

Program: SS Panel 2024 2 Q

Quarterly title: The Great Controversy

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Lesson Title: 11 The Impending Conflict

Section title: Monday - The Coming Crisis

Record date: Wednesday January 24 , 2024

Note: This color and font = quarterly text

Note: This color and font = John Dinzey notes

Lesson 11

**June 8–14*

The Impending Conflict

Sabbath Afternoon

Read for This Week’s Study: *Rev. 14:7, 9, 12; Rev. 4:11; Rev. 13:1, 2; Rev. 12:3–5, 17; Rev. 13:11–18.*

Memory Text: “ ‘Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth’ ” (*John 17:17, NKJV*).

Monday

June 10

The Coming Crisis

The mark of the beast prophecy in Revelation 13 tells us about the fiercest and very worst stage of Satan's war against God. Ever since Jesus died on the cross, the enemy has known he was defeated, but he is determined to take as many as possible down with him. His first strategy in this campaign is deception. **When deception does not work, he resorts to force. He is ultimately behind the decree that anyone who refuses to worship the beast or receive his mark will be put to death.**

Religious persecution, of course, is not new. It has been around ever since Cain killed Abel for obeying God's command. Jesus said it would even happen among believers.

Read John 16:2, Matthew 10:22, 2 Timothy 3:12, and 1 Peter 4:12. What did the New Testament church experience, and how does that apply to Christ's end-time church?

John 16:2 2 They will put you out of the synagogues; yes, the time is coming that whoever kills you will think that he offers God service.

Matthew 10:22 22 And you will be hated by all for My name's sake. But he who endures to the end will be saved.

2 Timothy 3:12 12 Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.

We must through many tribulations

Acts 14:21-22 21 And when they had preached the gospel to that city and made many disciples, they returned to Lystra, Iconium, and Antioch, 22 strengthening the souls of the disciples, exhorting *them* to continue in the faith, and *saying*, "We must through many tribulations enter the kingdom of God."

savage wolves will come

Acts 20:28-30 28 Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.

29 For I know this, that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock.

30 Also from among yourselves men will rise up, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after themselves.

******READ******

Are our feet on the rock of ages? Are we hiding ourselves in our only refuge? The storm is coming, relentless in its fury. Are we prepared to meet it? Are we one with Christ as He is one with the Father? Are we heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ? Are we working in copartnership with Christ?. Ev 199.1

>>> Papi - the devil couldn't destroy God's church with persecution... decided to worked within and then....

1 Peter 4:12 12 Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you;

REF>>>Throughout Christian history, persecution was common. It happened in pagan Rome but was especially evident in the vicious persecution of Bible-believing Christians by the medieval church. The mark of the beast is but the final link in this hellish chain. Like past persecutions, it is designed to force everyone to conform to a certain set of beliefs and an approved system of worship.

>>> persecution Jews > Romans > Apostate Christianity

******READ******

The prophecy indicates that persecution will start with economic sanctions: no one can buy or sell unless they have the mark. Anyone who refuses to receive the mark will eventually be placed under a death decree (Rev. 13:15, 17).

no one may buy or sell except

Revelation 13:15, 17 15 He was granted *power* to give breath to the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak and cause as many as would not worship the image of the beast to be killed.

16 He causes all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on their right hand or on their foreheads,

17 and that no one may buy or sell except one who has the mark or the name of the beast, or the number of his name.

******READ******

The devil already is preparing professed Christians to receive the mark of the beast when the final test comes by encouraging them to make compromises in their lives. When it appears that the whole world is following the beast in wondering admiration (*Rev. 13:3*), suddenly the scene changes, and the prophetic camera focuses on God's people.

Question: Who is the war against ? Who is getting persecuted?

God will not allow you to be tempted beyond

1 Corinthians 10:13 No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God *is* faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear *it*.

Psa 46:1 **To the chief Musician for the sons of Korah, A Song upon Alamoth.** God *is* our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

Psa 46:2 Therefore will not we fear, though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea;

Psa 46:3 *Though* the waters thereof roar *and* be troubled, *though* the mountains shake with the swelling thereof. Selah.

Revelation 12:17 17 And the dragon was enraged with the woman, and he went to make war with the rest of her offspring, who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.

Revelation 14:12 12 Here is the patience of the saints; here *are* those who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus.

******READ******

Revelation 14:12 gives us this picture. "Here are those who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus" (NKJV). God's people live lives of godly obedience. By His grace, they stand firm when all around them everything is shaking. While the world is following the beast, they "follow the Lamb wherever He goes" (Rev. 14:4, NKJV). By the power of Christ, they triumph over the powers of hell arrayed against them.

As we saw in Lesson 9, the central conflict between good and evil is over worship. The beast uses deception and, when that fails, force and coercion.

How quickly now do you allow, if at all, economic considerations to compromise your Sabbath keeping?