me, Understand, O son of man: for at the time of the end shall be the vision. 18 Now as he was speaking with me, I was in a deep sleep on my face toward the ground: but he touched me, and set me upright. 19 And he said, Behold, I will make thee know what shall be in the last end of the indignation: for at the time appointed the end shall be. 20 The ram which thou sawest having two horns are the kings of Media and Persia. 21 And the rough goat is the king of Grecia: and the great horn that is between his eyes is the first king. 22 Now that being broken, whereas four stood up for it, four kingdoms shall stand up out of the nation, but not in his power. 23 And in the latter time of their kingdom, when the transgressors are come to the full, a king of fierce countenance, and understanding dark sentences, shall stand up. 24 And his power shall be mighty, but not by his own power: and he shall destroy wonderfully, and shall prosper, and practise, and shall destroy the mighty and the holy people. 25 And through his policy also he shall cause craft to prosper in his hand; and he shall magnify himself in his heart, and by peace shall destroy many: he shall also stand up against the Prince of princes; but he shall be broken without hand. 26 And the vision of the evening and the morning which was told is true: wherefore shut thou up the vision; for it shall be for many days. 27 And I Daniel fainted, and was sick certain days; afterward I rose up, and did the king's business; and I was astonished at the vision, but none understood it.*

## Comparing History With Daniel 8

You will see that there is basically nothing new or different from Daniel 7 concerning Medo-Persia. It is a two phased kingdom, with the Medes starting and the Persians ascending to power at a later date. Instead of three ribs, you have the three directions where they expanded. Verse 20 specifically identifies this beast as Medo-Persia.

In this vision, we are given more identifying marks of Greece in addition to verse 21 which tells us that the goat represents Greece. The first king, Alexander the Great, conquers Medo-Persia, dies and is replaced by his four generals.



From one of these four Grecian States, another exceeding great power (the little horn) arises and grows to the south, the east and the pleasant land (Palestine). If you read verses 23-25, you get a description of this king that matches the indescribable beast of Daniel 7. It cast down some of the host (Christian persecutions) and magnified himself even to the Prince of the host (Rome crucified Jesus). So we can see the development of Pagan Rome out of Greece. Verse 25 talks about the downfall of Pagan Rome, but it is not conquered by another power (broken without hand).

The power continues with the destruction of the daily and the sanctuary and the truth. Note that these are all spiritual in nature as opposed to the literal persecutions, so you have the transition from Pagan Rome to Papal Rome in verses 11-12.

## Comparing The Visions of Daniel 7 & 8

As you study these two chapters in detail, you can definitely see the similarities. One of the main differences though appears to be the number of kingdoms presented in the two chapters. Daniel 7 has four kingdoms and four different beasts while Daniel 8 appears to have only two beasts and two kingdoms. If you remove Babylon from Daniel 7, you still have three kingdoms versus 2 in Daniel 7.

As you look at the beasts in Daniel 7, from the Jewish standpoint, these beasts were all unclean beasts. In Daniel 8, the ram and the goat were animals that the Jews ate but also animals that were used in their daily sanctuary services (see the book of Leviticus 1-10).

Daniel 2	Kingdom	Daniel 7	Daniel 8
Head of Gold	Babylon	Lion With Eagle's Wings which are Plucked	
Arms of Silver	Medo-Persia	Bear, Raised on One side with Three Ribs in its Mouth	A Ram with 2 Horns, One Higher than the Other, Pushed West, North, South
Belly & Thighs of Brass	Greece	Leopard With Four Wings and Four Heads	Fast He-Goat with One Horn, It Broke into Four Horns
Legs of Iron	Pagan Rome	Dreadful Beast With Iron Teeth and Ten Horns	Little Horn Comes From One of the Four Horns, Grew to South, East, Pleasant Land (Israel), etc. etc.
Toes of Iron & Clay	Papal Rome and Ten Tribes	A Little Horn Which Removed Three of the Ten Horns	
Stone Cut Out Without Hands	God's Kingdom	Ancient of Days which destroyed all the Beasts	

The vision of Daniel 7 focuses primarily of the political aspect of the kingdoms. Daniel 8, however, focuses on the spiritual development of the kingdoms. Roman philosophy developed out of the Grecian philosophy and both continue to be part of the western culture. These philosophies permeate our religious thinking even to this day.

So the kingdom of the he-goat gives rise to the spiritual thinking starting in Greece, moving to Rome and continuing to the present.

## Review

As we look back at these prophecies that God gave Daniel, over 2,600 years ago, what more proof do we need that;

1. God is in control
2. God knows the future
3. The outcome is certain



## How Does This Show God's Love?

God does not want us to be lost. He loves us to such an extent that He wants us to know what is going to happen in the future. He gave us over 2,600 years of history ahead of time so we would know that He does control the future. Jeremiah 29:11 says, ***“For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.” (NIV)***

God made us free moral agents to make our own decisions. He does not force Himself in your life but He will continue to remind you that He is there. You can choose to ignore Him, and if you do it often enough, He will respect your wishes and leave you alone. Today you can choose to follow Him and be part of His plans and His future for you.

## More Detail

If you really like history, Daniel chapters 10 and 11 record a third vision of Daniel with extreme amounts of detail concerning the time from the Pagan Roman Empire, through the time of the ten tribes, until the end, but space here does not permit dealing with this vision. C. Mervyn Maxwell, has written two volumes called God Cares. Volume One deals with Daniel and Volume Two deals with Revelation. These volumes go into much greater detail as far as the history is concerned.

## Further Reading

Wikipedia has great articles on Babylon, Nebuchadnezzar, Medo-Persia, etc., plus there are a lots of links to other related articles.



## Lesson Two—War In Heaven



### Introduction

Everywhere we look, we can see both good and evil. Many cultures have different ways of expressing the origin of the two forces. This lesson will review the origin of evil, the start of the war in heaven, what the war is all about, and why God did not destroy evil when it arose.

### Before We Start

“Dear Jesus, as I sit down to study your word, please have the Holy Spirit show me your truths.. Teach me your word and show me your will for me. Amen”

### God Did Not Create Evil

As you read the first chapter of Genesis, you will note throughout the chapter God finishes each part of creation with the words “it is good”. The last verse in chapter one states “indeed, it was very good” (NKJV).

Let’s read Ezekiel 28:11-15.

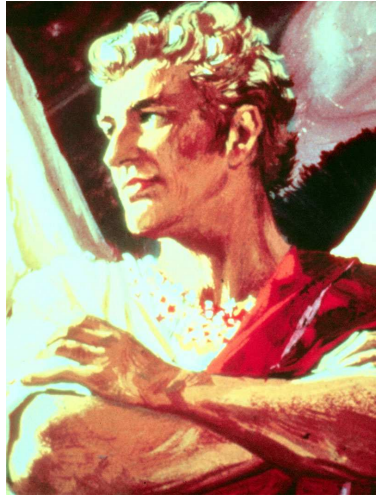
***Ezek 28:11*** Moreover the word of the LORD came unto



me, saying, **12** Son of man, take up a lamentation upon the king of Tyrus, and say unto him, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Thou sealest up the sum, full of wisdom, and perfect in beauty. **13** Thou hast been in Eden the garden of God; every precious stone was thy covering, the sardius, topaz, and the diamond, the beryl, the onyx, and the jasper, the sapphire, the emerald, and the carbuncle, and gold: the workmanship of thy tabrets and of thy pipes was prepared in thee in the day that thou wast created.

**14** Thou art the anointed cherub that covereth; and I have set thee so: thou wast upon the holy mountain of God;

thou hast walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire. **15** Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee.



This passage talks about an angel who was created perfect. The verses use the term “king of Tyre”, as a description for a particular angel who was created perfect in every way “until sin was found in you”. Isaiah 14:12 refers to this angel as the morning star and the KJV calls him Lucifer. Job 38:7 talks about how the “morning stars sang together”. Rev 9:1 tells of a star, referring to Lucifer, which fell to earth. So we see that the Bible refers to the angels as stars.

We see that God did not create sin. John 8:44 makes it clear that the devil is the father of lies.

## Where Did Sin Originate?

Let's read Ezekiel 28:16-19.

**Ezek 28:16** By the multitude of thy merchandise they have filled the midst of thee with violence, and thou hast sinned: therefore I will cast thee as profane out of the mountain of God: and I will destroy thee, O covering cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire. **17** Thine heart was lifted up because of thy beauty, thou hast corrupted thy wisdom by reason of thy brightness: I will cast thee to the ground, I will lay thee before kings, that they may behold thee. **18** Thou hast defiled thy sanctuaries by the multitude of thine iniquities, by the iniquity of thy traffic; therefore will I bring forth a fire from the midst of thee, it shall devour thee, and I will bring thee to ashes upon the earth in the sight of all them that behold thee. **19** All they that know thee among the people shall be astonished at thee: thou shalt be a terror, and never shalt thou be any more.

The angel Lucifer became “filled with violence”, “sinned”, “corrupted”, and became a “horror”. (NKJV) Reading Isaiah 14:12-21 gives us a little more background as to what he wanted.

**Isa 14:12** *How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! 13 For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: 14 I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High. 15 Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit. 16 They that see thee shall narrowly look upon thee, and consider thee, saying, Is this the man that made the earth to tremble, that did shake kingdoms; 17 That made the world as a wilderness, and destroyed the cities thereof; that opened not the house of his prisoners? 18 All the kings of the nations, even all of them, lie in glory, every one in his own house. 19 But thou art cast out of thy grave like an abominable branch, and as the raiment of those that are slain, thrust through with a sword, that go down to the stones of the pit; as a carcase trodden under feet. 20 Thou shalt not be joined with them in burial, because thou hast destroyed thy land, and slain thy people: the seed of evildoers shall never be renowned. 21 Prepare slaughter for his children for the iniquity of their fathers; that they do not rise, nor possess the land, nor fill the face of the world with cities.*



## Who Was Lucifer?

Lets read Ezekiel 28:11-15 again. Although Ezekiel 28 seems to be talking about a man, the king of Tyre, notice that verse 14 says that he is a covering cherub or in some translations, a cherub that covers. So we realize that these verses are really talking about an angel not a man.

What is a covering cherub? To get more information on this, we need to go to Exodus 25:10-22. These verses describe the ark of the covenant that God told Moses to build and place in the sanctuary. After the ark was built, Moses placed the 10 commandments or the law of God into the ark, On top of the ark was the Mercy Seat or throne where God was to dwell. On both sides of the Mercy Seat was an angel called a covering cherub.

A covering cherub was one of the two angels who were the closest to God and who were to protect the Law of God which was the foundation of His throne and government. He was as close to God as anyone could be

without being God. But remember, he was a created being. If we go to Hebrews 8:1-5, we see that the sanctuary that Moses built on earth, was actually patterned after the sanctuary in heaven. Zephaniah 3:4 tells us that pollution of the sanctuary is doing violence to the law.



Now in spite of his being right next to God, Ezekiel 28:15-19 shows that he sinned. This is a warning to us also, that although we may have a close walk with God, we can still fall away and be lost.

## What is Sin?

If we read 1 John 3: 4, it says, “Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law.” (KJV) So Lucifer broke the Law of God. This is one of the two issues in the war between God and Satan.

Revelation 20:2 identifies the devil as Satan. Lucifer’s name gets changed to Satan after he sins. This name change is a big issue with God. In Revelation 2:17 and 3:12, God says He will give us a new name when we are saved. So Lucifer, “Shining One” or “Morningstar”, becomes Satan, “Adversary”.

## How Did Lucifer Fool So Many Angels?

Revelation 12:7 says that war broke out in heaven and Revelation 12:4 says that the dragon took one third of the stars (or angels) with him. So, how did he fool so many angels? Now we don’t really know but we can make a pretty good guess on this. Let’s face it, the angels are smart. They’re not going to fall for something that doesn’t sound right. This tells us that Lucifer was even smarter than the other angels, so I sure wouldn’t want to get into a discussion with him. I would have NO CHANCE of winning.



Let’s read Isaiah 14:12-14 again. Verse 14 says



that he would be like the Most High (God). What is God like? He is loving, kind, patient, etc. etc. Lucifer was probably saying to the angels, 'We can be like God without following His Law. We can be righteous on our own.'

Even today some people tell us that we don't need to keep the law to be saved. The law was nailed to the cross. All we need to do is to believe in Jesus and be good. To me, that sounds like the same argument that Lucifer used with his angels. It's called self-righteousness. Isaiah 64:6 tells us that our self-righteousness is as 'filthy rags', and Romans 8:33 makes it plain, "... It is God that justifieth". We have no part whatsoever in our salvation, it is a gift from God and not earned. We will discuss this in detail in a later lesson.

## The Issues And The battleground

As we saw a little earlier, one of the issues in the war is the Law of God. Lucifer transgressed the law. In Isaiah 14:13-14, we see that Lucifer wanted to be high and exalted. He wanted to be worshipped. Even when he tempted Jesus in the desert, he made worship one of the temptations (Matthew 4:8-9).

So we see that the war started with a fight against God's Law and a desire to be worshipped. As you continue these lessons, we will be concentrating on how Satan fights this battle through the ages, from the beginning to the end. Satan is constantly bombarding us with these two issues and **YOU CAN BE SURE** that they will be the defining issues in the final battle between Christ and Satan. These are the issues and the battleground is being fought in our hearts and our minds for our loyalty to Christ or to Satan. Remember, we have free choice. **SATAN CAN'T FORCE US, AND JESUS WON'T.**



## Why Didn't God Destroy Lucifer When He Sinned?

Imagine two angels walking down the street in heaven and one angel remarks, "I haven't seen Lucifer for a couple of days, have you seen him?" The other angel looks around furtively and whispers a reply. " Haven't you

heard? God destroyed him because he was doing something funny.” Can you imagine the fear that would spread throughout heaven?

God’s government is based on love, justice, fairness and mercy. These attributes are who He is. God cannot change. In fighting God’s Law, Satan is challenging the fairness of God and His government. Satan can use any tactic he desires against God but God can only use righteousness. Righteousness requires that Satan’s laws (or lack thereof) be given a chance to prove that they don’t work.

When God gave Moses laws for the Israelites, one of the laws required that a person could not be put to death except by the word of two or three witnesses (Deuteronomy 17:6; 19:15). In other words, God requires the word of an independent individual who was not involved in the crime. Since the revolt in heaven affected and involved everyone, where could God get an independent witness?



## In The Beginning

With revolt and unrest in heaven over Satan’s accusations, God needed a third party to judge between the two parties, so God created the earth and populated it with Adam and Eve. Genesis 1 records that event and chapters 2 records the creation of man and woman, how He placed them in the Garden of Eden, and how He warned them of Satan.

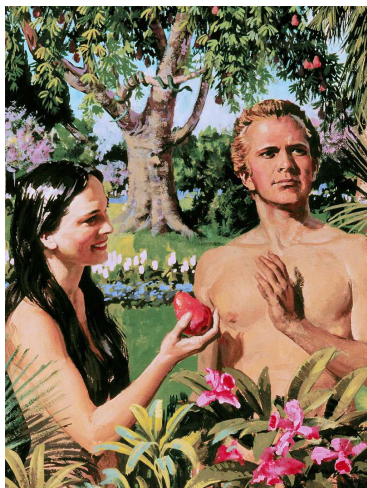


## The Judge and Jury

1 Corinthians 6:3 says, “Know ye not that we shall judge angels? . . .”. One of God’s purposes for our creation was that we would uphold His Law and His government and judge Satan and His angels. The requirements for a jury include:

1. Being a law-abiding citizen of the country
2. Know the law
3. Know right from wrong
4. Not swayed by public opinion or being impartial





As impartial third party judges, we had to be given the choice as to who we would serve. God could not sway our decisions, that is why He made the Tree of Knowledge a test of our loyalty to Him. By not providing the test, God would have rigged the jury and this was impossible for His character.

However, Satan could do as he wanted, so he bribed the jury. Notice in Genesis 3:5, he tells Eve that the fruit of the tree will open her eyes and she will be as the gods, knowing good and evil. The word 'gods' comes from the Hebrew word "Elohiym" which also means rulers and judges. And the rest is history. Eve ate and gave to

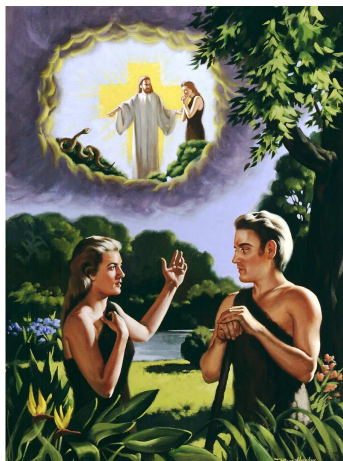
Adam and he ate, and the jury no longer met the conditions required.

## The Way to Re-instate the Jury

Now God was faced with decision. Does He start all over again, or work with what He has. If God were to start all over again, Satan's accusations against God would be that God's Law was impossible to keep and that he, Satan was right. So God had to work with the weak, fallen flesh of humanity to prove that His law and His government were in fact the only source of righteousness and life, while Satan's laws and government led to death.

In His eternal wisdom and knowledge, God planned for this contingency by providing a way for fallen man to be redeemed. Revelation 13:8 talks about "the Lamb that was slain from the foundation of the earth." The plan for man's redemption was provided at the same time the earth was created. It was not an afterthought. God's plan is found in Genesis 3: 14-15. It is the promise of a Savior and the destruction of Satan.

Notice that this is the first prophecy of the Bible and all the other prophecies in the Bible only provide more detail and build on this prophecy.



## The Lie And The Truth

Genesis 3:4 is the first lie that Satan continues to disseminate, "Thou shalt not surely die." If God had not already provided a plan of salvation,

Adam and Eve would have died on the spot and we would not be here. Because God had promised salvation from the foundation of the world, and He doesn't lie, Adam and Eve continued to live. The death of Jesus reached back all the way to the beginning and all the way to the end of this world.

But Satan continues to push that lie. You see its effects in the teachings of an eternal hell, in the teachings of an immortal soul and in other variations of these themes. In Genesis 3:22-24 God drives Adam and Eve out of the garden before they eat of the tree of life and become immortal. So, contrary to what many people teach, there are no immortal humans or souls and never will be until the righteous are made immortal at the second coming of Jesus (1 Thessalonians 4:13-17)



## **Why Did God Create Lucifer If He Knew Lucifer Would Sin?**

Imagine yourself as the only person on this earth and all the rest of the inhabitants were robots. Would you be happy? Obviously not.

God doesn't want to live by Himself in a universe of robots. He wants to share His creation with His creatures. In order for His creatures to be something other than robots, they must have the power of choice. Whenever someone has the power of choice, they can choose to accept the circumstances they are in, or they can choose to change those circumstances. Lucifer chose to change his circumstances to the detriment of God's government and the happiness of the universe.

Sin was unknown to the universe when Lucifer sinned. The Bible talks about the "mystery of iniquity" (2 Thessalonians 2:7). Even one third of the angels were deceived and the others were not quite sure. In order for all the beings in the universe to fully understand what sin is, God had to allow sin to continue until its effects are known. When sin is finally eradicated from the universe, those beings who remain, will never ever want to see sin again. Their freedom of choice will never include sin again.

Yes, it is painful. But imagine God's pain also. Sin caused the death of His Son, the loss of one third of His angels, and the immense pain and suffering to His creatures. God never wanted that, but He is wise enough to know when to stop the suffering, and that will be soon.

## **Review**

1. God did not create sin
2. Lucifer was a created being, an angel and a protector of God's Law
3. God's government is based on His Law
4. Lucifer sinned. He broke God's Law and wanted worship for himself
5. Lucifer deceived one third of the angels in heaven
6. There was war in heaven and Lucifer and his angels were thrown out
7. God created this world and populated it with Adam and Eve
8. God gave them free will to choose who to follow
9. Satan deceived Eve and she persuaded Adam to join her in her sin
10. God provided a plan to redeem mankind at the same time the earth was created
11. Because of that plan, we are still alive today
12. The final war will be over the law and worship

## **How Does This Show God's Love?**

God could have destroyed Satan at the beginning and then Adam and Eve when they sinned. He didn't because of His character. God does what is right regardless of the consequences. Although we complain of all the pain and suffering we go through, imagine the pain and suffering that God endures. We are His creation. He loves us as His children. Can you imagine the pain and suffering you would feel if your children were being hurt? We only have a few children but God suffers for everyone in this world that is being hurt by sin. When God finally eradicates sin, we will live in a universe of love, peace and happiness. Sin will never return (Nahum 1:9). But until then, God feels our pain more than we do, and if we are faithful to Him, our reward will be more than enough.



# Lesson Three - God's Blueprint For Salvation



## Introduction

After Adam and Eve had sinned in the Garden of Eden and eaten the fruit, God met with them and promised them a way to salvation, He had already planned for that contingency when He created the earth. All that was left was to put that plan into action but to do so prematurely would be ineffective.

## Before We Begin

Dear Jesus, we ask for your Holy Spirit to come and give us wisdom as we study your word. Show us your truth and your paths. Amen.

## God Is On Trial

When Lucifer sinned in heaven and became Satan, He accused God of being unfair and dictatorial. Because God is righteous, just and merciful, He could not fight Satan on his terms because Satan can use deception, lies and anything else he wants to. God not only had to fight and destroy Satan, He had to do it in such a way as to vindicate His character before all the angels and all other heavenly beings. To do so required a sacrifice on God's part. That sacrifice was His Son, Jesus.

But in order for God to win, the entire universe has to see the effects of sin. They have to realize that sin leads to death and God's righteousness and love lead to life. Sin has to be so abhorrent to the beings in the universe, that it will never arise again throughout eternity. When the time is right, the entire universe will decide that the eradication of sin is best for

everybody. Even Satan will have to agree that God's way is the best way.

This plan of salvation needs time to develop so that everyone involved sees the essentials. From God's viewpoint, this happens quickly but from our viewpoint, it seems like it will never happen.

Note: The next few paragraphs cover the Books of Genesis and part of Exodus. They are here to give continuity to the story between the fall of Adam and the Exodus of Israel from Egypt.

## God Lets Satan's Plan Develop

When Adam and Eve were sent from the Garden of Eden, they looked for the promised Savior in each of their children. However, their first-born Cain, became the first murderer. God allowed Satan free rein on this earth for about 2,000 years, until in Genesis 6:5 it says, "And GOD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually".

God decided to destroy all the wickedness on the earth with a flood with the exception of eight people, Noah, who God found righteous (Genesis 6:8-9), and his family. Notice that as soon as the ark was safe and they got back on dry land, one of Noah's sons committed sin (Genesis 9:21-24), and the whole cycle started all over again.



## God Chooses Abraham

The Bible doesn't say much about this next period of time except to say that sin flourished. But in the middle of all this sin, God finds a righteous man, Abraham. God makes a covenant with Abraham and promises that the Savior will come through his offspring, and that his children will be as numerous as the stars in the sky. One problem, Abraham's wife is way too old to have children. So, instead of waiting for God, he and his wife work things out through her maid, and Ishmael is born. The world has been suffering the consequences of that decision, ever since, even to this day.

Finally, God gives Abraham and Sarah a son, Isaac. Then God tests Abraham by asking him to kill his own son as a sacrifice. At the last minute, he is stopped and a ram is provided



for the sacrifice. But this sacrifice of Isaac was pointing forward to the sacrifice of God's own son, Jesus.

Abraham's children were to be like the stars in the sky. But Abraham had only one son, and that son had only two sons. And of the two sons, one of them, Jacob had twelve sons. So Abraham did not see the blessing promised to him by God but he believed.

## **Time Marches On**

Jacob, who was renamed Israel by God, had twelve sons and God led them into Egypt. God needed time to multiply His people, so He left them in Egypt for many years. During that time, Israel's children multiplied. Soon, the Egyptians were afraid of the Israelites and made them slaves. God selects Moses to lead the children of Israel out of Egypt in the event known as The Exodus. The only problem is that God's people did not know Him.

As the Israelites stayed in Egypt, they forgot who God was and started to worship the gods of the Egyptians. God had to retrain His own people to believe and trust in Him. Part of that training occurred in Egypt when God used the ten plagues to get Pharaoh to release the Israelites. He continued that retraining by placing them in impossible situations in the desert. His people had to learn to depend entirely on Him for everything. Today, we also need to learn to depend **TOTALLY** on God for everything.

## **Mount Sinai**

After wandering in the desert for a while, God finally brought His people to Mt. Sinai where He personally spoke to them from the mountaintop. Through Moses, He also gave them His Law, the ten commandments, and other laws (known as the Mosaic laws), by which to live. At the same time, God gave Moses the blueprint for the plan of salvation.



## **The Blueprint**

If you read Exodus chapters 25-31, you can see the plans that God gave to Moses to build a sanctuary for God to dwell with His people. You will remember that we talked a little bit about the sanctuary in Lesson Two, and that the earthly sanctuary is a copy of the heavenly sanctuary (Hebrews 8:2). In Leviticus 1-10 you can read about the various offerings and sacrifices that God ordained. A short version of this can also be found in Hebrews 9:1-10.

## The Importance of the Sanctuary

Of all the topics covered in the Bible, the sanctuary is by far the most pervasive. More chapters in the Bible are devoted to the sanctuary than to any other topic. In addition, almost all the other doctrines are based on some aspect of the sanctuary. Because of its importance, Satan focuses his attention on this area and attacks the sanctuary and what it represents because a knowledge of the sanctuary and its truths will help the individual understand the character of God. In addition, a knowledge of the sanctuary helps to unlock the book of Revelation. Anybody who tries to study the book of Revelation without understanding the sanctuary and its services, will be misled and develop theories that are not scripturally based.

## The Sanctuary

God requested the Israelites to build the sanctuary that "I may dwell among them", Exodus 25:8. The sanctuary followed the pattern set down by God,

As you can see in the picture, the outer courtyard was enclosed with a curtain. The entrance to the courtyard was always from the east.



In this courtyard was the Altar of Sacrifice, the Laver and the Sanctuary itself.

The Sanctuary was composed of two rooms, the Holy Place and the Most Holy Place.

The Holy Place contained three articles of furniture; The table of Showbread on the north side, the Seven-branched Candlestick on the south side and the Altar of Incense in front of the veil separating the Holy Place from the Most Holy Place. The veil that separated the two compartments





did not reach the top but allowed the smoke from the Altar of Incense to drift over into the Most Holy Place.

The Most Holy Place, contained only one article of furniture, the Ark of the Covenant. Inside the Ark was the 10 commandments, Aaron's budded rod and a bowl of manna (Hebrew 9:4). On top of the Ark was the Mercy Seat where God dwells and also on top on each side, a cherubim looking down at the Mercy Seat (Exodus 25:20-22).

## **The Sanctuary Services (See Leviticus 1-10)**

The priests officiated in the sanctuary on a daily basis and entered the Holy Place daily but the Most Holy Place was entered only once a year in a special ceremony. The bread was baked hot and replaced every Sabbath on the Table of Showbread. The old bread was then eaten by the priests. The Seven-branched Candlestick was continually burning and the priest replenished the oil daily. The Altar of Incense also had incense added so the incense continually ascended (Exodus 30:7-8).

When a person brought a sacrifice such as a lamb, a goat, a bull, or other to the sanctuary, the animal had to be perfect. If a person sinned, they were to place their hands on the head of the animal, transferring their sin to the animal. The animal was then killed and sacrificed on the Altar of Sacrifice. Based on whether the sacrifice was for a priest or a common person, the blood was



either placed on the horns of the Altar of Incense and sprinkled before the veil, or it was placed on the horns of the Altar of Sacrifice and sprinkled on the ground at the base of the altar.

Once a year the priests officiated at a special ceremony called the Day of Atonement. We will cover this in a later lesson.

## **The Significance of the Sanctuary Services**

The earthly sanctuary, in addition to being a copy of the heavenly sanctuary, pointed forward to the sacrifice of Jesus. The perfect lamb that was provided represented the perfect Lamb of God. The blood of the lamb represented the blood of Jesus. The act of killing the lamb and transferring the sins to the sanctuary did not save the sinner. What saved the sinner then, as today, was faith in the sacrifice of Jesus. By following the prescribed acts, the sinner showed that he believed in the future sacrifice of Jesus.

Unfortunately, after some time, the people forgot the symbolism and believed that the act itself was the source of salvation. That is what Jesus found when He came about 1,500 years later.

## Symbolism In The Sanctuary

There is much symbolism in the sanctuary and the articles of furniture. In Psalms 51:16-17, we see that the Altar of Sacrifice represents repentance. When the sinner came into the courtyard, the first place he went to was the Altar of Sacrifice.

The Laver, which was a basin used by the priests to wash the blood from their hands, represents baptism, which is a cleansing from sin through immersion (Acts 19:4, Romans 6:4)

The Table of Showbread represents the Word of God (Mark 14:22: John 1:1; Matthew 4:4; 16:12),

The Seven-Branches Candlestick represents witnessing (Matthew 5:16)

The Altar of Incense represents the prayers of the saints (Psalms 141:2, Revelation 8:3-4).

And finally the Ark of God represents His Law, His government and His mercy.

## Items of Interest

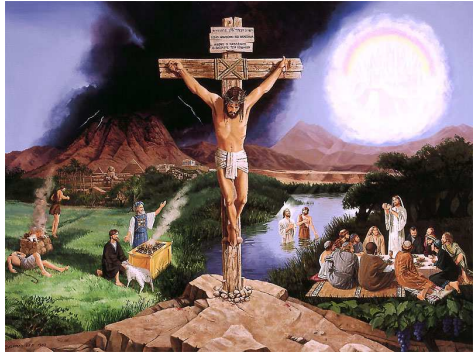
The path of the sinner is through the sanctuary. Repentance, baptism, study the Word, prayer, witnessing and finally we come to God before the mercy seat and His Law.

If you draw lines connecting the Ark with the Altar of Repentance, and the table of Showbread with the Candlestick, you get a cross. At each piece of furniture, you have the wounds suffered by Jesus on the cross. The Altar of Sacrifice, His feet, The Laver, the wound in His side (blood mixed with water), the Table of Bread and the Candlestick, His hands, The Altar of Incense, His broken heart and the Ark, the crown of thorns.

Jesus was born in a manger with the animals (the courtyard), he was baptized (the Laver), he was tempted three times (bread, candlestick & Altar of Incense) and He taught the people about God's Law (the Ark).

## Jewish Festivals

In addition to the sanctuary services, there were a number of feasts



and festivals.

The first feast of the year was the Passover which was held on the fourteenth day of the first month. This was to celebrate the exodus from Egypt and to remember the mercy of God in sparing the first born. The angel of death spared every household that had sprinkled blood on the lintel of the door. They were to eat a lamb cooked in bitter herbs, with none of its bones broken. The lamb represented Jesus who was killed but none of His bones were broken. (Exodus 12, Leviticus 23:5, Numbers 9:1-14 and Deuteronomy 16:1-7)



The day after Passover was the first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread. This feast continued for seven days with the first and seventh day set aside as a ceremonial Sabbath with no work to be done on those days. There was to be no yeast in the houses during this feast. Yeast represents sin. (Exodus 12:15-20, 13:5-9, Leviticus 23:6-8 Numbers 28:17-25 and Deuteronomy 16:8)

The second day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread, or the second day after the Passover, was the Ceremony of the Wave Sheaf. A sheaf of grain or an omer of barley was waved before the Lord with an offering of a lamb and a meal offering. This represented the first fruits of the harvest to be dedicated to the Lord. (Leviticus 23:10-14)

Fifty days after the wave sheaf, the Israelites celebrated the Day of Pentecost. This was the end of the harvest. This day was a ceremonial sabbath with no one working and represented the first fruits of the harvest. (Leviticus 23:15-21, Numbers 28:26-31, Deuteronomy 16:9-11).

On the first day of the seventh month was the Blowing of Trumpets. This was a call to prepare for the Day of Atonement nine days later. The people would prepare their hearts and put away all sin so that when the Day of Atonement came, their sins would be in the sanctuary and cleansed from the sanctuary on that day. This day was a ceremonial Sabbath. (Leviticus 23:24-25, Numbers 29:1-6).

Nine days later on the tenth day of the seventh month, the Israelites celebrated the Day of Atonement. This day was a ceremonial Sabbath on which the people were to pray and afflict their souls. This was the holiest day of the year for the people and the priests. This is a very significant service and we will cover this in a later lesson when we are in the book of Revelation. (Leviticus 16, Leviticus 23:27-32, Numbers 29:7-11).

Five days after the Day of Atonement was the Feast of Tabernacles.

This was held on the 15th to the 21st days of the 7th month. The first day of the feast was a ceremonial Sabbath. During this time the people lived in booths made of branches to remember the time that God brought them out of Egypt, (Leviticus 23:34-43, Numbers 29:12-34, Deuteronomy 16:13-15).

The eight day of the feast or the 22nd day of the 7th month was a ceremonial sabbath, (Leviticus 23:36, 39, Numbers 29:35-38)

## **Ceremonial Sabbaths**

The Israelites kept the 7th day (Saturday) of each week as the Holy Sabbath day. The ceremonial sabbaths of the various feasts however, could fall on any day of the week. Even though they fell during the week days, they were celebrated in the same way as the 7th day Sabbath, with no work done and the people rested. These ceremonial sabbaths are the sabbaths that Paul talks about in Colossians 2:16. At that time, Paul knew that these sabbaths were no longer required because the death of Jesus had done away with the system of sacrifices and feasts.

## **The Importance of the Festivals**

You're probably wondering why we have spent so much time on these services and festivals. Remember that all of these were designed to lead the Israelite to Jesus. When Jesus came, He fulfilled these services and feasts.

1. Jesus was killed on Passover as the spotless Lamb. Passover happened to fall on a Friday that year.
2. He rested on the next day which was both the Jewish Sabbath and the ceremonial Sabbath of the feast of unleavened bread.
3. The second day of the feast of unleavened bread, He ascended up to His Father as a symbol of the Wave Sheaf or first ripe grain picked before the harvest. (John 20:17)
4. Pentecost represented the end of the harvest. Fifty days after Jesus was resurrected the Holy Spirit was poured out on the disciples (Acts 2:1-4). Jesus spent 40 days on earth after His resurrection to teach His disciples (Acts 1:3) before He ascended to Heaven. After Jesus was gone, the disciples met together and prayed until the Holy Spirit was given to them 10 days later (Acts 1:8, 2:4). When Jesus ascended into heaven, He took the first fruits of the resurrection with Him to present to God the Father, the ones who had been resurrected with Him (Matthew 27:52-53).

As we get to a later lesson we will revisit the feasts again. As you can see Jesus fulfilled the Passover, the Wave Sheaf and Pentecost. The festivals left are Blowing of the Trumpets, The Day of Atonement and the Feast of Tabernacles. We will see the significance of these, later in these studies

## A Shadow of The Real

The earthly sanctuary and its services and feasts represented to the people a shadow of the real sanctuary and its services in Heaven.

When Jesus came to earth, He followed and fulfilled the services and feasts. Since this earth is not yet over, it becomes obvious that the earthly services not fulfilled by Jesus on earth, will be fulfilled by Him in Heaven. Our study on the earthly sanctuary and its ser-



vices and feasts help us understand how these services and feasts will be fulfilled as the earth draws to a close.

## Review

1. God gave Moses the plan for the earthly sanctuary
2. The earthly sanctuary is a copy of the heavenly sanctuary
3. The sanctuary services pointed forward to the time when Jesus would die for the sins of the world
4. The festivals and feasts helped people focus on various aspects of Jesus life and ministry
5. A knowledge of the sanctuary services along with the feasts and festivals helps us to understand the book of Revelation and final events
6. Since God uses the sanctuary to show us the way to salvation, Satan's attacks against God and man will be to undermine and pervert our knowledge of God's plan

## How Does This Show God's Love For Us?

God has provided a way for salvation for anyone who is interested. All we have to do is accept Him as our Savior and He is willing to go from there. Although He started with Abraham and blessed him (Genesis 13:15-18), He transferred the blessing to Abraham's son Isaac (Genesis 26:1-4) and then to Isaac's son Jacob or Israel (Genesis 28:12-15; 35:10-12). But He didn't stop there. He again transferred the blessings to the Gentiles (Galatians 3:14). The only condition is that we believe as Abraham believed (Galatians 3:7-9).

Notice that the blessing was given to Isaac who was the second born and to Jacob who was the second born. The blessing is given to us if we are the “second born” (John 3:1-6). Ishmael and Esau were both born of the flesh because they were not interested in spiritual things, while Isaac and Jacob were born of the spirit because they were interested in spiritual things. If we are born of the spirit, we get to share in the blessings of Abraham, eternal life.

## **Other Reading**

Wikipedia has an article on Moses and provides many links to other areas of interest. Also you may want to read Leviticus 23 as it summarizes in one chapter the entire plan of salvation as shown in the Jewish feast and festivals.

# Lesson Four - The Promised Messiah



## Introduction

It was God's purpose from the beginning that His mercies and righteousness would extend to the entire human race. When God brought the Israelites out of Egypt, He intended that they should be a shining light to the nations around them. Although He selected Israel as His chosen people, they were to be an example to the nations around them as to the justice and righteousness of God's government. They were to show the world what happens when you trust in God and give Him full control. Sadly, that didn't happen.

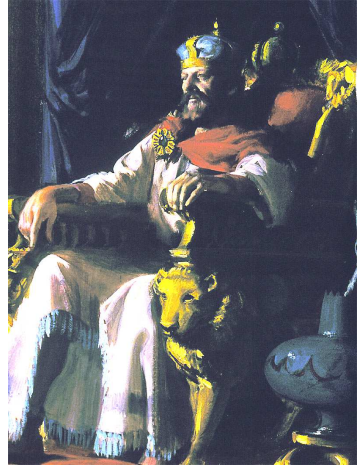
## Before We Begin

Dear Lord, as we study your word, please give us wisdom and understanding that we can know what is your truth for us. Amen.

## From Captivity Back to Captivity

As you follow the story of the Israelites from the time of the Exodus for the next few hundred years, you see a people that constantly fall away from God's principals and go into idol worship. There were times that God punished them and they returned to worshipping Him, but each time they fell away until God finally let them be taken into captivity.

After Moses died and Joshua led the people into Canaan, the promised land, they were told to completely eradicate the heathens in Canaan. Now this sounds pretty radical but because of the immoral practices and the idolatry, God knew that if any of the heathens were left, they would pollute the Israelites. Israel did not follow God's commands and as a result put themselves on a path to leave His worship. Satan used the heathens in the land to break down the sanctuary services and entice the Israelites into the practices of the surrounding peoples. Instead of sacrificing to God, they began to sacrifice to idols.



In time, the Israelites, wanting to be more like the nations around them, chose a human king instead of God to lead them. For a while, Israel was united under the kings Saul, David and Solomon. After Solomon, The twelve tribes of Israel split into ten tribes in the Kingdom of Israel, and two tribes in the Kingdom of Judah.

The Kingdom of Israel, was to the north and broke away from the worship of God. After a series of kings, murdering each other, and ruling in an evil manner, God allowed the Assyrians to take The Kingdom of Israel into captivity in 722 B.C.

In the south, The Kingdom of Judah fared better. They also fell away from God, but at times, some of the kings would bring the people back to God. The sanctuary or temple that Solomon had built in Jerusalem, was a magnificent and very expensive structure and continuing services at the temple reminded the people about God. However, over time, the temple fell into disrepair and the people turned to their idols. Finally, God had enough and allowed the Kingdom of Judah to be captured by the Babylonian king, Nebuchadnezzar in 605 B.C and again in 597 B.C. The Temple of Solomon was destroyed and all the gold and silver vessels were taken to Babylon.





## Babylonian Captivity

It's interesting to note that even with all their apostasy and idolatry, God still called the Israelites His people. The purpose of God in allowing His people be taken into captivity was to remind them that He was God and that if they would turn back to Him, He would save them. God is amazing, even when we fall away from Him, he still tries to bring us back. Notice, He doesn't force us, but He puts us in situations where we remember that there is a God and He wants us back.

Although God continues to call us back to Him, there is a limit beyond which He will not go. God's patience was beginning to run out on His people. They were to be a light to the heathen nations around them, but they had failed miserably. So God set a timetable and He let His people know.

## The Prophet Daniel

God provided His people with the prophet Daniel. We looked at some of his visions previously but let's focus on one particular aspect of the vision in Daniel 8. Read Daniel 8:14, 27. When Daniel saw the vision and the time period of 2,300 days, he got sick. Daniel was aware of the prophecy of Jeremiah 25:12 stating that the Israelites would be in Babylonian captivity for 70 years, and that 70 years would soon be up. Daniel was also aware of prophetic time periods. He knew that when God said days, it really meant years (Ezekiel 4:6). So now Daniel is expecting the Israelites to be released in the near future but God is giving him a time period way beyond the 70 years of Jeremiah. No wonder he got sick.

## The Seventy Weeks

Daniel is so upset in chapter eight that he prays to God in chapter 9. About halfway through the chapter, Daniel records that the angel Gabriel comes to explain the vision of chapter 8. Read Daniel 9:20-27.

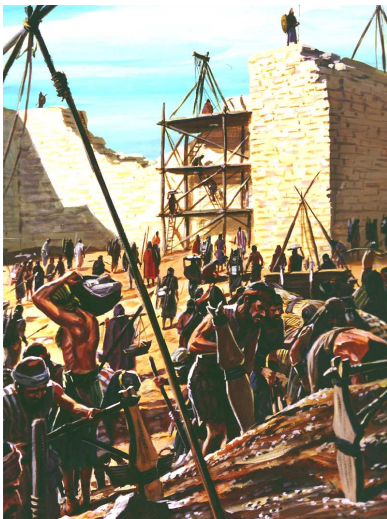
***Dan 9:20 And whiles I was speaking, and praying, and confessing my sin and the sin of my people Israel, and presenting my supplication before the LORD my God for the holy mountain of my God; 21 Yea, whiles I was speaking in prayer, even the man Gabriel, whom I had seen in the vision at the beginning, being caused to fly swiftly, touched me about the time of the evening oblation. 22 And he informed me, and talked with me, and said, O Daniel, I am now come forth to give thee skill and understanding. 23 At the beginning of thy supplications the commandment came forth, and I am come to shew thee; for thou art greatly beloved: therefore understand the matter, and consider the vision. 24 Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city, to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to seal up the vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most Holy. 25 Know therefore and understand, that from the go-***

**ing forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem unto the Messiah the Prince shall be seven weeks, and threescore and two weeks: the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublous times. 26 And after threescore and two weeks shall Messiah be cut off, but not for himself: and the people of the prince that shall come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary; and the end thereof shall be with a flood, and unto the end of the war desolations are determined. 27 And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate.**



Gabriel explains that the 70 weeks are part of a larger time frame of which only one is mentioned, that of the 2,300 days. The 70 weeks, or 490 years, represents the time frame given to the Israelites to fulfill their duty as God has outlined it. In verse 24, God tells Daniel that if they do not change their ways, God will cut them off as His people. They have 490 years to quit sinning, to repent of their sins and to become righteous. The 490 years start when there is a decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem.

Some years after Medo-Persia conquered Babylon, they began to favor the Israelite captives and King Cyrus made a decree to allow the captive to return to Jerusalem and rebuild the temple (Ezra 1:1-4).

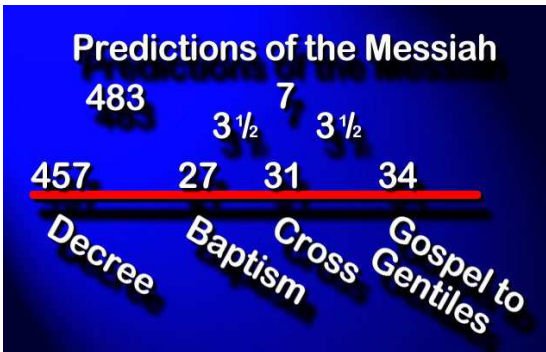


As the rebuilding progressed, enemies of the Israelites wrote to the new king, Darius, to complain. Darius searched and found the old decree, and renewed it (Ezra 6:1-12) and rebuilding continued.

The enemies continued to harass the Israelites and a new king is on the throne in Persia, King Artaxerxes. Ezra finds favor with the king and in B.C 457, King Artaxerxes issues a decree giving full autonomy to the Israelites at Jerusalem (Ezra 7:12-26). It is this decree that starts the 490 year time period.

## The Seventy Weeks Broken Down

Daniel 9:25 gives a time period of 69 weeks or 483 years from the time the decree is issued till Messiah the prince appears. Verse 26 tells us that after that the Messiah will be killed and that Satan will then destroy the city and the sanctuary. Jerusalem was destroyed and the temple demolished in 70 A.D. Verse 27 gives us a little more detail about the Messiah. He will confirm the covenant for one week (7 days = 7 years), but the sacrifices will cease in the middle of the week (3 1/2 Years).



Let's look at this in detail. The Messiah will appear 483 years after the decree to rebuild Jerusalem in 457 B.C.  $483 - 457 = 27$ . No, the arithmetic is not wrong. When you go from B.C. to A.D., there is no "0" year so you need to add "1". The Messiah was to show up in A.D. 27, which is when Jesus was

baptized in the fall. He continued His ministry for three and a half years until the spring of A.D. 31, when He was crucified. Three and a half years later, in A.D. 34, Stephen was stoned. This signified the final rejection of the Messiah by the Jews. At this point in time, the gospel began to be preached to the Gentiles.

## The Death of Jesus

Jesus hung on the cross until the ninth hour, when He died. The ninth hour was the "twilight" hour in Jewish time, or 3 PM in our time. The evening sacrifice was always killed at the ninth hour, and Jesus died 'right on time' for the sacrificial offering. You can read of the events that happened at that time in Matthew 27:45-51; Mark 15:32-38; Luke 23:44-46.

At the death of Jesus, you will note that the veil in the temple was torn in two by unseen hands. This was happening just as the evening sacrificial lamb was to be slain. The veil separated the Holy place from the Most Holy place. The tearing of the veil represented that God had departed the temple. The sacrificial ser-



vices given to Moses no longer applied because the True Lamb had been slain. From this point on, the Jewish sacrificial system was no longer valid. The services, the festivals, the celebration Sabbaths were useless. The real sacrifice that they had pointed to, had just been finished. The earthly sanctuary services were now to be transferred to the heavenly sanctuary, with Jesus as our high priest.



## The Significance of the 70 Weeks

The end of the seventy week prophecy signified two major shifts in the fight between God and Satan; the end of literal Israel and the beginning of Spiritual Israel, and, the end of the earthly sanctuary services and the beginning of the heavenly sanctuary services.

Literal Israel had rejected the Messiah, AS A PEOPLE. God had given them a message to give to the world and they not only hoarded the message, they also killed the subject of the message. The rejection of the Messiah as a nation did not disqualify the Jewish people individually from salvation, It also meant that the Jewish nation was no longer the bearer of the message and that the message was to go to all nations and tribes and peoples (Matthew 28:19; Revelation 7:9)

Soon after the rejection of the Messiah, Jerusalem was destroyed and the temple was totally demolished. There was no more earthly sanctuary for Satan to fight against. The death and resurrection of Jesus had put an end to the earthly services but a beginning to the heavenly sanctuary services.



Romans 8:34 tells us that He is interceding for us in heaven.

Hebrews 8:1 and 10:12 tell us that He is at the right hand of God as our high priest. So, Jesus is performing in the heavenly sanctuary, the same kind of duties that the earthly priests did in the earthly sanctuary. The major difference is that they did it with blood of lambs, while He does it with His blood.

We need to keep this in mind as we continue our studies . The sanctuary services did not end, they were transferred. Satan knows this and he

is using everything in his power to divert our knowledge from the heavenly sanctuary and Christ's intervention on our behalf.

## **Review**

Daniel was given a vision spanning 2300 years

1. The time period was to start in 457 B.C.
2. The first 490 years were to be given to the Jews
3. At the end of 483 years, Jesus was baptized and started His ministry
4. At the end of 3 1/2 years He was killed
5. 3 1/2 years later in A.D. 34, Stephen was stoned. This was the end of the 490 years and the end of literal Israel as the people of God

## **How Does This Show The Love Of God?**

God NEVER gives up. If one method doesn't work, He tries another. First He tried to work with Adam and Eve and their offspring. When the world was continually evil, He started all over again with Noah. Then He selected Abraham and his offspring, For over 1500 years, God kept pleading with His people. Finally He gave them an ultimatum. He even told them ahead of time when their time would be up. They still didn't listen. Now He gives all of us a chance. Let's not blow it.

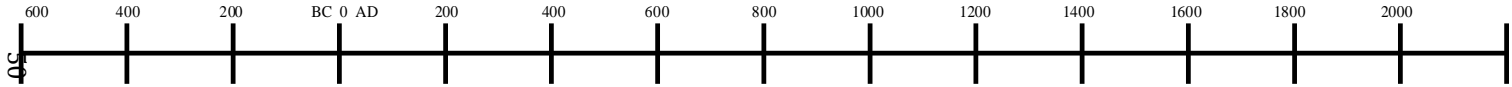
God's timetable won't be interrupted. The end is coming soon and He wants us all to be ready. He really wants us to live with Him. The alternative is not pretty.

## **Further Reading**

Wikipedia has a couple of articles that give you alternate viewpoints. When you read these articles, I suggest that you pray for wisdom and knowledge, and that the Holy Spirit will direct you to know what is the truth. Satan is fighting so hard for control of our minds today that we need to be open to the leading of the Holy Spirit. If you are honest in your searching, God will show you His truth. It may not happen all at once, but the more you study, the more God will open the truth to your mind.

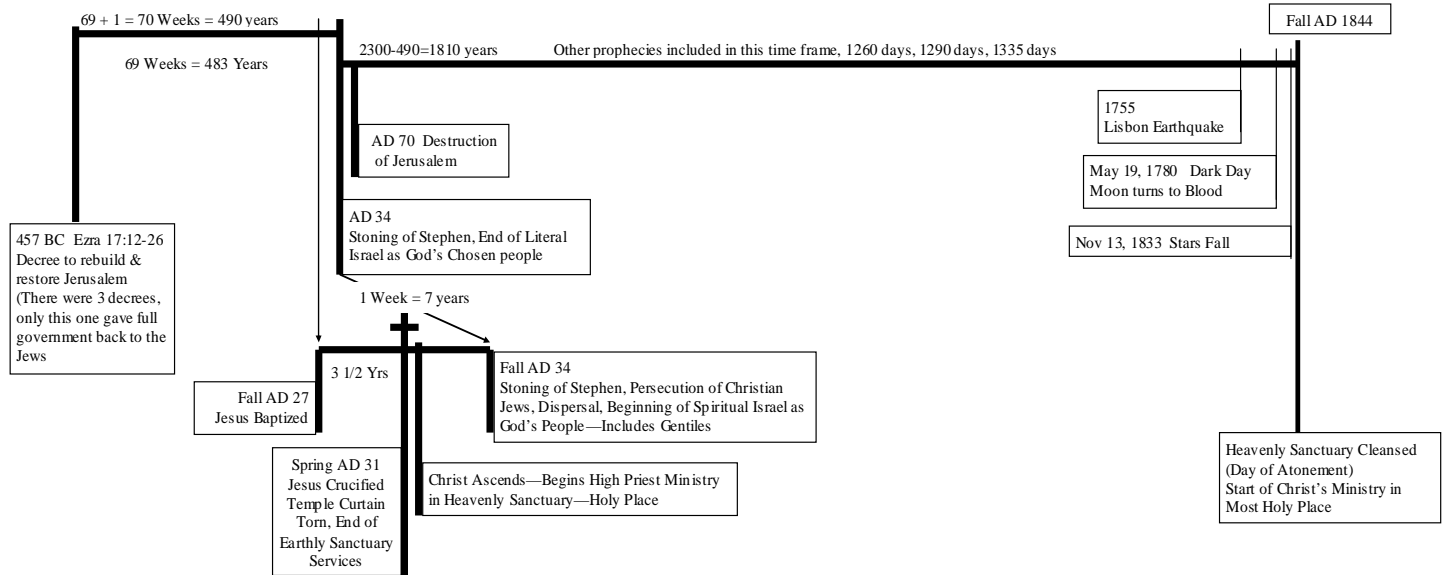
Prophecy of Seventy Weeks

Year-day Principle



**Daniel 9—This chapter is an explanation of Daniel 8**

457 B.C. A.D. 1844  
 Vision of the Daily and the 2300 Days—Part of this vision is kept secret or sealed since it pertains to the future—Will be unsealed at the Time of the End



**Daniel Chapters 10-12 —Provide greater detail of the vision in chapter 8.**



God has His people who love Him and who are living up to all the light they have been given, even though that light does not encompass the entire truth. After all, which of us has the whole truth. As Paul says, in 1 Corinthians 13:12 “For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face....”.

Each of us is responsible to live up to all the truth that God has given us.—Its not what we know that will save us, it is what we do with what we know! It is our response to His love.

Rev 2:24 In the midst of spiritual darkness, God holds His people to a lower standard

Rom 2:13-15 God puts His laws into our hearts—what is our response?

Mat. 7:15-23 Motive is important—These looked for the power and not the Spirit

Mat 25:34-46 Our service to fellow man—Christ is our example

## Before We Start

Dear Jesus. We thank you for giving us wisdom and knowledge when we ask for it. We need it now as we continue to study about prophecies and how Satan is trying to confuse the issue. Help us to know what is your truth for us. Amen

## Pre-Lesson Reading Assignment

Before we go any further, please read the following texts.

Daniel 7:8, 19-27; 8:9-14, 24-25; 11:31-39; 12:11-13

Revelation 12:1-6, 13-17; 13:1-9; 17:3-18

Note the similarities in these texts. It is because of these texts that we have a division of prophetic interpretation.



## Three Ways To Interpret Prophecy

There are three ways to interpret prophecy; Historicism, Futurism and Preterism. In this lesson we will explore all three of these methods, how they developed, who started them, why they were started and how it affects what we believe. This is one of Satan’s major battles for the mind.



The more he can confuse people, the more people he can keep out of God's Kingdom.

## **Historicism**

Prophetic commentaries in the early church were often partial or incomplete, usually interpreting individual passages rather than entire books. The earliest complete commentary on the book of Revelation was carried out by Victorinus in 300 AD. Nevertheless, an overview of the various prophetic expositions from the 1st to the 5th centuries demonstrates that prophecies were uniformly interpreted on a Historicist basis. Though looking to the future fulfillment of certain prophetic passages, the overwhelming number of Early Church Fathers understood the events of Biblical prophecy (especially as contained in the books of Daniel and Revelation), as encompassing the duration from the ascension of Christ to his second advent.

Historicists look at the prophecy timeline given by God and interpret prophecy in a straight forward manner. One event follows another in a historical pattern. They look at the entire picture from the beginning to the end and recognize that each event has its own place and that one event leads to another.

Past Historicists - Albert Barnes, John Calvin, Adam Clarke, Jonathan Edwards, Edward Bishop Elliott, John Gill, Matthew Henry, Alexander Hislop, John Knox, Martin Luther, Isaac Newton, Ian Paisley, John Wesley, Ellen G. White, George Whitefield, Charles H. Spurgeon

## **Why Are There Other Methods?**

Up to the 1500's, almost all Bible interpreters were historicists. In looking at the four major world kingdoms, Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece and Rome, there was solid agreement on the interpretations. It is what came next that caused problems. You read the texts at the beginning of the lesson. This was the area of contention.

## **Futurism and Preterism**

In the 1500's, the major prophecy interpreters began to come up with one answer to the Little Horn prophecy.; The Papacy. The signs pointing to the papacy were so strong and the elements fit so neatly that it was impossible to come up with any other power that fit the prophecy so well. The only problem was that the papacy was a religio-political power that dominated Europe and it sure didn't want to be known as the Little Horn Power.

So to counter-act the growing belief in the papacy as the Little Horn power, a Jesuit doctor of theology, born in Spain came up with an alternate interpretation putting the Little Horn power in the future, and creating the *Futurist* view of prophecy. If everything happens in the future, then it

can't be the papacy. **Francisco Ribera** (1537–1591) proposed that the first few chapters of the Apocalypse applied to ancient pagan Rome, and the rest he limited to a yet future period of 3½ literal years, immediately prior to the second coming. In order to do this, he proposed a 2000 year gap in the prophecy. In this effort, he was strongly supported by the great Catholic controversialist Robert Cardinal Bellarmine. To make it official, the Futuristic system of interpretation was instigated by the Council of Trent (1545–1563) as a response to the Protestant reformation (Standard Roman Catholic Interpretation).

In addition, another Jesuit priest by the name of **Luis de Alcazar** (wrote somewhere between 1545 and 1648), espoused a *Preterist* (past) view, maintaining that practically all prophecy ended with the downfall of the Jewish church and nation and the forcible overthrow of pagan Rome, and that Antichrist was some pagan Roman emperor like Nero, Domitian, or Diocletian.

So now we have, the papacy providing two conflicting, and mutually exclusive, explanations springing from the same Roman Church. But they accomplished their purpose of confusing Protestant prophetic interpretation. Preterism has been described in modern eschatological commentary as a Catholic defense against the Protestant Historicist view which identified the Roman Catholic Church as a persecuting apostasy.

This shows how desperate the papacy was to deflect any criticism away from itself during the Middle Ages. Most people know the history of the Dark Ages with the Inquisition, the burning of martyrs and the persecution that the papacy used against its detractors at the time. It certainly fit the description of the Little Horn Power. Note that Daniel 7:25 says that this power will “think to change times and laws”. The papacy through Ribera and de Alcazar were definitely trying to change prophetic times.



## What About Today?

If you read many modern commentaries, you will see that they follow either the Futurist or the Preterist view or a combination of the two. So how did that happen. The papacy developed these views to counteract the protestant views, but why do many protestant commentators use these views?

In the 1600's, **Hugo Grotius**, (1583-1645) a Dutch Protestant became eager to establish common ground between Protestants and the Roman Catholic Church. He wrote "Commentary on Certain Texts Which Deal with Antichrist" (1640), in which he attempted to argue that the texts relating to Antichrist had their fulfillment in the 1st century AD. In "Commentaries On The New Testament" (1641-1650), he expanded his Preterist views to include the Olivet prophecy and Revelation. His interpretation of Revelation was overwhelmingly rejected by Protestants and gained no ground for at least 100 years.

Then other protestant writers got on the bandwagon. **Thomas Hayne** (English Commentator) claimed that the prophecies of the Book of Daniel had all been fulfilled by the 1st century ('Christ's Kingdom on Earth', 1645), and **Joseph Hall** expressed the same conclusion concerning Daniel's prophecies ('The Revelation Unrevealed', 1650), but neither of them applied their Preterist views to Revelation.

**Henry Hammond** (Englishman 1605-1660) sympathized with Grotius' desire for unity among Christians, and found his Preterist exposition useful to this end. Hammond wrote his own Preterist exposition in 1653, borrowing extensively from Grotius.

**Arian, Firmin Abauzit** (Swiss Protestant) wrote the first Full Preterist exposition (1730) by the ('Essai sur l'Apocalypse'). Later, though, it appears that Abauzit recanted this approach after a critical examination by his English translator, Dr. Twells.

**Robert Townley** The earliest American Full Preterist work was 'The Second Advent of the Lord Jesus Christ: A Past Event', which was written in 1845. Townley later recanted this view.

So over time, these views became more acceptable to the protestant commentators such that many protestants now accept the Roman Catholic interpretations of prophecy, Futurism, Preterism and/or a mix of the two.

## Other Confusing Issues

In addition to these two views, another issue was created by **Porphyry** (A.D., 233–c. 304), a Neoplatonist and a defender of paganism. He was alarmed at the spread of Christianity and contended that Daniel was written in the 2<sup>nd</sup> century not the 6<sup>th</sup>. (since disproven). In order to confuse the interpreters in his time, he came up with the Antiochus IV interpretation, also that the 4th kingdom is Greece instead of Rome.

This view was discarded by Protestantism until brought out of its obscurity by **Hugh Broughton** (1549–1612) of England. As a result, the Antiochus Epiphanes IV interpretation is accepted in most modern commentaries not following the historicist view of prophecy even though it has been proven that Antiochus IV did not even remotely meet the conditions of the prophecy. It is part of the Preterist interpretation of prophecy.

## How the Three Different Views Interpret Dan 9:8-14

Element	Preterist	Historicist	Futurist
<b>Little Horn</b>	Antiochus IV	Rome	Future Antichrist
<b>2300 days</b>	Literal days past	Prophetic years	Literal days future
<b>Temple</b>	Earthly	Heavenly	Earthly
<b>Cleansing</b>	From past defilement	Judgment	From future defilement

## How the Three Different Views Interpret the Various Beast Kingdoms

Element	Preterist	Historicist	Futurist
<b>Lion</b>	Babylon	Babylon	Babylon
<b>Bear</b>	Media	Medo-Persia	Medo-Persia
<b>Leopard</b>	Persia	Greece	Greece
<b>Non-descript Beast</b>	Greece	Rome	Rome
<b>Little Horn</b>	Antiochus IV	Papacy	Final Antichrist

If you follow either the Preterist interpretation or the Futurist interpretation of Revelation, it is almost impossible to make any sense out of Revelation as a whole. You may be able to explain portions of the book but you cannot tie the entire book together and have it agree with itself, the old Testament, the book of Daniel in particular, and the New Testament. God's times and laws are not for man to play with. (See Daniel 7:25)

## Some Basic Principles In Interpreting Prophecy

We already saw a couple of these basic principles in Lesson One. Here are some basic principles when trying to interpret prophecy.

1. Prophecy starts in the present day of the prophet when the prophet is alive
2. Additional prophecies expand the first prophecy and give more detail
3. Prophetic times are almost always based on the day-year principle (Ezekiel 4:5-6). Each prophetic day equals a year. There are

also prophecies where literal time periods are used (French Revolution in Revelation). They can be tested by applying the day-year principle first and if that doesn't fit, use literal time instead.

4. Prophecy can be literal or symbolic. Try the literal interpretation first, if that doesn't work, apply a symbolic interpretation. Some of the prophecies use literal interpretation principles for part of the prophecy and symbolism for the rest. (Seven last plagues in Revelation)
5. Look for parallel events in the Bible. Sometimes a literal event helps us to identify what the symbolism means.



## Does Historicism Make Sense Politically?

Let's look at the Little Horn Power and Historicism and see if it makes any sense to you. At this time we will only look at the political aspects of the Little Horn. We will look at the spiritual side of it in the next lesson.

Reading Daniel 7:7-8 & 19-20, we look at the terrible beast with ten horns that represents Rome. In the middle of the ten horns comes up another horn that replaces three of the horns. If we read further in Daniel 7:23-26, Daniel tells us that the fourth beast is the fourth kingdom, Rome, and out of Rome will come ten kings. But after these ten kings, a king different from them will come to power and will overpower three of the ten kings. This new king will be in power for 1,260 (prophetic) days (1,260 years) after which the power will be taken away until the end of the world. (The texts in Daniel 8, 11 and 12 are part of the spiritual interpretation so we will skip them at this time.

## The History of Rome and The Ten Kingdoms

As Rome declined in power, ten tribes arose out of various parts of the Roman Empire. The tribes were: The Alamanni, The Burgundians, The Franks, The Lombards, The Saxons, The Suevi, The Visigoths, The Heruli, The Vandals, and the Ostrogoths. As you can see in the accompanying graphic, each of these tribes became a European people.

One of the pagan tribes, The Franks, had a king by the name of Clovis I. Apparently he had married a catholic wife and told her that if she prayed for his victory in battle, and he won, he would be converted. It happened and in A.D 530, Clovis became "Protector of the Faith". Although he died in A.D. 511 (or 513?) he opened the door for the papacy to gain pow-

## Ten Barbarian Tribes

Alamanni	Germans
Burgundian	Swiss
Franks	French
Lombards	Italians
Saxons	English
Suevi	Portuguese
Visigoths	Spanish

Heruli, Vandals, Ostrogoths now extinct

er. At the time, three of the tribes, the Heruli, the Vandals and the Ostrogoths were supporters of Arianism which was opposed to the papacy. In A.D. 533, the Emperor Justinian recognized the papacy as being the spiritual head of all the churches. This gave the papacy an opening to extend its power over all the rulers but it wasn't until A.D 538 when the last of

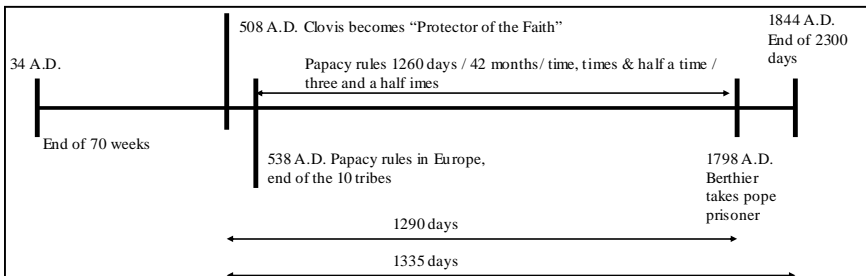
these three tribes were defeated that the papacy was in full control of all the government.

It is interesting to note that the French brought the papacy to power (Clovis I) and it was the French that took that power away 1,260 years later. In 1798, General Berthier, a commander under Napoleon, marched into Italy, invaded the Vatican and took Pope Pius VI prisoner. This dealt the deadly wound to the papacy that was prophesied. Although the wound has been healed, the papacy never returned to its former power structure.

So we can see that politically, the papacy does fit the prophecy in Daniel 7. When the futurists and preterists interpret the prophecies their way, they seem to ignore the political aspects of the papacy as seen in Daniel 7. They separate the visions of Daniel 7 and 8 and interpret each vision differently.

The Preterists ignore Rome in the Daniel 8 prophecy and put Antiochus IV Epiphanes in its place. He could not possibly fit into this prophecy because he was born c. 215 BC; and died 164 BC. His reign was from 175 BC until his death in 164 BC which does not meet the 1260 day time frame, literal or prophetic. They also have to change the interpretation of the beasts in Daniel 8.

The Futurists on the other hand accept Rome in Daniel 8 and then skip about 2000 years into the future before the Antichrist is to come. Where do they get the 2000 year gap?



## Review

1. Historicism was used to interpret prophecy until the 1500's
2. Because of the Historicist view of the Little Horn as the papacy, the papacy developed two other ways to interpret prophecy to deflect the attention away from the papacy. These were Futurism and Preterism
3. These methods of interpretation were ignored by the early protestants but individuals trying to reunite the papacy and protestants encouraged the use of these methods at a later date
4. Most modern Bible commentaries use either the Preterist or the Futurist method of interpretation instead of the Historicist method.
5. Using the Historicist method, the papacy fits the criteria in Daniel 7 from a political point of view.
6. Antiochus IV Epiphanes does not meet the criteria of Daniel 7

## How Does This Show God's Love?

He has given us enough detail in these prophecies so that we will not be deceived. In addition, He has given us the same material in more than one vision and in different ways so that if we miss the details in one vision, we may understand them in another. He really wants us to know.

Jesus wants us to be prepared for His coming. That's why He has given us all this very detailed information. If you truly want to know the truth, and read His Word with a prayer in your heart and an open mind, He WILL guide you into His truth.

Psalms 25:9 The meek will he guide in judgment: and the meek will he teach his way.

Psalms 32:8 I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go: I will guide thee with mine eye.

James 1:5 If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.

## Other Reading

Wikipedia has a wealth of information for this lesson. Try looking up any one of the ten tribes, Clovis I, Historicism, Preterism, Futurism, any one of the names used in this lesson.

A great website on prophecy: [www.amazingfacts.org](http://www.amazingfacts.org)

## Symbols of Bible Prophecy

Why use symbols in Bible Prophecy?

***Luke 8:10 And He said, "To you it has been given to know the mysteries of the kingdom of God, but to the rest it is given in parables, that 'Seeing they may not see, And hearing they may not understand.'***

***Many of the apocalyptic prophecies were given while the prophets were in a hostile foreign land. One reason God cloaked the prophecies in symbols was to protect the messages.***

## **Animals and their Parts**

- **Horse** = Strength and power in battle (Job 39:19; Psalm 147:10; Proverbs 21:31)
- **Dragon** = Satan or his agency (Isa. 27:1; 30:6; Psa. 74:13, 14; Rev. 12:7-9; Eze. 29:3; Jer. 51:34)
- **Beast** = Kingdom / Government / Political Power (Daniel 7:17, 23)
- **Lamb** = Jesus / Sacrifice (John 1:29; I Cor. 5:7)
- **Lion** = Jesus / Powerful king i.e. Babylon (Rev. 5:4-9; Jer. 50:43, 44; Daniel 7:4, 17,23)
- **Bear** = Destructive power / Medo-Persia (Proverbs 28:15; 2 Kings 2:23, 24; Daniel 7:5)
- **Leopard** = Greece (Daniel 7:6)
- **Serpent** = Satan (Revelation 12:9; 20:2)
- **Tongue** = Language / Speech (Exodus 4:10)
- **Wolf** = Disguised enemies that hunt in a time of darkness (Matthew 7:15)
- **Dove** = Holy Spirit (Mark 1:10)
- **Ram** = Medo-Persia (Daniel 8:20)
- **Goat** = Greece (Daniel 8:21)
- **Horn** = King or kingdom (Daniel 7:24; 8:5, 21,22; Zechariah 1:18, 19; Revelation 17:12)
- **Wings** = Speed / Protection / Deliverance (Deuteronomy 28:49; Matthew 23:37)

## **Colors**

- **White** = Purity (Daniel 12:10; Revelation 15:6)
- **Blue** = Law (Numbers 15:38,39)
- **Purple** = Royalty (Mark 15:17; Judges 8:26)
- **Red, Scarlet** = Sin / Corruption (Isaiah 1:18; Nahum 2:3; Revelation 17:1-4)



## Metals, Elements, and Natural Objects

- **Gold** = Pure character, Precious, Rare (Isa. 13:12)
- **Silver** = Pure words and understanding (Proverbs 2:4; 3:13, 14; 10:20; 25:11; Psalm 12:6)
- **Brass, Tin, Iron, Lead, Silver Dross** = Impure Character (Ezekiel 22:20, 21)
- **Water** = Holy Spirit / Everlasting Life (John 7:39; 4:14; Revelation 22:17; Ephesians 5:26)
- **Waters** = Inhabited area / People, Nations (Rev. 17:15)
- **Fire** = Holy Spirit (Luke 3:16)
- **Tree** = Cross / People / Nation (Deuteronomy 21:22-23; Psalm 92:12; 37:35)
- **Seed** = Descendants / Jesus (Rom. 9:8; Gal. 3:16)
- **Fruit** = Works / Actions (Galatians 5:22)
- **Fig Tree** = A nation that should bear fruit (Luke 13:6-9)
- **Vineyard** = A Church that should bear fruit (Luke 20:9-16)
- **Field** = World (Matthew 13:38; John 4:35)
- **Harvest** = End of the world (Matthew 13:39)
- **Reapers** = Angels (Matthew 13:39)
- **Thorns / Thorny Ground** = Cares of This Life (Mark 4:18, 19)
- **Stars** = Angels / Messengers (Rev. 1:16,20; 12:4; 7-9; Job 38:7)
- **Jordan** = Death (Romans 6:4; Deuteronomy 4:22)
- **Mountains** = Political or religio-political powers (Isaiah 2:2, 3; Jer. 17:3; 31 :23; 51 :24,25; Eze. 17:22,23; Daniel 2:35, 44, 45)
- **Rock** = Jesus/Truth (I Corinthians 10:4; Isaiah 8:13, 14; Romans 9:33; Matthew 7:24)
- **Sun** = Jesus / The gospel (Psalm 84:11; Malachi 4:2; Matthew 17:2; John 8:12; 9:5)
- **Winds** = Strife / Commotion / "Winds of war" (Jeremiah 25:31-33; 49:36, 37; 4:11-13; Zechariah 7:14)

## Miscellaneous Objects

- **Lamp** = Word of God (Psalm 119:105)
- **Oil** = Holy Spirit (Zechariah 4:2-6; Revelation 4:5)
- **Sword** = Word of God (Ephesians 6:17; Hebrews 4:12)
- **Bread** = Word of God (John 6:35,51,52,63)

- **Wine** = Blood / Covenant / Doctrines (Luke 5:37)
- **Honey** = A happy life (Ezekiel 20:6; Deut. 8:8, 9)
- **Clothing** = Character (Isaiah 64:6; Isaiah 59:6)
- **Crown** = A glorious ruler or rulership (Proverbs 16:31; Isaiah 28:5; 62:3)
- **Ring** = Authority (Genesis 41 :42,43; Esther 3:10-11)
- **Angel** = Messenger (Daniel 8:16; 9:21; Luke 1:19,26; Hebrews 1:14)
- **Babylon** = Apostasy / Confusion / Rebellion (Genesis 10:8-10; 11 :6-9; Revelation 18:2,3; 17:1-5)
- **Mark** = Sign or seal of approval or disapproval (Ezekiel 9:4; Romans 4:11; Revelation 13:17; 14:9-11; 7:2, 3)
- **Seal** = Sign or mark of approval or disapproval (Romans 4:11; Revelation 7:2, 3)
- **White Robes** = Victory / Righteousness (Revelation 19:8; 3:5; 7:14)
- **Jar, Vessel** = Person (Jer. 18:1-4; 2 Cor. 4:7)
- **Time** = 360 Days (Daniel 4:16,23,25,32; 7:25; Daniel 11:13 margin)
- **Times** = 720 Days (Daniel 7:25; Revelation 12:6, 14; 13:5)
- **Day** = Literal year (Eze. 4:6; Num. 14:34)
- **Trumpet** = Loud warning of God's approach (Exodus 19:16, 17, Joshua 6:4, 5)

## Actions, Activities, and Physical States

- **Healing** = Salvation (Luke 5:23, 24)
- **Leprosy, Sickness** = Sin (Luke 5:23, 24)
- **Famine** = Dearth of Truth (Amos 8:11)

## People and Body Parts

- **Woman, Pure** = True church (Jeremiah 6:2; 2 Corinthians 11 :2; Ephesians 5:23-27)
- **Woman, Corrupt** = Apostate church (Eze. 6:15-58; 23:2-21; Hosea 2:5; 3:1; Revelation 14:4)
- **Thief** = Suddenness of Jesus' coming (I Thessalonians 5:2-4; 2 Peter 3:10)
- **Hand** = Deeds / Works / Actions (Ecclesiastes 9:10; Isaiah 59:6)
- **Forehead** = Mind (Deuteronomy 6:6-8; Romans 7:25; Ezekiel

3:8, 9)

- **Feet** = Your walk / Direction (Genesis 19:2; Psalm 119:105)
- **Eyes** = Spiritual discernment (Matthew 13:10-17; 1 John 2:11)
- **Skin** = Christ's righteousness (Exodus 12:5; 1 Peter 1:19; Isaiah 1 :4-6)
- **Harlot** = Apostate church or religion (Isaiah 1:21-27; Jeremiah 3:1-3; 6-9)
- **Heads** = Major powers / Rulers / Governments (Revelation 17:3, 9, 10)

## Numbers in Bible Prophecy

Many of the numbers in the Bible have deeper prophetic or spiritual significance. Both in the Old and New Testaments, numbers reveal hidden concepts and meanings that commonly escape the casual reader. And throughout history, men with great minds, like Augustine, Isaac Newton, and Leonardo Da Vinci, showed more than just a passing curiosity regarding the importance of biblical numbers. Once more, Jesus said, "*The very hairs of your head are numbered*" (Matthew 10:30). So obviously, Bible numbers should be carefully considered.

At least 12 numbers in the Bible stand out in this regard: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 10, 12, 40, 50, and 70. In order to express this truth, one or two biblical examples have been given below. These examples serve merely as an introduction and are not exhaustive by any means.

**1**—Represents absolute singleness and unity (Ephesians 4:4--6; John 17:21,22.) (We presume readers need no more than these two citations, as most of the biblical information regarding unity and singleness is common knowledge.)

**2**—Represents the truth of God's Word; for example, the law and prophets (John I :45), two or three witnesses (2 Corinthians 13:1), and a sword with two edges (Hebrews 4:12). See Mark 6:7 and Revelation 11 :3. It is also used 21 times in the books of Daniel and Revelation.

**3**—Represents the Godhead/Trinity. The angels cry "Holy" three times to the triune God (Isaiah 6:3). See also Matthew 28:19 and 1 John 5:7,8.

**4**—Represents universal truth, as in the four directions (north, south, east, west) and the four winds (Matthew 24:31; Revelation 7:1; Revelation 20:8). In acts 10:11 , a sheet with four corners symbolizes the gospel going to all the gentiles.

**5**—Represents teaching. First, there are the five books of Moses. Second, Jesus taught about the five wise virgins and used five barley loaves used to feed the 5,000.

**6**—Represents the worship of man, and is the number of man, signifying his rebellion, imperfection, works, and disobedience. It is used 273 times in the Bible, including its derivatives (e.g, sixth) and another 91 times as "threescore" or "60." Man was created on the sixth day (Genesis 1 :26, 31). See also Exodus 31:15 and Daniel 3:1. The number is especially significant in the book Revelation, as "666" identifies the beast. (Revelation 13:18).

**7**—Represents perfection, and is the sign of God, divine worship, completions, obedience, and rest. The "prince" of Bible numbers, it is used 562 times, including its derivatives (e.g., seventh, sevens). (See Genesis 2:1--4, Psalm 119:164, and Exodus 20:8-11 for just a few of the examples.) The number seven is also the most common in biblical prophecy, occurring 42 times in Daniel and Revelation alone. In Revelation there are seven churches, seven spirits, seven golden candlesticks, seven stars, seven lamps, seven seals, seven horns, seven eyes, seven angels, seven trumpets, seven thunders, seven thousand slain in a great earthquake, seven heads, seven crowns, seven last plagues, seven golden vials, seven mountains, and seven kings.

**10**—Represents law and restoration. Of course, this includes the Ten Commandments found in Exodus 20. See also Matthew 25:1 (ten virgins); Luke 17:17 (ten lepers); Luke 15:8 (healing, ten silver coins).

**12**—Represents the church and God's authority. Jesus had 12 disciples, and there were 12 tribes of Israel. In Revelation 12:1, the 24 elders and 144,000 are multiples of 12. The New Jerusalem city has 12 foundations, 12 gates, 12 thousand furlongs, a tree with 12 kinds of fruit, 12 times a year eaten by 12 times 12,000 or the 144,000. (See Revelation 21.)

**40**—Represents a generation and times of testing. It rained for 40 days during the flood. Moses spent 40 years in the desert, as did the children of Israel. Jesus fasted for 40 days.

**50**—Represents power and celebration. The Jubilee came after the 49th year (Leviticus 25:1 0), and Pentecost occurred 50 days after Christ's resurrection (Acts 2).

**70**—Represents human leadership and judgment. Moses appointed 70 elders (Exodus 24:1); The Sanhedrin was made up of 70 men. Jesus chose 70 disciples (Luke 10:1). Jesus told Peter to forgive 70 times 7.

## Lesson Six - Satan's Attack on the Sanctuary



### Introduction

In Lesson Four, we saw that the attack of Satan on the earthly sanctuary came to an end with the destruction of Jerusalem and the temple. The death of Jesus on the cross marked the end of the earthly sanctuary services and festivals and opened a new phase of His ministry. With the covenant being fulfilled by His death, He could now move to the high priest phase of His ministry in heaven since the shedding of His blood was necessary for this phase. This lesson continues from the point of Jesus' death and resurrection and His great commission to His disciples, "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:" Matt 28:19

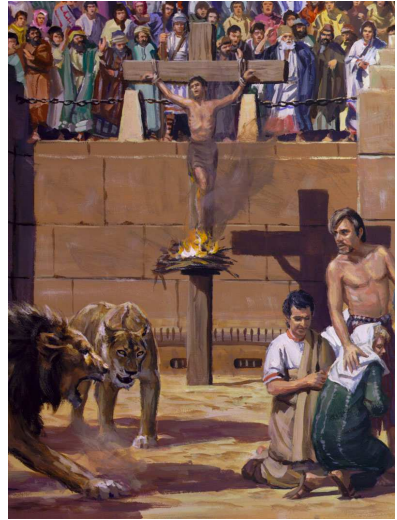
### Before We Start

Our Father in Heaven. We thank you for your promises of wisdom and knowledge. Teach us your truth as we read your word and send the Holy Spirit to guide us. Amen

### Historical Review

After Jesus' death, the apostles preached in Jerusalem. The gospel

spread rapidly. In a short time, the Christians became hated by both the unbelieving Jewish people and the Romans. Persecution increased until in the year A.D. 34 Stephen was put to death. One of the persecutors was Saul of Tarsus. Soon after the death of Stephen, Saul was converted and became the apostle Paul. Because of the persecution at the time, the Christians spread out and moved all around the known world. Rome continued to persecute the Christians but the greater the persecution, the greater they multiplied. This continued over a couple of hundred years.



### Fast forward to A.D. 313.

The Roman Emperor, Constantine, faced with this ever-multiplying sect of Christians, finally decided that the only way to beat them was to join them. In A.D. 313, he issued the Edit of Milan which gave freedom of worship to the Christians. It is said that when he converted, he had his army walk into the river and back out to “baptize” them into Christianity. In order to make Christianity palatable to his pagan subjects, many pagan rites and practices were brought into the church at the time. Idols of the gods, became statues of the disciples, etc. In A.D. 321, he encouraged the practice of worshipping the day of the sun in the Christian church.

Because of conflicts between the papacy and the teaching of Arianism, he made the papacy the determiner of religious thought, in essence taking away religious freedoms from the masses. He helped establish the way for the papacy to gain power and influence.

### Satan Attacks the Church From Inside

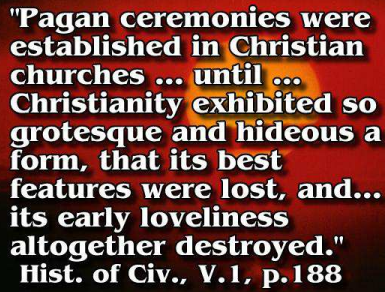
Read Acts 20:17, 28-31

**Acts 20:17** *And from Miletus he sent to Ephesus, and called the elders of the church.*

**Acts 20:28** *Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood. 29 For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. 30 Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them. 31 Therefore watch, and remember, that by the space of three years I ceased not to warn every one night and day with tears.*

In this passage, Paul knows that he has but a short time left and his biggest concern is about apostasy creeping into the church. Paul warns the bishops and elders of false teachings starting among them. Notice that he warns about false teachers who draw people away from Jesus towards themselves.

Let's look at a few more passages.



**"Pagan ceremonies were established in Christian churches ... until ... Christianity exhibited so grotesque and hideous a form, that its best features were lost, and... its early loveliness altogether destroyed."  
Hist. of Civ., V.1, p.188**

**2 Cor 11:1** *Would to God ye could bear with me a little in my folly: and indeed bear with me. 2 For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ. 3 But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ. 4 For if he that cometh preacheth another Jesus, whom we have not preached, or if ye receive another spirit, which ye have not received, or another gospel, which ye have not accepted, ye might well bear with him.*

**2 Cor 11:13** *For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. 14 And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. 15 Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works.*

**Gal 2:4** *And that because of false brethren unawares brought in, who came in privily to spy out our liberty which we have in Christ Jesus, that they might bring us into bondage: 5 To whom we gave place by subjection, no, not for an hour; that the truth of the gospel might continue with you.*

**Phil 3:2** *Beware of dogs, beware of evil workers, beware of the concision.*

Also read 2 Peter 2, 1 John 4:1-4, Jude and Rev 2:2. (Also see NICO-LAISM in Wikipedia)

Paul is aware of the apostasy that will spring up in the church after he leaves. He knows that Satan will attack the church from the inside. In any war, it is always easier to fight the enemy you know outside the walls, than to fight the enemy you don't know inside the walls. Just as Paul said, apostasy arose inside the church. This was Satan's first line of attack.

## Satan's War Against The Heavenly Sanctuary

Let's read Dan. 8:9-14.

**Dan 8:9** *And out of one of them came forth a little horn, which waxed exceeding great, toward the south, and toward the east, and toward the pleasant land. 10* *And it waxed great, even to the host of heaven; and it cast down some of the host and of the stars to the ground, and stamped upon them. 11* *Yea, he magnified himself even to the prince of the host, and by him the daily sacrifice was taken away, and the place of his sanctuary was cast down. 12* *And an host was given him against the daily sacrifice by reason of transgression, and it cast down the truth to the ground; and it practised, and prospered. 13* *Then I heard one saint speaking, and another saint said unto that certain saint which spake, How long shall be the vision concerning the daily sacrifice, and the transgression of desolation, to give both the sanctuary and the host to be trodden under foot? 14* *And he said unto me, Unto two thousand and three hundred days; then shall the sanctuary be cleansed.*

Verse 10 talks about Pagan Rome persecuting the Christians. This is a well-known fact. Verse 11 is about the death of Jesus at the hands of the Romans and begins to move in to the next phase of power, Papal Rome. The last half of verse 11 and verse 12 talk about the attack on the sanctuary. This is a spiritual attack since the sanctuary on earth no longer exists. We then move into the rest of the 2,300 day prophecy we studied earlier.

So now we have:

1. The death of Jesus
2. Persecution of Christians by Literal Israel and Pagan Rome
3. Little Horn increases – Pagan Rome gives way to Papal Rome
4. A.D 538 – Papal Rome given temporal powers to rule – Start of the 1,260 day prophecy
5. Power will think to change times and laws – Dan. 7:25
6. Satan attacks God's heavenly sanctuary through Papal Rome

## Satan Breaks Down The Heavenly Sanctuary

So how does Satan break down the heavenly sanctuary through the papal system?

The one time sacrifice of Jesus becomes a renewed sacrifice whenever the wafer is presented at communion. "The Council of Trent in its thirteenth session ending October 11, 1551, defined transubstantiation as "that wonderful and singular conversion of the whole substance of the bread into the Body, and of the whole substance of the wine into the Blood – the species only of the bread and wine remaining – which conversion indeed the Catholic Church most aptly calls Transubstantiation". This



Object	God's Sanctuary	Papal System
<b>Altar of Sacrifice</b>	One time sacrifice of Jesus	Sacrament—crucify Jesus anew each time
<b>Laver</b>	Baptism by immersion	Baptism by sprinkling
<b>Table of ShewBread</b>	Word of God	Word of God suppressed and replaced by tradition
<b>Candlestick</b>	Witnessing	Witnessing brought burning at the stake
<b>Altar of Incense</b>	Prayers to God	Prayers to saints and Virgin Mary
<b>Ark of the Covenant</b>	Gods Law—The ten commandments	Replaced by tradition—first four broken

council officially approved use of the term "transubstantiation" to express the Catholic Church's teaching on the subject of the conversion of the bread and wine into the body and blood of Christ in the Eucharist, ...” (Wikipedia)

Baptism by sprinkling replaces baptism by immersion, plus it is done to infants who have no knowledge of its significance.

During the Dark Ages, the common people were forbidden to own a Bible and Bibles were only available to the clergy and even that was limited. Bibles were taken by force and the owners often killed.

Any attempts to witness brought condemnation and death if the individual did not recant his teachings.

Prayers directly to God or Jesus were now to be routed through the priests or the saints. Direct access to God was impossible because people needed an intercessor like a saint or His mother, the Virgin Mary, to help their prayers to be answered.

The papal system also changed the first four commandments that deal directly with our relationship with God.

1. The first commandment “thou shalt have no other gods before Me” is replaced with a veneration of the Virgin Mary and of the saints.



2. The second commandment, "thou shalt not make unto thee any graven images" is replaced with statues of saints, Jesus on the cross, and the Virgin Mary. These are set up at prayer stations.



3. The third commandment, "thou shalt not take the Lord's name in vain" is replaced by the priest calling himself "Father" and the pope, "Holy Father". See Matt 19:17 "And he (Jesus) said unto him, Why callest thou me good? there is none good but one, that is, God: ....."

4. The fourth commandment, "Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy". The seventh day Sabbath that God instituted at creation to remind us that He is the creator is now replaced with Sunday, a holy day to the sun.

"The sun was a foremost god with heathendom... The sun has worshippers at this hour in Persia and other lands... There is, in truth, something royal, kingly about the sun, making it a fit emblem of Jesus, the Sun of Justice. Hence the Church in these countries would seem to have said, 'Keep that old pagan name. It shall remain consecrated, sanctified.' And thus the pagan Sunday, dedicated to Balder, became the Christian Sunday, sacred to Jesus."

The Catholic World, March, 1994, p. 809.

So we have a breakdown of all the services that God had defined for the sanctuary and a breakdown of the commandments pertaining to our worship of God.

If you talk to a Roman Catholic they will tell you that they really worship Jesus and that the statues are not there to worship but to remind you about Jesus. But the reality is that when you are praying to whoever the statue is supposed to represent, it is no different than praying to a stone, wooden, silver or gold idol that represents some deity in pagan worship. You see the same spirit at work here. It takes you away from the way that God said we should worship Him. We have man's way of worship versus God's way of worship. All of this is very carefully crafted by Satan.

## **Satan Sets Up A False Sanctuary**

Anytime there is a genuine article, Satan sets up a counterfeit and the sanctuary is no exception. Since the sanctuary is in heaven at this time, Satan sets up a counterfeit sanctuary here on earth to influence minds.

Just as the earthly sanctuary set up by Moses followed a set of rituals, the earthly sanctuary set up by Satan has its rituals also.

If you go into a Catholic Church, you will see how Satan tries to create a false sanctuary here on earth. There is:

1. A fixed altar
2. Baptismal font in the shape of a bowl
3. Candles
4. The Host (Bread) on the altar
5. Incense (on occasion)
6. Robes like the Jewish high priest
7. Two compartment confessional like the two compartments in the sanctuary, the Holy and Most Holy
8. Rituals and traditions



## False Teachings

In addition to breaking down God's sanctuary and setting up a false sanctuary, a number of non-biblical false teachings are introduced such as immortality of the soul, eternal hell (can only work with immortals, since mortals do die), purgatory, the Immaculate Conception, Original Sin and others. Let's look at some of these.

## Immortality of the Soul

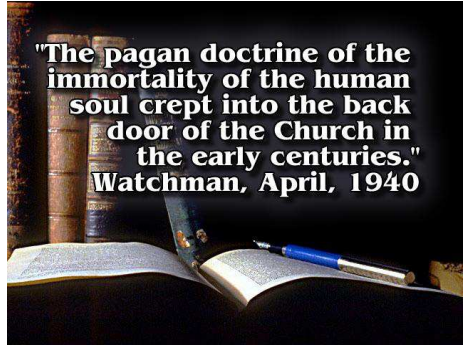
When Satan first tempted Eve in the Garden of Eden, he told her, "ye shall not surely die", Genesis 3:4. This was the first big lie and the lie that Satan has continued to tell down through the ages.

***Genesis 3:22-24 says, "And the LORD God said, Behold, the man is become as one of us, to know good and evil: and now, lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live for ever: 23 Therefore the LORD God sent him forth from the garden of Eden, to till the ground from whence he was taken. 24 So he drove out the man; and he placed at the east of the garden of Eden Cherubims, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life."***

We see from these last three verses that God drove Adam and Eve from the Garden before they could eat from the tree of life and become immortal sinners. If we are not immortal, then we cannot suffer in purgatory and we cannot burn in hell forever.

## We Go Directly to Hell, Heaven or Purgatory

Going hand in hand with this teaching, is the one that says we go directly to heaven or hell when we die. If this is the case, then why does Jesus come back to this earth and why do we have the first and second resurrections spoken of in 2 Thess. 4 :16-18 and Revelation 20:4-6.



**1Thess 4:16** *For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: 17 Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.*

**Rev 20:4** *And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years. 5 But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection. 6 Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.*

In reading Revelation 20:5, it sounds like the first resurrection is after the thousand years. This is due to Revelation being written in something called a “chiastic structure”. What that means is that John jumps back and forth when he writes. Sometimes he writes things that happen later as though they happen first.. From the text in Thessalonians you can see that the righteous dead are raised when Jesus returns. That is the first resurrection. The evil dead sleep for another thousand years before they are raised in the second resurrection. We will cover that in more detail later.

## Spiritualism

Another teaching that arises from this is that when you die, you are able to see what happens to your loved ones here on earth and you can communicate with them. This is the teaching of Spiritualism. Lets look at some texts.

**Ecclesiastes 9:5** *For the living know that they shall die: but the dead know not any thing, neither have they any more a reward; for the*

*memory of them is forgotten.*

**John 11:11** *These things said he: and after that he saith unto them, Our friend Lazarus sleepeth; but I go, that I may awake him out of sleep. 12* **Then said his disciples, Lord, if he sleep, he shall do well. 13** *Howbeit Jesus spake of his death: but they thought that he had spoken of taking of rest in sleep. 14* **Then said Jesus unto them plainly, Lazarus is dead.**

Jesus talks about the first death as a sleep, in which the dead person knows nothing. If that's the case, who is it that is talking in the form of the dead person? Evil spirits. Review the story of Saul and the witch of Endor in 1 Samuel 28.

## The Immaculate Conception

Hebrews chapter 2 talks about the humanity of Jesus. The Jewish Mosaic laws specified the laws of redemption of land and people. When people were poor and sold themselves into slavery, or sold their family land, certain rules existed to allow them to get out of slavery or to buy back the family land. The story of Ruth is a good example. Naomi, Ruth's mother-in-law, was a poor woman whose husband and sons had died and she had to sell her land. The closest relative had first rights to buy the land and keep it in the family. This person was known as the redeemer.



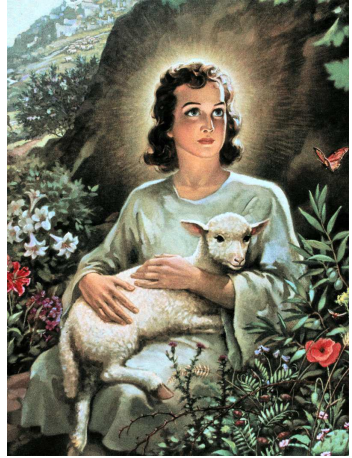
In order to be a redeemer, one had to be a close relative. In order to redeem us, Jesus had to be a close relative. As the Son of God, He did not qualify, but when He became human, born of a woman, He became our brother.

The teaching arose that Jesus became human but also God at the same time. He did not take on the sinful flesh of fallen humanity. According to this teaching, He could not take on fallen, sinful flesh because then He would become sinful and then could not be our Savior. This is part of the concept of Original Sin, a theory put forth by Augustine. Because of this, the Catholic Church had to get around the fact that He was born of a sin-



ful woman, so they came up with the teaching that Mary, His mother, was born perfect through the workings of the Holy Spirit, (the Immaculate Conception), so that Jesus would not be born of sinful flesh. This is contrary to what the Bible teaches. The Bible makes it clear that Jesus was born of the Holy Spirit and Mary and goes to great lengths to give the lineage of Jesus in Matthew 1 and Luke 3. It even includes people like Rahab the harlot, Ruth the Moabitess and Bathsheba the adulteress. If Jesus was not truly human, then He cannot be our redeemer, Can you see the implications? Satan is deceptive.

You may want to read Wikipedia on "Original Sin" but I'm sure you will be as confused as I was. Basically, the Roman Catholic view comes from Augustine which says that when Adam sinned, he gave us a condemned nature. Because of this, infants are baptized to remove this condemnation. This teaching is not found in the Bible although some people try to develop it from Romans 5:12-21 and 1 Corinthians 15:22.



## Review

1. As early as Paul's time, he was warning of apostasy coming into the church.
2. Persecution in the church dispersed the Christians
3. Roman persecution continued until A.D. 313
4. Constantine brought paganism into the Christian church
5. Sunday worship was established in Constantine's reign
6. Constantine assisted in the growth of the papacy
7. Through papacy, Satan tears down the various symbols in the sanctuary
8. Satan, through the papacy, establishes a false sanctuary here on earth
9. New false teachings are brought into the church
10. Much of the original teaching of the apostles is lost or perverted

## How Does This Show The Love of God?

God knows the future and He used Paul to warn the churches that apostasy would creep into the churches. He also warned the church through the prophet Daniel and the Apostle John.

The Bible is also very clear on its teachings. God gives us enough detail

to understand the truth. We can choose to accept His word or we can doubt or make excuses. It's up to us.

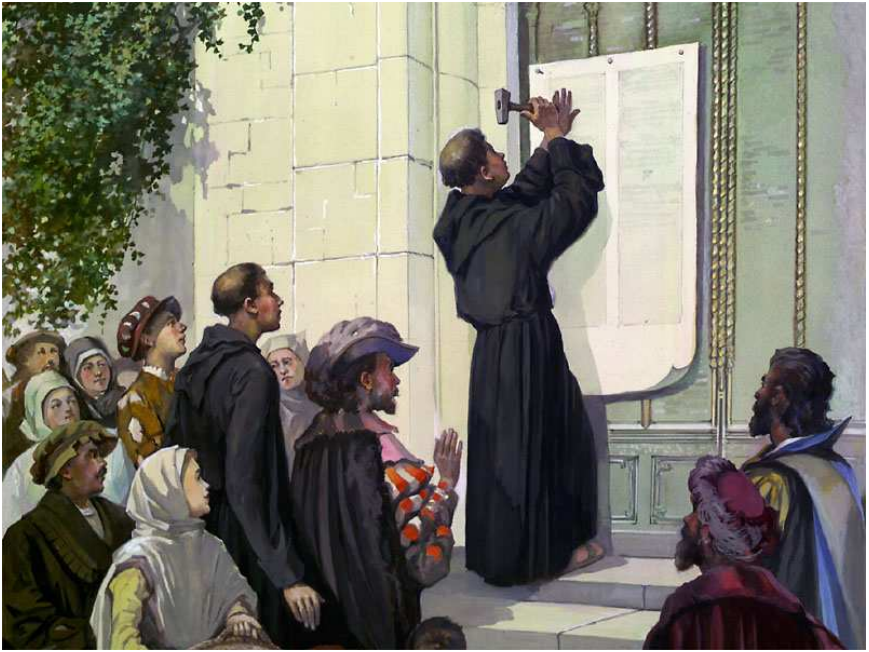
### **Further Reading**

Wikipedia has a wealth of information on this topic. Some of the topics you may be interested in, include: Constantine I, Catholicism, Purgatory, Persecution of the Christians, Dark Ages, Middle Ages, Christmas and Easter just to name a few.





# Lesson Seven - The Sanctuary Restored



## Introduction

The Dark Ages saw persecution, the Inquisition and a falling away from the Bible. The papacy held power over the European rulers and their people and did so with an iron fist. But in the middle of all of this darkness and in the heart of papal country, was a people who clung to the Bible, the Waldenses. These people were also called the Albigensians or the Vaudois. They lived in the mountain region of Italy and Switzerland. They were a very simple people who followed the Bible completely. The children were taught to memorize the Bible at a very early age. The Waldensians took on the trade of itinerant traders and wherever they went they carried the scriptures with them. Wherever they found an interest, they would leave portions of the scripture. So even in the darkest spiritual times, God still had a true people who loved



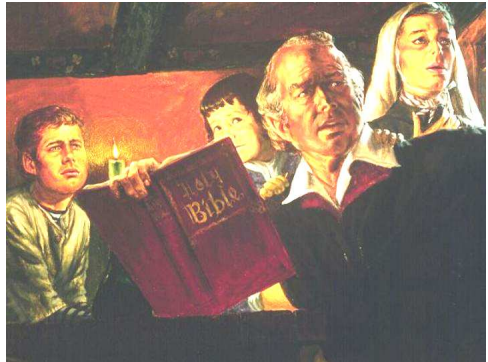
Him and although the flame was flickering, it never went out. It was from these people that the reformation started.

## **Before We Start**

Our Father in heaven. We thank you for your mercies and your grace and especially for your love. Please give us wisdom as we continue to study your word. Amen

## **John Wycliffe - The Morning Star of the Reformation**

One way the papacy kept its hold on the people was through limiting access to the Bible. In those days, the Bible was available in Hebrew (Old Testament), Greek (New Testament), or Latin. The Bible was not available for the common people to read, except for the excerpts that the Waldenses would distribute. In the 1300's, an Englishman by the name of John Wycliffe, changed all that. By about A.D. 1384, he and his associates had translated the Bible from Latin into English. He was hated by the papacy so much, that in 1428, his body was exhumed, burned and the ashes scattered.



## **Jan Hus (John Huss)**

Born a few years after Wycliffe, Jan Hus, a Bohemian, was influenced by Wycliffe. His writings were based on the works of Wycliffe and he extended these writings into Czechoslovakia, Poland, Hungary, Croatia and Austria. He fought against the indulgences and many other abuses of the church. After many attempts to get him to recant his teachings, the papacy burned him at the stake.

## **Martin Luther**

The next major reformer to come on the scene was a German monk named Martin Luther. He started out to become a lawyer but then afraid of dying he joined a monastery. At first he tried to obtain salvation through penance and self-deprivation. After some time of being depressed and putting himself down, he found a Bible chained to a monastery wall. In studying it, he found the message of God's grace. Instead of working for his salvation, he realized that it was a gift from God and required faith and belief in God rather than works.

At the time, one of the biggest money makers in the catholic church



was the sale of indulgences. The church claimed that you could buy these indulgences to remove any sins you might have committed or may commit in the future. You could also buy indulgences for family members that had died so they could be forgiven. In October, 1517, he published a document containing 95 Theses against the

practices of the catholic church. Apparently there seems to be some discussion as to whether they were nailed to the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg or mailed to the Bishop of Mainz. But these 95 Theses shook up the papacy and the spiritual world at the time. Martin Luther died a natural death in spite of the many attempts to burn him at the stake.

## John Calvin (Jean Cauvin)

The next reformer to come on the scene was a Frenchman by the name of Jean Cauvin (John Calvin). At an early age, he became involved in the church. As he got older, he became a humanist lawyer. During this time in his life he had a religious conversion. In 1530, he broke away from the Catholic Church and three years later, under pressure of persecution in France, he fled to Switzerland. He became active in the reform movement in Switzerland and in 1542 published a couple of books on prayer and music in the church. He died from an illness.

John Calvin's teachings became well known and are known today as Calvinism. Many churches still base their beliefs on his interpretation of the scriptures.

## Jacobus Arminius

About this same time, a group of people called the Remonstrants were led by a Dutch Reformed theologian, Jacobus Arminius. Arminius was opposed to the teaching of John Calvin. Although he died before an official review of his teaching were presented before the State General of Holland,



his followers provided a five point paper on their beliefs. This discussion between Calvinism and Arminianism continues to this day with some churches following Calvinism, some churches following Arminianism and some churches a mixture of the two.

## **Ulrich Zwingli**

A little older than Calvin, Zwingli was a Swiss Reformer. Zwingli had a number of followers but in 1525, some of the younger followers wanted faster reform, especially in the area of eliminating infant baptism. Konrad Grebel, along with two friends, Felix Manz and George Blaurock and twelve others, split from him and formed the Anabaptists. Although they were promoting adult baptism by immersion, the group did not become as strong as the Baptists which formed later.

## **John Smyth**

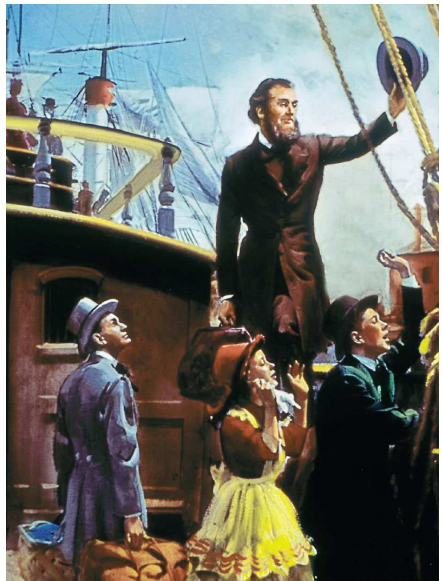
John Smyth was an English Separatist who started the first Baptist church in 1609 in Amsterdam. His main teaching was the elimination of infant baptism and baptism by immersion. His teaching spread to England and to the New World. Later he left the Baptists and asked to join the Anabaptists. When he left, Thomas Helwys, a layman took over.

## **John Wesley**

In 1703, John Wesley was born in England. He was raised an Anglican. In his early 30's, John and his brother Charles sailed to America. During the voyage, a severe storm broke out and all the passengers were terrified except for a band of Moravians. Wesley was impressed with their inner peace and it affected his future ministry. After some problems in America, he returned to England where he studied with a young Moravian named Peter Boeller and eventually went to Germany to study the Moravian faith.

After some time he broke with the Moravians and because most churches were closed to him, he ended up preaching in an open field.

Realizing that he could reach many people in the open who could not or would not come to church, he continued preaching in any place that he could. He eventually formed the Methodist Society in England, ordaining



preachers who the Anglican Church would not ordain. He later ordained ministers to go to America and establish the Methodists there.

One of the biggest issues that Wesley tackled was the teachings of Calvin. Wesley opposed those teachings and instead became a follower of Arminius.

## **William Miller**

William Miller was born in Massachusetts in 1782. Although raised a Baptist, when still a young man, he rejected the Baptist faith and became a Deist. He filled a number of civil service positions and served in the militia. In the War of 1812, he served in Vermont. His experiences in the war caused him to reflect on death and his future. He returned to the Baptist church and eventually became fully converted. As a youth, he would pick apart the Bible and ridicule the inconsistencies. He now decided to go back and reconcile all the inconsistencies he used to ridicule. Using only a Bible and a concordance he began to study in earnest. As he continued his studies, he came upon the prophecies of Daniel and Revelation. The more he studied these, the deeper grew his conviction that Jesus was coming back to this earth. The text in question was Daniel 8:14 regarding the cleansing of the sanctuary at the end of the 2,300 day prophecy. He hesitated to set a date but under pressure from his followers, according to his calculations, the 2,300 day would end on March 21, 1843 or 1844. Miller was a reluctant preacher. He did not want to spread his findings, but as more and more churches found out about his research, he became a highly sought after speaker. His sermons were not hellfire and brimstone, but very serious and thought provoking. The mistake made by Miller and his followers was that they believed the earth to be the sanctuary and they had no comprehension of the heavenly sanctuary until after the Great Disappointment.

## **The Sanctuary Restored**

In the previous lesson, we showed how Satan tore down the teachings of the heavenly sanctuary through the papal system. As we have gone through the various reformers, each one of them contributed to the rebuilding of the heavenly sanctuary through their teachings. Each reformer set the foundation for the next one to come along and build on the prior teachings. As new light was given, the reformation became stronger and the churches would break away to some degree from the papal system. Unfortunately, the churches following a particular reformer would stop in their growth. Instead of growing as light was provided, they fossilized and continued to follow the same teachings.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Reformer</b>	<b>What They Taught</b>	<b>Sanctuary Item Restored</b>	<b>Churches Formed Based on their Teachings</b>
1300's	John Wycliffe	Translated Bible	Table of Showbread	Lollards, English Church, Anglicans
1400-1500's	Martin Luther	Justification by faith	Altar of Sacrifice	Lutherans, Reformed Churches, NA Reformed Presbyterians
1500's	John Calvin	Prayer	Altar of Incense	Calvinism, Presbyterians, Reformed Baptist, Southern Baptist
1600's	John Smyth	Baptism by immersion	Laver	Baptists
1700's	John Wesley	Evangelism	Candlestick	Methodists
1800's	William Miller	The Advent	The Ark of the Covenant (1)	Seventh Day Adventists (2)

- (1) The Sabbath and the Sanctuary doctrines came from the group that remained after the Great Disappointment, before the Seventh-day Adventist Church formed.
- (2) Wikipedia incorrectly identifies Jehovah's Witnesses as a direct descendant from the Millerites. They actually started in the late 1870's from the Zion's Watch Tower Tract Society. Their beliefs do not mirror what Miller taught.

## **Development of Protestant Thought During and After the Reformation**

There were four schools of religious thought that developed during the Reformation. We will look at the first three in a little more depth since these are the three that dominate the Protestant Christian world today.

1. Lutheranism
2. Calvinism
3. Arminianism
4. Pelagianism, Semipelagianism (Roman Catholic monk)

## Comparison Among the Three Main Protestant Religious Schools of Thought

If you look-up “Remonstrants” in Wikipedia, you will see that the five topics listed in the table correspond to the five items that the Remonstrants put forth as their beliefs. Basically, ALL protestant churches have adopted some of the beliefs from either Calvin or Arminius.

Topic	Lutheranism	Traditional Calvinism	Classical Arminianism
<b>Human will</b>	Total Depravity without free will	Total Depravity, the will is only free to choose evil	Total Depravity, but free will by God's sufficient grace to us all.
<b>Election To Salvation</b>	Unconditional only	Unconditional to salvation and ones own damnation	Conditional in view of foreseen faith or unbelief
<b>Justification</b>	Justification of all people completed at Christ's death.	Justification is limited to those elected to salvation from eternity, completed at Christ's death.	Justification made possible for all, but only completed when one chooses faith.
<b>Conversion</b>	Through the means of grace, resistible	Inward call of the Holy Spirit, irresistible	Resistible due to the sufficiency of grace and to have free will
<b>Preservation and apostasy</b>	Falling away is possible, but God gives assurance of preservation.	Perseverance of the saints, The elect will persevere and never fall away	[Arminius said he never once taught a person could lose salvation].

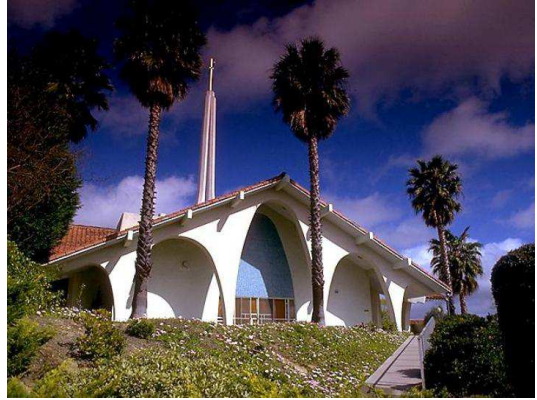
Advocates of both Arminianism and Calvinism find a home in many Protestant denominations, and sometimes both exist within the same denomination as with the Puritans.

Faiths leaning at least in part in the Arminian direction include: Methodists, Free Will Baptists, General Baptists, Disciples of Christ Church of the Nazarene, Seventh-day Adventists, The Salvation Army, Mennonites, Pentecostals, and Charismatics.

Denominations leaning in the Calvinist direction are grouped as the Reformed churches and include: Particular Baptists, Reformed Baptists, Presbyterians and Congregationalists.

The majority of Southern Baptists, including Billy Graham, accept Ar-

minianism with an exception allowing for a doctrine of eternal security. Many see Calvinism as growing in acceptance, and some well-known Southern Baptists such as Albert Mohler and Mark Dever have been trying to lead the Southern Baptist Convention to a Reformed theological orientation.



The Lutherans hold to a view of salvation and election distinct from Calvinism or Arminianism.

Arminian theology usually falls into one of two groups — Classical Arminianism, drawn from the teaching of Jacobus Arminius — and Wesleyan Arminian, drawing primarily from Wesley. Both groups overlap substantially.



(For further reading look at Wikipedia under any of the following links: Reformation, Calvin, Calvinism, Lutheranism, Arminianism, Depravity, Augustinian, etc. There are NUMEROUS links from these to other articles. This gives you an idea on how religious thinking developed during the reformation and how it affects our current belief systems.)

## Review

Even though the light from the Word of God was almost extinguished during the Middle Ages, God continued to have a people who were faithful to Him. As time passed and the 2,300 day prophecy was coming closer to the end, God raised up various reformers to bring new light to the people. Little by little as the people learned new truths, they left the papal system and started worshipping God according to the new light. Soon after the 2,300 day prophecy was completed, God had brought back all the truths of the original teachings of Jesus and His Disciples. The people now had a choice of worship. Instead of being forced to worship under the rules of the papacy, they could now choose to worship as they chose. Religious freedom had finally appeared.

A review of our lesson shows:



1. In the 1300's a breaking away from the papal system began
2. In almost every hundred year period since then, new light was given to show more of God's teachings
3. One by one, the teachings relating to the sanctuary were restored through the various reformers
4. Three main schools of thought began to develop
5. These three schools of thought are found in every church today to some degree
6. Many churches today accept these three main schools of thought and do not progress as new light is available from the Bible

## How Does This Show God's Love?

Instead of leaving the world in darkness, God raised up men and women who stood strong for their faith. He is trying to give us every advantage. He wants us ALL to be saved. As we look back over the ages and see the examples of faith and belief, it gives us hope as we go forward. Some people focus on the martyrdom and ask, "How can God be a good God and still allow this?" Don't forget what happened to Jesus. This just goes to show the extent to which Satan will go in his war against God.

Let's read Matthew 10:28-39 (Jesus is speaking) :

***Matt 10:28 And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell. 29 Are not two sparrows sold for a farthing? and one of them shall not fall on the ground without your Father. 30 But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. 31 Fear ye not therefore, ye are of more value than many sparrows. 32 Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven. 33 But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven. 34 Think not that I am come to send peace on earth: I came not to send peace, but a sword. 35 For I am come to set a man at variance against his father, and the daughter against her mother, and the daughter in law against her mother in law. 36 And a man's foes shall be they of his own household. 37 He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. 38 And he that taketh not his cross, and followeth after me, is not worthy of me. 39 He that findeth his life shall lose it: and he that loseth his life for my sake shall find it.***

## Additional Reading

In addition to the topics given earlier in this lesson, you may also want to look-up Albigenian Crusade, Waldensians, Piedmont, St Bartholomew's Day Massacre, Protestant Reformation, and any of the names of the reformers.



# Lesson Eight - The Beginning of the End



## Introduction

The end of the 18th century and the beginning of the 19th century is a very significant time in the earth's history. The year 1798 was the end of papal rule in Europe with the capture of the pope by the French General Berthier under Napoleon. This period also brings a close to the Protestant Reformation that had started in the 1300's and a surge in church growth. It also brings a new world power onto the scene, the United States. And, it brings to fulfillment the 2,300 day prophecy by the prophet Daniel.

## Before We Start

Dear Lord. As we get into this important time in earth's history, help us to understand your plan for our salvation. We thank you for your love and care for us. Amen.

## The End Is Near

We can now say that we are living in the time of the end. There is only a short time left. How long? Nobody knows. But if you can read the signs of the times, you can see for yourself that this world cannot last much longer.

We see wars happening all around the world, and each year they get worse. We have natural (or un-natural) calamities occurring with more

frequency and with greater force and covering greater areas. We have floods, tsunamis, earthquakes, droughts, nuclear disasters, everything you could possibly think of. We hear of new diseases that we have never had before. Regular bacteria are now becoming “super-bugs” which cannot be killed. Our world today is not the same world it was even only 20 years ago. Food contamination such as E. Coli and Salmonella are now common occurrences. How much longer?

**Revelation 7:1-3** says, *“And after these things I saw four angels standing on the four corners of the earth, holding the four winds of the earth, that the wind should not blow on the earth, nor on the sea, nor on any tree. 2 And I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the living God: and he cried with a loud voice to the four angels, to whom it was given to hurt the earth and the sea, 3 Saying, Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads.”*

We can truly say today that those angels are slowly loosening their hold on the four winds, and when they finally let go, time’s up. Let’s look at the four items we mentioned in the introduction regarding the late 1700’s to early 1800’s.

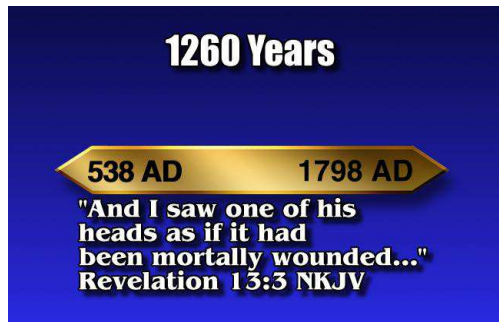
## The End Of Papal Rule

As we talked about in an earlier lesson, the papacy became the de facto government of Europe in A.D. 538. According to Daniel and Revelation, this power (beast) was given 1,260 years until it receives a “deadly wound”. In other words, Papal Rome would rule Europe from A.D. 538 until A.D. 1798 at which time, Rome

would lose its power to govern through some type of wound. That’s exactly what happened.

We saw in Lesson Five, that Clovis, king of the Franks set up the papacy to be favored in A.D. 508. Emperor Justinian recognized the spiritual power of Rome and Papal Rome took over the temporal government when it removed the last three Arian tribes. It then ruled until 1798 when General Berthier of France under Napoleon, entered the Vatican, captured Pope Pius IV and took him prisoner back to France where he died. This was the deadly wound. Since that time, the papacy has not had any temporal power.

As we see from the following verses, this time period has been ex-



pressed a number of ways. In Daniel 7:25, time equals a 360 day year, times equals 2 years, and dividing of time equals a half year. Three and a half years equals 3 1/2 times 360 equals 1,260 days or 42 months. Using the day-year principle, this gives us 1,260 years.

**Dan 7:25** *And he shall speak great words against the most High, and shall wear out the saints of the most High, and think to change times and laws: and they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and the dividing of time.*

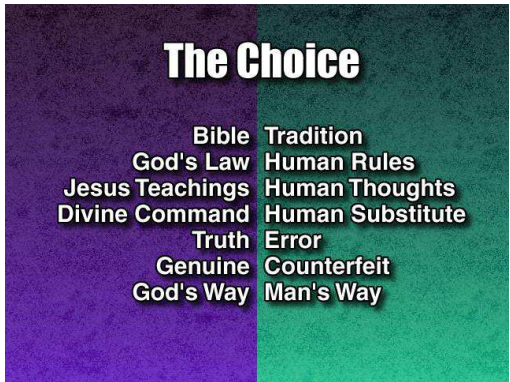
According to this verse, the little horn will talk against the principles of God, it will persecute the saints, it will change times and laws, and it will last for 1,260 years. We've seen that the papacy fits all these criteria.

**Dan 12:7** *And I heard the man clothed in linen, which was upon the waters of the river, when he held up his right hand and his left hand unto heaven, and swore by him that liveth for ever that it shall be for a time, times, and an half; and when he shall have accomplished to scatter the power of the holy people, all these things shall be finished.*

This verse says that the power would scatter or weaken the people who follow Jesus. This would occur over the 1,260 years.

**Rev 12:6** *And the woman fled into the wilderness, where she hath a place prepared of God, that they should feed her there a thousand two hundred and threescore days.*

**Rev 12:14** *And to the woman were given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness, into her place, where she is nourished for a time, and times, and half a time, from the face of the serpent.*



The woman, or God's church, would have a wilderness experience over the 1,260 years, but God would sustain His church during that time.

**Rev 11:2** *But the court which is without the temple leave out, and measure it not; for it is given unto the Gentiles: and the holy city shall they tread under foot forty and two months.*

This verse refers to the outer court of the sanctuary. He says that the holy principles of God will be trampled on for 42 months which is 1,260 days (years).

**Rev 13:5** *And there was given unto him a mouth speaking great*

**things and blasphemies; and power was given unto him to continue forty and two months.**

This power who speaks against God would last 1,260 years.

This time period of 1,260 prophetic days or actual years is repeated over and over to make sure that it is not mistaken. God wants to make sure you understand. Satan also wants to make sure you are confused. He tries to divert your attention from him by providing “alternate” interpretations using different means of interpreting prophecy. We can be sure of at least one thing, the papal system was taken out of power forcibly in A.D. 1798 and that meets the criteria of a “deadly wound”.

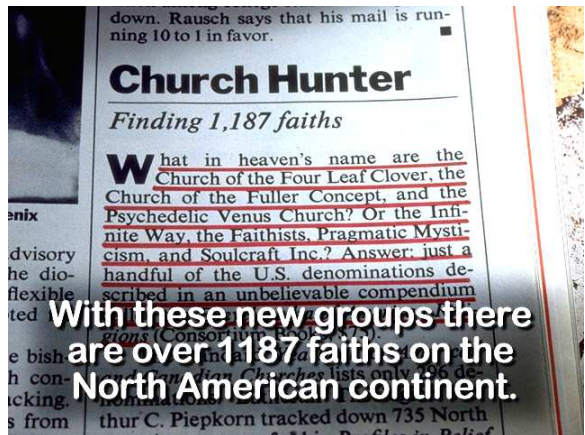
The capture and death of the pope resulted in a great spiritual awakening around the world. Bible scholars began to study their Bibles with a renewed interest. The vision of Daniel concerning the 2,300 days began to be studied with more interest. God had sealed up that portion (see verse below) of the vision so people would not understand it, but now as people started to study the prophecies of Daniel 8 and Revelation, they began to see that the 2,300 day prophecy was about to be fulfilled.

***Dan 9:24 Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city, to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to seal up the vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most Holy.***

## The Proliferation of Churches

The 1800's saw a growth of churches, but most of them were not following the teachings of the reformers. Joseph Smith started the Mormon church in the early 1800's before he died in 1844. In the late 1800's, Mary Baker Eddy started the Church of Christ, Scientist. The Zion Watchtower Tract Society became the Jehovah's

Witnesses in the late 1800's and early 1900's. The Fox sisters were instrumental in starting the Spiritualist Movement in the late 1800's. Although they later recanted and said it had all been a hoax, nevertheless the movement continued to grow after their deaths.



In the last hundred and fifty years, new denominations have sprouted up all over the place. Many of these new denominations have little to do with Christianity. Satan is really trying to confuse everyone. The more people he can divert away from Christ, the happier he is. It's interesting to note that the beginnings of the theory of evolution was put into print in 1844 (Vestiges of the Natural History of Creation).

## The New World

This time period also saw the establishment of a new power, the United States of America. Revelation 13 describes the emergence of this power.



**Rev 13:1** *And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his horns ten crowns, and upon his heads the name of blasphemy.*

This verse talks about a power rising from the sea. Before we look at the verse about the US, let's look at Revelation 17:1 and vs 15.

**Rev 17:1** *And there came one of the seven angels which had the seven vials, and talked with me, saying unto me, Come hither; I will shew unto thee the judgment of the great whore that sitteth upon many waters:*

**Rev 17:15** *And he saith unto me, The waters which thou sawest, where the whore sitteth, are peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues.*

The Bible tells us that waters is a symbol for population. The beast in Revelation 13:1 which came from the sea, came from a populated area.

**Rev 13:11** *And I beheld another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb, and he spake as a dragon.*

This verse describes a power that comes from the earth or an unpopulated area. If you read the first part of Revelation 13, you will see that this beast or power comes after the captivity of the beast power from the sea. The United States is the only



country that fits this description.

## **The End of the 2,300 Day Prophecy**

As Bible scholars began to study the prophecies, people started to preach about the coming of Christ.

Johann Albrecht Bengel was born in Germany in 1687 and became a renowned Lutheran scholar and Bible expositor. He was accused of manipulating calendars to espouse his beliefs of the second coming, but even in the early to mid 1700's, he had already identified the end of the 2,300 days as being within a few years of the 1844 date.

Francois Samuel Robert Louis Gausson was born in Switzerland in 1790. He became involved with the Swiss reformer Farel. He also studied the prophecies of Daniel and disagreed with William Miller not on the time, but the event. He believed that the world would be converted at the end of the 2,300 days.

Joseph Wolff was born a Jew. At an early age he was told that Jesus was the Messiah and had been crucified. He at once went home and read Isaiah 51 and realized that what he had heard was true. He continued his religious studies until 1821 when he started to travel around the world and preach the gospel. He was known as "missionary to the world".

It is said that there were seven hundred preachers in England who were preaching the message of Jesus' second coming in 1844.

Manuel Lacunza, was a Jesuit priest who was born in Santiago, Chile in 1731. He began to study prophecy and wrote under the pen name "Rabbi Juan Josaphat Ben-Ezra" to protect his identity. In 1790, he wrote his 3 volume "The Coming of the Messiah in Glory and Majesty". This was secretly published in Spain in 1810 and a second edition was printed in London in 1816. The Spanish Inquisition placed it on the list of banned books in 1819.

William Miller whom we talked about in the previous lesson, carried the work mainly to the eastern United States but his influence was carried far beyond that. It is said that his followers numbered up to half a million until the day after Christ was supposed to come but didn't. There was a tremendous breaking away until only a handful of about 50 were left. This was known as "The Great Disappointment".

## **The Two Great Disappointments**

The Bible talks of a great disappointment when Jesus was on this earth. If you read the gospels, people were ready to crown Jesus king, yet only a few short hours later, He was being crucified on the cross. Can you imagine that disappointment. When that happened, what was left was a small handful of people, the 11 disciples and a few other close friends. Their disappointment came from a lack of understanding. Jesus had fore-



told His death many times, but they did not understand.

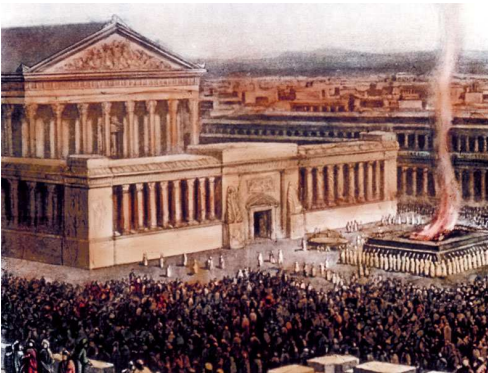
The disappointment in Miller's time also came from a lack of understanding. The belief at that time was that the earth was the sanctuary and the cleansing of the sanctuary meant that the earth would be destroyed and recreated. It wasn't until the day after the disappointment when a man named Hiram Edson, while walking through a corn field, had a vision or a dream about the heavenly sanctuary. This led the small group that remained, to deeper Bible study to understand the heavenly sanctuary.



## The Jewish Festivals

In order to understand a little more of the heavenly sanctuary and its services, we need to look at the earthly sanctuary and its services back in the days of Moses.

If you remember from Lesson Three, we talked about the various festivals and feasts that the Israelites were instructed to keep. Of all of these festivals, the second last festival was the Day of Atonement, announced by the Blowing of the Trumpets, followed by the Feast of Tabernacles or Feast of Booths.



The first of these feasts were fulfilled by Jesus. He was crucified on the Passover, and He returned to heaven briefly for the Wave Sheaf on the day He arose. He also ascended to heaven 40 days after the Passover with the saints who were resurrected when He was. This was the first fruits who were presented to God, This was then followed by the Pentecost where the Holy Spirit was given

to the disciples. All that was left to fulfill was the Blowing of the Trumpets to call the people to the Day of Atonement and the Feast of Tabernacles.

## The Sacrificial System

In the Jewish sanctuary services, whenever a person sinned, they would bring a sacrifice to the sanctuary, place their hands on the head of

the sacrificial animal and then kill the animal. By placing their hands on the head of the animal, they were symbolically transferring their sins to the animal. After killing the animal, by slitting its throat, they would catch the blood in a bowl and the blood, symbolically carrying the sin, would then be either poured out at the base of the altar of sacrifice or placed on the horns of the Altar of Incense or sprinkled before the veil separating the Holy Place from the Most Holy Place.



**Leviticus 4:3** *If the priest that is anointed do sin according to the sin of the people; then let him bring for his sin, which he hath sinned, a young bullock without blemish unto the LORD for a sin offering. 4 And he shall bring the bullock unto the door of the tabernacle of the congregation before the LORD; and shall lay his hand upon the bullock's head, and kill the bullock before the LORD. 5 And the priest that is anointed shall take of the bullock's blood, and bring it to the tabernacle of the congregation: 6 And the priest shall dip his finger in the blood, and sprinkle of the blood seven times before the LORD, before the vail of the sanctuary. 7 And the priest shall put some of the blood upon the horns of the altar of sweet incense before the LORD, which is in the tabernacle of the congregation; and shall pour all the blood of the bullock at the bottom of the altar of the burnt offering, which is at the door of the tabernacle of the congregation.*

**Leviticus 3:2** *And he shall lay his hand upon the head of his offering, and kill it at the door of the tabernacle of the congregation: and Aaron's sons the priests shall sprinkle the blood upon the altar round about.*

**Leviticus 4:13** *And if the whole congregation of Israel sin through ignorance, and the thing be hid from the eyes of the assembly, and they have done somewhat against any of the commandments of the LORD concerning things which should not be done, and are guilty; 14 When the sin, which they have sinned against it, is known, then the congregation shall offer a young bullock for the sin, and bring him before the tabernacle of the congregation. 15 And the elders of the congregation shall lay their hands upon the head of the bullock before the LORD: and*

*the bullock shall be killed before the LORD. 16 And the priest that is anointed shall bring of the bullock's blood to the tabernacle of the congregation: 17 And the priest shall dip his finger in some of the blood, and sprinkle it seven times before the LORD, even before the vail. 18 And he shall put some of the blood upon the horns of the altar which is before the LORD, that is in the tabernacle of the congregation, and shall pour out all the blood at the bottom of the altar of the burnt offering, which is at the door of the tabernacle of the congregation.*

As you can see from reading these texts, there was a lot of blood that was spilt. You can imagine that if this is happening every day, the sanctuary would be polluted. This is what sin does. It pollutes the sanctuary. This is what Satan did to the heavenly sanctuary.

## **What Was The Day Of Atonement?**

When God gave Moses directions about the sanctuary, He told Moses that there was to be a Day of Atonement once a year, on the tenth day of the seventh month.

*Exod 30:10 And Aaron shall make an atonement upon the horns of it once in a year with the blood of the sin offering of atonements: once in the year shall he make atonement upon it throughout your generations: it is most holy unto the LORD.*

*Lev 23:26 And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, 27 Also on the tenth day of this seventh month there shall be a day of atonement: it shall be an holy convocation unto you; and ye shall afflict your souls, and offer an offering made by fire unto the LORD. 28 And ye shall do no work in that same day: for it is a day of atonement, to make an atonement for you before the LORD your God. 29 For whatsoever soul it be that shall not be afflicted in that same day, he shall be cut off from among his people. 30 And whatsoever soul it be that doeth any work in that same day, the same soul will I destroy from among his people. 31 Ye shall do no manner of work: it shall be a statute for ever throughout your generations in all your dwellings. 32 It shall be unto you a sabbath of rest, and ye shall afflict your souls: in the ninth day of the month at even, from even unto even, shall ye celebrate your sabbath.*

This Day of Atonement was the most solemn day of the year. This was the day that the sanctuary was to be cleansed. Throughout the entire year, as the sins, in the form of blood, polluted the sanctuary, the sanctuary needed to go through a cleansing experience. But it was more than a cleansing experience for the sanctuary, it was also a cleansing time for the priests and the people.

## **The Blowing Of The Trumpets**

The Day of Atonement was preceded by the Blowing of the Trumpets.

This was nine days before the Day of Atonement.

**Lev 23:23** *And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, 24 Speak unto the children of Israel, saying, In the seventh month, in the first day of the month, shall ye have a sabbath, a memorial of blowing of trumpets, an holy convocation.*

The Blowing of the Trumpets announced the coming Day of Atonement to the entire camp. This gave everyone nine days to prepare. They were to cleanse their homes and themselves to get ready for the Day of Atonement.

**Num 29:1** *And in the seventh month, on the first day of the month, ye shall have an holy convocation; ye shall do no servile work: it is a day of blowing the trumpets unto you. 2 And ye shall offer a burnt offering for a sweet savour unto the LORD; one young bullock, one ram, and seven lambs of the first year without blemish: 3 And their meat offering shall be of flour mingled with oil, three tenth deals for a bullock, and two tenth deals for a ram, 4 And one tenth deal for one lamb, throughout the seven lambs: 5 And one kid of the goats for a sin offering, to make an atonement for you: 6 Beside the burnt offering of the month, and his meat offering, and the daily burnt offering, and his meat offering, and their drink offerings, according unto their manner, for a sweet savour, a sacrifice made by fire unto the LORD.*



## The Day of Atonement Ceremony

Nine days after the Blowing of the Trumpets, on the tenth day of the seventh month, the entire camp celebrated the Day of Atonement. The High Priest went through special ceremonies to wash and purify himself. This was the holiest day of the year and this was the day that the high priest went into the Most Holy Place of the Sanctuary and stood before the Mercy Seat in the presence of God. Let's read about this special day in Leviticus chapter 16.

**Lev 16:2** *And the LORD said unto Moses, Speak unto Aaron thy brother, that he come not at all times into the holy place within the vail before the mercy seat, which is upon the ark; that he die not: for I will appear in the cloud upon the mercy seat. 3 Thus shall Aaron come into the holy place: with a young bullock for a sin offering, and a ram for a burnt offering. 4 He shall put on the holy linen coat, and he shall have*

*the linen breeches upon his flesh, and shall be girded with a linen girdle, and with the linen mitre shall he be attired: these are holy garments; therefore shall he wash his flesh in water, and so put them on.*

**5** *And he shall take of the congregation of the children of Israel two kids of the goats for a sin offering, and one ram for a burnt offering. 6 And Aaron shall offer his bullock of the sin offering, which is for himself, and make an atonement for himself, and for his house.*

So we see that the High Priest had special instructions for cleansing for that Holy Day.

**Lev 16:7** *And he shall take the two goats, and present them before the LORD at the door of the tabernacle of the congregation. 8 And Aaron shall cast lots upon the two goats; one lot for the LORD, and the other lot for the scapegoat. 9 And Aaron shall bring the goat upon which the LORD'S lot fell, and offer him for a sin offering. 10 But the goat, on which the lot fell to be the scapegoat, shall be presented alive before the LORD, to make an atonement with him, and to let him go for a scapegoat into the wilderness.*



Part of the ceremony involved two young goats. On the north side of the courtyard was a large urn containing two lots. One lot was for the Lord and one lot was for the scapegoat. The priest would put his hands in the urn and take out the two lots, one in each hand. He would then place his hands over the head of each goat and open his hands to see which goat was destined for the Lord and which goat as the scapegoat. They would then mark the goats appropriately for later use in the ceremony.

**Lev 16:11** *And Aaron shall bring the bullock of the sin offering, which is for himself, and shall make an atonement for himself, and for his house, and shall kill the bullock of the sin offering which is for himself: 12 And he shall take a censer full of burning coals of fire from off the altar before the LORD, and his hands full of sweet incense beaten small, and bring it within the vail: 13 And he shall put the incense upon the fire before*



*the LORD, that the cloud of the incense may cover the mercy seat that is upon the testimony, that he die not: 14 And he shall take of the blood of the bullock, and sprinkle it with his finger upon the mercy seat eastward; and before the mercy seat shall he sprinkle of the blood with his finger seven times.*

This first offering of the blood of the bull was for the sins of the High Priest. After the High Priest would offer the Blood and Incense before the mercy seat, he would then come back out of the Most Holy Place to kill the goat for the sins of the people.



**Lev 16:15** *Then shall he kill the goat of the sin offering, that is for the people, and bring his blood within the vail, and do with that blood as he did with the blood of the bullock, and sprinkle it upon the mercy seat, and before the mercy seat: 16 And he shall make an atonement for the holy place, because of the uncleanness of the children of Israel, and because of their transgressions in all their sins: and so shall he do for the tabernacle of the congregation, that remaineth among them in the midst of their uncleanness. 17 And there shall be no man in the tabernacle of the congregation when he goeth in to make an atonement in the holy place, until he come out, and have made an atonement for himself, and for his household, and for all the congregation of Israel. 18 And he shall go out unto the altar that is before the LORD, and make an atonement for it; and shall take of the blood of the bullock, and of the blood of the goat, and put it upon the horns of the altar round about. 19 And he shall sprinkle of the blood upon it with his finger seven times, and cleanse it, and hallow it from the uncleanness of the children of Israel.*



When the High Priest returns to the Most Holy Place, he does it with the blood of the goat to atone for the sins of the people. He completes the cleansing process and returns to the courtyard to attend to the scapegoat. When he returns to the courtyard, he is carrying

(symbolically) all the sins that have been placed in the sanctuary during the past year. At this point, he lays his hands on the head of the live goat and transfers the sins of the people onto live goat. This live goat is then led into the desert and left there. It is not killed.

**Lev 16:20** *And when he hath made an end of reconciling the holy place, and the tabernacle of the congregation, and the altar, he shall bring the live goat: 21 And Aaron shall lay both his hands upon the head of the live goat, and confess over him all the iniquities of the children of Israel, and all their transgressions in all their sins, putting them upon the head of the goat, and shall send him away by the hand of a fit man into the wilderness: 22 And the goat shall bear upon him all their iniquities unto a land not inhabited: and he shall let go the goat in the wilderness.*



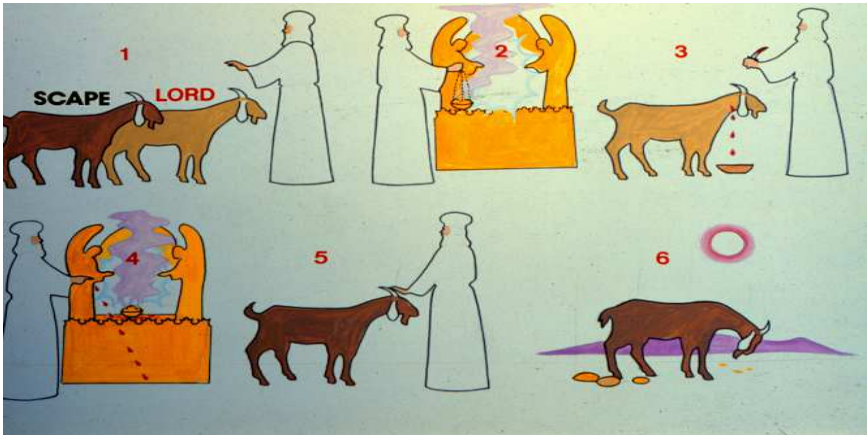
At this point, the special ceremonies are over so the High Priest returns to the Holy Place, changes his clothes and returns to the courtyard to offer a sacrifice for him and the people.

**Lev 16:23** *And Aaron shall come into the tabernacle of the congregation, and shall put off the linen garments, which he put on when he went into the holy place, and shall leave them there: 24 And he shall wash his flesh with water in the holy place, and put on his garments, and come forth, and offer his burnt offering, and the burnt offering of the people, and make an atonement for himself, and for the people. 25 And the fat of the sin offering shall he burn upon the altar. 26 And he that let go the goat for the scapegoat shall wash his clothes, and bathe his flesh in water, and afterward come into the camp. 27 And the bullock for the sin offering, and the goat for the sin offering, whose blood was brought in to make atonement in the holy place, shall one carry forth without the camp; and they shall burn in the fire their skins, and their flesh, and their dung. 28 And he that burneth them shall wash his clothes, and bathe his flesh in water, and afterward he shall come into the camp.*

Now while all this is going on at the sanctuary, the people have their own duties to perform. Their duties are to humble themselves before the Lord and to examine themselves to see that they have no sin that they are clinging to. As we continue in these lessons you will see that we are in the Day of Atonement right now, ever since October 22, 1844.

**Lev 16:29** And this shall be a statute for ever unto you: that in the seventh month, on the tenth day of the month, ye shall afflict your souls, and do no work at all, whether it be one of your own country, or a stranger that sojourneth among you: **30** For on that day shall the priest make an atonement for you, to cleanse you, that ye may be clean from all your sins before the LORD. **31** It shall be a sabbath of rest unto you, and ye shall afflict your souls, by a statute for ever.

**Lev 16:32** And the priest, whom he shall anoint, and whom he shall consecrate to minister in the priest's office in his father's stead, shall make the atonement, and shall put on the linen clothes, even the holy garments: **33** And he shall make an atonement for the holy sanctuary, and he shall make an atonement for the tabernacle of the congregation, and for the altar, and he shall make an atonement for the priests, and for all the people of the congregation. **34** And this shall be an everlasting statute unto you, to make an atonement for the children of Isra-



el for all their sins once a year. And he did as the LORD commanded Moses.

## What is the Significance of This?

We see that Jesus fulfilled the other feasts to date so this Day of Atonement is obviously something to be fulfilled by Jesus also. Let's examine this ceremony step by step but with Jesus as the High priest.

The Blowing of the Trumpets was the preaching of Lacunza, Joseph Wolff, William Miller and others who were preaching about the coming of Jesus which was expected to happen in 1844. As mentioned previously, they got the time right but the event wrong. However, they were definitely blowing the trumpets.

**Daniel 8: 14** And he said unto me, Unto two thousand and three





***hundred days; then shall the sanctuary be cleansed.”***

With so many people preaching that something important was going to happen in 1844, we have to realize that something important WAS going to happen. If we look back at the day of Atonement in

the Old Testament, and if we see the state of the world around us today, it makes a lot of sense that Jesus is fulfilling the role of the High priest in the heavenly sanctuary today. On the Day of Atonement, the High Priest entered into the Most Holy Place in the sanctuary to cleanse the sins of the people. We can draw from this that on October 22, 1844, Jesus went into the Most Holy Place in the heavenly sanctuary to cleanse the heavenly sanctuary of all the sins of His people that have happened since Adam. When Jesus entered into the Most Holy Place, instead of the blood of animals, He presented His blood before the Mercy Seat of God. It was His blood that paid for our sins.

***Revelation 22:12*** says, ***‘Behold I come quickly and my reward with me...’*** ***Revelation 11: 1*** Says, ***“And there was given me a reed like unto a rod: and the angel stood, saying, Rise, and measure the temple of God, and the altar, and them that worship therein.”***

By looking at these two verses we can come to two conclusions:

1. When Jesus comes, He already knows who He is going to reward
2. He is going to “measure” those people who are in the temple, in other words, those who believe in Him. To measure means to judge.

This means that before He returns to this earth, He is going through a judgment phase. But the people being judged are the righteous not the wicked. He will have plenty of time to do that later as we will see in another lesson. Revelation also talks about a sealing of God’s people before He returns. He cannot seal His people until He knows who are faithful to Him. This can only happen through the judgment process.

***Rev 7:1*** ***And after these things I saw four angels standing on the four corners of the earth, holding the four winds of the earth, that the wind should not blow on the earth, nor on the sea, nor on any tree. 2*** ***And I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the living God: and he cried with a loud voice to the four angels, to whom it was given to hurt the earth and the sea, 3*** ***Saying, Hurt not the earth,***

*neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads.*

Once Jesus has cleansed His people from their sins and they are sealed with the Seal of God, His duties in the Most Holy Place are over. He leaves the Sanctuary with but two more things to do. He changes His priestly robes and puts on His kingly robes. The last act is to take all the sins of the people and place them on the head of the scapegoat and lead the scapegoat into the desert. Who is the scapegoat? Satan. All the sins of the righteous are placed on the head of Satan and he is bound for a thousand years. We will cover that in a later lesson.



## **What Comes After The Day of Atonement?**

The next festival that came soon after the Day of Atonement was the Feast of Tabernacles or Feast of Booths. The Israelites made booths of boughs and stayed in them for a week.

**Lev 23:42** *Ye shall dwell in booths seven days; all that are Israelites born shall dwell in booths:* **43** *That your generations may know that I made the children of Israel to dwell in booths, when I brought them out of the land of Egypt: I am the LORD your God.*

I'm looking forward to living in these booths in heaven to celebrate our deliverance from this old earth.

## **No More Time Prophecies**

**Rev 10:6** *And swear by him that liveth for ever and ever, who created heaven, and the things that therein are, and the earth, and the things that therein are, and the sea, and the things which are therein, that there should be time no longer:*

The first eleven chapters of Revelation deal with the period from the first century to the early 1800's, with the exception of the seventh trumpet and the seventh seal. Daniel's time period of 2,300 days ends in 1844 and his 1,290 days ends in 1798 and the 1,335 days end in 1844. Revelation's 1,260 days ends in 1798. These are almost all the time prophecies with the exception of the two time prophecies in the 5th and 6th trumpets. The last of these two ended in 1840 (I know we haven't covered this).

There are no more time prophecies left in the Bible that go past 1844.

Some people try to say that the seven trumpets start after 1844, but if you go back to Daniel 2, he presents the entire history of the world in the image of the dream. Another item that places the trumpets before 1844 is the fact that the seven trumpets start with the angel at the altar of incense in the Holy Place. If you recognize that 1844 represents the time when Jesus entered into the Most Holy Place in the heavenly sanctuary, then the seven trumpets must start before 1844. Besides, prophecy students have placed the 5th trumpet ending in 1449 and the 6th trumpet ending in 1840.

The verse above in Revelation 10:6 just confirms that we are in the very last days. If you put the verse in context you will see that John is still to preach. That means that time will continue for a while longer. The above paragraphs explain why historicists interpret this text to mean that there will be no more prophecies relating to time between now and when Jesus returns.

## **Review**

I hope by now, that you see the importance of the end of the 2,300 day prophecy. It's exciting to see things drawing to a close and to know that God is coming soon. Let's review the things that happened at the end of this time period.

1. The end of papal rule in Europe
2. The growth of so many churches to confuse people
3. The beginning of the United States of America
4. The growth of spiritual knowledge and the preaching of the second coming. The event was wrong but the date wasn't
5. The end of the 2300 day prophecy
6. The increase of knowledge into the sanctuary and its services
7. The parallels between the Old Testament sanctuary and Jesus' ministry in heaven on our behalf

## **How Does This Show The Love Of God?**

God has given us all this information. He wants us to know what will happen before it happens. When Jesus was born, God provided John the Baptist to lead people to Jesus. At the end of the 2,300 days, God raised people to preach His message. HE WANTS US TO KNOW. God does not want anyone to be lost. He is doing everything He can to bring us closer to Him. At the final judgment, people will know that they, and they only, are responsible for the fact that they are lost. They will recognize that God did all He could but they refused His FREE GIFT of eternal life. He tells us, "Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my

burden is light.” (Matthew 11:28-30) It’s up to you.

### **Further Reading**

Wikipedia has a lot of information. You can look up any of the topics presented in this lesson. Another good book to read is, *The Great Controversy* by Ellen G. White. She actually lived through the Great Disappointment and the spiritual growth that occurred at the time.

## Lesson Nine - How Can I Understand the Book of Revelation?



### Introduction

As we get into the final events at the end of time, we will be reading the book of Revelation. It is said that you must be crazy to read it or you will be crazy after you read it. The very name of the book “Revelation” means a revealing. Revelation 1:1 identifies the book as “The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him, to shew unto his servants things which must shortly come to pass; and he sent and signified it by his angel unto his servant John:” It can’t get much clearer than that. This book is a revealing of Jesus Christ of all the things that are soon going to happen and He gave it to John to tell us. Look at all the details God has given us in what we have studied so far. He really wants us to know who He is and what are His plans.

***Jer 29:11*** For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end. **12** Then shall ye call upon me, and ye shall go and pray unto me, and I will hearken unto you. **13** And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart. **14** And I will be found of you, saith the LORD: and I will turn away your captivity, and I will gather you from all the nations, and from all the places whither I have

*driven you, saith the LORD; and I will bring you again into the place whence I caused you to be carried away captive.*

## Before We Start

Dear Jesus. Thank you for teaching us your word. We also thank you for your Holy Spirit which gives us understanding. Teach us as we study your word. Amen.

## Problems in Interpreting the Book of Revelation



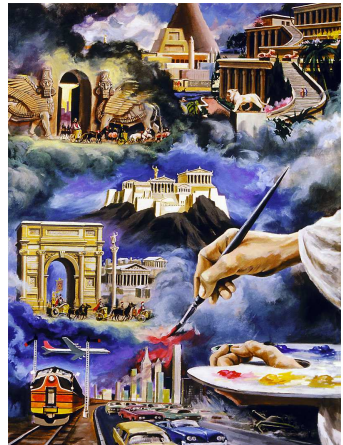
The first time student picking up the book of Revelation will try to read it and then give up because it doesn't seem to make sense. If you try to read it as you would any other book, it doesn't make sense.

First of all, the book of Revelation is not written in sequence. It covers a topic, then jumps into something else and eventually you're back to the first topic..

Another problem is that Revelation is written in something called a 'chiastic' structure. What that means is that the climax of the topic is usually found in the middle of the passage. It's a little like a mountain. You start at the bottom, you go up a ways until you hit a little peak, then you come back down a little, then you go back up until you get to the top. Coming down from the top is the same except reverse. It's crazy but that's how the Greeks liked to write (remember, most of John's audience read Greek in his day),

Another writing technique that John used was the use of parenthetical statements. He puts a small passage into the middle of a thought. A good example of this is Revelation 20:5. It sounds like the second resurrection is really the first resurrection.

John also uses repetition in his writing. He uses it all throughout Revelation but a good example is when he writes about the thousand years. He writes about it in different ways to provide different viewpoints based on who he is talking about. He also uses the technique to provide further details about the event. So sometimes it seems like



he is talking about different events when in reality it is the same event from a different viewpoint.

Another thing that confuses people is that some things that are written refer to literal events or issues and other items refer to symbolic events or thoughts. A good example of this is the seven plagues. The first five plagues are literal and the sixth plague appears to use symbolism. How can you know which is which? A good rule of thumb to use is that it appears to be literal, use the literal interpretation. If the literal interpretation doesn't make sense, use the symbolic interpretation.

Now that we've looked at some of the problems in reading Revelation, let's look at what will help us understand Revelation.

## Helps in Interpreting the Book of Revelation

First of all, you need to recognize two very important things:

1. God WANTS us to understand
2. The Bible is a unified book. It DOES NOT disagree with itself. There are some areas where it seems to contradict itself but those are minor issues and do not affect your salvation UNLESS YOU MAKE IT AN ISSUE. You'll find some of these in the gospels where two writers describe the same event, differently..

The first item that helps us understand Revelation is the book of Daniel. These two books go hand in hand. One complements the other. The book of Daniel gives us the history of the world from his time to the end. It is more of an overview of history with details up to the end of the 2,300 day prophecy. Revelation, starts from the time of John and gives us a lot of detail about the Middle Ages, the kingdom after Pagan Rome and the events at the very end of time.

Because the sanctuary services are such an integral part of the plan of salvation, an understanding of the earthly sanctuary services provides a good insight into the workings of the heavenly sanctuary. It also helps to see how the various types of symbolism found in the sanctuary can also be found in Revelation.



Another good source of information is the book of Hebrews. The first five chapters get into who Jesus was and chapters 7-10 deal with the heavenly sanctuary.

“As it was in the days of Noah”. The Bible is full of other examples that fit in to the events in Revelation. For example, the story of the flood is



very similar to the end time events. There was a time of warning, those who believed acted on their beliefs, there was a shut door (the sealing process) and there was destruction. The conquest of Babylon by Cyrus gives us insight into the sixth plague. The mount Carmel experience with Elijah also has its counterpart in Revelation.

## The Arrangement of the Book of Revelation

Revelation is basically divided into two sections with a “hinge” in the middle. Chapters 1-11 outline the conditions on earth between the 1st century and the Second Coming of Jesus. Chapter 12 is the “hinge”. It summarizes the war between God and Satan. Chapters 13- 22 cover the final events up to the very end.

## We Skip Parts of Revelation

As we read Revelation about the last time events, you will notice that we don’t review the Seven Churches, the Seven Seals and the Seven Trumpets. For the most part, all of these cover the history of the church from John’s day, through the Middle Ages, to the present. They give the history of the church from spiritual, economical and political viewpoints. We are living in the time of the seventh church, Laodicea. We will touch on the seventh trumpet and the sixth and seventh seals because they are involved in the final day events.

We also skip over events like the French Revolution because we are trying to focus an overall picture of the war between God and Satan and the important events, not every little battle.





# Lesson Ten - The Sealing



## Introduction

We're near the end. The world is breaking down, People are breaking down. Society is breaking down. Jesus IS coming soon. What will that be like? Will He come and take His people away in a secret rapture? Will there be a thousand years of peace? What does the Bible say?

In this lesson we will touch on the Mark of the Beast and the Seal of God and how they fit into the final days. We will cover both of these in depth as to what causes you to receive the Mark or the Seal in a later lesson.

## Before We Start

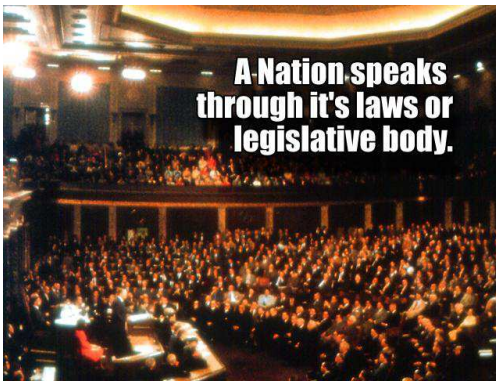
Dear Jesus. We know you are coming soon. The signs all around us point to that happening very shortly. We pray for the Holy Spirit to open our eyes to see your truths. Amen.

## The Beginning of the End

Two lessons ago we looked at the beginning of the end. This is where this lesson starts. Let's start with the United States.

***Rev 13:11 And I beheld another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb, and he spake as a dragon.***

Revelation 13:11 talks about another power that arises from an unpopulated area near the end of the 2,300 day prophecy. The only power that meets that description is the United States of America. The two horns represent two separate powers but since the horns have no crowns, then the horns do not represent kingdoms, but a separation of power. This could represent the two party system we have or it could represent a separation of church and state.



It starts out as a lamb but as the verse says, it speaks as a dragon. The only dragon we know in the Bible is Satan. How does a country speak? Through its laws. The US was founded on religious liberty, but somewhere in the future the US will make laws to support Satan's way of worship. We will go into this a little later in this lesson.

## The 1844 Time Period

Soon after the US was established, the 2,300 day prophecy ended in 1844. The text for that is in Daniel 8. But if you will remember in Daniel 9:24 God seals up the vision, "..... and to seal up the vision..." because it is for the future, as it shows in Daniel 11:14, "Now I am come to make thee understand what shall befall thy people in the latter days: for yet the vision is for many days." So we see that the understanding of the 2,300 day prophecy was sealed until the time of the end when it would become prominent and people would begin to study the prophecy. Daniel 12 says it a little more plainly.

**Dan. 12:9** *And he said, Go thy way, Daniel: for the words are closed up and sealed till the time of the end. 10 Many shall be purified, and made white,*

**“Unto two thousand and three hundred days; then shall the sanctuary be cleansed.”  
Daniel 8:14**

<b>457</b>	<b>1844</b>
<b>2300 Years</b>	<b>Judgment</b>

***and tried; but the wicked shall do wickedly: and none of the wicked shall understand; but the wise shall understand.***

***Dan. 12:4 But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end: many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased.***

Many people used to read “run to and fro” as traveling all around as we do in modern times. The Greek however, translates better into turning pages back and forth. So at the end of time, many people will read and study Daniel and their knowledge will increase. We saw this happen after 1798.

Let’s read Revelation 10:8-11. John has been talking to the Angel in vision who has in His hand a little book that was sealed.

***Rev 10:8 And the voice which I heard from heaven spake unto me again, and said, Go and take the little book which is open in the hand of the angel which standeth upon the sea and upon the earth. 9 And I went unto the angel, and said unto him, Give me the little book. And he said unto me, Take it, and eat it up; and it shall make thy belly bitter, but it shall be in thy mouth sweet as honey. 10 And I took the little book out of the angel's hand, and ate it up; and it was in my mouth sweet as honey: and as soon as I had eaten it, my belly was bitter. 11 And he said unto me, Thou must prophesy again before many peoples, and nations, and tongues, and kings.***



The only little book that was sealed in the Bible was the book of Daniel as it talked about the 2,300 day prophecy. John is told to eat the book, the rest you have just read. When the Millerites heard the prophecy of Daniel about the end of the 2,300 days, they were excited,. Jesus was coming back. A few years later, came the Great Disappointment when He didn’t come as expected. Do you see the Great Disappointment in the text above? The message was so sweet to their ears but when it didn't happen, it became a bitter disappointment. Habakkuk 2:1-4 also talks about this time.

***Hab 2:1 I will stand upon my watch, and set me upon the tower, and will watch to see what he will say unto me, and what I shall answer when I am reprov'd. 2 And the LORD answered me, and said, Write the vision, and make it plain upon tables, that he may run that readeth it. 3 For the vision is yet for an appointed time, but at the end it shall speak, and not lie: though it tarry, wait for it; because it will***

**surely come, it will not tarry. 4 Behold, his soul which is lifted up is not upright in him: but the just shall live by his faith.**

We talked about the judgment starting at this time in an earlier lesson but here is another text to add to it. I Peter 4:17 says that the righteous will be judged first. The wicked will be judged later.

**17 For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God?**

## Timing and Placing of the Events

As we continue the rest of the lesson, We will use texts that link two or more events together so that you will see which event comes first. In some cases, the Bible talks about events but doesn't give a specific time period where they occur. In these cases, we will identify why we place them in a specific time slot. Based on the flow of events and Bible study, we can may deduce their placement with confidence.

## Preach The Message

John was told that he would prophesy before many peoples. How? Through the book of Revelation. Before we continue, let's go back to Genesis 5-8 and the story about Noah and the flood. Noah preached before the flood came but nobody believed him. John's "preaching" is similar to Noah's in that he is warning of the destruction to come.



**Rev 10:11** *And he said unto me, Thou must prophesy again before many peoples, and nations, and tongues, and kings.*

**Rev 14:6** *And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people, 7 Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters. 8 And there followed another angel, saying, Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication 9 And the third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, If any man*

worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand, **10** The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb:



The message to be preached at this end time was threefold:

1. Worship God because His judgment hour IS here, and remember Him as the Creator. (So much for evolution).
2. Satan and all those who push his philosophies have been defeated by Jesus at the cross. Don't drink his wine, it confuses you
3. If you worship Satan and receive his mark, you will die the second and final death

**Rev 18:1** *And after these things I saw another angel come down from heaven, having great power; and the earth was lightened with his glory*

This is the step which I believe is starting to happen now. The message of God is going to go to all the world and there will be a great spiritual revival.

## Miracles, Signs and Wonders

As the message of God goes through-out the world, Satan will have a counterfeit message. Remember, he is in a war for our souls. Satan is going to use every deception that he can to try and trap us. God is also going to give us every chance He can for us to choose Him.

As Jesus was talking to His disciples before His crucifixion, He warned them about the future.

**Mat 24:4** *And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man deceive you. 5 For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many. 6 And ye shall hear of*



*wars and rumours of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. 7 For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places. 8 All these are the beginning of sorrows. 9 Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted, and shall kill you: and ye shall be hated of all nations for my name's sake. 10 And then shall many be offended, and shall betray one another, and shall hate one another. 11 And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many. 12 And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold. 13 But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved. 14 And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come. 15 When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:) 16 Then let them which be in Judaea flee into the mountains: 17 Let him which is on the housetop not come down to take any thing out of his house: 18 Neither let him which is in the field return back to take his clothes. 19 And woe unto them that are with child, and to them that give suck in those days! 20 But pray ye that your flight be not in the winter, neither on the sabbath day: ; 21 For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be. 22 And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened. 23 Then if any man shall say unto you, Lo, here is Christ, or there; believe it not. 24 For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect. 25 Behold, I have told you before. 26 Wherefore if they shall say unto you, Behold, he is in the desert; go not forth: behold, he is in the secret chambers; believe it not. ; 27 For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. 28 For wheresoever the carcase is, there will the eagles be gathered together.*

As Jesus was explaining this to His disciples, He warned them about false Christs and false prophets. He warned them about miracles that these people or demons would perform. Even to al-



most deceive those who follow Christ. He specifically gave instructions as to His coming. It will not be secret. One of these deceptions may even be a secret rapture.

Many people believe in a secret rapture, but this is not a biblical teaching. Let's take a quick look at the texts involved.

***Matt. 24:36 But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only. 37 But as the days of Noe were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. 38 For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark; 39 And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. 40 Then shall two be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left. 41 Two women shall be grinding at the mill; the one shall be taken, and the other left.***



Many people read verses 40 and 41 but forget to read verses 36-39 and especially verse 39. Who was left and who was taken away? Because so many people believe in the secret rapture, Satan might very well use that as one of his deceptions. Another text warning of the deceptions is found in Mark 13.

***21 And then if any man shall say to you, Lo, here is Christ; or, lo, he is there; believe him not: 22 For false Christs and false prophets shall rise, and shall shew signs and wonders, to seduce, if it were possible, even the elect. 23 But take ye heed: behold, I have foretold you all things***

Let's see what Paul says in Second Thessalonians.

***2 Thes. 2:5 Remember ye not, that, when I was yet with you, I told you these things? 6 And now ye know what withholdeth that he might be revealed in his time. 7 For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way. 8 And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming: 9 Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, 10 And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. 11 And for this cause***

**God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: 12 That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.**

Paul talks about the Antichrist who will deceive everyone. Antichrist has two meanings, “against” Christ, and “in place of” Christ. Is there a person today who claims to be “in place of Christ?” Notice that those who die do not love the truth but they love unrighteousness.

All of these signs and miracles are designed to fool people into thinking that Jesus is the one doing these miracles when in actuality it is Satan. Why? Because if people believe that Jesus is doing the miracles, they will accept the doctrine that He teaches which will be against what the Bible teaches.

## Succession of Power

Let’s review the world powers again. Babylon started the series, followed by Medo-Persia, followed by Greece, followed by Pagan Rome, followed by Papal Rome followed by the United States.

Remember, 1798 brought an end to the Papal Roman Empire, but just as it was ending, the beast from the earth arose (1776—the US). Is the US going to be a world-wide power like the other kingdoms? No, but it will continue the policies of the power just before it. Let’s read Revelation 13 to see what the Bible says.

**Rev 13:11** *And I beheld another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb, and he spake as a dragon. 12* *And he exerciseth all the power of the first beast before him, and causeth the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed. 13* *And he doeth great wonders, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men, 14* *And deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast; saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast, which had the wound by a sword, and did live. 15* *And he had power to give life unto the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be*







*killed. 16 And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads: 17 And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name. 18 Here is wisdom. Let him that hath understanding count the number of the beast: for it is the num-*

*ber of a man; and his number is Six hundred threescore and six.*

Wow, there is a lot of information in this passage. As we review this passage, remember that this will not happen immediately but gradually over time. However, once the tipping point is passed, events will be rapid.

Verse 11 says that this beast will speak as a dragon. A beast represents a kingdom, so how does a kingdom speak? Through its laws. This is

saying that the US will legislate laws to do Satan's bidding (Satan is the dragon). This means that laws dealing with religious practices will be enacted by the US. But I thought that the US had laws to separate church and state? Before we answer this, look at all the natural disasters happening today. Now suppose these natural disasters were to multiply.



If the people are deceived by Satan's false miracles and teachings, and if the false Christ causes people to believe that these disasters are happening because a certain group of people are not following the teachings of this false Christ, can you see how quickly laws could be enacted to "resolve this problem"? Do you see how this is a continuation of the power before it? Remember the Dark Ages.

Continuing on to verse 12, this power taking over from the previous power will "heal" the deadly wound of 1798. How? By continuing its practices and giving it a say in the legislation it proposes and also legislating religious practices dictated by the former power.

Verses 13-14 says that great signs and miracles will be performed by this power, even fire coming down from heaven. How will this happen? I'm not sure. Maybe a leader like the president or someone else high in

the government may be able to do these miracles. Or it could be one of Satan's angels disguised as a leader. The Bible does not specify and I won't assume. Verse 14 does specify that it will give power to the first beast which was wounded and now is healed. Now it says that life is given back to the "image" of the beast. An image looks just like the original. No difference. The practices and policies of the first beast power (Papal Rome) will become the practices and policies of this second beast power (the US). Can you imagine the Dark Ages all over again?

Verse 15 says that this power gives life back to the wounded beast



and will kill those who do not worship as the first beast dictates. In fact, verses 15-16 show that it will be responsible for marking those who can buy or sell. No mark, no buying or selling. No mark? Your money and property is worthless. So how do you live if you are not marked? God WILL provide.

Verse 18 talks about the number of the beast. Remember a beast is a kingdom, but a man is in charge.

Many Bible students look at the miter crown that the pope wears and by adding the roman numerals in the Latin name of the pope, they come up with the number 666. (See Wikipedia—Number of the Beast)

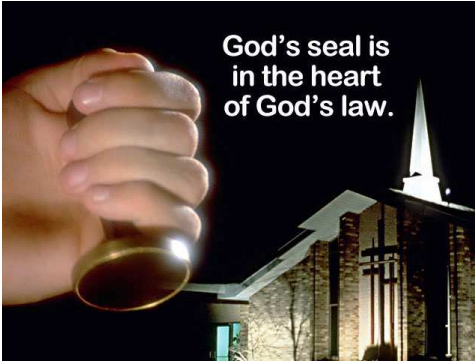
You can see the timing of the events so far. First comes spiritual awakening and also deception. People start deciding who to serve. Satan becomes angry and ups the ante. He starts legislating worship. If that doesn't work, he will kill and take away your ability to survive. All this through the power arising in the late 1700's.

## The Seal Of God

We just looked at the Mark of the Beast being given to enable buying and selling. Well that is the counterfeit of God's mark or His Seal. Just as Satan marks his people, God will mark His. One mark will be visible, one probably will not.

What is the Mark of the Beast? It will be needed to buy or sell so it will have to be a visible mark. It could consist of anything as wide ranging as a tattoo or as simple as a credit card. It will be given only if you follow the laws governing worship. It is





God's seal is  
in the heart  
of God's law.

not a mark that you will receive unknowingly. You WILL have to make a choice to receive it.

What is the Seal of God? It is probably not visible except as one sees the character of the sealed individual. It is most likely a firm assurance and deep conviction that God is right and you will follow Him no matter the consequences, even starvation and death. We do know

from Revelation 12:17, 14:12, and 22:14 that the final people who are saved will keep the commandments of God. ALL the commandments. So let's see what the Bible says.

**Rev. 7:1** *And after these things I saw four angels standing on the four corners of the earth, holding the four winds of the earth, that the wind should not blow on the earth, nor on the sea, nor on any tree* **2** *And I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the living God: and he cried with a loud voice to the four angels, to whom it was given to hurt the earth and the sea, 3* *Saying, Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads.*

From this passage we see that there are four angels holding back the winds (strife) from blowing on this earth. From the calamities occurring today, you can be certain, that these winds are already starting to be released. God requests these angels not to let go until He has sealed His followers in their forehead. In other words, God is giving His people a chance to make their final decision, for or against God. When they make that decision, they will either be sealed by God or they will knowingly accept the mark of the beast. Since we see that the world is getting worse. We can be sure that the sealing process is already started. But God will give EVERYONE the chance to be sealed. He will present His message to ALL the world, and those who accept will be sealed. Those who reject His message will get the mark of the beast. What is this message? It is all about worship. Do you follow God or do you follow man. The war started



about worship and the law and the war will end on the same theme. A later lesson will cover this much deeper.

***Rev 22:11 He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still. 12 And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be.***

Reading Revelation 22:11-12 gives us an insight into the sealing process. When God is finished sealing everyone who accepts Him, He utters the words which seal everyone. Those who are righteous remain righteous and those who are unrighteous remain unrighteous. There is no changing after this. A perfect example is found in Genesis 7:16 where God closed the doors of the ark after Noah and his family went in. Once the door was closed, no one else could enter, and all those outside the ark were destroyed. The same thing happens here. The unrighteous have no further chance for salvation.

***Gen 7:16 And they that went in, went in male and female of all flesh, as God had commanded him: and the LORD shut him in.***

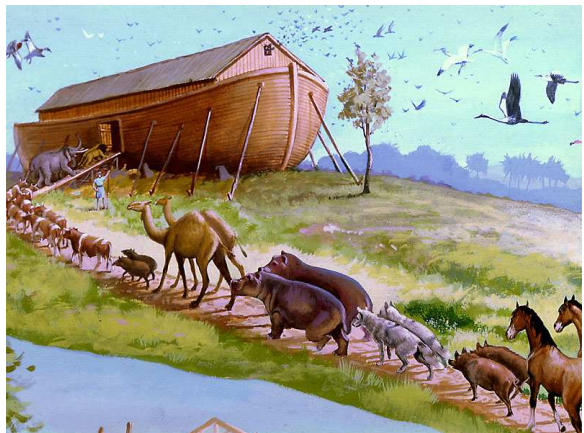
Even though the door of the ark was shut, it did not rain for seven days. Those on the outside continued in their daily life, laughing at Noah and his family for being so stupid. But after seven days, the rain started and the wicked were destroyed.

***Gen 7:4 For yet seven days, and I will cause it to rain upon the earth forty days and forty nights; and every living substance that I have made will I destroy from off the face of the earth.***

***Gen 7:10 And it came to pass after seven days, that the waters of the flood were upon the earth.***

When the final probation closes on this earth and God utters the words sealing everyone, life will continue for a short while. Nobody knows that the sealing process has been finished until Jesus returns and then it will be too late. But just like Noah in the ark, and also like the children of Israel during the time of Moses, we will be protected.

Remember the



thief in the night analogy that Jesus spoke about? There are two events that happen when you get hit by a thief. The first one is when he comes in the middle of the night. No one knows he was there and the goods were stolen. The second event comes in the morning when you wake up and find that you've been robbed. It's already too late to do anything about it. That's is how Jesus said He would come. But, He warned us to be on the lookout. We can see the signs and know that He is already at the door. If you read Ezekiel 9, you'll see an old testament version of the sealing and destruction.

## What Happens To The Righteous During This Time Of Trouble?

The time of trouble starts very soon after the deception starts. The false Christs will encourage the religious laws against those who choose not to follow man's laws. This will lead to the death decree. Just as the Christians were martyred and died for their beliefs, we will see the same again. Why? Until probation closes and everyone is marked or sealed, the martyrdom of some will cause others to take their stand. God wants to save as many as possible. Those who die, will do it willingly. God will not allow someone to be martyred and then lose them. He promises that we will never be placed in a position beyond our ability to bear it. If necessary He will put us to sleep before we reach that point.



***1 Corinthians 10:13*** *There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.*

However, once everyone has been sealed or marked, there is no purpose for martyrdom. At that point in time, no one can change their position. Those who are sealed will now be protected. These are the 144,000. These are the ones who will be alive when Jesus comes.

## Review

Let's review these events again.

1. Pagan Rome conquers Greece to become a world power
2. Pagan Rome falls apart and gives way to Papal Rome

3. Papal Rome is “wounded” by General Berthier in 1798
4. Another kingdom arises from an unpopulated area about the same time—the United States
5. This new power starts off with religious liberty
6. The prophecies of John are preached
7. Worldwide spiritual revival occurs
8. Satan counterfeits this revival and deceives many with signs and miracles. False Christs appear and teach non-biblical teachings
9. The US legislates laws to enact policies and practices of the previous power
10. It kills those who resist these religious laws
11. It issues a special ‘Mark”, which is required for buying and selling
12. Everyone has to choose between God’s laws and man’s laws
13. Those choosing God receive His seal
14. When all are sealed, probation closes
15. Time continues for a short time, but the righteous are protected

### **How Does This Show God’s Love?**

Jesus wants as many people as possible to be saved. That is why He is still waiting before He comes. After all, He is our brother and our creator. Before probation closes, He gives EVERYONE a chance to choose Him or to reject Him. He has given us all the information we need to know about the final events, so we will not be deceived. What more can He do?

# Lesson Eleven - Earth's Last Days



## Introduction

We have just covered the time from 1844 to the sealing of God's people. Although the events are clearly spoken of in the Bible, no specific timeline was provided. But as you see the events just outlined, they follow a logical pattern. It is fairly obvious that certain events require other events to happen before or later. As we get into the next set of events, you will see that the Bible does start to link certain events together. That tells us which of the two came first.

## Before We Begin

Dear Jesus. Thank you for your love and care for us that you have given us all this information so we can trust in you. We know you love us and want us to be saved when you come. Help us to understand your word. Amen.

## After The Sealing

Let's review the Day of Atonement services for a minute. After the High Priest is finished with the cleansing process in the sanctuary he leaves the Most Holy Place and transfers the sins to the head of the scapegoat. The High Priest then changes His robes.

Now that God has sealed His people, their sins are removed from the heavenly sanctuary and are ready to be placed on the head of Satan. Jesus leaves the Most Holy Place and all intercession stops. Let's see how Daniel describes this.



***Daniel 12:1*** ***And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book. 2 And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt. 3 And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever.***

This passage packs a lot of information. Jesus, also known as Michael the Archangel, is finished with the work in the Most Holy Place. He stands up and it is time for Him to exchange His priestly robes for His kingly robes. Then what follows is the worst time of trouble that ever occurred, but His people will be protected. Verse 2 talks about the two resurrections that happen after this but no time frame is given at this point.

***Rev. 15:5*** ***And after that I looked, and, behold, the temple of the tabernacle of the testimony in heaven was opened: 6 And the seven angels came out of the temple, having the seven plagues, clothed in pure and white linen, and having their breasts girded with golden girdles. The seven vials full of the wrath of God 7 And one of the four beasts gave unto the seven angels seven golden vials full of the wrath of God, who liveth for ever and ever. 8 And the temple was filled with smoke from the glory of God, and from his power; and no man was able to enter into the temple, till the seven plagues of the seven angels were fulfilled.***



The passage above speaks of the tabernacle of the testimony. The ten com-



mandments were in the ark of the covenant and this was in the Most Holy Place. So here the passage is saying that Jesus is coming out of the Most Holy Place and is ready to start the seven last plagues.

**Rev 11:15** *And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever. 16 And the four and twenty elders, which sat before God on their seats, fell upon their faces, and worshipped God, 17 Saying, We give thee thanks, O Lord God Almighty, which art, and wast, and art to come; because thou hast taken to thee thy great power, and hast reigned. 18 And the nations were angry, and thy wrath is come, and the time of the dead, that they should be judged, and that thou shouldest give reward unto thy servants the prophets, and to the saints, and them that fear thy name, small and great; and shouldest destroy them which destroy the earth. 19 And the temple of God was opened in heaven, and there was seen in his temple the ark of his testament: and there were lightnings, and voices, and thunderings, and an earthquake, and great hail.*



If we go back to Revelation 11 and look at the seventh trumpet, we see that this coincides with the same event. The Most Holy Place is opened, So we see that the seventh trumpet is followed closely by the seven last plagues.

**Rev. 16:1** *And I heard a great voice out of the temple saying to the seven angels, Go your ways, and pour out the vials of the wrath of God upon the earth. 2 And the first went, and poured out his vial upon the earth; and there fell a noisome and grievous sore upon the men which had the mark of the beast, and upon them which worshipped his image. 3 And the second angel poured out his vial upon the sea; and it became as the blood of a dead man: and every living soul died in the sea. 4 And the third angel poured out his vial upon the rivers and fountains of waters; and they became blood. 5 And I heard the angel of the waters say, Thou art righteous, O Lord, which art, and wast, and shalt be, because thou hast judged thus. 6 For they have shed the blood of saints and prophets, and thou hast given them blood to drink; for they are worthy. 7 And I heard another out of the altar say, Even so, Lord*

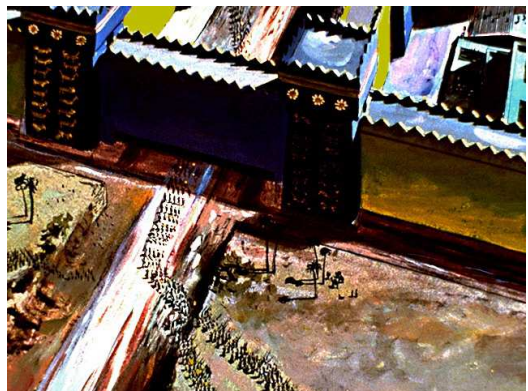
**God Almighty, true and righteous are thy judgments. 8 And the fourth angel poured out his vial upon the sun; and power was given unto him to scorch men with fire. 9 And men were scorched with great heat, and blasphemed the name of God, which hath power over these plagues: and they repented not to give him glory.; 10 And the fifth angel poured out his vial upon the seat of the beast; and his kingdom was full of darkness; and they gnawed their tongues for pain, 11 And blasphemed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores, and repented not of their deeds.**

Revelation 16 talks about the seven last plagues. Notice that verse 2 says that the plagues are poured out on those who have the mark of the beast and those who worship the image of the beast. The plagues in Exodus parallel this. Just as the last of the plagues did not affect the Israelites, the last days people of God are spared these plagues. At this point it will become obvious who are saved and who aren't. The people of God will stand out like a sore thumb. They will be healthy while everyone around them are being hit with the plagues. These first five plagues will be literal.

**16:12 And the sixth angel poured out his vial upon the great river Euphrates; and the water thereof was dried up, that the way of the kings of the east might be prepared. 13 And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet. 14 For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty. .... 16 And he gathered them together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue Armageddon.**

Let's look at the sixth plague. So far the first five plagues are widespread so logically this plague is also widespread. However, the river Euphrates is very local. Do you remember that we studied that waters is a symbol for people? This plague seems to be best interpreted using symbolism. An old testament example is found at the very end of Daniel 5 when Belshazzar was slain by Medo-Persia. Babylon was so protected by its tremendous walls that Cyrus of Medo-Persia redirected the waters of the Euphrates, and marched into the city on the dry riverbed and conquered the city.

**Rev 17:15 And he saith unto me, The waters which thou sawest, where the whore sitteth, are peoples,**



*and multitudes, and nations, and tongues*



So let's look at this scenario. The beast power legislates religious laws and provides a mark which allows people to buy and sell. Now all the people who accepted that mark are losing everything they have, including their health. Obviously they are going to withdraw their support from this power (the waters dry up). In other words the peoples that supported the power now fall away. Satan sees that he is losing control so he has to do something drastic. So in order to get his support back, he commands three demons to work miracles and perform all kinds of signs, including fire from heaven. Are these "three frogs" literal or symbolic? Do they actually

come out of the dragon's mouth?

Verse 16 talks about Armageddon. This is the only reference to Armageddon in the entire Bible. So where is Armageddon? The word broken down means 'Mount of Megiddo'. There is no such mountain. However, Megiddo is the name of a river. And the river happens to be near Mt Carmel. Do you remember the battle between Elijah and the prophets of Baal on this mountain? God made fire come down from heaven to honor Elijah's sacrifice (1 Kings 18). What an appropriate place for Satan to use to perform the same miracle. So Satan expects to rebuild his support with these miracles.

**Rev 16:17** *And the seventh angel poured out his vial into the air; and there came a great voice out of the temple of heaven, from the throne, saying, It is done. 18* *And there were voices, and thunders, and lightnings; and there was a great earthquake, such as was not since men were upon the earth, so mighty an earthquake, and so great. 19* *And the great city was divided into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell: and great Babylon came in remembrance before God, to give unto her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of his wrath. 20* *And every island fled away, and the mountains were not found. 21* *And there fell upon men a great hail out of heaven, every stone about the*



*weight of a talent: and men blasphemed God because of the plague of the hail; for the plague thereof was exceeding great.*

The seventh plague is the finale. The language used in this passage is definitely Second Coming language. You will see this terminology used whenever Bible writers talk about the Second Coming.

## The Second Coming of Jesus

Now that the seventh plague is being poured out, it is time for Jesus to return to get His people. Remember we still have the 144,000 who will be alive when He comes. More on this in a minute. Let's look at some texts about His return.

**1 Thes. 4:13** *But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. 14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. 15 For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. 16 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: 17 Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.*



Paul writes about the coming of Christ. There will be some alive to see Him. Notice that this is not a quiet event, no secret rapture here. A shout,

the voice of the archangel and the trump of God and the righteous dead are raised and both the righteous living and the righteous dead go to heaven together.



**Rev 6:12** *And I beheld when he had opened the sixth seal, and, lo, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon*

became as blood; **13** And the stars of heaven fell unto the earth, even as a fig tree casteth her untimely figs, when she is shaken of a mighty wind. **14** And the heaven departed as a scroll when it is rolled together; and every mountain and island were moved out of their places **15** And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains; **16** And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb: **17** For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?



As we jump back to the sixth seal, we can see that it starts in 1755 with the great Lisbon earthquake, then covers the early 1800's with the signs in the sun, moon and stars, then in verse 14, it jumps to the Second Coming.

**Rev 14:14** And I looked, and behold a white cloud, and upon the cloud one sat like unto the Son of man, having on his head a golden crown, and in his hand a sharp sickle. **15** And another angel came out of the temple, crying with a loud voice to him that sat on the cloud, Thrust in thy sickle, and reap: for the time is come for thee to reap; for the harvest of the earth is ripe.; **16** And he that sat on the cloud thrust in his sickle on the earth; and the earth was reaped. **17** And another angel came out of the temple which is in heaven, he also having a sharp sickle.; **18** And another angel came out from the altar, which had power over fire; and cried with a loud cry to him that had the sharp sickle, saying, Thrust in thy sharp sickle, and gather the clusters of the vine of the earth; for her grapes are fully ripe. **19** And the angel thrust



*in his sickle into the earth, and gathered the vine of the earth, and cast it into the great winepress of the wrath of God. 20 And the winepress was trodden without the city, and blood came out of the winepress, even unto the horse bridles, by the space of a thousand and six hundred furlongs.*

Revelation 14 describes the coming of Jesus as a time for judgment on the wicked who are still alive. So we can see that the seventh plague is part of the Second Coming of Jesus. Let's look at another view of this in Revelation 19. Each of these gives us another little piece of the puzzle.

**Rev 19:11** *And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war. 12 His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself. 13 And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God. 14 And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean. 15 And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. 16 And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS,*



*AND LORD OF LORDS. 17 And I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the fowls that fly in the midst of heaven, Come and gather yourselves together unto the supper of the great God; 18 That ye may eat the flesh of kings, and the flesh of captains, and the flesh of mighty men, and the flesh of horses, and of them that sit on them, and the flesh of all men, both free and bond, both small and great. 19 And I saw the beast, and the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against him that sat on the horse, and against his army. 20 And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake*

*of fire burning with brimstone. 21 And the remnant were slain with the sword of him that sat upon the horse, which sword proceeded out of his mouth: and all the fowls were filled with their flesh.*



In this passage, Jesus returns as a conquering king to destroy the wicked who are

living. Notice verse 20, it talks about the last two powers being thrown into the lake of fire. The beast in Revelation, unless otherwise qualified always refers to the papal system. The false prophet refers to the system that spoke for the beast. This would be the apostate protestant church that rejoined the papal system of worship and promoted it. Notice that this is happening at Christ's coming. The lake of fire in Revelation 20 is another occurrence that happens later. So we have an event involving the lake of fire at the Second Coming and an event involving the lake of fire at the Third Coming. The Second Coming event involves the beast and false prophet, while the Third Coming event involves Satan, his angels and the wicked. More on this later. Daniel 9 describes this event with different details.

**Dan 9:9** *I beheld till the thrones were cast down, and the Ancient of days did sit, whose garment was white as snow, and the hair of his head like the pure wool: his throne was like the fiery flame, and his wheels as burning fire. 10 A fiery stream issued and came forth from before him: thousand thousands ministered unto him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him: the judgment was set, and the books were opened 11 I beheld then because of the voice of the great words which the horn spake: I beheld even till the beast was slain, and his body destroyed, and given to the burning flame. 12 As concerning the rest of the beasts, they had their do-*



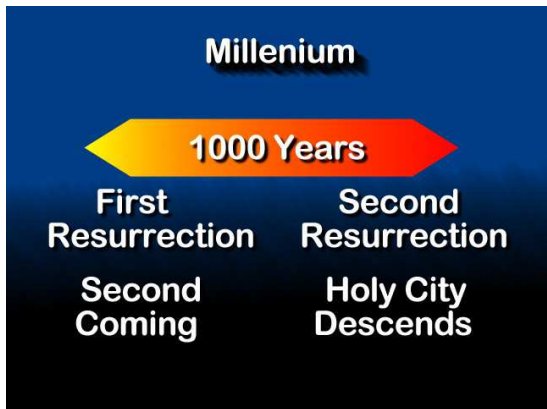
*minion taken away: yet their lives were prolonged for a season and time.*<sup>5</sup> **13** *I saw in the night visions, and, behold, one like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of days, and they brought him near before him. 14* *And there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve him: his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed.*

The Second Coming of Jesus is the same as when the rain started during the flood and people then realized it was too late. It is also the same when the homeowner wakes up in the morning and finds that he has been robbed.

## The Thousand Years

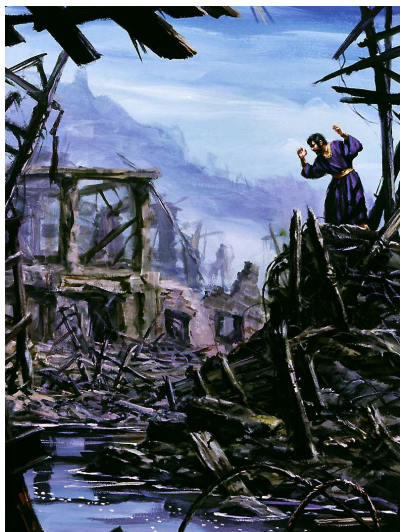
We just read a few paragraphs ago about the Second Coming of Jesus in Revelation 19. Let's continue on with Revelation 20.

**Rev 20:1** *And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. 2* *And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years, 3* *And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the*



*thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season. 4* *And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast,*





*neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.*

**5** *But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection.*

**6** *Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years. ;*

On the Day of Atonement, the High Priest came out of the Most Holy Place after the sanctuary was cleansed. His next step in the sanctuary service was

to transfer the sins of the people to the head of the scapegoat and the goat would then be led into the desert and not killed. In the same way, the next task that Jesus had to do when He came out of the Most Holy Place was to transfer the sins of His people onto the head of the scapegoat, or in this case Satan. We don't see that particular event being described in the Bible, but the chaining of Satan in the bottomless pit certainly follows the symbolism of the scapegoat being led into the desert.

We start out the thousand years with Satan being chained. Literally? Probably not. With no one alive on this earth and no where else to go, you might as well say he was chained, and with no one alive, who could he deceive?

This passage shows that during the thousand years;

1. Satan is bound
2. The righteous live and reign with Jesus
3. They will judge

When we first started these lessons, we talked about the reason that Jesus created man. Here we see it happening. The righteous who are saved, will be judging the wicked dead and the wicked angels and Satan.

**1 Cor 6:3** *Know ye not that we shall judge angels? how much more things that*



### *pertain to this life?*

After the thousand years are over:

1. Satan is loosed for a short time
2. The rest of the dead (the wicked) are raised

Verse 5 can be confusing because we have a parenthetical statement inserted at the beginning of the verse. We know that the righteous dead are raised at Jesus Second Coming, and this passage says clearly that the wicked dead are raised after the thousand years. So if you take the last sentence and put it at the beginning, the verse reads correctly. The first resurrection is the resurrection of the righteous and the second resurrection is the resurrection of the wicked.

### **After the Thousand Years**

After the thousand years are up, things start to get interesting. The first thing that happens is that Jesus and the saints return to this earth with the New Jerusalem. After all, this earth is going to be remade and this is where we will live and Jesus will be living with us. Let's trace this through some bible texts.



***Zechariah 2:10*** Sing and rejoice, O daughter of Zion: for, lo, I come, and I will dwell in the midst of thee, saith the LORD.

***Rev 21:10*** And he carried me away in the spirit to a great and high mountain, and shewed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God, **11** Having the glory of God: and her light was like unto a stone most precious, even like a jasper stone, clear as crystal;

***Rev 21:2*** And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband..  
**.. 8** But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.

***Rev 3:12*** Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the

***name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, which is new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and I will write upon him my new name.***

The text in Zechariah is just one of many that indicate that Jesus will be living among us, not in some mythical heaven, far removed from His people. The two passages in Revelation show that the New Jerusalem will be here on earth. As we read the next passage, we will see that this happens before the next set of events. Revelation 20:9 shows that the city is on earth before Satan is destroyed. Also if you Read Rev 21:2-8, you will see that the Holy City comes down and the destruction of the wicked is still in the future, "shall have their part".

As the thousand years are completed, the Holy City comes down to this earth, Satan is loosed and the wicked dead are resurrected. When you wake up in the resurrection, you certainly don't

want to see the New Jerusalem on this earth because that means you have woken up in the wrong resurrection. You will remember that we read earlier in Rev 20:5 that the wicked dead are raised in the second resurrection.



***Rev 20:7 And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison, 8 And shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom is as the sand of the sea. 9 And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city: and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them. 10 And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the***

***beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever. 11 And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them.***



When Jesus returns the third time with the saints and the



Holy City, the wicked dead are raised. When they are raised, Satan now has a people that he can deceive again. If you read verses 7-9 carefully, you will realize that there is going to be some time between the resurrection of the dead and the great army that Satan pulls together from the entire earth.

There will be enough time so that Satan can collect an army, train them, make plans and try to conquer the Holy City. Notice that the army is numbered as the sands of the sea, in other words, innumerable.

Obviously, the attempt to take the city fails and Satan and his angels are thrown into the lake of fire. Note that the beast and the false prophet are already there. The word “are” is added by the translators. This doesn’t mean that they are still burning in the fire. It means that they were thrown into the fire previously, as we saw in Rev 19:20.

**Rev 20:12** *And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.* **13** *And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works.* **14** *And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.* **15** *And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.*



This passage talks about the resurrection of the wicked dead, their judgment and their final destruction in the lake of fire. Let’s review this judgment of the wicked dead because it has its roots all the way back in 1844.

When the 2,300 day prophecy was completed in 1844, Jesus moves into His Day of Atonement role as High Priest in the Most Holy Place in the

heavenly sanctuary. At that time, judgment starts in the sanctuary for those people who believe in Jesus and keep asking for forgiveness. By the very fact that the unbelievers are not in the sanctuary, means that a form of judgment has already occurred. By their being excluded from judgment until after Jesus returns, their fate has already been sealed.

**Revelation 22:12** says, *'Behold I come quickly and my reward with me...'* **Revelation 11: 1** Says, *"And there was given me a reed like unto a rod: and the angel stood, saying, Rise, and measure the temple of God, and the altar, and them that worship therein."*

Since they are excluded from the pre-advent judgment, the actual judgment of the unbelievers start when the saints reign with Jesus for a thousand years.

**1Cor 6:2** *Do ye not know that the saints shall judge the world? and if the world shall be judged by you, are ye unworthy to judge the smallest matters?*

When they return with Jesus after the thousand years, the fate of everyone has already been decided. The last event is for people to review the records and agree that God is Just and that they deserve to die.

The final act is the destruction of the wicked in the lake of fire. Notice that God never planned to burn people. The lake of fire was created for the devil and his angels only, but because of the choices of the unbelievers, they end up with the same fate as the devil.

**Matthew 25:41** *Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels:*

What is so sad, is that God gave everyone a choice.

## The New Earth

If you read the 21st chapter of Revelation and the first 6 verses of chapter 22 you will get an idea of what the righteous have to look forward to.

## Review

Let's review all the events of this lesson.

1. The Sealing of God's people has been finished
2. The seven last plagues are poured out on those who have the Mark of the Beast
3. The righteous will be protected
4. Jesus comes back to this earth (Second Coming)
  - a. The righteous dead are raised and they with the righteous living meet Jesus in the air (Jesus does not touch the earth)

- b. The living wicked are destroyed
  - c. The Beast and False Prophet are thrown into the lake of fire
  - d. Satan is bound on this earth for 1000 years
5. Jesus returns to heaven with the righteous and they reign with Jesus for 1000 years
  6. Jesus returns with the Holy City at end of the 1000 years (Third Coming) and plants the city on the earth.
  7. The wicked dead are raised
  8. Satan is loosed and tempts his followers
  9. Satan organizes a huge army and attacks the Holy City
  10. The wicked are judged
  11. Satan and his angels and all his followers are thrown into the lake of fire
  12. The earth is recreated and we live on this earth for eternity

### **How Does This Show God's Love For Us?**

Once the sealing takes place, God protects His people. The rest of the world is left to the control of Satan but the righteous will not be harmed. As the last plagues fall upon the people, it will be obvious who is not being harmed, but Satan and His followers cannot hurt God's people anymore. God cuts the time short so that He can return to take His people back to heaven. With God's restraining hand taken from this earth, Satan will make it evident once and for all to the entire universe that God's way is the only way. Satan's way can only bring death while God's way brings life. When this is all over, we will forget all that ever happened except the fact that the laws of sin can never be considered as a replacement for God's law.

## Lesson Twelve - Is Salvation Free?



### Introduction

What if someone was to die and leave you \$1 billion in their will? Would you accept it? Now what if the conditions for accepting the money meant that you had to give up EVERYTHING that you owned, would you still accept it? You would be surprised at some of the things people hang on to. Trinkets that remind them of this event or another, family photos, family keepsakes, etc., etc. If you had to give all these up to get the \$1 billion, would you do it? It sounds so easy to say “yes”, but when the actual time came to give it all up, can you imagine how you would feel? I’m sure that some people would say they gave up everything, but would really hide something they just couldn’t let go of.

Salvation is a little like this. Jesus died and gave us salvation. All He asks is that we give Him everything. Our pride, our shame, our sinfulness, our brokenness, everything. It’s His anyhow, He paid for it on the cross. But how often do we continue to hang on to something that hurts us and keeps us from coming to Him completely? In this lesson we will explore salvation, faith, belief, and obedience.

### Before We Start

Our Father in heaven. We thank for the gift of Your Son Jesus and His

sacrifice on the cross. Help us to understand Your love for us and Your desire that we live with You for eternity. We pray this in Jesus name Amen

## How Expensive Was Salvation?

VERY EXPENSIVE. Jesus came to this world to die for us while we were still sinners. He gave EVERYTHING so we could live. For Him the price was high, for us it is FREE. He came to this world to die, knowing that many people would reject Him, but He loved us so much that He wanted to give EVERY-ONE a chance to live with Him for eternity.



**Rom 5:8** *But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.*

**1Tim 1:15** *This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I (Paul) am chief.*

Notice that Jesus died for us BEFORE we came to Him not after. He is trying to do everything He can to make it as easy as possible for us to be saved.

## The Money Is In The Bank

Our salvation is paid for and the money is already in the bank. All we have to do to write the checks on the unlimited balance. But there are a few things in the way. You and me! Some of us don't believe that the money is there, and others don't quite know how to accept it. Others want the money but they don't want to follow all the instructions to get it. They are trying to bend the rules, to get by with doing the least possible. Others just don't want it.

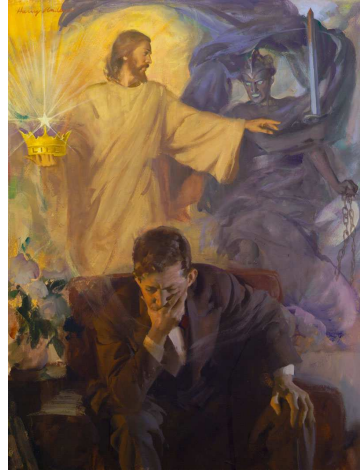
## What Is Choice?

People argue about the terms "accept" and "reject". Some people say that we already have salvation, it is free, all we have to do is reject it. Others say that Jesus' death made salvation available to us, all we have to do is accept it. How you look at these terms depends on the religious school of thought that you follow. But it still all boils down to making a choice. Even NOT making a choice IS making a choice. Not making a choice means that we continue in our normal ways. That means that we choose not to change. Heaven is not obtained on an unconscious choice. We will either



choose to accept Jesus and reject Satan or to accept Satan and reject Jesus. There are no other choices. The scales will tip one way, or they will tip the other way. There will be no one straddling the line.

**Josh 24:15** *And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.*



## Believe

**John 3:14** *And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up: 15 That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life. 16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. 17 For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. 18 He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. 19 And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. 20 For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved. 21 But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God.*

This passage has so much information in it. It tells us that God loved us so much that He gave His ONLY Son to die for us. Although we are sinners, He didn't come to condemn us but to save us. It also tells us what we need to do. We need to believe in Jesus. Notice that God does not condemn us, we condemn ourselves when we refuse to believe in Jesus. The condemnation comes when we reject Jesus and choose darkness or Satan. Evil deeds are done under cover of dark-





ness because people don't want others to see what they are doing. People that have nothing to hide are not afraid of the light which God brings. Besides we fool ourselves when we think we can hide anything from God. He knows everything.

**1Cor 4:5** *Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord come, who both will bring to light the hidden things of darkness, and will make manifest the counsels of the hearts: and then shall every man have praise of God.*

**Ps 44:21** *Shall not God search this out? for he knoweth the secrets of the heart.*

So no matter how bad we are, He already knows it. He still loves us and still wants us to come to Him. But to do that, we need to be honest with Him and give Him control of our life.. We can't come to Him and try to hide something. It just doesn't work.

## Repent

**Matt 3:2** *"Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near."*

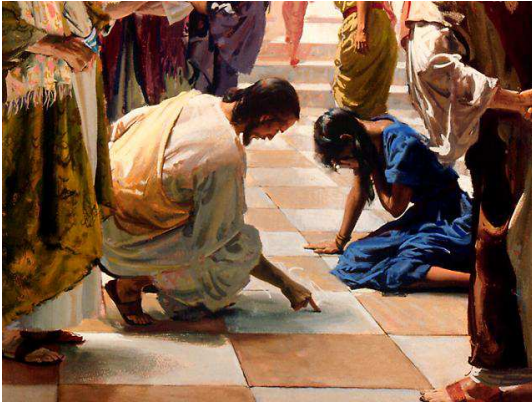
**Matt 3:8** *Therefore produce fruit that proves your repentance,*  
*(NET)*

These two texts are speaking of the ministry of John the Baptist. He went out preaching to all the people and his message was repent. In other words, be sorry for what you have done. But he also follows up with the text in verse 8 which says that if you are really sorry for what you have done, it will show up in your life. Your life will be changed and others will see the difference. That doesn't mean that all of a sudden you are perfect. It means that as you go down the road of life, you realize that you are heading in the wrong direction and you



make a U-turn. When you make that U-turn, you don't all of a sudden reach your destination, it just means that you're now headed in the right direction. You may still fall, but if you believe in Jesus, you will realize that with His help, you can become a better person.

Notice that repentance comes after you believe. How can you truly repent unless you believe? You also cannot see your own hopeless condition until you see Jesus. Only when you recognize your own helpless condition can you come to Jesus. He cannot work with you when your pride is in the way. After all, that is what got Lucifer in trouble.



There is a story about a woman caught in adultery. Some men brought her to Jesus wanting to condemn her and to trick Him. Jesus knowing what was in their minds, silently wrote their sins in the sand. As they saw their own sins being written, they slunk away. Jesus then tells the woman, that He doesn't condemn her, but that she change her life and stop doing

what she was doing.

***John 8:11*** *She said, No man, Lord. And Jesus said unto her, Neither do I condemn thee: go, and sin no more.*

There are many stories in the Bible about Jesus meeting with sinners. In almost every case, except Judas, when people left, they were changed. True repentance means that we are truly sorry for what we have been doing and that we will stop doing it with Jesus help.

## **That's All You Have To Do**

Believe on Jesus Christ and repent. These two things start you on the road to life. Satan only brings death, but Jesus brings life.

So if this is all you have to do, then what about obedience, and keeping the commandments and all those other things a Christian has to do? Well, first of all you can't do it on your



own. You don't have the strength. Only Christ can give you that strength. And, second, there is nothing that you can do to "earn" salvation. You can keep the commandments all day long, seven days a week, 24 hours a day, and that will not save you, As long as you think that that you can be saved by keeping the commandments, you are dead wrong.

But keeping the commandments, and obedience to God's laws play a VERY IMPORTANT part in our salvation. They don't PRODUCE salvation, they are a RESULT of salvation. We will look at these two items in more detail and how they are part of faith and belief.

## Faith

What is faith? Let's see what the Bible says in Hebrews 11:1.

**Heb 11:1** *Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.*

The Greek word that is translated into "substance" in this verse means; **1.** a setting or placing under; **a** thing put under, substructure, foundation **2.** that which has foundation, is firm, **a.** that which has actual existence **b.** the substantial quality, nature, of a person or thing **c.** the steadfastness of mind, firmness, courage, resolution, confidence, firm trust, assurance (Strong's Dictionary). So this means that a person with faith, is hoping for something real or substantial. Something that has a foundation.



The Greek word that is translated into "evidence" in this verse means: **1.** a proof, that by which a thing is proved or tested, **2.** conviction (Strong's).

Let's say this in modern English. Faith is a conviction that something real or substantial will happen even though we cannot see how it will happen. What happens when people are convicted? They follow through because they truly believe that it will happen. So, belief produces faith, which is conviction, that something substantial, will actually happen. When we are convicted about an idea, we actually work on making that idea come true. It changes our mindset, and it changes our behavior. If it doesn't do that, then our belief was not true belief. So our belief and faith in Jesus need to produce a change in our life.

Now before we get off on a tangent and start thinking this is some-

thing we can do under our own power, we need to remember that JESUS makes the changes in our life, NOT US. Okay, so how does that work? If you are convicted and truly believe, then you trust Jesus and submit your own wants and desires to His wants and desires. When you allow Him to work in your life, your life changes. The more we trust in Him, the more control we give to Him and the more He is able to do to us and through us. So you see that faith and belief lead to submission to Jesus. What He wants us to do, we do willingly. This leads to obedience because of love not because of duty.

***Heb 11:6 But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.***

So you see that Jesus requires faith as a condition of salvation. True faith and not presumption. Anything less than submission to Him is fooling ourselves. We must give up all self-pride. That was Lucifer's downfall.

## **Fighting the Fight of Faith**

How do we get this kind of faith? Very simple. We look only to Jesus.

***2Cor 3:18 But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.***

The more we look at Him, the more we are changed. Look around you in today's world. What is there in this world that makes you want to look at Jesus. Everything is fighting for your attention. Everywhere you look, you see sex and violence. Sin pervades every nook and cranny of our life. The more you look at this, the less you want to look at Jesus. There is a saying, "You are what you eat". Well you could also say, "You are what you look at". **WHATEVER YOU CHOOSE TO LOOK AT, THAT IS WHAT YOU WILL BECOME!** It's scary isn't it? But true!

So how do you break that cycle? On your knees. You ask God for help and turn away from your old life. This is the fight that Paul talks about in Romans 7.

***Rom 7:15 For that which I do I allow not: for what I would, that do I not; but what I hate, that do I. 16 If then I do that which I would not, I consent unto the law that it is good. 17 Now then it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me. 18 For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that***



*which is good I find not. 19 For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do. 20 Now if I do that I would not, it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me. 21 I find then a law, that, when I would do good, evil is present with me. 22 For I delight in the law of God after the inward man: 23 But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. 24 O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death?*

Here Paul is fighting with himself. Part of him wants to do the things of this world, and part of him wants to follow Jesus. This is the fight that we all have to fight. But this is a fight we cannot win unless we use the right tactics. We cannot win any fight against sin. We are too weak! But what do we do about this verse in Matthew in the words of Jesus?

***Matt 5:48 Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.***

This is just ONE OF MANY verses in the Bible that tell us that we are to be perfect. How can we do this when even Paul was having problems? Jesus is telling us that we CAN become perfect. How? ONLY ONE WAY! By looking at Him and Him only!

## **Why Are We Still Sinning?**

Many preachers and theologians have wrestled with this issue of sin in a converted person. If we give our lives to God, why are we still sinning? Very simple. We are not truly converted! Think about it. We come



to Jesus, we have a conversion experience, we get baptized, we attend a church and we follow all the rules. All the “right” things. Sounds a little bit to me like what Lucifer said in the beginning, “We can be holy without God”. Another word for this, “self-righteousness”. We depend on humanness to affect our spirituality, when humanness is full of sin.

We compare ourselves to others around us, maybe even the pastor or priest. We look at the “good things” we do and think that we are “progressing” in our spiritual life. What does God say?

***Isa 64:6 But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.***

## **Still Of This World**

The problem is that we are still of this world. We go to church, but then we go home and watch a movie or television program that is filled with sex and/or violence. We continue to look at the things in this world that we “gave up” for God. We still want to do those things. We are still attracted to the things of this world. We still put ourselves before others. After all, we are more important than them, aren’t we? How can we get ready for heaven if we continue to keep our hearts



here? God says in **Matt 6:21** “**For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.**”

As long as our hearts are here, we can never get there. So our fight is not against sin, it is against the desires of our heart. We need to turn our hearts away from this world and toward Jesus. How? By getting on our knees, asking for help and CHOOSING to look to Jesus. The more we look to Him, the less desirable the things of this world become. By filling our minds and hearts with Jesus, He cleans out the trash to make more room for Him. But this is a CONSCIOUS DAILY CHOICE. If we skip one day, Satan is so quick to move back in.

## **Obedience And The Commandments**

So where does that leave obedience and the commandments? Jesus says:

***John 14:15 If ye love me, keep my commandments.***

***John 14:21 He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him.***

***John 14:21 He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him.***

***1John 2:3 And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments. 4 He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his com-***

**mandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.**

The Bible is very clear that we should keep the commandments, ALL TEN OF THEM. But we said earlier that keeping the commandments would not give you salvation. We can't keep the commandments as a CONDITION of salvation but we can keep them as a RE-

SULT of our love and obedience to God. What is submission? It means giving ourselves totally to God in everything He wants us to do. Besides the commandments are a copy of God's character and His government. If we want to live in heaven, we must start living like that here and now. If we truly love God, we WILL WANT to follow Him even while on this earth.

So of what use are the commandments and obedience now? As a measuring stick to see how you measure up to God's expectations. If you are not following God's commandments, what are you holding back from God? What is so much more important to you than pleasing Him? The Bible is clear. Satan and people make things muddy. Many people don't like the word "obedience", but how else can we submit ourselves to Christ? After all, the opposite of obedience is disobedience.

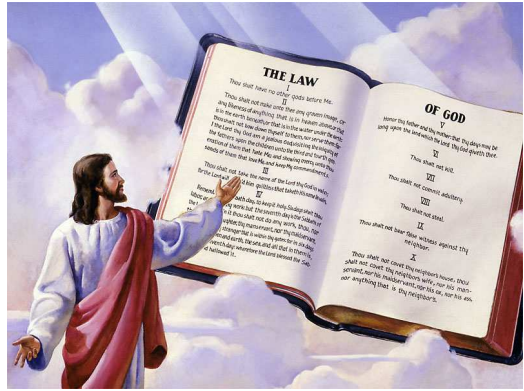
## **What About Love?**

Paul writes to the people at Corinth about love. No matter what else we have, if we don't have love, we have nothing. Doesn't this mean that all we need is love? Yes! Love for God and love for man. And where else is such a perfect love written down than in the 10 commandments? By giving our lives TOTALLY to Jesus, these rules become part of us automatically. We will want to follow them because to do so makes us more like Jesus. The DESIRE to follow them overcomes the DUTY to follow them. God gave so much for you. Can't we even follow Him in what He asks of us?

## **What About Grace?**

Today we hear "we don't have to keep the law, because we're under grace". Well what is grace?

Suppose you are driving down the street doing 60mph in a 45mph zone. A cop stops you. How do you treat him? Are you arrogant or are you repentant? Assume that you are repentant and instead of getting a ticket, you get a warning. Did you just get justice or grace? Okay, so now you have the warning, you start the car and continue going down the road at 60mph. Right? Not. You slow down and stay within the speed limit so





you won't get stopped again. When you were driving the speed limit, you were not under the law because you were not breaking it, but when you were speeding, you were under condemnation of the law and subject to either justice or grace.

Now assume that your attitude is a little ugly when you get stopped, or you continue to speed after the warning. Will you still get grace? Probably not.

It's the same with Jesus. When we sin and ask for forgiveness, he has compassion on us and He forgives us. But if we willfully continue to sin, there is no more forgiveness.



***Heb 10:26*** For if we sin wilfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins,

Grace is for the person who comes to God with true repentance in their heart. It is not for the person who uses this as an excuse to continue sinning. "I don't need to worry, because I can always ask for forgiveness and Jesus will forgive me." That type of attitude puts you outside of the mercies of Jesus. That type of person will get justice not grace. Just like our example.

## How Much Does Jesus Want You?

When He was on this earth Jesus told three stories that illustrate how much He loves us and how He is trying to get us to accept Him. These stories can be found in Luke 15.

The first story is about a sheep that is lost and the shepherd goes looking for the sheep. The sheep knows that it is lost but is helpless to do anything about it. Many of us are lost and we know we are lost but we don't know what to do about it. Jesus, the Shepherd will come looking for you.



Many of us are lost and we know we are lost but we don't know what to do about it. Jesus, the Shepherd will come looking for you.

The second story is about a lost coin. The lady of the house searched and searched until she finally found it. Many of us are lost and don't even know it. But

in spite of that, Jesus is still searching for that person also.

The third story is about the prodigal son. Here is a son who had a good home and family but he wanted to go out into the world and seek his own fortune. After some time he realized his foolishness and came back home. His father saw him while he was still “afar off”. When we stray from God, He continues to wait and watch for us. He can’t wait until we return to Him.

All these three parables show how much God really loves us and how happy He is when we are found.

## **Review**

1. Jesus died for us while we were still sinners
2. His death gives everyone a chance for eternal life
3. We will consciously make a choice to either accept or reject that chance
4. Our first step is to believe on Him
5. Our second step is to repent, or change our ways (with God’s help)
6. Belief leads to Faith which leads to changes in our life
7. We look to Him only for our example
8. As we learn to love Him, we learn to obey Him
9. The Ten Commandments are a reflection of God’s character
10. The Ten Commandments define pure Godlike love
11. We need to submit ourselves fully to Him in order to become more like Him
12. We either obey or disobey. There is no middle ground

## **What About Now?**

This is a good time to give your heart to Jesus. Ask Him for His help.

# Lesson Thirteen - The Mark of the Beast or the Seal of God



## Introduction

In an earlier lesson we touched on the Mark of the Beast and the Seal of God but we didn't go into a lot of detail. In this lesson we will cover in depth the difference between the two and the deciding factor that will push you one way or the other. But before we get into the meat of the lesson, we will look at three events in the Bible.

## Before We Start

Dear Jesus. This is an important topic and one that decides our eternal fate. Send your Holy Spirit on us and give us the wisdom to see Satan's deception for these last days. We ask this in your name. Amen

## Cain and Abel

Every one should be familiar with this story.

**Gen 4:1** Now the man had relations with his wife Eve, and she conceived and gave birth to Cain, and she said, "I have gotten a manchild with the help of the LORD." **2** Again, she gave birth to his brother Abel. And Abel was a keeper of flocks, but Cain was a tiller of the ground. **3** So it came about in the course of time that Cain brought an offering to

*the LORD of the fruit of the ground. 4 Abel, on his part also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of their fat portions. And the LORD had regard for Abel and for his offering; 5 but for Cain and for his offering He had no regard. So Cain became very angry and his countenance fell. 6 Then the LORD said to Cain, "Why are you angry? And why has your countenance fallen? 7 "If you do well, will not your countenance be lifted up? And if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door; and its desire is for you, but you must master it." 8 Cain told Abel his brother. And it came about when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother and killed him.*

Here we have the story of Cain and Abel and their offerings to God. Now God had told them that an acceptable worship to Him included the sacrifice of a lamb. This pointed forward to the sacrifice of Jesus. Our salvation can only come through His sacrifice. Abel brought the right type of sacrifice but Cain brought the best fruits of his labors. God was displeased with Cain's worship because; 1) He didn't bring what God had asked, 2) although he brought the best fruits of his labor, the sacrifice was based on his works instead of God's, and, 3) His attitude was unrepentant.



We see this very same attitude in worship today. The attitude says, "It doesn't matter how I worship God as long as I worship Him". The emphasis is on OUR concept of worship rather than GOD'S. This is just like Lucifer in heaven. "We can be holy without God". This is what Satan promotes today. This is part of the wine of Babylon. What happens when you drink? You get confused. Satan's wine is there to confuse people on how to worship God.

## **Making the Profane, Sacred**

This story in the Bible is about two sons of Aaron. The following text in Exodus shows that God called Aaron and his sons apart to be high priests in the sanctuary.

***Exod 28:1 "Then bring near to yourself Aaron your brother, and his sons with him, from among the sons of Israel, to minister as priest to Me—Aaron, Nadab and Abihu, Eleazar and Ithamar, Aaron's sons.***

Now whenever, the priests were to perform their services in the sanctuary, one of the duties was to present incense before the Lord at the Altar

of Incense. The fire that they were to use had to come from the Altar of Sacrifice in the courtyard.

**Lev 16:12** *“He shall take a firepan full of coals of fire from upon the altar before the LORD and two handfuls of finely ground sweet incense, and bring it inside the veil. 13 “He shall put the incense on the fire before the LORD, that the cloud of incense may cover the mercy seat that is on the ark of the testimony, otherwise he will die*

Well one day, Nadab and Abihu got drunk. While drunk, they took “strange” or regular fire from another source, placed it in their censers and offered the incense to the Lord. They were struck dead.

**Leviticus 10:1** *Now Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, took their respective firepans, and after putting fire in them, placed incense on it and offered strange fire before the LORD, which He had not*

*commanded them. 2 And fire came out from the presence of the LORD and consumed them, and they died before the LORD.*



**Lev 10:8** *The LORD then spoke to Aaron, saying, 9 “Do not drink wine or strong drink, neither you nor your sons with you, when you come into the tent of meeting, so that you will not die—it is a perpetual statute throughout your generations— 10 and so as to make a distinction between the holy and the profane, and between the unclean and the clean, 11 and so as to teach the sons of Israel all the statutes which the LORD has spoken to them through Moses.”*

Well how can you tell the difference between “holy” fire and regular fire? It looks the same. It burns the same. What is the difference? One is consecrated by God and required by Him. Again. God requires that we worship Him in the way that He specifies. When we try to take something that is not holy and use it for holy purposes, it displeases God. Just think of some of the music in the church today.

## **Making the Sacred, Profane**

Let’s go to the story of Belshazzar in Daniel.

**Daniel 5:1** *Belshazzar the king held a great feast for a thousand of his nobles, and he was drinking wine in the presence of the thousand. 2 When Belshazzar tasted the wine, he gave orders to bring the gold*

*and silver vessels which Nebuchadnezzar his father had taken out of the temple which was in Jerusalem, so that the king and his nobles, his wives and his concubines might drink from them. 3 Then they brought the gold vessels that had been taken out of the temple, the house of God which was in Jerusalem; and the king and his nobles, his wives and his concubines drank from them. 4 They drank the wine and praised the gods of gold and silver, of bronze, iron, wood and stone. 5 Suddenly the fingers of a man's hand emerged and began writing opposite the lampstand on the plaster of the wall of the king's palace, and the king saw the back of the hand that did the writing.*

Here we have the king of Babylon, a grandson of Nebuchadnezzar, getting drunk in a big party. While drunk, he called for the holy utensils that belonged to the Israelites and that had been dedicated to the sanctuary services. Now he knew better because he had seen how God had dealt with his grandfather, but being drunk, he lost all sense of wisdom. Once he had defiled the holy utensils, God sealed his doom. Weighed in the balances and found wanting. That night, Cyrus, attacked and took Babylon and Belshazzar was killed.



## **God Is Jealous In How We Worship**

God is a jealous God. He requires us to worship Him in the way that he has specified. If we take something sacred and make it profane, We will be punished. If we take something profane and make it sacred, We will be punished. Maybe not as fast as Belshazzar and Nabad and Abihu, but it will come. I know that this sounds harsh and is not what people want to hear, but consider this. God is unchangeable. He is the same God today that He was back then. His love for us is so great that He gave us His Son. All He requires from us is a little respect and thankfulness. He has identified His requirements. If we follow them, we are in His will, but if we rebel against Him, He will treat us just like Satan and his angels.

Why is this so important? The war in heaven started over worship and will end with worship. Who will we worship. God or Satan? Where does the rubber meet the road in this issue? It is centered around the day of worship. Why is this so important? The main emphasis is not so much the day of worship itself, but because of the AUTHORITY behind the day.

Whom do you worship? Who has authority in your life? God or Satan? Will you worship on the seventh day Sabbath as God has specified, or on the first day Sunday, as man has specified?

## Do I Have To Keep Saturday To Be Saved?

Before we answer this question, let's quickly review the Dark Ages. Many people were martyred for their faith. We all know the power that martyred them. It is the same power that will act the same way at the end of time. Did those martyrs know all the truth that we know now? Obviously not. But they held to the truth that they knew and were martyred for the portion of the truth that they knew, believed and died for. Were there Sunday keepers among those martyrs? With the exception of some of the early Waldenses, almost all of the later martyrs were Sunday keepers. So what's the big deal with the seventh-day Sabbath?



As the Reformation proceeded and the people were given more light, they were responsible for the light that they were given. The Sabbath was not a test of their loyalty at that time. The Reformation brought back the various truths that the papal system had changed. The light on the seventh-day Sabbath was not restored to the people until the early-mid 1800's.

**"And the times of this  
ignorance God winked at..."  
Acts 17:30**

**"Therefore to him that  
knoweth to do good,  
and doeth it not,  
to him it is sin."  
James 4:17**

What about the Sunday-keepers between then and now? God holds us responsible for the light we have been given. If a person has been given light on the seventh-day Sabbath and has rejected it, they will be responsible for that decision. But

many people have not been given the full light on the Sabbath and so therefore will not be responsible for not having followed it.

## So Why The Big Fuss Now?

Time is wrapping up. The final days are soon ahead of us. The final war will be on worship. Soon, every living person WILL HAVE TO CHOOSE

between God and Satan, and that will boil down to whom do you give authority in your life. If you remember from an earlier lesson, when the US makes an image to the papal system beast, and the beast REQUIRES Sunday worship, God's day is still the seventh-day Sabbath. Nothing that man can do can change that. It's part of the final days. But let's look at both sides of the question from a logical standpoint. Let's trace the origin of both seventh-day and first-day worship.

## The Origin And Authority Of Seventh-day Worship

**Gen 2:1** *Thus the heavens and the earth were completed, and all their hosts. 2 By the seventh day God completed His work which He had done, and He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had done. 3 Then God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it, because in it He rested from all His work which God had created and made.*



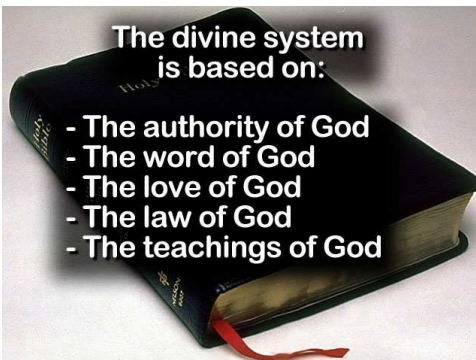
We don't have to go any further than Genesis 2 to see that God is the author of the seventh-day Sabbath. He sanctified it. In other words, He made it holy. For this reason alone and for no other reason, we should be careful in the way that we observe the day. Now let's look at the fourth commandment.

**Exod 20:8** *“Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. 9 “Six days you shall labor and do all your work, 10 but the seventh day is a sabbath of the LORD your God; in it you shall not do any work, you or your son or your daughter, your male or your female servant or your cattle or your sojourner who stays with you. 11 “For in six days the LORD*

*made the heavens and the earth, the sea and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day; therefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day and made it holy.*

When we look at this passage, Four things jump out at you.

1. “Remember”. This is not a new commandment. This is a





reminder that the Sabbath was set aside at creation and sanctified.

2. The Lord is God. This is who He is.
3. God is the Creator. This is what He does. This is His title. A reason for keeping the Sabbath is to remind us that God is the creator. Notice how evolution attacks that principle.
4. He created heaven and earth. This is His territory. He owns the heavens and the earth and ALL its inhabitants. He has authority over heaven and earth, the sea and ALL that is in them..

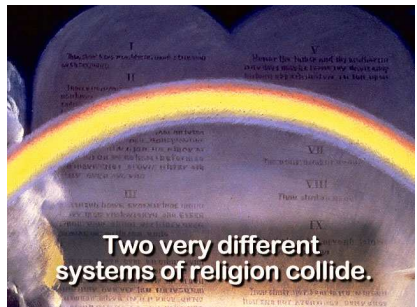
So the fourth commandment, more than any other commandment, identifies who God is, what He does and His domain or territory. This is a mark of His authority. You will find this in the seal of a country. Look at the example in the picture of the Seal of the President of the United States. You will see the title and the territory.



## The Origin And Authority Of Sunday Worship—Not From The Disciples

If you go back to the time of the disciples, you will see that they all worshipped on the seventh-day Sabbath. Even though all four gospels talk about the resurrection of Jesus on the first day of the week, nowhere do they say that the day of worship was to be changed. In fact, there is not one verse in the Bible that changes the day of worship from the seventh day to the first day. Some people try to use 1 Corinthians 16:1-3 and Acts 20:7-12 as proof that the disciples worshipped on the first day.

If you read the passage in 1 Corinthians, you will see that it is nothing more than counsel to put aside the tithe on the first day. This text in fact, testifies more to the secularness of the day than the day being holy. If you know anything about the Jewish Sabbath rituals, you will realize that the Jewish people would not engage in ANYTHING on the Sabbath that was business related. What Paul was asking them to do was to evaluate their finances and calculate their tithes and offerings which was to be the first things that should be given to God. What better day to do this than on the first day of the week before they got



involved in other business transactions.

In Acts 20:7-12 you have the story of Paul getting ready to leave on a journey and meeting with fellow-believers before he leaves. There is nothing in the story that designates that this was a Sabbath, or even that this was a communion service, as some claim. Let's look at this from another perspective. In today's churches, is it common to have meetings other than on the regular day of worship, regardless of if the day is Saturday or Sunday? The answer is obvious. Just because a group of people get

### **The Babylonian system is based on:**

- **The authority of man**
- **The word of man**
- **The works of man**
- **The law of man**
- **The traditions of man**

together for a meeting, doesn't necessarily mean that, that meeting changed the day they normally worship on. As far as communion is concerned, does it matter what day you attend communion? Does attending communion service on a Wednesday change the day of worship to Wednesdays?

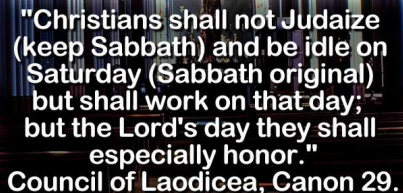
The other text that people also try to use is Revelation 1:10 where it says that John was in

the spirit on the "Lord's Day". No other references are made regarding what day of the week that was. As far as the apostles and the believers were concerned, the Lord's Day was the seventh day Sabbath.

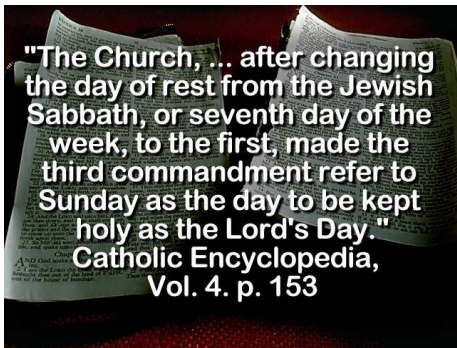
Other writers have tried to make a big deal out of the fact that the early Christian community was very close, met often in people's homes during the week and that this grew into a special day of worship apart from the Jews. However, if you read the New Testament, you will see that the Christians met regularly with Paul in the synagogues (Acts 18:4, 19; 13:5, 14,42, 44; 14:1; 17:1, 10, 17) and also with Apollos (Acts 14:24-26).

## **The Origin And Authority Of Sunday Worship—ca. A.D 50 - A.D 150**

For a while, the Romans looked favorably on the Jews and Christians and in fact adopted some of their customs. But the Jews, unhappy under Roman rule, began a number of revolts at various places throughout the empire, and soon earned the hatred of the Romans. Jerusalem was destroyed and later rebuilt as a Roman city. Jews were expelled from Rome along with the Christians, since the Romans often



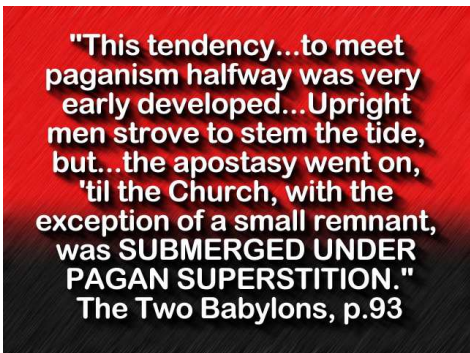
**"Christians shall not Judaize (keep Sabbath) and be idle on Saturday (Sabbath original) but shall work on that day; but the Lord's day they shall especially honor."  
Council of Laodicea, Canon 29.**



classified the two together. The hatred against the Jews during this period also extended to their worship services, including the Sabbath. So it became popular to try and wean people from Sabbath worship to Sunday worship. The Roman people had for some time worshipped the sun for a number of reasons, and it seemed natural that since the resurrection of Je-

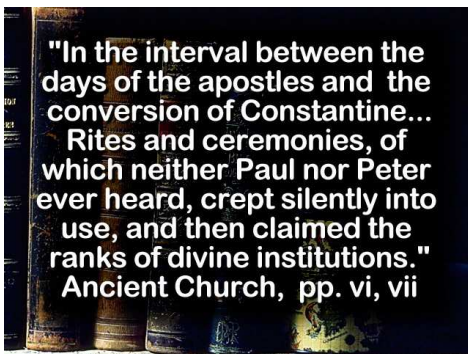
sus was on the first day of the week, the first day should replace the seventh day. So the people were taught that the first day was a day of rejoicing, but the seventh day was one for fasting and remembering the death of Jesus and remembering what the Jews did to kill Him.

During this time, many pagans were being converted, and with the original Jewish converts "out of the way", the trend away from the Jewish religious customs and especially the Sabbath began to take hold more quickly. Instead of the original Jewish converts, Gentiles were now becoming more numerous and taking over in spiritual leadership. This was accelerated by Hadrian and other Roman leaders who would not allow Jews into the cities.



Many of the early writers at this time like Justin Martyr, Horace, Cicero, Seneca, Petronius, Tacitus, Ignatius, Barnabus, Tertullian, Marcion, and others, wrote against the Jews and the "Jewish" Sabbath.

It was also during this time, when Clement, the Bishop of Rome, who wrote a threatening letter to the Church at Corinth resolving some issue, started to provide leadership over the other churches. This soon led to the supremacy of the Roman bishop and eventually to the establishment of the bishop at Rome as the leader of the church. The main issue that brought this to a head was the declaration by the bishop at



Rome that all the other churches accept and observe the Roman Easter, which some did at first and the rest followed eventually.

In his book, FROM SABBATH TO SUNDAY, p. 212, Samuel Bacchiocchi states, ***“We have found, that the change in the day of worship, seems to have been encouraged, on the one hand, by the social, military, political and literary anti-Judaic imperial policies which made it necessary for Christians to sever their ties with the Jews.... The Sabbath was in fact re-interpreted to be a temporary institution given to the Jews as a sign of their unfaithfulness.”***

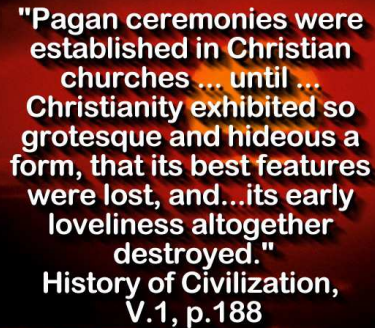
In Wharey’s CHURCH HISTORY, p. 54, he says. ***“Christianity had now become popular, and a large proportion, perhaps a large majority of those who embraced it, only assumed the name.... They are as much heathen as they were before. Error and corruption now came in upon the Church like a flood.”***

## The Origin And Authority Of Sunday Worship—Mithraism

The worship of the sun had been an integral part of pagan worship from as early as at least 31 B.C. when Augustus conquered Egypt and sent two obelisks to Rome to have them dedicated to the sun. (Piganiol, *Histoire de Rome*)

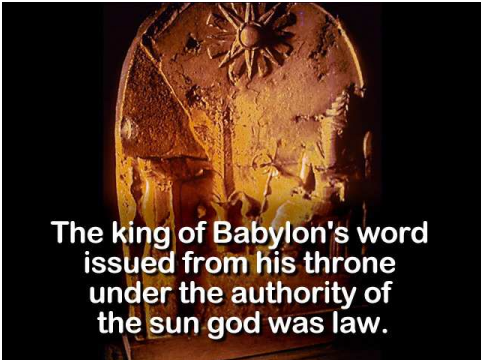
Mithraism was originally from Persia but the Romans changed parts of it to suit their own ways. There appears to be some argument as to when Mithraism appeared as a Roman cult. Some say as early as the middle

of the first century B.C., and others say in the first century A.D. Mithras was the name of the god and was almost always shown with the sun. The sun disc shown behind the head associated the person with sun worship. .

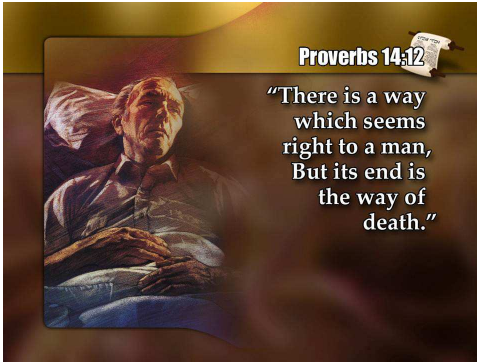


**“Pagan ceremonies were established in Christian churches ... until ... Christianity exhibited so grotesque and hideous a form, that its best features were lost, and...its early loveliness altogether destroyed.”**  
**History of Civilization, V.1, p.188**

During the second and third centuries A.D., the religious writers of the day began to push more and more for Sunday worship. Pictures of Jesus started to appear with the sun disc behind His head. Since the pagans were used to sun worship, this would help them feel more comfortable as they converted over to Christianity. In fact, the emperor Constantine said, (Edict of



**The king of Babylon’s word issued from his throne under the authority of the sun god was law.**



**Proverbs 14:12**

**“There is a way which seems right to a man, But its end is the way of death.”**

Constantine, A.D. 321,) ***“On the venerable Day of the Sun, let the Magistrates and people residing in the cities rest, and let all workshops be closed.”***

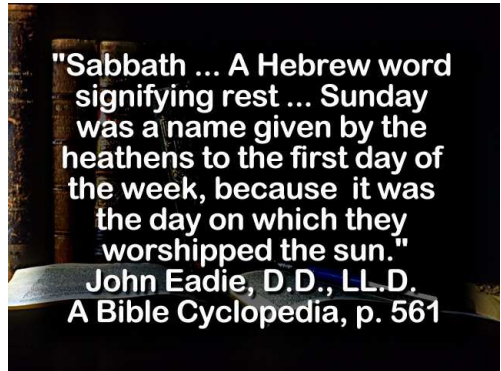
In the book, SIX DIALOGUES ON THE LORD’S DAY, p. 23, the writer writes, ***“Sunday being the day on which the Gentiles solemnly adored that planet (the sun), .... The Christians thought fit to keep the same***

***day and the same name of it, that they might not appear causelessly peevish, and by that means hinder the conversion of the Gentiles.”***

From THE CATHOLIC WORLD, March, 1894, p. 809, ***“The sun was a foremost god with heathendom.... The sun has worshippers at this hour in Persia and other lands... There is, in truth, something royal, kingly about the sun, making it a fit emblem of Jesus, the Sun of Justice. Hence the Church in these countries would seem to have said, ‘Keep that old pagan name. It shall remain consecrated, sanctified.’ And thus the pagan Sunday, dedicated to Balder, became the Christian Sunday, sacred to Jesus.”***

The Christians used to turn to Jerusalem when they did their prayers but as the hatred developed against the Jews, they began praying toward the east, where the sun rises. Many “excuses” were presented by various writers, as to why the Christians should pray while facing east.

The other change that occurred during this time was the adoption of December 25 by the Christians, for celebrating the birth of Christ. This comes right after the winter solstice and was regarded by the pagans as the birthday of the sun (dies natalis Solis Invicti), since this is when the days begin to get longer.

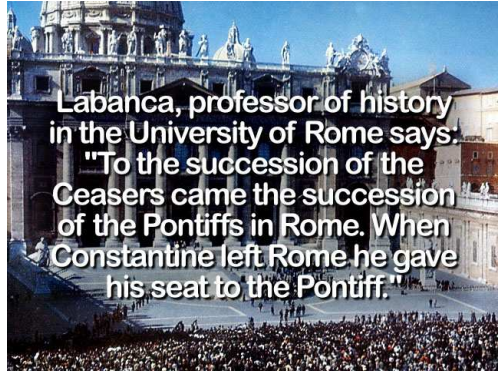


In order to bring Sunday worship into more prominence, they began to associate it with an “eighth day” movement. Saturday was the seventh day and represented the end of creation, while Sunday was the eighth day or beginning of the “new” creation after Jesus died. There were many different arguments presented by many of the writers at the time for the ac-

ceptance of the “eighth” day.

## The Origin And Authority Of Sunday Worship—The Roman Catholic Church

As I mentioned earlier, the bishop at Rome started to flex his powers near the end of the first century A.D. to take over as spiritual head over Christianity at that time. Using his power, he was able to force Easter-Sunday at first and then Christmas on the birthday of the sun. From this point it was a small step to take to assume more and more power, which we see happened. By A.D. 538 the bishop of Rome had assumed so much power that he had full control of Europe, not only spiritually but also temporally. All the monarchs of Europe now came to the pope to get his approval before they could govern their respective countries. His blessing was necessary before they could rule. In fact, the pope had so much power, that he could take a king’s kingdom away from him.



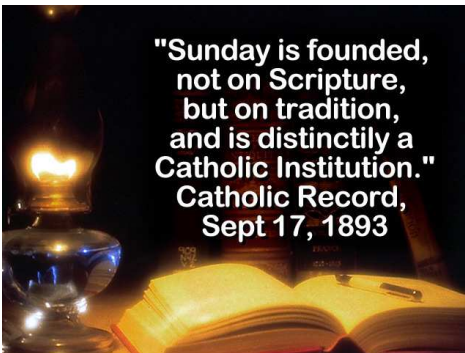
Labanca, professor of history in the University of Rome says: "To the succession of the Ceasars came the succession of the Pontiffs in Rome. When Constantine left Rome he gave his seat to the Pontiff."

In Abbot’s ROMAN HISTORY, p. 236, we read, *“The transfer of the emperor’s residence to Constantinople was a sad blow to the prestige of Rome, and at the time one might have predicted her speedy decline. But the development of the Church and the growing authority of the Bishop of Rome, or the pope, gave her a new lease on life, and made her again the capital—this time the religious capital— of the civilized world.”*

And Myer’s GENERAL HISTORY, p, 455, says, *“Under him was very nearly made good the papal claim that all earthly sovereigns were merely vassals of the Roman pontiff. Almost all the kings and princes of Europe swore fealty to him as their overlord. Rome was once more the mistress of the world.”*

With so much power in one person, abuse was not far behind. The Dark Ages tell the rest of the story.

***Dan 7:25 And he shall speak great words against the most High, and shall wear out the***



"Sunday is founded, not on Scripture, but on tradition, and is distinctly a Catholic Institution." Catholic Record, Sept 17, 1893

**saints of the most High, and think to change times and laws: and they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and the dividing of time.**

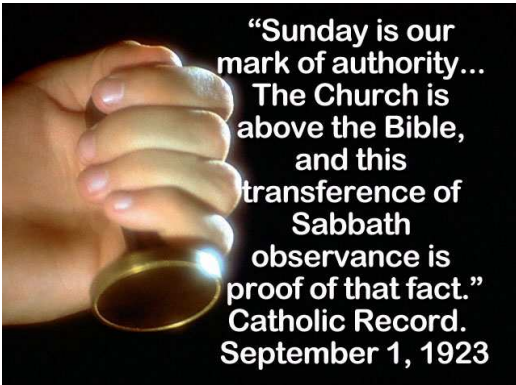
When Daniel speaks about this power, he says this power will try to change times and laws. Well we saw earlier how the papacy tried to change the way prophecy is interpreted, and we also pointed out that they would try to change the Law of God by changing the fourth commandment. But what does the papacy itself say about this?

Here is a quotation from the SENTINEL, May 21, 1995, written by the St Catherine Catholic Church. ***“Perhaps the boldest thing, the most revolutionary change the church ever did happened in the first century. The Holy day, the Sabbath, was changed from Saturday to Sunday. . . Not from any directions noted in the Scriptures, but from the Church’s sense of its own power . . .”***

**The Convert's Catechism**  
**“Q: Which is the Sabbath Day.**  
**A: Saturday is the Sabbath Day.**  
**Q: Why do we observe Sunday instead of Saturday?**  
**A: We observe Sunday instead of Saturday because the Catholic Church transferred solemnity from Saturday to Sunday.”**  
**Peter Giereman, 1948, p. 50**

From DIGNITIES AND DUTIES OF THE PRIEST, Vol. 12. p. 27, we read, ***“God Himself, is obliged to abide by the judgment of His priests, and either not to pardon or to pardon, according as they refuse or give absolution... The sentence of the priest precedes, and God subscribes to it.”***

From TORONTO DAILY STAR (newspaper), Oct 26, 1949, ***“Reverend Philip Carrington, Anglican Archbishop of Quebec, sent local clergymen into a huddle today by saying outright that there was nothing to support Sunday being kept holy. Carrington definitely told a church meeting in this city of strait-laced Protestantism that tradition, not the Bible, had made Sunday the day of worship.”***

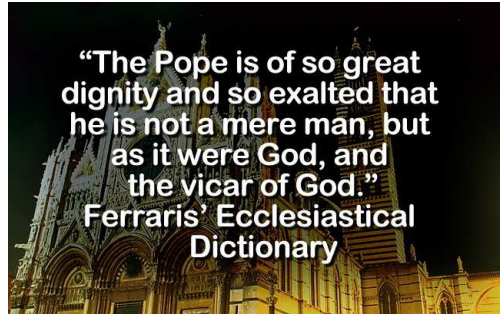


And from James Cardinal Gibbons, THE FAITH OF OUR FATHERS, p. 89, ***“You may read the Bible from Genesis to Revelation, and you will find not a single line authorizing the sanctification***

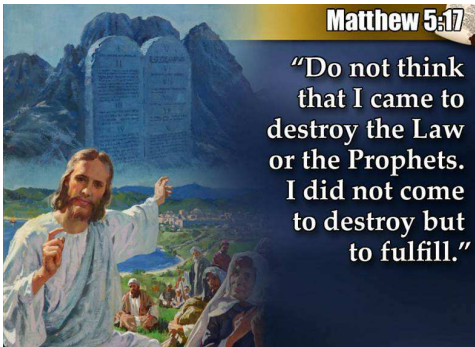
*of Sunday. The Scriptures enforce the religious observance of Saturday."*

## Then Why Do Protestants Keep Sunday?

Remember when we talked about the Reformation? Who was the "mother church" in the Dark Ages? Rome. So all the protestant churches sprang from Rome. Those churches that continued to follow the precepts of Rome, are really just an extension of the Roman Catholic church. As long as they continue to follow ANY of the rules of Rome, they are giving homage to the Catholic Church. Many churches today, claim to follow the Scriptures and the Scriptures only, but still worship on a day that was authorized by man and not God. They pick and choose from the Bible those things they want to believe, and the rest is not true. The Bible is either all true or none of it is true. Either believe the entire Bible or throw it out! Half-way worship will not cut it.



In the book, *THE FAITH OF MILLIONS*, Rev. John O'Brian, pp. 421, 422, we read, ***"But since Saturday, not Sunday, is specified in the Bible, isn't it curious that non-Catholics who profess to take their religion directly from the Bible and not from the Church observe Sunday instead of Saturday? Yes, of course, it is inconsistent, but the change was made about fifteen centuries before Protestantism was born.... They have continued to observe custom even though it rests upon the authority of the Catholic Church, and not upon an explicit text in the Bible. That observance remains the reminder of the mother Church from which non-Catholic sects broke away—like a boy running away from his mother but still carrying in his pocket a picture of his mother or a lock of her hair."***



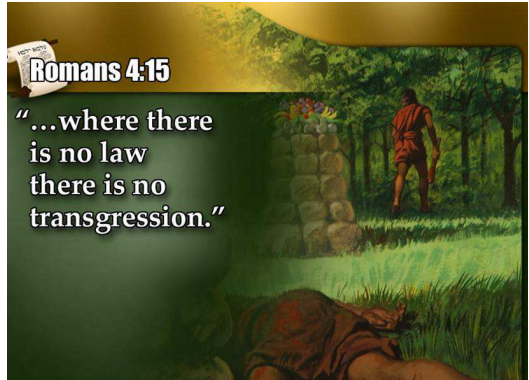
God has made it very clear in the Bible that His day is the seventh day Sabbath, but how many people say, "It doesn't matter what day I keep as long as I keep one day," or, "We don't need to keep the Sabbath because the laws were nailed to the cross." So tell me, Does it make sense that Jesus died to



eliminate the laws of His government? Now that He has died. There are no more laws in heaven. Everybody will just love each other. Then how can we be judged? We need to be measured against an objective yardstick. The ten commandments are the law of love and they will be the law that we will be measured against.

### Ask Yourself This

If you were to ask almost any churchgoer, “Do you keep the commandments,” they would say yes. If you would ask them if it was wrong to break a commandment, they would say yes. If you would ask them if the commandments are still valid, they would say yes. But then if you ask them about the Sabbath commandment, all of a sudden, there is a different answer and attitude. Now you might hear, “The commandments were nailed to the cross,” or, “We don’t need to keep the commandments anymore because we are under Grace.”



Why are all the other commandments binding, yet the fourth commandment is no longer binding? What is it about the fourth commandment that brings such a strong reaction? Why do people who say they love the Lord have such a strong reaction against His Sabbath? Is it that Satan has so poisoned our minds with the wine of Babylon, that we are confused? Something you might want to ask yourself.

### My Sheep Know My Voice

Jesus says in Matthew that those people who know Him will follow Him because they hear what He says and they know that it is Him. People who are drunk on the wine of Babylon (Satan) will not hear Jesus’ voice because it is strange to them. What is sad, is that when the truth finally becomes known to them, it will be too late. They will be lost.



## We Stand Alone

Many people are not sure of what to believe so they ask others, a friend, a pastor or someone else, whether or not something is true or false. Then they base their beliefs on the opinions of their friends, pastor, or other. But when it comes to the judgment and you are standing before God, you cannot point to anyone else and blame them for the decisions that you made. You, and you alone, are responsible to God for your decisions. Those decisions will determine your destiny for eternity. Please make the right decisions. God wants you to make the right decision. He has made everything as clear as possible, but He won't force you to choose Him.



## What Are The Chances Of A Sunday Law In The US?

Look around you today and see how many states already have a Sunday law on the books but aren't enforcing them. Look at the news and listen to the sayings of the "Religious Right". Look at the ecumenical movements designed to eliminate all these religions and bring them under the pope. It's already happening. It's sooner than you think. Jesus talked about seeing the signs and recognizing that the end is near. The harlot and her daughters will be plainly visible as we get into the last and final days. When the beast from the Middle Ages regains its power, we will see the same things happening right here in our beloved USA.

***Matt 16:1*** *The Pharisees also with the Sadducees came, and tempting desired him that he would shew them a sign from heaven. 2 He answered and said unto them, When it is evening, ye say, It will be fair weather: for the sky is red. 3 And in the morning, It will be foul weather to day: for the sky is red and lowring. O ye hypocrites, ye can discern the face of the sky; but can ye not discern the signs of the times?*

***Matt 25:13*** *Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh.*

We know Jesus is coming soon. The earth is groaning with all the natural and manmade calamities. The signs tell us it is near. I pray that we can all be ready to meet Him when He comes.

## Review

So what did we learn about the Seal of God and the Mark of the Beast?

1. The Seal or Mark is a sign of authority

2. A seal gives the name, title and territory of the person to whom it belongs
3. The war started with worship and it will end with worship.
4. God is a jealous God. He requires His way of worship not ours.
5. We should not try and make something profane into something holy
6. We should not try to make something holy into something profane.
7. God is the only One who sanctifies
8. God sanctified the seventh-day Sabbath and made it holy
9. As the church grew in size, the early Christians tried to distance themselves from the Jewish Sabbath
10. The Bishop of Rome grew in power so that he could force his beliefs on the rest of the Christian church.
11. Easter Sunday, Christmas and sun worship were brought into the early church to encourage more pagans to join.
12. The Catholic Church uses Sunday worship as its sign that it has the authority to change God's laws.
13. The final fight will be between two different styles of worship.

## **How Does This Show God's Love For Us?**

Time after time, God continues to warn us and to show us His way. He wants us ALL to be saved. His call is to ALL people in ALL churches. In Revelation 14 He gives the call to EVERYONE to come out of Babylon and come back to Him.

***Rev 14:6*** *And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people, 7 Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters. 8 And there followed another angel, saying, Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication. 9 And the third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand, 10 The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb: 11 And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name.*

Then He identifies those who listen to Him.

**Rev 14:12** *Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.*

Jesus is coming VERY soon. Please choose God and life. Remember, you MUST choose. No matter which way you go, it will be a conscious choice. In the final judgment, everyone, including Satan, will bow down to God and acknowledge that He is Just, He is Righteous and He is Holy.

Before you go any further, ask God to come into your life and give Him control of your life. This is not something that you can do on your own. Only He can do it, and He will if you ask.



## Further Reading

In addition to Wikipedia articles, you can go to the Christian Classics Ethereal Library (CCEL) at Calvin.edu They have the writings of the early writers from the first century on. A scholarly book that you may be interested in reading is, [From Sabbath to Sunday](#), by Samuele Bacchiocchi and printed by the Pontifical Gregorian University Press in Rome. I used some material from his book to provide a concise version of what occurred in the early Christian years.

## Study For Yourself

I can't stress this enough! Read the various articles I've identified and don't read them with a prejudiced mind. We all have opinions that we try to prove. But if we try to prove our opinions, we don't learn anything new. The problem with learning something new is that we may not like what we learn. We may have to throw a lifetime out the window and start all over again. How do you give up a belief that has been your whole life up to now? By falling on your knees and asking God's help. He will be more than willing to help. He wants ALL of us to be saved.

## A Word of Warning

As you surf the web, you will find many websites that have an axe to grind. They purport to show that certain truths or certain people are wrong or are leading people astray. I never pay attention to these. If you want to know what is true and what is false, you need to read the material

## Final Comments

I pray that this booklet has been a blessing to you. If so, pass it on.

I sincerely hope that you will see the gravity of the times we live in and give your life to Jesus. There is nothing that we can do on our own to be saved, but through Him, we can do everything. The main thing holding us all back (including me), is our inability to see the true face of sin. We live with sin and are surrounded with sin so completely that we fail to see the true character of sin. We tend to excuse it. There is no excuse for sin! Until we look completely at Jesus, we will never begin to comprehend the terribleness of sin. After all, it caused the death of the creator of the universe!

I look forward with faith to the soon coming of our Lord and Savior and I pray that when He comes, I will be in that blessed company of saints. I pray that we all will be.

If you wish to study further, the Amazing Facts website ([www.amazingfacts.org](http://www.amazingfacts.org)) is a good place to start. They have bible studies and sermons online, etc.

I can also recommend a set of books by Ellen G. White. She has a five book set which will guide you through the Bible. Her writings will bless you because she always points to Jesus as our Lord and Savior. [Patriarchs and Prophets](#) and [Prophets and Kings](#) cover the Old Testament. [Desire of Ages](#) covers the life of Christ, [Acts of the Apostles](#) covers the rest of the New Testament and [The Great Controversy](#) covers the story of the war between Christ and Satan. These can be downloaded for free from [www.whiteestate.org](http://www.whiteestate.org) or you can purchase them from any Adventist Book Store (all around the US) for as little as \$2.50 each.

### To My Catholic Friends

I have a number of Catholic friends and also some family members who are Catholic. I love them all. We know that God has His people in all churches including the Roman Catholic Church. If you are an honest seeker after truth, you will recognize that the things that the Bible says about the beast power, are true. The history of the papacy is not secret, and everyone knows of the abuses that occurred during the Middle Ages. The material presented in this booklet is not intended to condemn Roman Catholic worshippers. but to show what the Bible says about the role that the papacy plays in war between God and Satan.

I hope that you prayerfully study the Bible and see for yourself. Compare your beliefs with the Bible and ask for God's wisdom and guidance. Study the writings of the Roman Catholic Church and compare those against the Bible. Read Matthew, Mark, Luke and John and compare the life of Jesus with the leaders in your church. Make up your own mind based not on blind acceptance of the teachings and traditions, but on an

informed basis from your own study and investigation. God loves you and wants you to choose Him. May you be blessed as God continues to guide you in your search for truth.



