

NOTES ON REVELATION

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“We have also a more sure word of prophecy, where unto you doe well that you take heed.”

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NOTES ON REVELATION

1. INTRODUCTION TO THE BOOK OF REVELATION

(Revelation 1: 1-8)

The Preface. Verses 1-3.

1. The Title. Verse 1.

The Revelation of Jesus Christ. The Apocalypse (Greek = a disclosure, a revelation). The book is the Revelation of Jesus Christ in that

- (a) It is-a revelation by Him.
- (b) It is a revelation of Him.

The book presents a panorama of Christ's glory, presenting

- (a) His enthronement with the Father since His ascension.
- (b) His overruling- providence in the affairs of men.
- (c) His coming again in triumph. In the Gospels we have, "Behold the Lamb of God." John 1: 29. In the Revelation we have, "Behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah" Revelation 5: 5.

In the first 71 verses of the book the name of Christ or some pronoun referring to Him is used 126 times. No book of Scripture excels Revelation as a manifestation of Christ.

2. Manner of Revealing. Verse 1, 2.

God the Father. Jesus Christ. Christ's angel-Gabriel. John the prophet-the human instrument. Mankind. John bore record of the Word of God and of the testimony of Jesus Christ. It is the Word of God because God is its source; it is the testimony of Jesus Christ because Christ is declaring the message. The words written are Christ's testimony. Revelation 22: 16, 20.

3. Character of the Book.

Revelation-something revealed. Therefore it belongs to us. Deuteronomy 29: 29. No seal has ever been placed on the book. Revelation 22:10. "The book that was sealed is not the Revelation, but that portion of the prophecy of Daniel relating to the last days." - Acts of the Apostles, Page 585.

4. Object of the Book.

(a) To reveal Jesus Christ. Verse (b) To reveal future events. (c) To prepare us for future events. Verse 3.

5. The Blessing. Verse 3.

The book opens and closes with a blessing. Revelation 1:3; 22:14.

The blessing comes to the doers. Revelation 1:3; 22:14.

The book reveals a company who receive this blessing. Revelation 14:12.

Read Testimonies to Ministers, Page 113: 3; 114: 3.

The Dedication. Verse 4.

"To the seven churches which are in Asia."

1. These seven churches were not the only churches in Asia, but, were probably the leading churches in the various groups.

2. We have no more reason for considering the book as merely local in its application than we have for other epistles of the New Testament Romans 1:1,7; 1 Corinthians 1:1,2; 2 Corinthians 1:1; Galatians 1:1,2, etc.

3. The entire book is dedicated to the seven churches, but it is plain that some of the events recorded have no particular reference to those churches.

4. The number seven is used in Scripture to signify completion or perfection. It is frequently employed with this meaning in Revelation. Thus the seven churches symbolize the whole Christian church during the whole period of its warfare from its establishment to its triumph; each church standing as a prophetic type of some period of the church's history.

5. Of course, the messages as found in chapters 1-3 were also of local application. God in His infinite knowledge and foresight selected seven churches which contained conditions that would represent

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the different ages of the church. He read the history of the Christian church throughout the Christian era in seven churches of John's day. Similarly the Old Testament prophets saw the future pictured in the events of the present.

6. The contention that the whole church is symbolized is further strengthened by the fact that the names of the seven churches are character names. The distinctive meanings of each name suggest that more than a local application is intended.

The Source of Blessing. Verses 4-6.

1. From the Father, "which is, and which was, and which is to come" denoting eternity of existence.

2. From the Holy Spirit "the seven Spirits" signifying perfection. See Isaiah 11:2.

3. From Jesus Christ

(a) The faithful Witness.

(b) The first-begotten of the dead-first not as to time but in point of importance. The central figure of all who come from the tomb. 1 Corinthians 15:20,23; Hebrews 1:6; Romans 8:29; Colossians 1:15, 18.

(c) The Prince of the kings of the earth.

Seated at God's right hand on the Father's throne, above all earthly rulers. Ephesians 1:20,21; Revelation 3:21. Will have complete dominion when He comes. Revelation 2:26,27.

(d) "Him that loved us."

To what extent? Verse 5. He exalts cleansed sinners to the position of kings and priests. Verse 6. In the civil realm and in the religious realm the Lord regards Christians as occupying the highest place. None are so precious in His sight as His own.

Central Theme of the Book. Verse 7.

1. The book points us forward to the end of the reign of sin at the Second Coming of Christ in all His glory. This is the climax of every vision.

2. Manner of His coming. Verse 7.

(a) With clouds. Cf. Acts 1:9-11.

It is a "living cloud" (Great Controversy, Page 641) that accompanies the Savior. The cloud is no doubt the resplendent glory of the innumerable multitude of angels who come with Christ. Matthew 16:27; 25:31. Cf. Desire of Ages, Page 831.

(b) "Every eye shall see Him": Referring to all, then living. The sleeping saints will be raised (1 Thessalonians 4: 16), but with the exception of those who pierced Him, and the most violent opponents of His truth and people, the unbelieving dead sleep on.

(c) Those who put Christ to death will see the Second Advent. Christ told His murderers they would see Him come. Matthew 26: 64. They will be raised some time before Christ appears. Daniel 12: 2; Great Controversy, Page 637.2.

3. The Prayer of the Church. Verse 7, last part. Every Christian should pray for the Lord's coming.

Alpha and Omega. Verse 8.

The first and last letters of the Greek alphabet.

"In the plan of redemption, Christ is the Alpha and the Omega-the first and the last." Patriarchs And Prophets, Page 367.

For Further Study

1. What titles are given to Christ in the Revelation? Write out a list and bring to class.

2. What does the number seven signify? Make a list of the sevens of Revelation.

3. How is Revelation related to Daniel? Source Book, 127,128 (Guinness). Acts of the Apostles, Page 585.

4. When was the Book of Revelation written? Hand Book for Bible Students, 34, 444, 445; Source Book, 456.

5. Write in your note-book three important extracts dealing with the importance of the Book of Revelation from "Testimonies to Ministers," Pages 112-118.

6. Memorize Revelation 1:3.

7. Read "Daniel and Revelation" (Smith) on Revelation 1: 1-8.

Questions on the Lesson

1. Give the title to the last book of Scripture. What is the original word, and what does it mean?

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2. In what respect is the book a revelation of Jesus Christ?
3. Contrast the revelation of Christ in the Apocalypse with that in the Gospels.
3. Describe the mode of God's revelations. What name is given to that which was revealed to John?
4. How could John's writings be called the testimony of Jesus?
5. Show that the Book of Revelation is not a closed book.
6. What is the purpose of the Book of Revelation?
7. Upon whom is a blessing pronounced? Will any receive the promised blessing?
8. To whom is the Book of Revelation dedicated?
9. What arguments would you use to show that the Book of Revelation is applicable to the entire Christian church during the whole Christian era?
10. From whom do the blessings to the believer come?
11. How can Christ be regarded as the first-begotten of the dead?
12. What topic forms the leading theme of the book?
13. Describe the manner of Christ's Second Coming.
14. Give the significance of the title Alpha and Omega.

2. THE VISION OF THE GLORIFIED CHRIST

(Revelation 1: 9-20)

Circumstances of the First Vision. Verse 9.

1. The writer: John our brother and companion in tribulation. A brother in the kingdom of grace. The kingdom of grace is in a world of tribulation. This tribulation is to produce patience in waiting for Christ's return to establish the kingdom of glory. Romans 5:3; 8:25; Revelation 14:12.

2. The Place: A small barren island off the west coast of Asia Minor. John was banished here about AD. 94 by the Emperor Domitian. SDA Hand Book, Page 444, 445.

3. Cause of Banishment: For his faithfulness to the Bible and his possession of the gift of prophecy. Domitian's attempt to silence John was a failure. Daniel And Revelation, Page 366.

4. "In the Spirit": Completely possessed by God's Spirit. In vision. Revelation 4:2; 17:3; 21:10.

5. Time of First Vision: The Lord's day, which can refer only to the Sabbath. Exodus 20:8-11; Isaiah 58:13; Mark 2:27,28.

In his Gospel John refers to Sunday as merely the first day of the week. John 20:1,19. Revelation 1:10 disproves the teaching that the Sabbath was abolished at the cross, for it shows the Sabbath being respected over 50 years later.

The Vision. Verses 10-20.

These verses are interesting as giving us a pen-picture of Jesus since His ascension to heaven.

1. One like unto the Son of man: He has identified Himself with the human family for ever. The glorified Christ is "the Man Christ Jesus." 1 Timothy 2:5. "God gave His only begotten Son to become one of the human family, for ever to retain His human nature." Desire of Ages, Page 25.

2. Head and Hair: White like wool. Resembles the Father's. Daniel 7:9,13. Denotes purity. Not likely that His hair was white when on earth. The white may have resulted from Gethsemane and the cross.

3. Eyes: Like a flame of fire; piercing; nothing is hidden from His sight. Job 34:21,22; 2 Chronicles 16:9.

4. Feet: Like fine brass as if they burned in a furnace. Probably caused by the reflection of the jewelled pavement of heaven's throne-room, upon which He stands. Exodus 24:10; Revelation 15:2; Ezekiel 28:14.

5. Voice: As the sound of many waters. Ezekiel 43:2.

6. Mouth: Containing a sharp two-edged sword. Refers to His Word. Ephesians 6:17; Hebrews 4:12.

7. Countenance: As the sun shining in its strength. Too bright for the wicked to gaze upon. Revelation 6:13-17; 2 Thessalonians 2:8.

8. Effect on John: Verse 17; Acts of the Apostles, Page 582.

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9. The Deliverer from the Grave. Verse 18. Christ by coming through the grave has wrenched the key out of the hand of the enemy. John 5:28,29.

10. John commanded to write of the past, present, and future. Verse 19.

The Interpretation. Verse 20.

1. The Seven Stars Are the Angels.

(a) The word for “angel” in the Greek is the same word as is translated “messenger” (Luke 7:24, 27), and can refer to a man as well as to an angel.

(b) In this verse it has reference to the leaders of the church, or to the ministry. Weymouth translates the word as “ministers.”

(c) Note Christ’s special care for His workers. See Gospel Workers 13, 14.

2. The Seven Golden Candlesticks (Greek, “Lampstands.” See R.V. margin).

(a) The literal rendering of the Greek is “seven golden lampstands.” There were seven lights burning (Revelation 4:5), not forty-nine, as would be the case had John seen seven golden candlesticks like the one in the earthly sanctuary. The seven golden lampstands take our minds back to the golden candlestick with its seven lights. Exodus 25:31-39. There is a difference however in the candlestick of the heavenly sanctuary. In the earthly sanctuary the lamps were branches from one central stem; but in the heavenly sanctuary each lampstand is apart and Jesus is “in the midst.” He is the Stem, the Man whose name is the Branch, the Upholder and Caretaker of His church. All light proceeds from Him. John 8:12. And so taking the place of the Old Testament golden candlestick are seven golden lampstands with Jesus “in the midst.”

(b) On Christ’s special care for His church read Acts of the Apostles, Page 586:1.

Christ’s Work in Heaven.

1. When Jesus ascended to heaven He commenced His work as our High Priest in the heavenly sanctuary. Hebrews 8: 1, 2.

2. Just as in the type the work in the first apartment preceded the work in the second, so at His ascension Christ commenced His work in the first apartment of the heavenly sanctuary. Hebrews 9: 6, 7.

3. In the vision of Revelation 1, Christ is revealed as man’s High Priest clothed in priestly garments. Revelation 1:13. Compare with Exodus 28:4,8.

4. He is seen officiating in the first apartment of the heavenly sanctuary where the seven lights of the golden candlestick are. Revelation 1:12.

5. Christ’s Work in the First Apartment.

(a) Caring for His church. Revelation 1: 13.

(b) Giving the church His Word. Verse 16.

(c) Protecting His ministers. Verse 20; Acts of the Apostles, Page 586:3.

John is given the assurance in this first vision on Patmos that as the church starts out on her mission Christ is with her. The same is true of the church today.

For Further Study

1. Read Daniel And Revelation, Page on Revelation 1:9-20.

Questions on the Lesson

1. Describe the circumstances of the first vision of John.

2. When and why was John banished to Patmos?

3. Explain the expression “in the Spirit.”

4. Prove that the Lord’s day is the Sabbath.

5. Whom did John see in vision? What name does he give to Him?

6. In John’s vision of Jesus how did he describe

(a) His hair?

(b) His eyes?

(c) His feet?

(d) His voice?

(e) His mouth?

(f) His countenance?

7. Describe the effect of the vision on John.

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8. What comforting revelation of Himself did Jesus give? What command did He give to John?
9. Interpret (a) the seven stars; (b) the seven golden candlesticks.
10. Where did John view Jesus? Show the harmony with other Scripture.
11. What does the first chapter of Revelation reveal as to Christ's work in the first apartment of the heavenly sanctuary?

3. THE PROPHECY OF THE SEVEN CHURCHES

(Revelation 2: 1-7)

Interpretation of the Prophecy of the Seven Churches

1. First the messages are of local application, being fitted to the needs of the seven churches in Asia to which they were addressed and sent. Revelation 11: 1-11.
2. Secondly, the messages are prophetic, and outline the history of the entire Christian church during the Christian dispensation, dividing the gospel era into seven characteristic periods. See Lesson 1. "The names of the seven churches are symbolic of the church in different periods of the Christian era. The number seven indicates completeness, and is symbolic of the fact that the messages extend to the end of time, while the symbols used reveal the condition of the church at different periods in the history of the world." Acts of the Apostles, Page 585: 3.
3. Again, the encouragement, the warnings, the admonitions given to each church are for the benefit of all in all times. We are earnestly exhorted to hear "what the Spirit saith unto the churches" (plural). Revelation 2: 7, 11-17, 29; 3: 6, 13, 22.
4. Seventh-day Adventists are not alone in applying the prophecy of the seven churches symbolically. Other great students of prophecy have regarded the messages to the seven churches as symbolic. SDA Source Book, Page 522 (Vittinga, Lange, Gordon), 523 (Jurieu).
5. The Lord always uses appropriate symbols, and the more we know about the symbol the more light will be thrown upon the prophecy. Therefore, in the following studies, before interpreting the prophecy, we shall spend some time in acquainting ourselves with the local church and with, the city.

EPHESUS

Meaning: Desirable.

The City: May be characterized as The City of Change.

See "Further Thoughts on Daniel and Revelation" (A. W. Anderson), Pages 18, 19.

It was the leading city of Asia, and was adorned with beautiful temples, of which the temple of Diana was chief. In later years the harbour gradually filled with sediment, and the city was compelled to move. Today the harbour is a morass, and the city a heap of ruins.

The Local Church: Organized AD. 56 by Paul with 12 charter members (Acts 19:1-7); under Paul's labours a large church was raised up despite much opposition (Acts 19:8-41); believers noted for love and unity (Ephesians 1: 15); a change came later when false teachers crept in (Acts 20:29-31).

The Universal Church: Read Daniel And Revelation, Page 373-379.

1. Period: The first century of the Christian era, AD 31-100. The Apostolic age. A desirable time in which to live. Why?
2. The Revelation of Christ: Verse 1. The Guardian and Caretaker of the church and its workers.
3. The Commendation: Verse 2, 3. For works, labor, patience, and efforts to keep the church pure.
4. Reproof: Verse 4. "Thou hast left thy first love."
Read Acts of the Apostles, Page 580: 1, 2. Note the causes for the change.
"The time should never come in a Christian's experience when, if he were asked to mention the period of his greatest love to Christ, he would not say, The present moment." Daniel And Revelation, Page 375.
5. Instruction: Verse 5. Remember, Repent, Do. "Repent at once, and act as you did at first." (Weymouth.)
6. Warning: Verse 5. Terrible consequences follow if we fail to heed God's instruction.
7. Encouragement: Verse 6. Jesus loves to commend. The Nicolaitanes, noted for evil deeds (v. 6) and evil doctrines (v. 15), were compromisers with paganism. The church is commended for not

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compromising with paganism.

8. Promise to the Overcomer: Verse 7. They would eat of the tree of life.

For Further Study

1. Can works compensate for love?
2. Who were the Nicolaitanes?
3. Where is the paradise of God? Revelation 2:7; 2 Corinthians 12:2,4; Genesis 3: 24; Revelation 22:2.
4. Draw a map showing the location of the seven churches and of Patmos. See "Further Thoughts."
5. Might the reproof given to Ephesus have an application to the remnant church?
6. Read article, "Seven Churches-First Period," in SDA Source Book, Page 523, 524.

Questions on the Lesson

1. Summarize carefully the principles which govern a correct interpretation of the letters to the seven churches.
2. Name some prominent Bible students who apply the messages to the seven churches prophetically.
3. Give the meaning of "Ephesus." Sketch the character and history of the city.
4. Give a brief record of the local church.
5. What period of church history is symbolized by Ephesus? Explain the fitness of the symbol.
6. How is Jesus revealed to Ephesus? What is fitting about such a revelation?
7. For what is Ephesus commended? Reproved?
8. What caused the departure from the first love? How may it be regained?
9. What consequences will follow a failure to repent?
10. Why were the Nicolaitanes condemned?
11. What promise is given to the overcomer?

4. SMYRNA

(Revelation 2:8-11)

Meaning: "A sweet-smelling savour"-Signifies myrrh; the plant was more fragrant by being crushed.

The City: Smyrna was the City of Faithfulness and of Life. See "Further Thoughts" (Anderson), pp. 21, 22. It was captured and destroyed by the Lydians in 600 BC, and lay in ruins for 400 years. Rebuilt, it became a flourishing city under the Greeks, to be destroyed by earthquake AD 178, and rebuilt by Marcus Aurelius. It has been repeatedly destroyed, last time in 1922, but has always risen from the dead. Population today about 300,000. It is an important city still.

The Local Church: Believers were mostly poor in this world's goods, but were noted for their faith. They suffered repeated and bitter persecutions, first by Romans, later by Turks.

The Universal Church: Read Daniel And Revelation, Page 379-383.

1. Period: AD 100-313. From the close of the first century to the Edict of Milan.
2. The Revelation of Christ: Verse 8. The Victor of the Tomb. This revelation was especially adapted to meet the needs of a persecuted church.
3. The Commendation: Verse 9.
 - (a) For works in the midst of tribulation and poverty.
 - (b) For spiritual riches though they were poor in this world's possessions. Many of the Christians of this period were outcasts for their faith.
 - (c) For their steadfastness in the face of opposition from false brethren who belonged to Satan's church. Romans 2:28, 29; 9:6, 7; Revelation 17:5, 6; Daniel And Revelation, Page 380.
4. Words of Encouragement: Verse 10. During this time the Roman emperors were trying to save paganism by persecuting Christianity. The severest persecution and the last was by Diocletian, lasting just ten years, from AD. 303-313. A crown of life awaits all who are faithful unto death. The circular street around the hill Pagus in Smyrna was called the Crown of Gold. No reproof is given in this letter.

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Persecution kept the church pure. It was more fragrant by being crushed.

5. Promise to the Overcomer: They would be raised in the first resurrection. Revelation 20: 6.

For Further Study

1. Which of the seven churches is not reproved?
2. What is the effect of persecution upon the church? Great Controversy, Page 44, 48.
3. When will the crown of life be bestowed? Supply texts for your answer.
4. When does the second death take place? Revelation 20:6; 21:8.
5. Pagan persecutions. Consult histories. Outline the leading persecutions of Pagan Rome.
6. How may the remnant church be benefited by the message to the church of Smyrna?
7. Read from SDA Source Book, Page, Pages 524, 525, on Smyrna.

Questions on the Lesson

1. Give the meaning of "Smyrna." Sketch the character and history of the city.
2. Give a brief record of the local church.
3. What period of universal church history is symbolized by Smyrna? Explain the fitness of the symbol.
4. How does Christ reveal Himself to Smyrna? Show the fitness of the revelation.
5. For what is Smyrna commended? What words of encouragement are given?
6. Who are meant by "them which say they are Jews and are not"? "the synagogue of Satan"?
7. What promise is given to the overcomer?

5. PERGAMOS

(Revelation 2:12-17)

Meaning: Height, elevation, exaltation.

The City: May be characterized as The City of Authority. See "Further Thoughts" (Anderson), Pages 22-28. Pergamos was a capital city; the Attalid kings had it as their capital, then it was capital of the ~ingdom of Pergamum. Beginning 282 BC, it was a royal city for 500 years, and was the official residence of the Roman governor of Asia for 250 years. Built on an immense rock, a natural fortification, it derived its name from its situation. Pergamos was also the administrative centre of the State religion.

The Local Church: Situated at the very centre of Satan's dominion, it courted worldly honour and favour, and became contaminated with the proud spirit of the city. It did not expel false teachers, and became united with the world.

The Universal Church: Read Daniel And Revelation, Page, 383-387.

1. Period: AD 313-538. From the Edict of Constantine to the establishment of papal supremacy. This period sees the elevation of, professed Christianity over paganism. It has the period of the great apostasy and of the exaltation of the "man of sin." 2 Thessalonians 2:3,4; SDA Source Book, Page 35 (Killen). Christianity compromised with the world, and became "baptized paganism." SDA Source Book, Page 36 (Newman, Lactantius).

2. The Revelation of Christ: Verse 12. The Christ of Authority, who separates between truth and error. The two-edged sword worn in the Roman army by those of high rank was a symbol of the highest official authority.

3. The Commendation: Verse 13. The Lord takes man's environment into account. Psalm 87:4-6. Satan's Seat: "Where the Throne of Satan stands." (20th Cent. Trans.) Three great heathen temples were erected in Pergamos in honour of pagan deities. The most prominent temple was to the sun-god. SDA Source Book, Page 526, 527 (Hislop, Note). During this -period, Satan had made his seat right in the professed church of God. Antipas: It is reasonable to conclude that in Pergamos of John's day there was a faithful Christian by this name who had suffered martyrdom for his faith. Antipas stands as a type of all Christians who in the Pergamos period were martyred for their refusal to submit to the growing papal apostasy.

4. Reproof: Verses 14, 15.

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(a) For holding the doctrine of Balaam. Balaam's doctrine was one of compromise with the world in practice and belief. Patriarchs And Prophets, Page 451:2-4; 454:3,4. There was an unlawful union between the church and the world in the Pergamos period, which led to a union of civil and religious power and culminated in the Papacy. SDA Source Book, Page 525, 526.

(b) For holding the doctrine of the Nicolaitanes, i.e., pagan doctrines.

5. Warning: Verse 16. Repent-by cleansing the church of false brethren and returning to the truth.

6. Promise to the Overcomer: Verse 17. Hidden Manna: Christ is the true manna, and we are to feed upon His words. John 6: 49, 50, 53. A White Stone: White stones of various shapes were used by the Romans as tickets of admission as passes, etc. Often the secret name of the devotee's god was carved upon the stone. The promise is one of admission to heaven. The Christian admitted to heaven will receive a new name descriptive of his character or experience.

For Further Study

1. For what two forms of worship was the city of Pergamos noted? SDA Source Book, Page 526, 527 (Hislop, and note by editors).
2. What errors crept into the church during this period?
3. What false system of religion was transferred to Pergamos?
4. How was this system related to the papal? SDA Source Book, Page 72 (Barker); 67, 70 (Hislop).
3. What change is noticeable in Satan's tactics in the periods of Smyrna and Pergamos?
4. How does the message to Pergamos show that God does not excuse wrongs because of environment?
5. Read SDA Source Book, Page, art. "Seven Churches-Pergamos," Patriarchs And Prophets, Page 525-527, noting any additional thoughts.

Questions on the Lesson

1. Give the meaning of Pergamos. Sketch the character and history of the city. Give a brief record of the local church.
2. What period of church history is symbolized by Pergamos? Show the fitness of the symbol.
3. How does Christ reveal Himself to Pergamos? Why?
4. What caused the great apostasy from the early Christian faith?
5. How does this letter show that God is mindful of man's environment?
6. Show the fitness of the description "even where Satan's seat is" (1) to Pergamos, (2) to the Pergamos period of church history.
7. Who is referred to by the name Antipas?
8. For what are the Christians of the Pergamos period reproved? What are they urged to do?
9. What promise is given to the overcomer?

6. THYATIRA

(Revelation 2:18-29)

Meaning: Song of labour; sacrifice of contrition.

The City: May be characterized as The City of Weakness. See "Further Thoughts" (Anderson), pp. 28-31.

Thyatira was founded by Seleucus I about 300 BC. Its history has not been recorded. Its population was mostly of the labouring class. The town was noted for the art of dyeing. Acts 16: 14.

The Local Church: Noted for its service amidst persecution. Surrounded by false religions.

The Universal Church: Read Daniel And Revelation, Page 387-391.

1. Period: AD 538-1798. The period of Papal Supremacy. Embraces the Dark Ages and the Reformation. A time of terrible persecution by an apostate church. Matthew 24:21,22; Daniel 7:21,25.

2. The Revelation of Christ: Verse 18. The All-seeing Son of God.

3. The Commendation: Verse 19.

(a) For works, charity, service, faith, and patience.

(b) For an improvement in labour for God towards the end of the period. "I know . . . that

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of late you have toiled harder than you did at first.” (Weymouth.)

4. Reproof: Verse 20. For permitting false teachings and practices.

Jezebel: As in Pergamos Antipas represents a class of people, so here also Jezebel represents the Papacy. Note the fitness of the type:

Jezebel: A heathen, married Ahab; led Israel into apostasy; persecuted; professed to be a prophet.

Papacy: Baptized paganism; an apostate system; persecuted bitterly, professed to be God’s people.

Verse 21: The union between church and state is called spiritual fornication. The precious light of the Reformation gave the Papacy the opportunity to repent and follow truth, but “she repented not.” Rome refused to be reformed.

Verse 22, 23: Jezebel’s punishment. It will occur when Christ comes. Revelation 18:5-8.

Her Children: Apostate Protestant churches.

5. Encouragement: Verse 24.

6. Admonition: Verse 25. “Hold fast till I come.” A message to the churches that came out of Romanism. The first great sign of Christ’s coming occurred in this period - the Dark Day, May 19, 1780.

7. Promise to the Overcomer: Verse 26-29.

The one who endures will be saved. Matthew 24:13.

(a) “Power over the nations.” During the Thyatira period it was the other way around-nations oppressed the church.

(b) A promise of Christ Himself. Revelation 22:16.

For Further Study

1. What does Wylie say about the noon of papal supremacy? SDA Source Book, Page 373. Memorize last sentence.

2. Who are, finally given into Christ’s hands? When? Psalm 2: 8, 9.

3. In what work do the righteous share? 1 Corinthians 6:2,3; Psalm 149: 9.

4. Note Daniel’s description of the Thyatira period. To whom are these words applicable? Daniel 11:32,33; Great Controversy, Page 70-75.

5. Read article, “Seven Churches-Thyatira,” in SDA Source Book, Page

Questions on the Lesson

1. Give the meaning of Thyatira. Sketch the character and history of the city.

2. To what period of church history does the letter apply?

3. How is Jesus revealed to this church? Explain the force of such a revelation.

4. For what is Thyatira commended? Reproved?

5. Who is symbolized by Jezebel? By her daughters?

6. What words of encouragement are given?

7. What sign of Christ’s advent occurred during the Thyatira period?

8. What promise is given to the overcomer?

7. SARDIS

(Revelation 3:1-6)

Meaning: That which remains.

The City: May be characterized as The City of Death,

See “Further Thoughts,” Pages 33-36.

Founded 1200 BC, it was the capital of Lydia, and one of the greatest cities of primitive history. It was built upon a platform of rock. Its glory had gone in the time of Rome, and its name alone made it of note. Today it is a heap of ruins. Its situation gave a feeling of over-confidence to its defenders.

The Local Church: Probably raised up when Paul laboured at Ephesus. A lifeless, spiritless church.

The Universal Church: Read Daniel And Revelation, Page 392-395.

1. Period: AD 1798-1833. The history of the Reformed Churches. Followed the period of great

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persecution.

2. The Revelation of Christ: Verse 1. The Supplier of the Spirit, and the Guardian of His ministers.

3. The Condemnation: Verse 1. The great fault—a name to live but was dead. Pride and popularity grew at the expense of spirituality. Verse 2. “I have not found thy works fully performed before God.” (Emph. Diag.) The Reformation was not completed, for the churches refused to advance in revealed light. SDA Source Book, Page 528 (Bancroft, Haldeman); Great Controversy, Page 297, 298. As a result, even the truth gained was ready to die.

4. Instruction: Verses 2, 3. “Be watchful.” Over-confidence had made them careless. “Strengthen the things which remain.” “Remember,” “hold fast,” “repent” (“reform,” Emph. Diag).

5. Warning: Verse 3. Failure to watch would find them unprepared when the judgment came. (See Weymouth’s translation.) The “falling away” and the Reformation had passed, and the investigative judgment was about to commence. Matthew 24:42-46; Luke 21:34-36; 1 Thessalonians 5:3-5.

6. Encouragement: Verse 4. A few even in Sardis were alive in a dead church. They would receive their reward. White was the Roman triumph colour.

7. Promise to the Overcomer: Verses 5, 6.

White Raiment: The robe of Christ’s righteousness in place of our sin. Zechariah 3:4,5; Revelation 19:8.

The book of life contains the names of the candidates for eternal life. Sin causes the name to be expunged from the Book of Life. Acts 3:19; 1 Corinthians 9:27.

Confess His name: Christ will give the reward on condition that we confess His name. Matthew 10:32,33; Mark 8:38; Luke 12:8,9.

For Further Study

1. Read SDA Source Book, Page, art. “Seven Churches-Sardis.”
2. “A few names even in Sardis.” Name some faithful Christians of this period.
3. On the condition of the Reformed Churches read Great Controversy, Page 384-390.

Questions on the Lesson

1. Give the meaning of Sardis. Sketch the character and history of the city.
2. What period of church history is covered by Sardis? Explain the fitness of the symbol.
3. How is Jesus revealed to Sardis? Why?
4. What fault is found with Sardis? Describe the condition of the church during this period.
5. What was the cause?
6. What instruction and warning is issued to a dying church?
7. What is the only commendable word spoken about Sardis?
8. What promise is given the overcomer?

8. PHILADELPHIA

(Revelation 3:7-13)

Meaning: Brotherly love.

The City: May be characterized as The Missionary City. See “Further Thoughts,” Pages 36-41.

Built by Attalus Philadelphus, it was the key to the pass through the mountains, Frequent earthquakes often caused the inhabitants to flee from the city. It held out for eleven years against the Turks.

The Local Church: Mentioned only in Revelation. Believers were noted for their love, for their works, and for their devotion to God’s Word.

The Universal Church: Read Daniel And Revelation, Page 395-399.

1. Period: AD. 1833-1844. Covers in particular the period of the Advent Message. A time of great love and unity among the believers. Daniel And Revelation, Page 395, 396.

2. The Revelation of Christ.: Verse 7. The True and Holy One, who ministers in the sanctuary.

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The Key of David: A symbol of power and authority. Isaiah 22:22. He is pictured thus because the time when He would reign on David's throne was drawing near. Luke 1:32,33; Ezekiel 21:25-27.

Opening and Shutting:

(a) The Lord Jesus opens and shuts the grave. Revelation 1:18.

(b) Christ alone can open and shut the doors of the heavenly sanctuary. The text signifies the transference of Christ's ministry from the first to the second apartment. Revelation 11:19; Great Controversy, Page 428-430; 435:1.

(c) The second apartment is open before men, and they may now understand His ministry in heaven in its fullness. Verse 8; Early Writings 42:1,2; 86:

3. Encouragement: Verses 8, 9. This was an era when many professed to be Christians, but were proved to be wanting by their relation to the Advent Message proclaimed. Great Controversy, Page 379, 380. The churches who opposed the Advent doctrine will finally see that it was the truth, and will bow before the feet of those whom they opposed. Verse 9.

4. Promise: Verse 10. In the great hour of test just before them, God would keep His people. Psalm 27:5.

5. Admonition: Verse 11. "Behold, I come quickly" -the event is drawing near. Compare with 2:25 and 3:3. "Take" - "deprive thee of."

6. Reward to the Overcomer: Verse 12.

(a) "A pillar in the sanctuary." R.V. margin. A part in the sanctuary of God when it is placed in the new earth. Only the 144,000 enter the sanctuary. Early Writings Page 19; Revelation 7:15. Therefore we conclude that at least some of the faithful of this period may be included in the 144,000.

(b). The name of my God: Contained in the fourth commandment. Exodus 20:8-11. The faithful ones in the church receive the seal of God as they accept the further light of the Third Angel's Message. Revelation 14:1. Thus they may stand with the 144,000.

(c) The name of the city of God: New Jerusalem. Their destination is fixed.

(d) My new name: Christ's new name for them.

For Further Study

1. Read SDA Source Book, Page, art. "Seven Churches-Philadelphia."

2. Compare with each other the references to Christ's Second Advent given to Thyatira, Sardis, and Philadelphia.

3. Name some prominent messengers of Philadelphia who passed through the disappointment and became Sabbath-keepers.

4. What caused the Advent believers to separate from the churches? Great Controversy, Page 375, 376.

5. Notice the effect of the Advent Message upon the believers. Life Sketches of Saint Paul, Page 54-56; Great Controversy, Page 379:3.

Questions on the Lesson

1. Give the meaning of Philadelphia. Sketch the character and history of the city.

2. To what period of church history does Philadelphia apply? Characterize this period.

3. How does Jesus reveal Himself to the Philadelphians? Why?

4. For what is the church of Philadelphia commended? What special promise is given them?

5. What is the urgency of the admonition to Philadelphia?

6. What promise is given to the overcomer?

9. LAODICEA

(Revelation 3:14-22)

Meaning: judging the people

The City: May be characterized as The City of Compromise. See "Further Thoughts," Pages 43-51. Founded by Attalus II, it controlled the gateway to the pass known as the Gate of Phrygia. Situated near

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hot, cold, and lukewarm springs. Manufactured woollen goods, ointments, and salve. A proud, boastful, commercial city. Absolutely deserted today.

The Local Church: Paul had a great burden for this church, and wrote the Epistle to the Colossians for them also. Colossians 2:1; 4:13,15,16.

The Universal Church: Read Daniel And Revelation, Page 399-412.

1. Period: 1844-End. The last age. The time of investigative judgment in heaven and the proclamation of the Third Angel's Message on earth.

2. The Revelation of Christ: Verse 14.

(a) The Amen: Indicates the end. This is the final message, of warning, and soon Christ is about to write Amen to earth's history.

(b) The faithful and true Witness: In an age when men need the true testimony, an age of doubt.

(c) The beginning of the Creation of God: "The origin" (Mofitt) Jesus is the Creator. Christ is revealed as the Creator (John 1: 1-3) in an age of evolutionary theories. No commendation is given to this church.

3. Condemnation: Verse 18. Condemned for its condition of lukewarmness (v. 15), self-deception (v. 17), false pretensions (v. 17), and lack of spirituality (v. 17)

Hot: Zealous, fervent, earnest.

Cold: Does not represent wickedness, for Christ would never wish His people to be wicked. Denotes the one who feels his lack and desires to do better. Job 23:3.

Lukewarm: Self-satisfied, comfortable, lacking interest; dreams peace (Jeremiah 6:14); unprepared for Christ's coming. Luke 12: 45, 46.

Read "Christ Our Righteousness," Pages 143-145.

4. Warning: To continue in this lukewarm condition would bring rejection. Verse 16.

5. Wise Counsel: Verses 17-20.

(a) Buy-by asking. Isaiah 55:1.

(b) Of Me-the only Provider.

(c) Gold tried in the fire: Spiritual riches.

Faith which claims all other spiritual graces is the primary factor in spiritual enrichment. It is the first essential. Hebrews 11:6. It alone brings salvation to the soul. Ephesians 2:8. Prayer is valueless without it. James 1:6. Faith, however, is inseparably allied with hope and love. Galatians 5:6; Hebrews 11:1. Read Desire of Ages, Page 280: 3.

(d) White raiment: The righteousness of the saints. Revelation 19:7,8. To clothe our sins. Isaiah 64: 6.

(e) Eye-salve: To anoint the eyes; to clarify the vision.

Symbolizes that which restore's one's spiritual vision.

The Holy Spirit is the anointing agency which gives spiritual vision. Acts 10:38; 1 John 2:20; John 14:16; C.O.R. 162: 2; 165:2; 136:4.

6. Admonition: Verse 19. Rebuke and chastisement from the Lord is an indication that He loves us. God chastens us for our profit. Hebrews 12:5-11.

7. Invitation: Verse 20. The reason for the failure has been because Christ has been left outside of our hearts. The church of Laodicea has everything except an indwelling Christ.

8. Reward to the Overcomer: Verse 21. Christ is now on the Father's throne (Ephesians 1:20-22), as Priest-King (Hebrews 8:1,2; Zechariah 6:12,13). This is where He sat down after His ascension. There is coming a time, however, when He will sit on His own throne (Matthew 25:31), and, then we may have the privilege of being seated with Him. But He must sit upon the throne of our hearts now if we are to sit on His throne by and by.

For Further Study

1. Does the Laodicea message apply to the S.Desire of Ages, Page Church? Early Writings 107, 108.

2. Does it apply to other churches? Testimonies, Volume 6, Page 77.

3. What is one of the outward conditions among God's professed people that reveals their condition of heart? Early Writings 108.

4. What is meant by verse 16? T Testimonies, Volume 6, Page 408:2.

5. Read the divine explanation of the gold, the white raiment, and the eyesalve. Testimonies, Volume 4, Page 88:1, 2.

6. Copy into your note-book a definition of each.

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Questions on the Lesson

1. Why was Laodicea used to apply to the final period of church history?
2. How is Christ revealed to Laodicea? Describe the fitness of the revelation.
3. What is missing from this letter?
4. For what is the Laodicean church condemned?
5. Describe the condition of lukewarmness in spiritual things.
6. How does God express His abhorrence of this condition?
7. What remedy is offered for spiritual lukewarmness?
8. What is referred to by gold, white raiment, and eye-salve?
9. Why does the Lord bring such a stern rebuke against the Laodicean church?
10. What precious invitation is given to Laodicea?
11. What promise is given the overcomer?

10. A VIEW OF GOD'S THRONE

(Revelation 4:1-11)

A New Vision. Verses 1, 2.

Time: Revelation 4:1, "After this." Not after these events, but after the previous vision. A door opened in heaven—not into heaven. "A door in heaven standing open." (Weymouth.) "An open door in the heavens." (20th Century.) John is given a view of the holy place of the heavenly sanctuary. A voice as of a trumpet: The voice of Jesus. Revelation 1:10-13. Things which must be hereafter: The things unfolded to John were not then transpiring, but would occur in the future. These things were revealed in the seals. Revelation 6: 1, 3, 5, 7.

To reveal these future events was the purpose of the book. Revelation 1:19. The word "hereafter" in point of time commences with John's day. In the Spirit: In vision, as in Revelation 1:10. Hence a period of time elapses between chapters 3 and 4, and now John is given a new vision. The Book of Revelation does not give a regularly progressive disclosure of the future, but is divided into a number of complete groups, each commencing where best suits the topic under consideration.

A Vision of God's Throne. Verses 2-5.

1. A Throne: The word is used 17 times in chapters 4 and 5. Thus is impressed the fact of a throne in heaven.

2. The Father: Seated upon the throne. The purple color of the jasper mingled with the blood-red of the sardius suggests royalty.

3. A Rainbow: A token of the covenant-keeping God. Genesis 9: 13. "Emblem of grace and love." Testimonies, Volume 5, Page 751. Testimonies to Ministers, Page 157.

The emerald color is the royal color; it represented Judah in the breastplate.

4. Twenty-four Thrones: "Circling the throne were twenty-four thrones." (Emphatic Diaglott)

5. Twenty-four Elders: A company redeemed from the earth. Revelation 5:9,10. A company of victors. Revelation 4:4. Must be those who were raised and taken to heaven when Christ ascended. Ephesians 4:8; Matthew 27:52,53. Occupy a position as kings and priests. Revelation 5:10.

6. Seven Lamps of Fire: The antitype of the golden candlestick which was placed in the first apartment. Exodus 25:31,32,37; 26:35; 27:20. Hence John was given a view of the work in the first apartment of the sanctuary. The candlesticks, or "lamp stands" (RV margin), represent the churches (Revelation 1:20), but the "lamps of fire burning" are the Holy Spirit, seven being used to signify the fullness or completeness of the one Spirit. Only the presence of the Spirit in the church will make it a burning lamp.

God's Throne in the First Apartment

1. In this vision we find God's throne in the first apartment.
2. God's throne is not limited to the second apartment of the heavenly sanctuary. It is clear that

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there are at least two thrones. Ezekiel saw a blue throne (Ezekiel 1: 26), which appears to be the same as that described by John in Revelation 4 and 5 (cf. V. 5-7, 28). All the circumstances would lead us to conclude that this is “the throne of grace.” Hebrews 4:16. This is the throne which John saw in the first apartment which contained the symbols of grace-bread light, altar of incense. Later on John saw a great white throne (Revelation 20:11), which is clearly the throne of judgment. Verse 12; Daniel 7: 9, 10. The judgment work centered in the holy of holies where this throne is located. The ark with the law was symbolic of this throne of judgment.

3. In 1844, when the work commenced in the second apartment (Daniel 8:14), God removed His throne to the second apartment (Daniel 7: 9, 10), and Christ followed (v. 13). See Early Writings, Page 55, 251, 252.

4. In the old sanctuary service the priesthood was divided into 24 divisions, or courses 1 Chronicles 24:1-18; 2 Chronicles 23:8; Luke 1:5,8. We have the antitype in Revelation 4:4. The 24 elders no doubt represent the 24 leaders of the 24 divisions of the priesthood. We do not suppose, however, there were only 24 raised at Christ’s resurrection, for Christ led a multitude of captives. Ephesians 4:8. Read Desire of Ages, Page 780, 782, 786.

The Sea of Glass. Verse 6.

1. A description of the floor of heaven’s throne-room.
2. The floor had the appearance of glass. Note the descriptions of other prophets. Revelation 15:2; Exodus 24:10; Ezekiel 28:14.

The Four Living Creatures. Verses 6-8.

1. The correct translation should be “living creatures.” RV.
2. Position: “And midway between the throne and the elders, and surrounding the throne.” (Weymouth.)
3. Who are they?
 - (a) The description of these beings is clearly symbolic. Verses 7, 8.
 - (b) Ezekiel had a similar vision (Ezekiel 1:5-14; Chapter 10), and calls the living creatures cherubim (10: 20).
 - (c) Isaiah identifies the same beings as seraphims. Isaiah 6:1-4.
 - (d) No doubt these beings are those who are high in the counsels of God, His special messengers, who stand in His presence. Luke 1:19. Because of their honored position, affording them opportunity of understanding God’s counsels, they would have a special interest in man.
4. The Symbolic Meaning:
 - (a) “Let us remind ourselves that we are not looking at ‘the heavenly things themselves,’ which no mortal eye could behold and which human language could not describe; and that we are not looking at objects which bear any physical resemblance whatever to those heavenly things. No one would for a moment suppose that there is any physical likeness between our glorified Redeemer and ‘a Lamb having seven horns and seven eyes,’ or between the Holy Spirit of God and ‘seven lamps of fire.’ What we are attempting to do [in our study] is to decipher a description written in hieroglyphics, a description in which the pictures of familiar objects are used as 24 representations of spiritual realities which may be persons, or which may be moral ideas or truth, the symbols being such as merely to suggest the realities for which they stand, by reason of some moral likeness which they bear thereto.” - Philip Mauro, in “The Patmos Visions,” 151, 152.
 - (b) The four living creatures present us with a symbolic representation of the attributes of God’s throne:
 - The Lion-symbolizing Strength.
 - The Calf-symbolizing Humility, Service, Sacrifice.
 - The Man-symbolizing Intelligence, Wisdom.
 - The Eagle-symbolizing Swiftness.
 - (c) These four symbols were on the standards of Israel. Jewish tradition declares that Reuben’s standard was the man, Judah’s the lion, Ephraim’s the ox, Dan’s the eagle.

Song of Praise. Verses 8-11.

1. “Holy, holy, holy”: God’s crowning glory is His holiness. “Continued repetition,” said the angel, ‘yet God is glorified by it.’ Although we may tell the same story over and over, it honors God, and shows that we are not unmindful of His goodness and mercies to us.” Early Writings, Page 116.

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2. God is worshipped in heaven as Creator. There are no evolutionists there.

For Further Study

1. What door is referred to in verse 1?
2. Draw diagrams representing the throne of God and the camp of Israel. Is there any similarity?
3. Summarize the proofs that the events following chapter 3 do not follow chapter 3 in point of time.
4. Read Daniel And Revelation, on Revelation 4.

Questions on the Lesson

1. When was John's second vision given?
2. Where did the scenes which passed before the prophet take place?
3. How is the voice of Jesus described? What command did it give to John?
4. How could such a command be obeyed?
5. For what purpose had Christ come to John?
5. Describe as fully as possible what John saw in vision.
6. What points to the scenes as taking place in the first apartment of the sanctuary?
7. How do you account for the throne of God being in the first apartment of the sanctuary in heaven?
8. Describe the floor of heaven's throne-room. Compare John's description with that of other writers.
9. Who are the four "beasts"? Are they literal or symbolic? Why so?
10. What song of praise is sung around the throne of God?

11. HOW THE FUTURE IS UNSEALED

(Revelation 5:1-14)

The Sealed Book. Verse 1.

The Book: A roll of scrolls. Each -roll was sealed. The writing was on the inside of the scrolls.

The comma should be placed after "within" and omitted after "without."

See Daniel And Revelation, Page 420, 421.

Position of Book: In the right hand of the Father.

The Father is the source of all knowledge. He holds the secrets of the future in His hand.

The Challenge. Verses 2-4.

Who Is Worthy to Open the Book?

Not a soul in heaven or earth was-worthy. Effect on John: "The Revelation was not written without tears, neither without tears will it be understood." (Benson.) The book contained revelations of the future. No created being is qualified to handle the mysteries of future events.

Christ Worthy to Open the Book. Verses 5-7.

The Lion of the Tribe of Judah: The lion was the symbol of Judah. Judah was the progenitor of Christ. 1 Chronicles 5:2; Genesis 49:10. The Root of David: The Source and Sustainer of David. David was a type of Christ. Christ is the true occupant of David's throne. Luke 1:32,33. The lion and the root denote strength. The lion the strength of the animal kingdom. The root the strength of the vegetable kingdom. Hath prevailed: Christ's victory on earth had entitled Him to open the book. Hence He is pictured as one slain.

Verse 6. A Lamb Slain:

1. "The Lion of Judah, so terrible to the rejectors of His grace, will be the Lamb of God to the obedient and faithful." Testimonies, Volume 6, Page 404.
2. Jesus is the true Lamb of God. John 1:29. Position: Next to the Father. The sacrifice of Christ is ever before the Father. Seven Horns: Perfection of power. Seven Eyes: Perfection of wisdom and foresight. Christ acts through the Holy Spirit. Takes the Book: Because He is worthy, He receives the revelation of the future from the Father. All revelations are made known through Christ. Revelation 1: 1.

Praise to the Lamb. Verses 8-10.

Work of the Elders: They assist Christ in His priestly work by presenting before God the prayers

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of the saints. Verse 8. A New Song: A song they had never sung before reaching the sea of glass. Though occupying a position of responsibility in heaven, they anticipate the time when they will be united with their brethren. Verse 10.

A Universal Anthem. Verses 11-14.

1. The Angels' Song: Verses 11, 12. A picture of the glorious scene in the sanctuary. Number of angels: 100 millions and thousands of thousands. The central theme: Christ and His sacrifice. Verse 12.

2. Complete Redemption Anticipated: Verse 13. A figure often used in the Scriptures is to follow the thought to its conclusion. Here the glorious song made possible by the sacrifice of Christ is followed to its culmination-the universal song of adoration. After what event is this song sung? Revelation 20:9; 2 Peter 3:7-13, Verse 13 destroys the doctrine of an eternally burning hell. Both Father and Son are worshipped.

For Further Study

1. What was promised to Abraham? Romans 4:13; Galatians 3:29; Psalm 37:11.
2. Who partake of this promise? Romans 4:13; Galatians 3:29; Psalm 37:11.
3. What does Paul say of the number of the angels? What is their work? Hebrews 12:22; 1:14.
4. How does Revelation 5:13,14 destroy the doctrine of eternal torment?
5. Collect the evidences from Revelation 4 and 5 that there is a sanctuary in heaven.
6. What would you conclude about the size of the sanctuary in-heaven? See Great Controversy, Page 414.
7. Read Daniel And Revelation, on Revelation 5.

Questions on the Lesson

1. Where did John see a scroll? What did later revelations show that it contained?
2. What is significant about its being where it was?
3. What challenge was issued? How was it answered?
4. What three titles are given to Christ? Explain each.
5. Describe the position of the Lamb.
6. Give the significance and application of the number seven in this vision.
7. What song of praise is sung to Christ?
8. Who are represented as joining this song? When will this become fact?
9. How does this chapter destroy the doctrine of eternal torment?

12. THE SEVEN SEALS

1. The Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse (Revelation 6:1-11)

Introductory.

The first five seals picture the apostasy of the church; the last two relate to the signs of the end and the Second Advent. The seven churches represent the true church in the midst of apostasy; the seven seals give the history of the apostate church. As each seal is opened, the contents are placed before John in living symbols.

The First Seal. Verses 1, 2.

Symbol: A white horse; rider with bow and crown. Application: The purity (Isaiah 1:18) and aggressiveness of the early church. The bow used to inflict wounds is emblematic of the conquests of Christ. Psalm 45:5. Fulfillment: Acts of the Apostles, Page 45, 46.

“Animated by an unparalleled missionary spirit, His followers traversed the length and breadth of the Empire, preaching everywhere the new teachings. Men’s loss of faith in the gods of the old mythologies, the softening and liberalizing influence of Greek culture, the unification of the whole civilized world under a single government, the widespread suffering and the inexpressible weariness of the oppressed and servile classes-all these things had prepared the soil for the seed of the new doctrines. In less than three centuries the pagan Empire had become Christian not only in name but also very largely in fact.” - Myers’ General History, p. 206. Time: The Apostolic Age. The first century.

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The Second Seal. Verses 3, 4.

Symbol: Red horse, rider with sword, peace taken from the earth. Application: Red denotes sin, corruption. Isaiah 1:18. The change in color signifies a change in the character of the church. Applies to the period of apostasy and persecution following the Apostolic Era. Fulfillment: Writing of this period, Mosheim says, "There was continual war and trouble." The Christian commonwealth changed its aspect in the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th centuries. SDA Source Book, Page 35 (Killen). See also SDA Source Book, Page 35, 36; Early Writings, Page 210, 211; SDA Source Book, Page 531, 532. Time: AD 100-313. From close of Apostolic Era to the Edict of Milan, which marks Constantine's toleration of Christianity. See General History (Myers), pp. 219, 220.

The Third Seal. Verses 5, 6.

Symbol: A Black horse; rider with a pair of balances. Application: A period of great corruption and spiritual darkness. The balances indicate judgment. During this period the church had climbed into the judgment seat. Fulfillment: Following the age of Constantine, we find the church uniting more and more with paganism, resulting by 538 in the full development of the Papacy. SDA Source Book, Page 532 (Woodhouse); 360, 361 (Guinness). During this time the Sabbath was gradually superseded by Sunday, celibacy was introduced, and the worship of images was fully established. Time: AD 313-538. From the Edict of Milan to establishment of papal supremacy.

The Fourth Seal. Verses 7, 8.

Symbol: Pale horse; Death seated upon horse; Hell (the Grave) follows. Application: Pale, an unnatural color. The original word denotes the pale, sickly color seen in blighted plants. Denotes a period of great persecution. Fulfillment: "Power was given unto him [the Papacy] over the fourth part of the earth" (that part ruled over by the Papacy). The latter portion outlines Rome's manner of persecuting. SDA Source Book, Page 532, 533 (Woodhouse); Great Controversy, Page 54, 55. Time: AD 538-1517. The time of papal power and persecution, from its establishment to the commencement of the Reformation.

The Fifth Seal. Verses 9-11.

Symbol: Souls under the altar. Application: The altar cannot be literal. The only altar which Scripture locates in heaven is the altar of incense. This altar must be upon the earth-it is an altar of sacrifice. Daniel And Revelation, Page 439 (A. Clarke). The cry for vengeance: Because they cry to God, they are not necessarily conscious, for by personification inanimate things may speak. Genesis 4:9,10; Habakkuk 2:11; James 5:4. Souls: Martyrs, persons, not disembodied spirits. Reward: White robes, signify a righteous character, but if this refers to the final reward, it is used in a future sense. The white robes probably represent the vindication of their reputation by the exposure of the iniquity of the Papacy through the work of the Reformation. Rest for a little while: Rome's persecution did not cease with the Reformation. Many others would yet be called to lay down their lives. Time: AD 1517-1755. From the commencement of the Reformation to the Lisbon earthquake.

For Further Study

1. Give reasons why the souls under the altar could not refer to departed immortal souls of the righteous. In what sense did the souls under the altar cry out for vengeance? Testimonies, Volume 5, Page 451.
2. Read Daniel And Revelation, Page on Revelation 6:1-11.

Questions on the Lesson

1. With what history do the seals deal? Contrast the seven seals with the seven churches.
2. Describe the symbolism of the first seal. To what does it apply?
3. What period of church history does it cover?
4. Describe the character and spirit of the Apostolic Church.
5. Describe the symbolism of the second seal. To what period of church history does it apply?
6. What is denoted by the change of color?
5. Sketch the character of the post-apostolic era noting the changes which occurred in the church.
6. What period is symbolized by the third seal? Describe its symbolism. Give the application.
7. Describe the condition of the church during the fourth to sixth centuries.
8. Why is AD 538 such an important date?
8. Explain the fourth seal as to symbolism, application, time, and fulfillment.

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9. Give the symbolism of the fifth seal. Show that the souls under the altar are not disembodied spirits.
10. What period is covered by the fifth seal?

13. THE SEVEN SEALS

2. The Sixth and Seventh Seal (Revelation 6:12-17; 8:1)

Note: The sixth and seventh seals are described in literal language.

Events of the Sixth Seal. Revelation 6:12-17.

1. The Lisbon Earthquake: November 1st, 1755. The greatest earthquake up to that time and the greatest in extent that has ever been recorded. Daniel And Revelation, Page 444, 445. Read also from SDA Source Book, Page pp. 150, 151.
2. The Dark Day: May 19, 1780. See SDA Source Book, Page 128-136; Daniel And Revelation, Page 449-453.
3. The Falling Stars: November 13, 1833. See SDA Source Book, Page pp. 175-180; Daniel And Revelation, Page 453-455.
4. The Heavens Depart: We live today between the events of vv. 13, 14. Joel 3:15,16. The voice of God causes the heavens and the earth to shake. Revelation 16:17-21. This voice is uttered during the seventh plague, which immediately precedes Christ's coming. Jeremiah 25:30-33. The result. Hebrews 12:25-27. Earth and heaven moved. Isaiah 24:19,20; Jeremiah 4:23-27. The awfulness of the event. Revelation 6:15-17; Isaiah 25:8,9. Two pictures. Read Daniel And Revelation, Page 455-457.

The Seventh Seal. Revelation 8:1.

1. The sealing work of chapter 7 belongs to the sixth seal-it prepares a people for the Lord's coming-and in chronological order comes in between vv. 13 and 14 of chapter 6. The seventh seal is not mentioned till chapter 8.
2. The sixth seal brings us up to the events immediately preceding Christ's coming; the seventh seal deals with His coming.
3. Silence in heaven: Christ with all the angels, accompanied by the Father, leaves heaven. Matthew 25:31; 16:27; Daniel 7: 22.
Half an hour: Prophetic time. Half an hour = 1/48 of day = 1/48 of a year (Ezekiel 4:6) = 1/48 Of 360 days 7.50 days (literal days).
4. Read Daniel And Revelation, Page 475, 476.

Questions on the Lesson

1. How does the language of the sixth and seventh seals differ from that of the first to fifth seals?
2. Suggest a reason.
3. Outline the four great events mentioned under the sixth seal.
4. Which of these have been fulfilled, and when?
5. Write a brief summary on the Lisbon earthquake, the Dark Day, the Falling Stars.
6. Collect statements from authorities on the cause of the Dark Day and Falling Stars.
7. What causes the heavens to depart as a scroll? When does it occur?
8. Describe the scene as pictured in Scripture.
9. What remarkable contrast is seen between the righteous and the wicked in the day of God's wrath?
10. Give reason for the location of the subject of the seventh seal in the Scripture.
11. What takes place under the seventh seal?

14. THE SEALING WORK

(Revelation 7:1-3)

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Chronology of Chapter 7.

1. Revelation 7, thrown in parenthetically as it is, must come in under the events, of the sixth seal, and before the opening of the seventh, for it refers to a work preceding the Second Advent.
2. Chapter 7 outlines a work which comes in between the events of vv. 13 and 14 of chapter 6.
3. After these things: Not in order of event but in order of vision.
4. Four angels: God's messengers having charge of the four winds.
5. Four corners of the earth: The four points of the compass, the whole earth.
6. Four winds: Winds in prophecy symbolize political commotion, strife, and war. Daniel 7:2; Jeremiah 25:32; 49:36, 37.
7. The winds held: Heaven restrains the forces of war and world-wide strife. When they are let go, Jeremiah 25:31-33 will be fulfilled.

Heaven-sent Message.

1. Another angel: Having charge of the sealing work. A message angel bearing the last message to men-the sealing message.

The Seal of the Living God.

1. Definition: The words "sign" and "seal" are synonymous terms. Romans 4:1.
2. A sign or seal signifies authority and makes a document authentic. Daniel 6:8; 1 Kings 21:8; Esther 3:12. A seal demands three essentials--
 - (a) The name of the lawgiver.
 - (b) The authority of the lawgiver.
 - (c) The kingdom of the lawgiver.
4. The seal of God is used in connection with His law. Isaiah 8:16. Therefore the seal of God is that part of the law of God which contains the name, authority, and kingdom of God.
5. Examining the Ten Commandments we find that the 4th commandment alone of all the ten fulfils these specifications and is therefore God's seal. Exodus 20:8-11.

The Name	The Lord thy God
The Authority	"Made" - the Creator
The Dominion	Heaven and earth
6. The Scriptures definitely declare the Sabbath to be a sign or seal, for the terms are synonymous. Exodus 31:13; Ezekiel 20: 12, 20.
7. The seal of God is the commandment which contains the Father's name, and thus the expressions are used interchangeably. Revelation 7:4; 14:1.

Message of Sabbath Reform.

1. It is evident from the above that the message of Revelation 7:1-3 is a message of Sabbath reform to be given to the world just before the Lord comes.
2. Though this work may be controlled by a literal angel, men do the work of proclaiming the message. The same word here translated angel is translated "messenger" in Luke 7: 24, 27. See Acts of the Apostles, Page 134.
3. The sealing work of Revelation 7 must be connected with the message of Revelation 14, because both chapters deal with a message located at the same time. This may be observed by examining the setting of the message of Revelation 14: 6-14.
4. Such a message of Sabbath reform is being proclaimed to the world today.

The Winds Held.

Since the Sabbath Message commenced in 1844, the winds of strife have been held several times so as not to prevent its progress:-

1848	The great revolution in Europe when many thrones toppled in the dust, was brought to a sudden termination. Great Second Advent Movement, Page 271, 272.
1861-1865	The American Civil War.
1870	The Franco-German War.
1914-1918	The first World War.

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1939-1945 The second World War.

Early Writings Page 38: A view of the sealing work.

Early Writings Page 36: The winds will be held till Christ's work is finished.

When Did the Sealing Work Commence?

1. The sealing work of Revelation 7, which is identical with the message of Revelation 14:9-11, did not commence previous to 1844.
2. The sealing work is now going on. Early Writings, Page 43, 44.
3. The sealing work will be finished when Jesus leaves the sanctuary. Early Writings, Page 48; Testimonies, Volume 5, Page 212, 213.
4. "About 1847-1848 the Sabbath began to be preached as the seal of the law of the living God. In 1848 occurred one of the greatest upheavals in the national affairs of Europe that had been for many centuries. Decided changes were made in some of the leading nations. . . . It looked as if universal war was inevitable. In the midst of the turmoil and strife came a sudden calm. No man could assign any reason for it, but the student of prophecy knew that the angels were holding the winds until the servants of God could be sealed in their foreheads." – "Cross and Its Shadow," Page 363.

For Further Study

1. Read Testimonies to Ministers, Page 444-456.
2. Read Testimonies, Volume 5, Page 201-216.
3. From the above readings make a list of the qualifications necessary for the reception of the seal of God.
4. Read Daniel And Revelation, Page on Revelation 7: 1-3.

Questions on the Lesson

1. Explain the setting of the subject of the sealing work.
2. What were the four angels doing? Explain the meaning.
3. Why are the winds held?
4. Prove that the seal of God is the Sabbath.
5. What would be one of the leading features of the message brought to view In Revelation 7?
6. Prove that it is the same message as Revelation 14: 6-14.
7. Give instances of the holding of the winds since the beginning of the sealing message.
8. When did the sealing work begin? When will it terminate?
9. Copy out several extracts on the sealing work from the references for Further Study.

15. THE 144,000

(Revelation 7:4-17)

The Number of the Sealed. Verses 4-8.

1. The 144,000 are of all the tribes of the children of Israel.
2. God's Israel: All who are in Christ constitute God's Israel, irrespective of nationality. Romans 9:6-8; 2:28,29. All who enter heaven enter as Israel. Revelation 21:12,13; Galatians 3:29.
3. The Tribes: Ephraim and Dan are omitted from the list given. Dan probably rejected for backbiting. Genesis 49:16,17; Psalm 15:1,3. Ephraim exceedingly idolatrous. Hosea 11: 8; 4:17. Levi and Joseph take their places. The names of the twelve tribes are character names.

View of All the Redeemed. Verses 9-12.

1. An innumerable company from all nations. Verse 9.
2. Christ their theme of joy. Verse 10.
3. The angels swell the song. Verse 11, 12.

The 144,000. Verses 13-17.

1. John's attention is directed by one of the elders to a special company. which must be the 144,000. Verse 13. See Daniel And Revelation, Page on Revelation 7: 13. The answer gives us important information concerning this company.

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- (a) Out of Great Tribulation: Verse 14. They pass through the time of trouble. Daniel 12:1.
 - (b) White Robes: Verse 14. They have heeded the message to Laodicea. Revelation 3:18 The world has accused them of trusting to works for salvation.
 - (c) Serve God in His Temple: Verse 15. This is their special privilege, and is granted to no other company. Early Writings, Page 19. Those of the Philadelphia period may join in this promise. Revelation 3:12.
 - (d) Hunger No More, etc.: Verse 16. Implies that they have passed through times of hunger. Revelation 16: 4-9; Joel 1:18-20. God has kept them. Isaiah 33:16.
 - (e) The Lamb Shall Lead Them: Verse 17. They follow Christ as His bodyguard. Revelation 14: 4.
 - (f) Christ's First-fruits: Revelation 14:4. The first sheaf of the entire gospel crop. They are standing on the earth ready to be reaped when Christ comes.
2. Read Great Controversy, Page 648: 3.

For Further Study

1. What was the predominating characteristic of each tribe mentioned in Revelation 7:5-8? See "The Cross and Its Shadow" (Haskell), pp. 287-357.
2. What was God's method of numbering His people? Numbers 3: 39; 26: 62; 1 Chronicles 21:5; Matthew 14:21; 15:38; Acts 4:4; 19:7.
3. What are we told not to attempt? Prophets And Kings, Page 189.
4. Relate Ezekiel's vision of the sealing work. Ezekiel 9: 6-9t
5. What privilege will be given to the 144,000? Revelation 14: 4; Early Writings, Page 40.
6. Read Daniel And Revelation, Page on Revelation 7: 13-17.

Questions on the Lesson

1. To what nation do the 144,000 belong? Give evidence that they are not reckoned by earthly and fleshly distinctions.
2. What tribes are missing from spiritual Israel, and why?
3. After viewing the 144,000, whom does John see in vision? What song do they sing?
4. What indicates that in verses 13-17 the special company of the 144,000 are being described?
5. What information does this chapter give concerning
 - (1) The character of the 144,000?
 - (2) The experience of the 144,000?

16. THE SEVEN TRUMPETS

(Revelation 8:1-13)

Introduction. Verse 2.

Note: Verse 1 of chapter 8 properly belongs to chapter 7, and the new chapter would commence better with Verse 2.

The Symbol: Trumpets are a symbol of war. Jeremiah 4:19,20. The seven trumpets deal with the wars, commotions, and political upheavals which result in the breaking up and downfall of the Roman Empire.

Nos. 1-4 Deal with the downfall of Western Rome.

Nos. 5, 6 With the downfall of Eastern Rome.

Nos. 7 With the downfall of the Whole World.

Contrasted with Churches and Seals.

1. The Seven Churches outline the history of God's true church in the midst of apostasy.
2. The Seven Seals outline the history of the apostate church.
3. The Seven Trumpets outline the national and political commotions which affected the church of God.

Comfort for God's People. Verses 3-5.

The terrible scenes of war pictured in the trumpets are preceded by a comforting vision for God's people. The Angel by the Altar: Verse 3. John is viewing the first apartment, as is indicated by the altar of incense. The incense was offered with the prayers of the saints, making them acceptable to God. Patriarchs And Prophets, Page 353:2.

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The Work of Intercession Ceases: Verses 4, 5. This event must mark the close of human probation—a time when men’s prayers can no more be heard in heaven, a time when Christ’s ministry in heaven ceases. Fire indicates God’s wrath. Psalm 18: 8. When Christ’s merits (the incense) cease to be available for man, then comes the wrath of God (the fire).

The Trumpets Identified.

1. Anyone can see that the language of the trumpets is highly symbolical.
2. The sounding of each trumpet releases elements of fierce destruction upon the earth.
3. The trumpet being a symbol of war, and since at the beginning of the Christian dispensation “the Empire of the Romans filled the world” (Gibbon), we would conclude that these great expeditions were directed against the Roman Empire.

The First Trumpet. Verse 7.

1. Application: The first trumpet pictures the invasion of Western Rome by the Goths under Alaric. AD 395-410.
2. Symbolic Representation: Hail and fire mingled with blood cast upon the earth. Hail: Symbolic of the northern origin of the invaders. Fire: The devastating character of the invasion. Alaric destroyed city and country by flame. Blood: Denoting the slaughter accompanying the invasion. The third Part: Twice at least before the Roman Empire was divided into two parts, there was a triple division. Daniel And Revelation, Page 480, 481.
3. Fulfillment: On three occasions Alaric besieged Rome (AD 408, 409, 410), the last time capturing it. Alaric died when advancing into Southern Italy. He was reinforced in the north by Rhadagaisus, leader of Vandals, Suevi, etc. Read from SDA Source Book, Page Patriarchs And Prophets, Page 534-538; Daniel And Revelation, Page 478-480; Myers’ General History, sections 327, 329, 330.

The Second Trumpet. Verses 8, 9.

1. Application: The second trumpet deals with the naval attack on Italy by the Vandals under Genseric, AD. 428-476.
2. Symbolic Representation: A burning mountain cast into the sea, and one third part of the sea becomes blood.
3. Fulfillment:
 - (a) Vandals were cast out of their homes in north-eastern Germany by the Huns.
 - (b) Invaded France (Gaul) unopposed, as the Roman legions had been recalled to defend Rome from Alaric.
 - (c) Marched through Spain and were forced to cross the Straits of Gibraltar by the pursuing Suevi and Visigoths.
 - (d) Settled in Africa, and their leader Genseric built a powerful fleet and became master of the Mediterranean.
 - (e) AD 428. Genseric takes the lead of the Vandals.
AD 431. Vandals crossed to Africa and soon became masters of Carthage. SDA Source Book, Page 539, 540 (Sismondi).
AD. 455. Genseric sacks Rome.
AD. 457. The Roman fleet burned at Carthage.
AD. 468. The Roman fleet of 1,113 ships and 100,000 men destroyed off Carthage.
Read SDA Source Book, Page, art. “The Second Trumpet”; Daniel And Revelation, Page 480-484.

The Third Trumpet. Verses 10, 11.

1. Application: The third trumpet deals with the invasion of Western Rome by the Huns under Attila. AD 450-453.
2. Symbolic Representation: A blazing meteor smiting the rivers and fountains of waters, making the waters bitter. “Fell,” not cast out, as in two preceding trumpets. Star falling: Denoting the suddenness-unexpectedness, and shortness of the invasion. Rivers and Fountains of Waters: Denoting the portion of the Empire smitten-around the source of the Rhine, Rhone, Po, and Danube. Wormwood: Denoting the bitter effects of the scourge.
3. Fulfillment:
 - (a) Huns-of Mongolian stock-moved west from North China in 1st century. Settled around

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Caspian Sea.

- (b) Marched west, and under Attila established their government in plains east of Danube.
- (c) Attacked Western Rome and swept through Germany and Gaul.
- (d) Defeated at Chalons, where Attila lost some 300,000 men. AD 451.
- (e) Invaded northern Italy in 452.
- (f) Attila died 453, and soon after the Huns disappear from history.

Character: Invasions of Attila were marked by unparalleled devastation and bloodshed. Attila styled himself "The Scourge of God," and "The Terror of the World." Read SDA Source Book, Page 540, 541; Daniel And Revelation, Page 484-487.

The Fourth Trumpet. Verses 12, 13.

1. Application: The fourth trumpet deals with the final overthrow of Western Rome by Odoacer, leader of the Heruli, in AD 476.

2. Symbolic Representation: The third part of the sun, moon, and stars smitten. The sun, moon, and stars are symbolic of the great luminaries of Rome emperors, senators, and consuls.

3. Fulfillment:

(a) Odoacer, leader of the Heruli, invaded northern Italy, and issued a command that the name and office of the emperor of Rome be abolished.

(b) Romulus Augustulus, the last emperor, abdicated in AD 476, and the senate accepted Odoacer and placed itself under the Emperor of the East. SDA Source Book, Page 541, 542. Thus the sun was smitten.

(c) Theodoric the Ostrogoth overcame the Heruli, and ruled in Rome from AD. 493-526.

(d) In AD. 533 Justinian commenced his Vandal-Gothic War, and his generals, Belisarius and Narses, were successful. Daniel And Revelation, Page 489, 490.

(e) In AD 541 the consuls and the senate were abolished by Justinian. Daniel And Revelation, Page 489-492.

Three Woes.

The next three trumpets known as "woes," no doubt not only for their awful nature, but because of their blighting effect. Verse 13.

For Further Study

1. Draw a map showing the incursions of the Ostrogoths, Vandals, Huns, and Heruli into the Roman Empire.
2. How does Gibbon's history of Rome fit the application of the prophecy of the trumpets? Daniel And Revelation, Page 478.
3. Learn all the important dates given in the above notes on the first four trumpets. List them in your notebook.

Questions on the Lesson

1. What do the seven trumpets symbolize? Proof.
2. Contrast the seven trumpets, the seven seals, and the seven churches.
3. Explain the vision of the angel at the altar, and give its significance.
4. How would you identify the first trumpet?
5. Explain the fitness of the symbolism of the first trumpet.
6. Sketch the invasion of the Goths under Alaric.
7. Explain the significance of "the third part."
8. To whom does the second trumpet apply? What symbolism is used?
9. Sketch the history of the Vandals, giving dates.
10. To whom does the third trumpet apply? Describe its symbolism.
11. Sketch the Hunnish invasion of the Roman Empire.
12. Who fulfil the fourth trumpet?
13. How was the "sun" darkened? the "moon" and "stars"?
14. Which devastation were "cast" upon the Roman Empire?
15. Which "fell"? Give the significance of these two words.
16. Give the dates for the first four trumpets.

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17. What name is given to the last three trumpets? Why?

17. THE FIFTH TRUMPET

(Revelation 9:1-12)

Application of Fifth and Sixth Trumpets.

The fifth and sixth trumpets deal with the downfall of Eastern Rome at the hands of the Mohammedan power. The fifth trumpet deals with the Saracens, the sixth with the Turks.

The Opening of the Bottomless Pit. Verses 1-3.

1. A Star: A minister; a religious leader. Revelation 1:20; 12:1. The personal pronoun used of this star in verses 1, 2 indicates that some person is referred to.

2. The bottomless pit: The Greek word *abussos* is applied to any waste, desolate place. It is associated with the thought of darkness, being applied to the earth in Genesis 1:2, and to the millennial condition of the earth in Revelation 20:1,2. In this chapter it is very fittingly applied to the Arabian peninsula, the place of spiritual darkness from which the Saracens issued like swarms of locusts.

3. The key of the bottomless pit: A key is a symbol of power. Revelation 1:18; 3:7; Matthew 16:19. It here relates to the power in the hands of this apostate leader which inspired the hordes of his followers to issue forth from the place of spiritual darkness.

4. Smoke out of the pit: The true gospel is compared to a light. John 1:9; 9:5; Matthew 5:14. Falsehood and error which blind the spiritual eyesight are fittingly symbolized by smoke. Millions of mankind are blinded today with the smoke of Mohammedanism.

5. Locusts: The locust symbol is the leading symbol of the vision. The locust is destructive (Joel 1:4; Deuteronomy 28:38), and must here represent the destructive agencies connected with this false religion which spreads over the earth. It is interesting to notice that the symbolism of Revelation 9 is entirely Arabian. SDA Source Book, Page 543 (Elliott)

The Fulfilment of the Prophecy in the Rise of Mohammedanism.

1. The first four trumpets pertain to the downfall of Western Rome, and in point of time bring us down to the abolition of the Roman consuls in AD 541. None of the terrific judgments of the four trumpets affected the empire of Eastern Rome to any extent. Another power, that of Mohammedanism, rising in the seventh century, was to accomplish the downfall of this eastern third.

2. Mahomet, the great spiritual leader of the Mohammedans, was the star responsible for the origin of this false religion. In AD 612 he made the first public announcement of his mission. The year AD 622, the year of the famous Hegira, or flight, from Mecca to Medina, however, marks the commencement of his success. From this year the Mohammedans commence their era. From 622-632 Mahomet established himself in Arabia, which thoroughly imbibed his teachings. He died in 632. SDA Source Book, Page 544 (Barnes; Encyclopedia Religious Knowledge).

3. The false religion of the false prophet constituted the key in his hand which unlocked the regions of Arabia. His power was in his claim to be the Prophet of Allah, especially chosen to bear God's message to men. His messages are included in the Koran which is the Mohammedan bible.

As the Bible constitutes the Christian's keys to the kingdom of heaven, so the Koran, a false bible, is the Mohammedan's keys. Previous to Mahomet, little was known of the Arabs, but Mahomet found in his claims a key which brought them out of their desert home to spread their influence far and wide. "The main factor was the powerful corporate feeling of the Moslem, the ever-increasing enthusiasm for the faith. . . . Thus the masterless Arabs, who, for all their turn for boasting, had but little stomach for heroic deeds, were transformed into the irresistible warriors of Allah." – "Historians' History of the World," Volume 8, Page 14.

4. The spread of the Mohammedan faith was surprising. Its effects have been blinding like smoke. Read concerning this religion of smoke from SDA Hand Book, Page 351-353 (Fairbairn, encyclopedia); "Historians' History of the World," Vol. VIII, pp. 265-267, or see any good encyclopedia.

5. The way for the success of Mohammedanism was prepared by the bitter conflict between Eastern Rome and Chosroes of Persia. First Persia was victorious, but in 621 Chosroes' advance was definitely stopped by Heraclius, the Emperor of Eastern Rome. His warfare, however, so weakened the

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Roman Empire that it could not resist the attack of the Saracens in the south, who commenced their warfare in AD. 629. Thus the circumstances of the occasion provided a key for Mohammedan power. Alexander Keith says, "The bottomless pit needed but a key to open it, and that key was the fall of Chosroes." Read carefully Daniel And Revelation, Page on verses 1-3. Learn the facts of history there recorded. If possible read Elliott's "Horae Apocalypticæ," Vol. 1, pp. 391-424.

6. The followers of Mahomet are compared to locusts. SDA Source Book, Page 544 (Muir, Upham).

7. Verses 2 and 3 indicate the remarkable spread of Mohammedanism. In "Light for the Last Days," Guinness says: "Mohammedanism is one of those great movements which have impressed a new and lasting character on a vast number of the nations of the world. No power known to history ever wielded the scepter over a wider sphere than this has done. In less than a single century Arabia, Palestine, Syria, Armenia, Asia Minor, Persia, part of India, Egypt, Numidia, Tripoli, Tunis, the Barbary States, Morocco, the African coast as far down as the Niger, Spain, Sicily, Candia, Cyprus, and other islands of the Mediterranean, and even parts of Italy itself, had fallen under the Saracenic sway. And that sway extended, not only to civil government, but to religious faith as well. Everywhere the corrupt and idolatrous form of Christianity prevalent succumbed before the onslaught of the vigorous monotheistic faith of Islam. Gibbon, the historian, writes: 'At the end of the first century of the Hegira, the caliphs were the most potent and absolute monarchs of the globe.' Pages 82, 83.

The Purpose of Mohammedanism.

1. God permitted this scourge to come as a punishment on an apostate church. Verse 20, 21, 4. In just the same way, God used, the heathen nations to chastise Israel.

2. Those who "have not the seal of God": The scourge of Mohammedanism was directed particularly against that apostate church which had been responsible for plucking God's seal (the Sallath) from His law.

The Character of the Mohammedan Conquests. Verses 4-10.

1. Mohammed was succeeded by Abu-bekr, who issued the command referred to in verse 4, to his warriors in AD. 633. See SDA Source Book, Page 546, 547 (Gibbon).

2. The Saracens harassed and tormented the Eastern Empire, but were unable completely to subdue it. This period of torment was to last 150 years. Verse 5. SDA Source Book, Page 548 (Newton, Gibbon).

3. The cruel character of the Saracen dominance. Verse 6.

4. The Arabians were great horsemen. The crowns of gold indicate the turbaned head. Ezekiel 23:42; Revelation-9: 7.

5. Though the Saracens wore long hair they were by no means effeminate. Verse 8.

6. The Saracens wore breastplates. SDA Source Book, Page 546 (Elliott); Verse 9. The wings on the symbol denote rapidity. The latter part of verse 9 presents an excellent picture of an Arabian charge.

7. Read Daniel And Revelation, Page on verses 4-9.

The Period of Aggression. Verses 5, 10, 11.

1. Five months = 150 years during which they tormented (attacked) the Empire.

2. Starting point: Verse 11. From the time they had a king over them.

3. A King: Till the 13th century they had no general leader. In the close of that century Othman consolidated the tribes and became king. Thus the Ottoman Empire was founded.

4. The Angel of the Bottomless Pit: The chief minister of their religion. The Supreme Caliph or high priest of their religion has been their Sultan or king.

5. When did this Period of Torment begin? "Othman first entered the territory of Nicomedia on the 27th day of July, 1299." (Gibbon.) Daniel And Revelation, Page 507. 150 years from this brings us down to July 27, 1449, when this trumpet ends.

6. Abaddon, Apollyon (margin = a destroyer): Both words mean "Destroyer," and such has ever been the character of the Ottomans.

7. Read Daniel And Revelation, Page on Verses 10, 11.

Questions on the Lesson

1. To whom do the fifth and sixth trumpets apply?

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2. What is represented by the star which fell from heaven?
3. By the bottomless pit? The smoke from the pit? The locusts?
3. Give a brief sketch of the life and work of Mahomet.
4. What may be regarded as the key of the bottomless pit?
5. Give the leading elements in the Mohammedan religion.
6. Explain the appropriateness of representing Mohammedanism by swarms of locusts.
7. Why did God permit Mohammedanism to invade the domain of the church?
8. What scripture was fulfilled by Abu-bekr? How?
9. How may the Saracens be said to have tormented the Empire?
10. Describe the Saracen warriors in the light of the prophecy.
11. Interpret the prophetic period of 150 years.
12. Who is Abaddon, or Apollyon?

18. THE SIXTH TRUMPET

(Revelation 9:13-21)

Mohammedanism's Supremacy. Verses 13-15.

1. God Controlling Events: Only by God's permission do powers control. ~ Vv. 13, 14.
2. The Four Angels: The four principal sultanies of Turkey situated at Aleppo, Iconium, Damascus, and Bagdad, which had been held in check, being permitted only to "torment." Now they are loosed (permitted) to slay (destroy) the third part of men (Eastern Rome). Verse 15.

The Downfall of Eastern Rome.

1. On the history of the downfall of the Eastern Empire, read from the following references, making notes on some: Daniel And Revelation, Page on Revelation 9:12-15; General History (Myers), pp. 327, 328; "Seer of Patmos" (Haskell), Patriarchs And Prophets, Page 172-176; SDA Source Book, Page 552, 553. Note particularly-

(a) Rome virtually surrendered her supremacy to Amurath in 1449, the year when the fifth trumpet ends.

(b) The Empire was "slain" in 1453.

2. Turkish supremacy was to last for an hour, a day, and a year = 391 years, 15 days (Ezekiel 4:6).
3. Verse M directs our attention to the Turkish cavalry. It probably denotes an innumerable number (comp. Numbers 10: 36), and may have reference to the whole number during the entire period of 391 years, 15 days.
4. Verse 17 – "Fire, Jacinth, Brimstone": Red, yellow, and blue, denoting the predominant colors of the warriors. "Heads of lions": denoting strength and fierceness. Fire, smoke, and brimstone out of their mouths: No doubt refers to the use of firearms by the Turks. See Daniel And Revelation, Page on Verse 17. Verse 18. By means of gunpowder. Turkey captured Constantinople and "killed" the Roman Empire. SDA Source Book, Page 550 (Keith, Elliott, Barnes).
5. The horse's tail was the Turkish ensign or badge of power. SDA Source Book, Page 550, 551 (Elliott).

The Period of Mohammedan Supremacy.

1. A definite time period is allotted to the Turkish power, after which we would expect it to lose its killing power, i.e., its power of conquest. Verses 14, 15.

2. Working on the year-day principle, we have the following:

1 hour	= 1/24 day =	1/24 of 360 =	15 days
1 day	= 1 year		
1 month	= 30 days	= 30 years	
1 year	= 360 days	= 360 years	
Total		= 391 years	15 days

3. The fifth trumpet ended July 27, 1449. Therefore we would expect Turkish supremacy to cease on August 11, 1840.

4. Josiah Litch reached this conclusion in 1838, and began to teach that the Turk, would lose his supremacy

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on August 11, 1840. See Daniel And Revelation, Page on verses 18, 19.

5. Fulfillment:

(a) In 1838 we find the Sultan at war with Mehemet Ali of Egypt.
(b) In 1839 Mehemet Ali destroyed the Sultan's army and captured his fleet.
(c) In 1840 the great powers of Europe intervened in the Sultan's behalf, and the Sultan accepted their intervention.

(d) An agreement was drawn up in London whereby the Sultan agreed that Ali should have Egypt on condition that he return all other possessions, together with the Ottoman fleet. The powers promised to see that this was carried out.

(e) On August 11, 1840 Rifat Bey, the Sultan's officer, landed in Egypt with the ultimatum, and on the same day the Sultan addressed a note to the great powers inquiring what course was to be pursued should Mehemet refuse. The great powers answered that they would see to any contingency that might arise. SDA Source Book, Page 162, 163.

(f) Thus on that date the supremacy of the Ottoman Empire passed voluntarily into the hands of the four great powers of Europe, England, Russia, Austria, and Prussia.

(g) Since that day Turkey has existed only on the sufferance of the great powers. SDA Source Book, Page 166.

(h) Sister White says, "The event exactly fulfilled the prediction." Great Controversy, Page 335:1.

The Judgment of God Unheeded. Verses 20, 21.

The Mohammedan invasion was a scourge on an apostate church for its idolatry, but men failed to recognize it as such. SDA Source Book, Page 553 (two articles); Daniel And Revelation, Page S17.

For Further Study

1. What effect did the fulfillment of Litch's prediction have upon the proclamation of the Advent Message?
2. How do most commentators explain Revelation 9? SDA Source Book, Page 553 (Habershon).
3. Read Great Controversy, Page 334, 335.
4. Tabulate the Seven Trumpets as follows: Number, Fulfilled by, Date, Symbolism, Reference.

Questions on the Lesson

1. How does the prophecy of the seven churches show that the Lord overrules in the affairs of men?
2. Who are referred to by the four angels bound in the great river Euphrates?
3. Give briefly the history of the downfall of Eastern Rome.
4. When did the fifth trumpet end? When was the Eastern Roman Empire "killed"?
5. For how long a period was the power of control given to the Turk? Work out this period.
6. When did the sixth trumpet end? Who was the first to discover this date?
7. What occurred on August 11, 1840?
8. Draw a chart to illustrate the fifth and sixth trumpets.

19. THE SOUNDING OF THE SEVENTH TRUMPET

(Revelation 11:14-19)

Setting of the Scripture.

The scripture dealing with the seventh trumpet is separated from the account of the other trumpets. In between the sixth and seventh trumpets we have two important subjects: (1) the great Second Advent Message of Revelation 10, and (2) the exaltation of the Scriptures in the first part of Revelation 11.

Chronology.

1. The third woe follows quickly upon the second. Revelation I 1: 14.
2. The second woe, or sixth trumpet, ended August 11, 1840.
3. When the seventh trumpet sounds the temple of God is opened in heaven. Revelation 11:19. And since this occurred definitely when the Savior transferred His ministry into the second apartment of the heavenly sanctuary (Great Controversy, Page 433:1), we conclude that the seventh trumpet commenced to sound in 1844.

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4. Just as with the other trumpets, so the seventh trumpet occupies a period of time (“days”) in sounding. Revelation 10:7. We must be careful not to confuse this prophetic trumpet with the literal last trump. 1 Thessalonians 4: 16; 1 Corinthians 15:52.

Events.

In verses 15-19 the ground is gone over three distinct times:-

1. Verses 15-17: First the most important event, the announcement concerning the commencement of Christ’s reign, is mentioned.

2. Verse 18: Several events are then mentioned in their order:-

(a) Nations Angry: Commencing 1848 and increasing till Armageddon.

(b) Thy Wrath Is Come: The seven last plagues. Revelation 15:1.

(c) The Judgment of the Dead: The judgment of professed believers from 1844 to the close of probation, and the judgment of the wicked during the millennium. 1 Corinthians 6:2; Revelation 20:4.

(d) The Reward of the Righteous: At the close of the millennium when the full reward is given. Matthew 25:34.

(e) Punishment of the Wicked: Their final destruction at the close of the millennium. Revelation 20:9; 2 Peter 3:7.

3. Verse 19: This verse covers the whole period of the trumpet. The first, half of the verse was fulfilled in 1844. The second part will be fulfilled during the plagues. Note. It is held by some that the seventh trumpet does not begin till probation closes. The writer of these lessons cannot feel free to accept that position, because the event of the opening of the temple (v. 19) refers definitely to 1844. See Great Controversy, Page 433:1.

For Further Study

1. Read from Daniel And Revelation, Page on Revelation 11:14-19.

2. Why is the ark called “the ark of His testament”? Exodus 25:16; 31:18; Deuteronomy 10:2,5.

3. Read Early Writings, Page 36:1, noting explanation of Revelation 11:18.

4. Read “Great Second Advent Movement,” pp. 270-272.

Questions on the Lesson

1. Explain the setting of the seventh trumpet in Scripture.

2. What definitely fixes the seventh trumpet as beginning in 1844?

3. What is the first event mentioned in connection with the sounding of the seventh trumpet?

4. The last event?

5. Which events of the seventh trumpet have been fulfilled or are in process of fulfillment?

6. Which are still future?

20. THE GREAT SECOND ADVENT MESSAGE

(Revelation 10)

Chronology.

1. Chapter 10 is placed between the sixth and seventh trumpets in order of events.

2. “A little book open”: The message is based upon a book which has been opened. This open book must be the Book of Daniel, the only book of Scripture ever closed. Daniel 12:4. The Book of Daniel was to be opened in the time of the end. Therefore the message of Revelation 10 must find its fulfillment this side of 1798.

3. The angel of Revelation 10 is identical with the angel of Revelation 14:6,7, and must therefore denote the same message. A comparison of the two scriptures reveals the following similarities:

(a) Both cry with a loud voice.

(b) Both call attention to God as Creator.

(c) Both messages are based on time.

(d) Both messages are world wide in extent.

(e) Both announce the close of the gospel work.

4. Thus we find the fulfillment of the prophecy in the great message of 1840-1844.

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Character of the Message. Verses 1-3.

1. A Mighty Angel: A mighty message. Luke 7:24,27. "Messenger": Greek, angelos. "Angel" is a transliteration.
2. Clothed with a Cloud: Something could not be seen clearly. Signifies some mystery, something hidden from view.
3. A Rainbow: Denoting God's faithfulness to His promise. The Lord was about to fulfil His promise to man. John 14:1-3.
4. Face as the Sun: The message brings light and power.
5. Feet as the Fire: Purity. Wherever the message went it called men to the pure Word of God.
6. Cried with a Loud Voice: A message heard by all.

The Seven Thunders. Verses 4-7.

1. Those who gave this message thought that this referred to literal time, and taught that time would end in 1844.
2. Verse 7 proves that the time referred to is not literal.
3. Verse 11 proves that it is not probationary time.
4. Therefore the only time terminating in 1844 must be prophetic. The pronouncement intimates that no prophetic period was to extend beyond 1844, when the 2300 years terminate. See Early Writings 246; 74, 75; 243.

Days of the Voice of the Seventh Angel.

1. In the days when the seventh trumpet is sounding, the mystery of God will be finished.
2. The Mystery of God:

Ephesians 3: 11-16.	This mystery was made known to Paul by revelation.
Galatians 1: 11, 12.	That which Paul received by revelation was the gospel.
Ephesians 6:19.	Paul made known what he called "the mystery of the gospel."
Ephesians 1: 9, 10.	This mystery results in gathering together all who are Christ's.

This final work of the gospel commenced in 1844. The judgment work commences the final ingathering of all who are Christ's-the making up of the subjects of His kingdom.

The Sweet-Bitter Experience of the Little Book. Verses 8-10.

1. In vv. 8-10 the prophet John is made to act a part in the prophecy by taking the place of the believers in the message of the little book.
2. The little book: The Book of Daniel which formed the basis of the great Second Advent proclamation of 1840-1844.
3. The eating of the book: The receiving of the message. Ezekiel 3:1-3; Jeremiah 15:16.
4. The sweet experience: The joyful acceptance of the message that Christ was coming soon.
5. The bitter experience: The bitter disappointment of the Adventists in October, 1844. Great Controversy, Page 404, 405.

The Message to Follow. Verse 11.

1. Thou: The advent believers.
2. Prophecy again: Bear witness again. There was still a world-wide message to be given. Up to 1844 the Adventists had declared the first and second messages, but the third angel was to follow them. Revelation 14: 9.
3. Read "Great Second Advent Movement," pp. 185-197.

For Further Study

1. In what remarkable way did the Advent Message arise in various countries? Great Second Advent Movement, Page 99, 100.
2. What prominent men proclaimed the first angel's message in America, Asia, Germany, Britain, Holland?
3. What was the effect of the message? Great Controversy, Page 369, 370.
4. Does an error in a message necessarily brand- it as not of God? Give reasons.
5. What was God's purpose in permitting the disappointment? Great Controversy, Page 353, 354, 374, 405.
6. Read Daniel And Revelation, Page on chapter 10.

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Questions on the Lesson

1. Why are the events of Revelation 10 placed between the sixth and seventh trumpets?
2. Upon what is the message of the angel of Revelation 10 based?
3. How does this help to locate the time of the message?
4. Show that the message of Revelation 10 is identical with that of the first angel of Revelation 14.
5. When was the message of Revelation 10 fulfilled?
6. Show that an angel is used in prophecy to symbolize a message.
7. How is the character of the message revealed in the angel? What was the burden of his message?
8. What is represented by the seven thunders?
9. Prove that "time no longer" does not refer to the end of the world.
10. What did the Adventists of 1844 think it meant?
11. What is the mystery of God? When will it be finished? Explain.
12. Describe the experience of the eating of the book. Explain its meaning.
13. How does the vision show that another message was to follow the disappointment?

21. THE TWO WITNESSES

(Revelation 11:1-13)

Attention Directed to the Sanctuary. Verses 1, 2.

Chapter 11 follows on from and explains chapter 10. It deals with the exaltation of Bible truth in the time of the end of which the first angel's message of chapter 10 was but the commencement. Verses 1, 2 properly belong -to chapter 10. Daniel had shown that the Scriptures would be spread abroad in the time of the end. Daniel 12: 4.

The Basis of the Third Angel's message:

1. Revelation 10:11 reveals the third angel's message.
2. Revelation 11:1, 2 reveals the nature of that message and explains the cause of the bitter disappointment of 1844.

Measure the Temple: Give attention to it. Study it. Measure them that worship therein: God's measure is a measure of character. The study of the sanctuary will lead believers to measure their own lives with the standard revealed therein.

The Measuring Rod: In a general sense the measuring rod of God is His Word. 2 Timothy 3:16,17. Specifically it is His law. Ecclesiastes 12:13,14; James 2:12. The Lord Himself desired to call the disappointed Adventists to a fuller study of His Word that they might understand the sanctuary and the standard of character of true worshippers.

The Court: The court of the sanctuary was holy ground, an enclosure specially set apart for a sacred use. It was the place of worship for the people, the most sacred place on earth which God's people could enter. The people came out of the camp and out of the world to worship God with confession, consecration, and praise in the court. Therefore the court cannot represent the earth, but is a fitting type of the church. This is clear from 'the fact that the "court" is used synonymously with the "holy city" in verses 2 and 3.

The Court or Holy City Trodden Underfoot: The church is the part of God's sanctuary that "the man of sin" entered and polluted soon after apostolic days. 2 Thessalonians 2: 3-7. The word "Gentile" is used in its spiritual significance to apply to the enemies of God, those who were void of the truth. It represents the Papacy, which exercised a despotic sway over the church for 42 months, or 1260 years, from AD 538 to AD 1798. Daniel 7: 2 5. While the smoke of Mohammedanism darkened the East the Papacy trod down the church in the West.

The Two Witnesses. Verses 3, 4.

During this period of apostasy (1260 years) God's two witnesses were to bear witness for Him.

Who Are They?

1. Verse 4 refers us to Zechariah 4: 2-6, where the two candlesticks represent God's Word. "This [representation] is the word of the Lord unto Zerubbabel." SDA Source Book, Page 611 (Galloway).
2. If any man opposes God's Word his condemnation proceeds out of its mouth. Verse 5; Revelation

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22:18,19; John 12:48.

3. God's Word has unlimited power. Verse 6.

The Bible During the 42 Months. Verse 3.

They witnessed for 1260 years "clothed in sackcloth" or in obscurity. Sackcloth was worn as a symbol of mourning. Millions of God's people were slain during the 1260 years, and the Scriptures were mutilated. During this time they were persecuted, kept from the people, hidden in an unknown tongue. SDA Source Book, Page 83 (Gieseler), 87 (Wiseman), 94 (Council).

War Against the Bible. Verses 7, 8.

Time: When they "are finishing" (original) their testimony. What testimony? That borne during the 1260 years.

The beast from the bottomless pit was to make war on the Bible about 1798.

Who Is the Beast? Verses 7, 8.

1. Spiritual Egypt. Egypt noted for its unbelief. Exodus 5: 2. 2. Spiritual Sodom. Sodom noted for licentiousness.
3. Where also our Lord was crucified. Christ can be crucified in the person of His saints. Acts 9: 4.
4. Thus we look for some licentious, atheistic, persecuting power to arise about 1798.
5. These specifications are fulfilled by Revolutionary France.

The French Revolution.

1. Atheism: Christ was openly defied during the French Revolution. See SDA Source Book, Page 190-192; Great Controversy, Page 270.
2. Licentiousness: Great Controversy, Page 270.
3. Persecution: In no land has God's truth encountered more bitter and cruel opposition. Chief among her persecutions we have the persecution of the Albigenses and Huguenots, and the St. Bartholomew Massacre, 1572. Great Controversy, Page 272, 273.
4. The Bottomless Pit: The place from which the beast ascended. Fittingly represents the confused, chaotic, revolutionary condition of France. SDA Source Book, Page 613, 614 (Burrue, Lamartine, Carlyle, Alison).
5. The Scriptures Slain: Verse 7.

The National Assembly of France prohibited and publicly burned the Bible in 1793. SDA Source Book, Page 614 (Croly, Galloway, Lorimer). Baptism and communion were prohibited, and death was declared an eternal sleep. Other nations would see what had been done to the Bible in France, but would continue to retain it. Verse 9. France rejoiced when the restraints of God's Word were removed. Verse 10. SDA Source Book, Page 614, 615 (Lorimer, Croly). The worship of the Goddess of Reason was set up in the place of Christianity. SDA Source Book, Page 191 (Library of Universal History).

The Resurrection and Exaltation of the Scriptures.

After 3.50 days = 3.50 years. Verse 11.

3.50 years from the time when the Scriptures were abolished in France, a decree was passed giving toleration to them once more (date 1797). SDA Source Book, Page 615, 616 (Sloane, Croly).

Ascended up to Heaven: Verse 12.

1. The language signifies great exaltation. Daniel 4: 22.
 2. The preceding verse brings us down to 1797; the next year, 1798, marks the commencement of the time of the end, when a knowledge of the Scriptures was to be increased. Daniel 12: 4. With the downfall of the Papacy began an era of freedom for the Word of God.
 - (a) British and Foreign Bible Society founded 1804
 - (b) Steam printing-press 1811
 - (c) American Bible Society founded 1816
 - (d) Carey went to India and commenced the era of modern missions 1793
 - (e) Great Second Advent Movement calls men back to a clearer knowledge of Bible truths 1831.
- See latest report of British and Foreign Bible Society and statistics of missionary endeavor.

The Downfall of the Papacy. Verse 13.

At the Same Hour: 1793-1798.

A Great Earthquake: The French Revolution.

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The City: The Papacy. Revelation 17, 18.

The Tenth Part: France was one of the ten divisions of Rome which was incorporated in the papal kingdom. It was a tenth part of papal Rome, and it was also the last part to withdraw its support. SDA Source Book, Page 617 (Jurieu). The revolution (earthquake) in France caused the downfall of the Papacy there. In 1798 a French general abolished the Papacy.

Slain of the Names of Men: Probably refers to the abolition of titles in 1790. SDA Source Book, Page 617, 618.

For Further Study

1. Read Daniel And Revelation, Page on Revelation M 1-13.
2. Read Great Controversy, Page chapter 15.

Questions on the Lesson

1. How is chapter 11 related to chapter 10?
2. To what is the attention of the believers directed after 1840? Why?
3. What period of apostasy is introduced? Who bore witness for God during this period?
4. Prove that the two witnesses are the Old and New Testaments.
5. Who is the beast that wars against the Bible? What is the bottomless pit?
6. What were the three leading characteristics of France during the Revolution?
7. Give evidences of the atheistic spirit of France during the Revolution.
8. How does France fulfil the description “where also our Lord was crucified”?
9. Give a brief account of France’s attack on the Bible.
10. Interpret the three and a half days of the prophecy.
11. How did the two witnesses live again? How have they ascended up to heaven?
12. What is symbolized by the great earthquake? What was the effect?

22. SATAN’S WARFARE WITH CHRIST AND HIS CHURCH

(Revelation 12)

War Against Christ at His Birth. Verses 1-5.

1. A Great Sign (RV): God speaks to His people through signs or symbols.
2. The Woman: Representing the true church. Jeremiah 6:2; 2 Corinthians 11: 2.
 - (a) “Clothed with the sun”: The church is to be clothed with the beautiful garments of Christ’s righteousness. Isaiah 52:1; 61:10; Revelation 19: 7, 8.
 - (b) “The moon under her feet”: The Christian church is represented as standing on the moon which could appropriately symbolize its foundation. The sun and the moon are both symbols of permanence. Psalm 89:34-37. The foundation of the Christian church is the Bible. Matthew 24: 35. Just as the moon shines with the light borrowed from the sun, so the Bible shines only as it reflects the person of Jesus. Note: The moon in Revelation 12 has also been interpreted by some to refer to the lesser light of the Mosaic dispensation.
 - (c) “A crown of twelve stars”: A crown symbolizes ruler ship. The stars represent the ministers or leaders of the Christian church. Revelation 1:20. In the old dispensation the church was noted for its twelve divisions taking their names from Jacob’s sons. The Christian church is founded by the 12 apostles.
 - (d) Verse 2 represents the church as anxiously awaiting the birth of a child. There can be no doubt that this child born to the church was Christ. (See Verse 5) We conclude that the church symbolized in Revelation 12 is the Christian church. The prophecy sketches the history of this church in the Christian dispensation.
3. The Great Red Dragon: Verses 3, 4.
 - (a) Primarily represents Satan. Verse 9.
 - (b) In a secondary sense it must represent the earthly government which Satan used at that time, i.e., Pagan Rome.
 - (c) The ten horns identify the power with Rome. Daniel 7: 7.
 - (d) Satan used a Roman king, Herod, to persecute Christ at His birth. Matthew 2: 16.
 - (e) One-third of the angels of heaven, the apostate ones, supported him in his work. Verse 4; Job

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38:7; Judges 5: 20; Revelation 1:20.

4. Satan Fails: Verse 5.

Satan Cast Out of Heaven. Verses 7-12.

1. War in Heaven: Verse 7. War between Christ and Satan and Christ's angels and Satan's angels.

The prophecy now takes us back to the origin of the controversy between Christ and Satan.

As a result of this warfare, Satan and his angels were cast out of heaven. Verses 8, 9.

2. When Were They Cast Out?

(a) Satan and his sympathizers were expelled from heaven when their rebellion had reached its height. Early Writings, Page 146; Patriarchs And Prophets, Page 69: 2; Luke 10:18.

(b) Nevertheless he was still permitted to enter heaven's courts after his fall. Job 1:6,7; 2:1,3.

(c) He was completely banished from heaven when he crucified Christ, and he then lost his place in heaven forever. John 12:31, 32; Colossians 1:20; Patriarchs And Prophets, Page 69, 70; Desire of Ages, Page 761:1,2. The casting out of Satan is a process covering a period of time, and not just a single event. It commenced with Satan's expulsion from office and culminated with the crucifixion. Satan was cast out not only bodily but from the sympathies of heavenly beings.

3. Heaven's Song of Rejoicing: Verses 10, 11.

"Now": At the time when Satan was finally cast out of heaven after he had crucified Christ. Salvation, strength, etc., had all been provided by Christ's victory on the cross. Previous to this casting out of Satan, he had accused God's people day and night before God. Christ's death provides overcoming power for those whom Satan has been accusing. Verse 11.

4. Satan's Doom Sealed: Verse 12. Satan's work in heaven is for ever finished; his work is now confined to the earth. Satan knows that his course is nearly run, and he redoubles his efforts. Great Controversy, Page 503: 3.

Satan's Warfare Against the Church in the Wilderness. Verses 13-16.

1. The Church in the Wilderness: Although Satan failed to defeat Christ when He was on earth, he did not cease his warfare. Now he turns his wrath against the Christian church. Verse 13.

So fierce was his attack that the church was forced into obscurity for a period of 1260 years. Verses 14, .6.

During this period (538-1798) Paganism disguised in the Papacy continued its work.

2. God Aids His Church:

(a) The church is provided with eagle's wings, a fitting symbol of the strength provided by God. Ex. 19:4.

(b) The church is "nourished" for 1260 years. God nourishes the church through His Word. 1 Peter 2:2. The Christians kept the Sacred Word in spite of Rome's opposition.

(c) The dragon hurled against the church a flood of persecution and false doctrine, but God saved His church. Verse 15.

(d) The earth helped the woman:

(1) The mountains provided a shelter for the persecuted. Great Controversy, Page 64-66.

(2) America provided an asylum for those who were not permitted to have liberty of conscience. Great Controversy, Page 252.

(3) The powers of earth helped the church by lending their support to the Reformation.

War Against the Remnant Church. Verse 17.

1. The Remnant: Must refer to the church of the last days. Does not refer to any remnant but to the remnant after 1798.

2. How is the Remnant Known? Two important characteristics determine which church constitutes God's remnant:

(a) The remnant keeps God's commandments. Includes the Sabbath.

(b) The remnant possesses the Spirit of prophecy. Revelation 19:10:

For Further Study

1. Write a list of the chief characteristics of the remnant church. Revelation 12:17; 14:12; Zeph. 3:13.

2. How is. Revelation 11:19 related to Revelation 12:17?

3. What change is seen in the appearance of Satan since his fall? Early Writings 145:1; 152:3.

4. Which church is-the remnant church?

5. Study Satan's methods of attack and the way we may resist him, from Zechariah, chapter 3.

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6. Read Prophets And Kings, Page 587-592; Daniel And Revelation, Page on Revelation 12.

Questions on the Lesson

1. Give the four leading divisions of Revelation 12.
2. What are the two leading symbols of the chapter?
3. What is represented by the woman? The moon? The crown? Proof texts.
4. Who is the dragon said to represent? Why should he be symbolized in that way?
5. What attack was launched against the Man Christ Jesus? Who was the spirit in this attack?
6. Who was the agent? How did Satan fail?
7. Where did the great controversy originate? Who were then the contestants?
8. How did this world become the theatre of the conflict between good and evil?
9. When was Satan cast out of heaven?
10. What does Satan know? How does this affect him?
11. Where did Satan direct his attack after Christ's ascension?
12. What is meant by the woman in the wilderness?
13. For what period was the church in the wilderness?
14. How did the Lord preserve His persecuted church?
15. Against whom is Satan's final attack directed?
16. How may the remnant church be known?

23. THE PAPACY: ITS WORK, CHARACTER, AND INFLUENCE

(Revelation 13:1-10)

The Beast from the Sea. Verses 1, 2.

A Beast: Symbol of an unrighteous nation. Daniel 7: 17.

The Sea: Symbolizing people, populated lands. Revelation 17: 15. This power rises in a thickly populated land, among nations.

Ten Horns: The ten horns identify this power as Rome, with which the number ten is so often associated. They, denote the ten kingdoms of divided Rome. Daniel 7: 7, 23, 24.

The Seven Heads.

1. The seven heads represent seven kingdoms or forms of government. Revelation 17: 9, 10, RV; Jeremiah 51:24, 25.

2. These seven kingdoms are successive, not contemporaneous. Revelation 17:10.

3. The beast of Revelation 13 is a composite beast partaking of the nature of the leopard (Grecia), the bear (Persia), and the lion (Babylon). Revelation 13: 2; Daniel 7.

4. Every head is a blasphemous, God-opposing power. Revelation 13:2; 17:3.

5. We conclude that the 7 heads represent the 7 great systems which have opposed the people of God through the ages, beginning with Babylon as indicated in Revelation 13: 2. These opposing systems may be enumerated as follows: Babylon, Medo-Persia, Grecia, Rome, Papacy, Papacy Wounded, Papacy Healed.

Note. The student may prefer to designate the seven kingdoms as follows, an application followed by a large number of students: Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Medo-Persia, Grecia, Pagan Rome, Papacy. The writer of these studies prefers the former list for reasons presented in the study on Revelation 17.

The Ruling Head.

The rise, work, characteristics, and time of the beast clearly identify the ruling head as that of Papal Rome.

1. Its Rise:

(a) "Out of the sea": The Papacy arose amidst the ten kingdoms, surrounded by "peoples, multitudes, nations, and tongues."

(b) Received its power and seat and great authority from the dragon. Verse 2.

Primarily the dragon represents Satan, and it is to him that the Papacy owes its power, position, and great authority. Papal Rome also received its power and authority and seat from Paganism. This was brought about by the removal of the capital from Rome in AD. 330. SDA Source Book, Page 368 (Flick).

2. Its Character:

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(a) “A mouth speaking great things and blasphemies.” Verses 1, 5, 6. The Papacy has blasphemed God and spoken great things against God in the preposterous claims it makes.

(b) It embraces the characteristics of Babylon, Medo-Persia, and Grecia. Verse 2. The pagan system and persecuting spirit of these former powers were perpetuated in the Papacy, so much so that she is spoken of in Revelation 17 as Babylon. SDA Source Book, Page 68 (Hislop); 72 (Barker); 360, 361 (Guinness).

(c) It is a religious power, for it claims worship. Verses 3, 4, 7, 8. The Papacy claims the worship of all mankind. Pope Boniface VII, in the famous bull Unam Sanctum, says:-

“All the faithful of Christ by necessity of salvation are subject to the Roman pontiff, who judges all men, but is judged by no one.” “This authority is not human, but rather Divine. . . . Therefore we declare, assert, define, and pronounce, that to be subject to the Roman pontiff is to every human creature altogether necessary for salvation.” (Quoted from “Romanism and the Reformation,” by G. Guinness, Patriarchs And Prophets, Page 47, 48.)

3. Its Work:

(a) Blasphemes God’s name. Verse 6.

(b) Blasphemes God’s tabernacle.

(c) Blasphemes them that dwell in heaven.

Notice how the Papacy has done each of these things. SDA Source Book, Page 409-4 12, 315 (True Voice); Daniel And Revelation, Page 564: 2.

(d) Persecutes the saints.

“Terribly as the saints suffered under the Caesars of pagan Rome, they suffered far more terribly and far longer under papal Rome. Let the massacres of the Albigenses, the Waldenses, the Hussites, the Lollards, the massacres in Holland and the Netherlands, the massacre of St. Bartholomew, the massacre in Ireland in 1641, the tortures of the Inquisition, the fires of the stake kindled over and over in every country in Europe-let these speak and testify to the fulfillment of prophecy. Yes; the Papacy has made war with the saints, and overcome them, and worn them out, and would have totally crushed and annihilated them, but for the sustaining hand and reviving power of God. In its prolonged, cruel, and universal persecution of the saints, the Papacy has fulfilled this solemn prophecy.” – “Romanism and the Reformation,” p. 154.

4. The Time of Its Supremacy:

(a) It commences its work after the first three universal kingdoms. Verse 2.

(b) It exercises supremacy for 42 months, or 1260 years, i.e., from 538 to 1798. Verse 5.

(c) It receives a deadly wound and is led into captivity. Verses 3, 10. (d) It is revived and again exercises a powerful influence. Verse 3.

5. A further proof that the beast of Revelation 13:1-10 is the Papacy is seen in, its similarity to the little horn of Daniel 7, which is a symbol of the Papacy. Both symbols are alike in their character, work, and duration, and so must refer to the same power.

(a) Both are blasphemous powers. Daniel 7:25 - Revelation 13:6

(b) Both persecute the saints. Daniel 7:21 - Revelation 13:7

(c) Both speak great things. Daniel 7:8,20 - Revelation 13:5

(d) Both continue for 1260 days. Daniel 7:25 - Revelation 13:5

6. The Number of the Beast-His Identification Mark. The beast may be known by his number. Revelation 13:18. The number is associated with a man. Verse 18. It requires wisdom to understand the number (v. 18), but the righteous will understand. Daniel 12:10; James 1: 5. Naturally we go to the “man” who stands at the head of the papal kingdom to find the number. That man is the Pope, and his principal title is:

VICARIUS FILII DEI (Vicar of the Son of God). The title has been inscribed on the pope’s miter. “The letters inscribed on the pope’s miter are these, “Vicarius Filii Dei,” which is Latin for Vicar of the Son of God.” (Our Sunday Visitor, April 18, 1915, P. 3.) However, even if the title were not actually on the tiara, the application would be just as forceful. Read “Footprints of the Invisible” (Hare), P. 72. The only numerals of John’s day were letter-numerals; therefore we evaluate the letters of the title thus:-

<u>Roman Letter</u>	<u>Numerical Value</u>
V	5
I	1
C	100
A	0
R	0

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I	1
U	5
S	0
F	0
I	1
L	50
I	1
I	1
D	500
E	0
I	1
<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>666</u>

See “Footprints of the Invisible Patriarchs And Prophets, Page 73, 74. It is interesting to note also how the number 666 is associated with the Roman kingdom in the Hebrew and Greek. Rome pagan as well as Rome papal bears the mark of Antichrist. Hebrew: The word for Latin Kingdom is Romiith, evaluated as follows:

<u>Hebrew Letter</u>	<u>Numerical Value</u>
R	200
O	6
M	40
I	10
I	10
TH	400
<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>666</u>

Greek: The word for Latin Kingdom is Lateinos.

<u>Greek Letter</u>	<u>Numerical Value</u>
L	30
A	1
T	300
E	5
I	10
N	50
O	70
S	200
<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>666</u>

Some Important Comparisons.

1. The dragon symbol of Revelation 12 represents Rome in its pagan form; the beast of Revelation 13:1-10 represents Rome in its papal form. The power is the same, but the symbol is changed because there has been a change in religion. Daniel And Revelation, Page 561:1.
2. In Revelation 12: the crowns are upon the heads, and the horns are uncrowned, signifying that the ten kingdoms were not yet ruling. They did not come into power till after pagan Rome had passed away. It was the fourth head which ruled when the dragon tried to destroy Christ at His birth. In Revelation 13 the crowns are upon the horns. The beast exercises dominion during the 1260 years, but its ruling power is vested in the horns. The Papacy ruled through the ten kingdoms of Europe.

The Deadly Wound. Verses 3, 10.

1. The ruling head of the beast is the papal head, and this must be the one wounded to death.

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2. This wound was inflicted by Berthier in 1798, when Pope Pius VI was taken prisoner and the civil and ecclesiastical power of the Papacy was abolished. SDA Source Book, Page 196 (Ridpath), 390-392 (Elliott, Alison, Pennington, Alison).
3. So complete was the overthrow that Europe thought the Papacy to be extinct. The beast was "slain" (Verse 3, margin), "killed" (Verse 10). SDA Source Book, Page 392 (Rickaby, Trevor).
4. The work of the Papacy had returned upon its own head. Verse 10. SDA Source Book, Page 289, 390 (Elliott).

Questions on the Lesson

1. What is symbolized by a beast in prophecy? By sea? By horns? Proof texts.
2. How do the ten horns help to identify the first beast of Revelation 13?
3. What are represented by heads? What powers of Daniel 7 are featured in the beast of Revelation 13?
4. How far back does this lead us in point of time?
4. Name the seven great truth-opposing systems of this present world.
5. What six considerations lead to the conclusion that the beast of Revelation 13 is the Papacy?
6. How do the specifications concerning the rise of the beast meet their fulfillment in the Papacy?
7. What characteristics of pagan powers are found in papal Rome?
8. How has the Papacy blasphemed God? Claimed worship?
9. Blasphemed the tabernacle? Persecuted the saints?
10. Explain the 1260 days.
11. Show that the beast of Revelation 13 is the same power as the little horn of Daniel 7.
12. What is the number of the beast? Where does the prophecy direct us to look for it?
13. How does the number of the beast point to the Pope of Rome?
14. Contrast the beast of Revelation 13 with the dragon of Revelation 12.
15. When and how was the deadly wound inflicted?

24. THE PAPACY AND THE HEALING OF THE DEADLY WOUND

(Revelation 13: 3, 8)

The Healing of the Deadly Wound. Verse 3.

1. The Papacy received its deadly wound at the close of the 1260 years in 1798, when Pius VI was dethroned and the papal kingdom abolished.
2. In 1800 a new pope, Pius VII, was elected, and the Catholic religion was re-established in France. The deadly wound gave the first indications that it would heal. SDA Source Book, Page 393 (Pennington).
3. From 1800 to 1929 the Papacy experienced a very checkered career. On three occasions the wound was opened afresh, but the twentieth century has witnessed a rapid healing.

In 1808-1809 the French again entered Rome, imprisoned the pope, and annexed the Papal States. The pope was restored again in 1814. SDA Source Book, Page 393, 394 (Pennington). In 1848 the pope, Pius IX, fled from Rome on account of the Revolution and did not return till 1850. SDA Source Book, Page 394 (Williams, Pennington). In 1870 the Ecumenical Council promulgated the Dogma of Papal Infallibility. A few months later the Italian government robbed the pope of all temporal dominion, and so terminated his civil power. SDA Source Book, Page 394 (last two articles); Daniel And Revelation, Page 162.

4. On Feb. 11, 1929, the Italian-Vatican Pact was signed by Mussolini and the papal secretary, re-establishing the Pope's temporal power so that he is now a king once more. Notice how various writers regard the event:

Current History: "One of the most momentous events of modern history."

Intermountain Catholic, March, 1929: "Perhaps the most important and far-reaching event since the end of the World War. . . . Will have far-reaching consequences not only for Italy but for the world at large."
Western Watchman (Catholic), March 28, 1929: "There will be a magnificent opportunity for his [the Pope's] influence to make itself felt in our time."

5. Read "Further Thoughts on Daniel and Revelation" (Anderson), pp. 57-65. Secure up-to-date material on the present position and influence of the Papacy.

The Wound to Be Completely Healed.

NOTES ON REVELATION

1. The Papacy is to be revived to such an extent that “all the world wondered after the beast.” Revelation 13: 3, 4.
2. Only the true servants of God will refuse to worship the beast. Verse 8.

Rome’s Growing Influence.

Current History, March, 1928: “Anyone who is at all conversant with public affairs, abroad as well as at home . . . cannot help but be deeply impressed by the multitudinous evidences of the highly enhanced activities and world-wide influence of the Catholic Church. . . . The Catholic Church is today resurgent throughout the world, with a forcefulness greater than at any time since the Apostolic Age or the high tide of the medieval period.” Study the following statements carefully:-

Great Controversy,

Page 565-566.

Planning to regain control of the world, and gaining ground on every side.

Page 566-571.

Protestants compromising.

Page 572-573.

False science preparing the way for Rome’s growth.

Page 581.

Silently growing into power.

For Further Study

1. How long will the Papacy continue?
2. Where will it meet its end? 2 Thessalonians 2: 8; Revelation 19: 20; Daniel 7: 11.
3. How will homage be given to the Papacy? Great Controversy, Page 579.
4. What event will mark the union of the professed Protestant churches with Popery?
Testimonies, Volume 5, Page 712.
5. Who is the present Pope?

Questions on the Lesson

1. What was the first indication that the deadly wound would heal?
2. Sketch the career of the Papacy from 1798 to 1929.
3. What bearing does the Italian-Vatican Treaty of 1929 have upon the prophecy of Revelation 13?
4. How completely will the deadly wound be healed? What may the saints then expect?
5. How are Protestants responsible for Rome’s power?

25. THE USA IN PROPHECY

(Revelation 13:11-17)

The Power Identified. Verse 11.

1. Time of Its Rise:

(a) About 1798 it would be “coming up,” or rising into prominence. “Mr. Wesley, in his notes on Revelation 13, written in 1754, says of the two-horned beast: ‘He is not yet come, though he cannot be far off; for he is to appear at the end of the forty-two months of the first beast.’ – “Bible Readings,” Page 271.

It was in 1776 that America gained her independence. In 1789 she adopted her National Constitution.

(b) It performs its work in the last generation (Revelation 14:9), when the Papacy is fully restored. Revelation 13: 12.

2. Place of Its Rise: “Out of the earth.” In a new land. Compare with Verse 1. Not Europe or Asia, but America.

3. Manner of Its Rise: “Coming up”-from “anabainon” = to grow, to spring up, as a plant. Daniel And Revelation, Page 574-576 (Note how America rose to power).

4. Character: “Two horns like a lamb”-denote youthfulness and innocence. America was a youthful power in 1798.

The uncrowned horns may denote the two main features of its power:

(a) Republicanism-civil liberty.

(b) Protestantism-religious liberty.

The United States was founded upon the two great principles of civil and religious liberty. Daniel And Revelation, Page 579

5. Application to Apostate Protestantism:

NOTES ON REVELATION

(a) It is clear that the lamb like beast applies to the United States, but inasmuch as the United States is the great Protestant nation of the world, we should also recognize that we have in this chapter a sketch of the history of Protestantism as it heads up in America.

(b) Certain statements of Scripture indicate clearly that in its broadest sense the beast of Revelation 13:11–17 has reference to a religious power, and not merely to U.S.A.

Revelation 13:14. It deceives.
Revelation 13:12, 13. Its work is world wide.
Revelation 14:6, 9, 10. The whole world is to be warned of its work.
Revelation 16:13. It is classed along with paganism and the Papacy.

(c) The Spirit of prophecy, while applying the prophecy to the United States, also shows clearly that it has a fuller application in apostate Protestantism.

Review And Herald, January 1, 1889 (Mrs. E. G. White): “The crisis is now upon us. The battle is to be waged between the Christianity of the Bible and the Christianity of human tradition. . . . Prophecy represents Protestantism as having lamb like horns, but speaking like a dragon. . . . Many will plead that there is no prospect that popery will ever be revived. If it shall regain its lost ascendancy it will be by Protestantism giving it the right hand of fellowship.”

Testimonies to Ministers, Page 117: 4: “The churches, represented by Babylon, are, represented as having fallen from their spiritual state to become a persecuting power against those who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ. To John this persecuting power is represented as having horns like a lamb, but as speaking like a dragon.”

Great Controversy, Page 616: “Romanism in the Old World, and apostate Protestantism in the New, will pursue a similar course [as did the Jews against Christ] towards those who honor all the divine precepts. The people of God will then be plunged into those scenes of affliction and distress described by the prophet as the time of Jacob’s trouble.”

The Work of the Beast. Verses 11-13.

1. “Spoke as a dragon”: The dragon was a great persecuting power. Revelation 12:17. A nation speaks through its laws. This nation will make laws to persecute God’s people. The laws it makes will be religious laws, and will be brought about through a union of church and state.
2. “Exercises all the power of the first beast”: The power which the Papacy exercised was persecuting power. It persecuted all who differed from it.
3. Causes the earth to worship the Papacy: The only way the earth can be made to worship is by enforced rest. 2 Chronicles 36: 21. The text implies enforced Sunday observance.
4. “Does great wonders”: These wonders are wrought for the purpose of deception. Verse 14. Hence we conclude that this beast is the false prophet of Revelation 19:20. These miracles are wrought by the spirits of devils, i.e., spiritualism. Revelation 16: 13,14. Spiritualism: Arose in 1848 in the Fox family at Hydesville, U.S.A. Its extent today. Bible Readings, Page 536, 537. A-miracle-working power. Daniel And Revelation, Page 585, 586. Fire from heaven will be offered as divine sanction for Satan’s lies. Great Controversy, Page 561:2; 588:1.

The Image to the Beast. Verses 14, 15.

The great work of the United States is that it brings about the formation of the image to the beast.

1. This image or likeness to the Papacy is established by the will of the people-another proof that this is a republican nation. Verse 14.
2. What is an image to the beast?
First, the Papacy was the church dominating the civil power and enforcing its decrees by means of the civil power. An image to the beast would be another ecclesiastical organization enforcing its dogmas through the civil power-a union of church and state. Hence such an organization would be in character another Papacy and is therefore called an image of the beast. Verse 15; Great Controversy, Page 445: 1
3. The death penalty will finally be decreed upon all those who refuse to pay homage to this power. Revelation 13:15.
4. Verse 16 tells us how apostate Protestantism endeavors to force all to worship the image to the beast.

The Mark of the Beast.

NOTES ON REVELATION

1. This is clearly the mark of the Papacy.
2. God's sign or mark is His Sabbath. Exodus 31:13; Ezekiel 20:12, 20.
The mark of Rome is a counterfeit Sabbath-Sunday. She admits that Sunday is her mark of authority.
"In a letter written in November, 1895, Mr. H. F. Thomas, chancellor to Cardinal Gibbons, replying to an inquiry as to whether the Catholic Church claims to have changed the Sabbath, said: Of course the Catholic Church claims that the change was her act.... and the act is a mark of her ecclesiastical authority in religious things." - Bible Readings, Page 449.
"Question: How prove you that the Church hath power to command feasts and holy days?
"Answer: By the very act of changing the Sabbath into Sunday, which Protestants allow of; and therefore they fondly contradict themselves by keeping Sunday strictly, and breaking most other feast days commanded by the same church." - "Abridgement of Christian Doctrine," by Revelation Henry Tuberville, DD, of Douay College, p. 58.
"Question: Have you any other way of proving that the Church has power to institute festivals of precept?
"Ans.: Had she not such power, she could not have done that in which all modern religionists agree with her-she could not have substituted the observance of Sunday, the first day of the week, for the observance of Saturday, the seventh day, a change for which there is no Scriptural authority." "A Doctrinal Catechism," by Revelation Stephen Keenan, p. 174. "The Catholic Church of its own infallible authority created Sunday a holy day to take the place of the Sabbath of the old law."-Kansas City Catholic, February 9, 1893.
"Question: Which is the Sabbath day?
"Answer: Saturday is the Sabbath Day.
"Question: Why do we observe Sunday instead of Saturday?
"Answer: We observe Sunday instead of Saturday because the Catholic Church, in the Council of Laodicea. (AD. 336) transferred the solemnity from Saturday to Sunday." "The Convert's Catechism of Catholic Doctrine," P. 50. 3rd edition, 1913, a work which received the "apostolic blessing" of Pope Pius X, January 25, 1910. (Extracts from "Bible Readings," P. 440
3. The most fearful threatening in the Bible is against those who receive the mark of the beast. Revelation 14: 9-11.
4. Some will accept the Sunday intelligently, while others merely refrain from work on that day to avoid the wrath of the law. Verse 16.
"God's seal, or mark, is set in the forehead (Revelation 7:3; 14:1), the seat of the mind, the Lord accepting only the worship of conviction and conscience. The mark of the beast, however, is said to be received in the hand or forehead. Some are deceived, and give assent to the false teaching with their minds, receiving the mark in the forehead; others, coerced or indifferent, give formal, outward consent, and so receive the mark in the hand.
"Let the reader note this twofold aspect of the Sunday Sabbath, as expressed by one of the most ardent and active Sunday-law advocates in the United States: 'We, the Sabbath Union, W.C.T.U., all the churches, and the Y.M.C.A., are laboring with all our might to carry the religious Sabbath with our right arm, and the civil Sabbath with our left. Hundreds of thousands will receive it as a religious institution, and all the rest will receive it as a civil institution, and thus we will sweep in the whole nation.'" (Reverend W. F. Crafts, in Sunday Union Convention, Wichita, Kansas, September 20, 1889) Quoted from "Bible Readings," Page 277.
5. All objectors will be boycotted. Verse 17.
"In a sermon preached in Burlington, Kans., Sunday, Jan. 31, 1904, Reverend Bascorn Robins said:-
"In the Christian Decalogue the first day was made the Sabbath by divine appointment. But there is a class of people who will not keep the Christian Sabbath unless they are forced to do so. But that can be easily done. We have twenty million of men, besides women and children, in this country, who want this country to keep the Christian Sabbath. If we would say we will not sell anything to them, we will not buy anything from them, we will not work for them, or hire them to work for us, the thing would be wiped out, and all the world would keep the Christian Sabbath." - Bible Readings, Page 277, 278.

For Further Study

1. Spiritualism today: "This Mighty Hour" (Maxwell), chapter 5, Find other references.
2. Read articles as assigned from current magazines and papers on Revelation 13: 11-17.
3. Read Daniel And Revelation, Page on Revelation 13: 11 - 17.

NOTES ON REVELATION

Questions on the Lesson

1. Fix the chronology of the two-horned beast.
2. How does the prophecy point to America as the place of the two-horned beast?
3. Describe the manner in which the lamb like beast arose, and show the fulfillment.
4. How does America fit the description, "two horns like a lamb"?
5. Show that in a wider sense the second beast of Revelation 13 represents apostate Protestantism.
6. How did the lamb like beast speak? What does this forecast? What power does he exercise?
7. To what false worship does Protestantism lead the world?
8. Show the fulfillment of the prediction that the second beast would work miracles.
9. What is the purpose of these miracles?
10. What is the great work of the second beast?
11. Explain what is meant by the image of the beast, and say how it could be formed.
12. What will the image of the beast do?
13. Show that the mark of the beast is enforced Sunday observance.
14. What threat is made to those who refuse the mark of the beast?
15. What is meant by receiving the mark in the forehead? In the hand?

26. THE DRAGON'S VOICE

(Revelation 13)

- Revelation 13: 11: The innocent-looking, lamb like beast will speak as a dragon. The dragon's voice was heard in decrees and laws against God's saints.
- Mark 15: 13, 14. "Crucify Him" - the dragon's voice.
- Revelation 12: 13. Persecuting edicts were promulgated by the popes -also the dragon's voice.

The Dragon's Voice-What Does It Speak? Revelation 13: 14-17.

- 1st That the people of earth should make an image to the Papacy.
- 2nd Kill those who will not worship the image of the Papacy.
- 3rd Compel all to receive the mark of the Papacy.
- 4th Persecute all who oppose.

The Image of the Beast.

(A Likeness of the Papacy.)

1. How was the beast (the Papacy) formed?
 - 1st "A falling away," an apostasy.
 - 2nd A series of church councils uniting the churches of Christendom.
 - 3rd A union with the state.
 - 4th Religious laws.
2. How will the image be formed? Answer: In the same way, no doubt, as the Papacy was formed. We see the initial steps today:
 - 1st A backsliding and apostasy in the Protestant churches.
 - 2nd A movement for unity among the great churches of Christendom.
 - 3rd False Protestantism seizes the civil power to aid it.
 - 4th Religious laws, chief of which will be a Sunday law.
3. Great Controversy, Page 445: 2: "The image to the beast represents that form of apostate Protestantism which will be developed when the Protestant churches shall seek the aid of the civil power for the enforcement of their dogmas." (MEMORIZE.)

Evidence of Fulfillment.

1. Seventh-day Adventists first commenced to preach the meaning of Revelation 13:11-19 in 1850, when there were no indications of its fulfillment.
2. Today the following important organizations in the United States are working strenuously for enforced Sunday observance: The National Reform Association, International Reform Bureau, Lord's Day Alliance, Federal Council of the Churches of Christ, besides some Catholic societies.

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3. On the aims and objects of these bodies see "Bible Readings," 274-279. (Study entitled, "The United States in Prophecy.")
4. The first Sunday Bill to come before U.S. Congress appeared in 1888. The Revelation A. M. Gault of the National Reform Association, referring to the objectives of the association, said in a letter dated June 3, 1889. "We propose to incorporate in our national Constitution the moral and religious command, 'In it (Sunday) thou shall do no work,' except the works of necessity, and by external force of sheriffs we propose to arrest and punish all violaters of this law."
5. From 1888 to the present there has hardly been a session of Congress when the "reform" organizations have not had from three to eleven Sunday bills before Congress.
6. Seventh-day Adventists have done much to prevent the passage of these bills through Congress. So far not one has been passed.

The Dragon's Voice.

The following statements show that the dragon is already "speaking." Soon he will "cause" (compel).

1. At a meeting of the Lord's Day Alliance held in Washington, D.C., on January 24, 1915, the following declaration was made: "The Lord's Day Alliance is now backed by sixteen denominations and will soon be backed by thirty. We will soon stir up every community. When we speak we will be heard. We are already beginning to speak. By the strength of our organization we will get anything we want . . . We will bring influence to bear on all Christian Congressmen . . . Congress has been flooded with petitions and letters from Seventh-day Adventists until one would have thought that they were in the majority in this country."
2. Dr. David McAllister, one of the Presidents of the National Reform Association: "Those who oppose this work now, will discover when the religious amendment is made to the Constitution, that if they do not see fit to fall in with the majority, they must abide the consequences or seek some more congenial clime."
3. The Lord's Day Leader, May-June, 1925: "Seventh-day Adventists through their publications and by the propaganda they seek to put over to destroy our Sunday laws, are fooling many people. The time for a severe curbing of their activities is at hand."
"Seventh-day Adventists must be reckoned with."
"Seventh-day Adventists must be brought under subjection to the Sunday laws of this country."
4. Dr. H. L. Bolby, Sec., L.D.A. in mass meeting held in Calvary Baptist Church, Washington, D.C., Feb. 9, 1919: "We have put the Huns out of politics and we will put these Huns out of the Sabbath. Everybody knows what would happen to any man showing disrespect to the American flag, and we mean to put the American Sabbath upon exactly the same basis as the American flag. Some people object to the Puritan Sabbath as though it were an evil thing. We are not asking for the Puritan Sabbath, but we mean to have more of the Puritan spirit in the American Sabbath."
5. Dr. G. L. Tufts, Secretary Sunday Rest League, and author of Sunday bills in California and Oregon, in a sermon in Portland, Oregon, as reported in the Oregon Journal of Dec. 5, 1915, referred to Seventh-day Adventists as: "un-American intruders," "aliens," "un-American sect"; "Their only business appears to be to fight American institutions"; "They are Aliens in spirit and disloyal to the principles for which our revolutionary fathers fought and died. . . . They join hands with saloon bums, infidels, and frequenters of red-light districts to overthrow all Sunday rest laws."
6. In a personal letter dated April 16, 1928, Dr. Tufts said "I regard your church on the matter of Sunday laws as un-American, un-patriotic, and un-Christian. You are opposing the worship of the Lord on His, day of resurrection and by so doing, helping to destroy the morals of our nation. So you will pardon me for saying that by such work as you will do next Sunday night your church leaders are promoting immorality and anarchy. People who want a Continental Sunday should emigrate elsewhere."

The Last Battlefield.

Testimonies, Volume 5, Page 451: "On this battlefield [the Sunday Sabbath issue] comes the last great conflict of the controversy between truth and error."

Testimonies, Volume 5, Page 449: "And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.' In the near future we shall see these words fulfilled, as the Protestant churches unite with the world and with the papal power against commandment-keepers. The same spirit which actuated papists in ages past, will lead Protestants to pursue a similar course toward those who will maintain their loyalty to God. Church and state are now making preparations for the future conflict. Protestants are working in disguise to bring Sunday to the front, as did the Romanists."

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Review And Herald, August 22, 1893 (Sister White): "The whole world is to be stirred with enmity against Seventh-day Adventists, because they will not yield homage to the Papacy by honoring Sunday, the institution of this anti-Christian power. It is the purpose of Satan to cause them to be blotted from the earth, in order that his supremacy of the world may not be disputed."

Great Controversy, Page 626, 627: Experiences of God's people in the conflict.

Great Controversy, Page 635: 1, 2: God intervenes to rescue His people.

Great Controversy, Page 634: 1: None of the righteous slain.

For Further Study

1. How does the Protestant World of today view Sabbath-keepers? Testimonies, Volume 5, Page 450.
2. Who will join with the lawless to oppose God's people? Id.
3. What will legislators finally do? Why? Testimonies, Volume 5, Page 451.
4. What threefold union will be formed? Testimonies, Volume 5, Page 451.
5. What may we know when We see this taking place?
6. What is the present duty of God's people? Testimonies, Volume 5, Page 452.
7. How will the rest of the world be influenced by the formation of the image of the beast by the United States? Testimonies, Volume 6, Page 18.
8. The situation in America today.
9. The close of probation-signs of its approach.
10. Spiritualism and its influence in the church today.
11. Why Sunday laws are wrong. See "The Church in Politics" (Longacre), pp. 69-81.
12. Religious persecution under Sunday laws. See "The Church in Politics," pp. 83-91.

Questions on the Lesson

1. How was the dragon's voice heard in Christ's day? In the Dark Ages?
2. What will the lamb like beast of Revelation 13 speak when it utters the dragon voice?
3. Trace the steps in the development of the Papacy.
4. What similar steps will lead to the formation of the image of the beast?
4. When was the correct application of the two-horned beast first made?
5. Name some organizations working for Sunday enforcement. What do they express as their purpose?
6. Give some evidences of the dragon's voice- in the nominal Protestant church today.
7. What will be the issue in the last conflict?
8. What experience will God's people pass through?
9. Will any of the righteous be martyred in the time of trouble?

27. GOD'S PEOPLE VICTORIOUS

(Revelation 14:1-5)

On Mount Zion. Verse 1.

Where Is Mount Zion? In heaven. Verse 2.

Joel 3:16. Mount Zion in heaven. See also Hebrews 12: 22.

Psalm 24: 3. "Who shall ascend into the hill of the Lord [Mount Zion]?"

The company of Revelation 14: 1-5 is the answer to this question.

Isaiah 14:13; Ezekiel 28:14. Satan once stood there. The 144,000 take his place.

The Seal of God. Verse 1.

The Father's Name: Revelation 7: 3, 4 says they have the seal of God in their foreheads. The seal of God contains the Father's name.

In this way they testify that they have obtained the victory over the beast. Revelation 15:2. See Acts of the Apostles, Page 591.

The New Song. Verses 2, 3.

A New Song: "The song of their experience-an experience such as no other company have ever had." - Great Controversy, Page 649.

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The Song of Moses and the Lamb: Revelation 15:2-4. Song of Moses: Deliverance from earthly foes. Song of the Lamb: Deliverance from sin.

Before the Throne: In the sanctuary. Revelation 4: 5, 6.

The 144,000 alone enter the temple on Mount Zion. Early Writings, Page 19; Great Controversy, Page 648, 649.

A Translated Company. Verses 3, 4.

Redeemed from the earth (v. 3) “From among men.” Verse 4.

The hope of the dead is to be raised (Philippians 3: 11), but this company is translated.

Character. Verses 4, 5.

Not Defiled with Women: Weymouth translates the text, “They are as pure as virgins.” Denotes purity of life in a corrupt generation. “The seal of God will never be placed upon the forehead of an impure man or woman.” (Testimonies Volume 5, Page 216.) Some commentators have taken “women” in this verse to refer to false churches, but the context rather favors a literal rendering.

Follow the Lamb: They form Christ’s bodyguard.

First-fruits: The promise of a great harvest.

They are standing on the earth ready for the garner when Christ returns. They do not need to be called from the grave, but are a harvest just waiting to be garnered.

Perfection: Their mouths contain no guile. They are without fault.

For Further Study

1. The Song of the Lamb:
 - Testimonies to Ministers, Page 433;
 - Great Controversy, Page 649;
 - Patriarchs And Prophets, Page 289;
 - Prophets And Kings, Page 591;
 - Desire of Ages, Page 131;
 - Acts of the Apostles, Page 590, 591;
 - Ministry of Healing, Page 506, 507.
2. Read Daniel And Revelation, Page on Revelation 14: 1-5.

Questions on the Lesson

1. Where did John see the overcomers stand? What question of the Psalmist is answered by this vision?
2. What shows that the 144,000 are a translated company?
3. What shows that the 144,000 are all Sabbath-keepers?
4. What is the new song?
5. What does Revelation 14:1-5 teach concerning the character of the 144,000?

28. THE FIRST ANGEL’S MESSAGE

(Revelation 14:6, 7)

A New Chain of Prophecy.

Verse 6 introduces a new chain of prophecy—the Three Angels’ Messages. Each angel symbolizes a religious movement directed by the angels of God. Daniel And Revelation, Page 633: 2, 3.

Revelation 12 and 13 bring to view the instruments which Satan employs in his warfare against the remnant; Revelation 14 sets forth God’s provision to meet the conflict. Satan uses force but God seeks only to persuade men through the proclamation of truth.

The Nature of the Message.

1. Its Basis: The everlasting gospel. The gospel is the good news concerning Christ. Romans 1:1,3. The message of Revelation 14 has important announcements to make, but the foundation of all is to be the good news of salvation in Christ.
2. Its Extent: World-wide. A work which concerns the whole world must be given to the whole world. None are omitted.

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3. Its Power: Proclaimed with a loud voice. The whole world will hear this message.
4. It Ascribes Glory to God: "Fear God" calls man to reverence Him in an age which has lost its reverence. "Give glory to Him" applies to the habits and practices of the individual life. 1. Corinthians 10:31. The message calls for more than a theory; it demands a Christ like life. Proverbs 8:13; 16:6.
5. Its Special Announcement: The solemn fact is declared that God's judgment has come. A judgment come, at a time when a message is being proclaimed, shows that the judgment must be investigative. Seeing that the standard of the judgment is the law of God (James 2:12; Ecclesiastes 12:13,14), we would expect this message to emphasize the keeping of the commandments of God, and Verse 12 indicates that it does so.
6. It Calls Men to Worship God as Creator: Therefore it would necessarily call men to observe the memorial of creation, which is the Sabbath. Exodus 20:8-11. The latter portion of the verse is almost a word-for-word quotation from the fourth commandment. The message calls for Sabbath reform.
7. It produces a Christian Commandment-Keeping People: Verse 12.
8. It is similar to the message of Revelation 10.

The Time of the Message.

1. "The Hour of His Judgment Is Come." This very announcement alone is sufficient to locate the message as a last-day message. No such message could be given to all the world at any other time.
2. "The Hour of His Judgment": Christ placed the judgment at an indefinite time in the future from His day. Matthew 10:15; 11:21-24.
The apostles preached of a judgment "to come." Acts 24:25.
The great message of the Reformation in Luther's day, as well as the message of revival led by Wesley, did not regard the judgment as a present event, but spoke of its coming in the future. The sure Word of prophecy definitely locates the commencement of the judgment in 1844. Daniel 8: 14.
3. Fulfillment: A message based on Revelation 14, and declaring "the hour of His judgment is come," did commence about 1831, and is now being proclaimed.

The Prophecy Fulfilled.

1. At the time predicted just such a movement as the prophecy indicates did go to the world. Daniel And Revelation, Page 638.
2. This movement was world-wide in extent. Daniel And Revelation, Page 641-643.
3. It was based upon the doctrine of the speedy return of Christ to the earth, and upon the very prophecy itself-Revelation 14: 6, 7 and Daniel 8: 14.
4. William Miller in America, where the message reached its fullest development, commenced to preach in 1831. In England, Edward Irving commenced to preach about 1826.
5. The message reached its climax between the years 1840 and 1844.
6. The first disappointment occurred in March, 1844, the second, October 22, 1844. Recall Lesson 20.
7. The Advent Message was
 - (a) A call to greater earnestness.
 - (b) A call to a purer doctrine.
 - (c) A call from the world. Great Controversy, Page 379:3.
8. Since the disappointment the message has been proclaimed with greater fullness, for the disappointment led the believers to the discovery of the sanctuary and the Sabbath truths. These important truths provided the key to a proper understanding of the First Angel's Message.

For Further Study

1. What subject was the key which unlocked the mystery of the disappointment of 1844?
Great Controversy, Page 423: 1.
2. What did occur at the close of the prophetic period of 2300 days? Great Controversy, Page 424: 1, 2.
3. What was the design of the First Angel's Message? Great Controversy, Page 379: 1.
4. What caused the disappointments in March and October, 1844?
5. Why do Seventh-day Adventist ministers not use the title of Reverend? Desire of Ages, Page 613.
6. What subject is it necessary to understand in order to know that "the hour of His judgment is come"?
7. Study Great Controversy, Page chapters 18-20.
8. Study Early Writings, Page 232-237,
9. Study Daniel And Revelation, Page on Revelation 14: 6, 7.

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Questions on the Lesson

1. What new chain of prophecy is introduced in Revelation 14: 6?
2. What is the foundation of the First Angel's Message? What is its special announcement?
3. Describe the message as to extent and power.
4. Show that the message includes health reform, reverence, and Sabbath reform.
5. When only could such a message be given? Why?
6. Sketch the rise and development of the First Angel's Message.

29. THE SECOND ANGEL'S MESSAGE

(Revelation 14:8)

Babylon.

The message of Revelation 14:8 follows that of the first angel, and therefore is given in modern times. Hence the term Babylon must be a figurative expression. The term Babel originated with Nimrod, and means "confusion." Genesis 10:10; 11:9. Original Babylon: Genesis 11:1-9. Three important characteristics stand out in original Babylon:

1. Pride. Verse 4.
2. Apostasy. Verse 6, 7.
3. Confusion. Verse 8, 9.

Modern Babylon: Modern Babylon is a church. Revelation 17: 1-6. (Woman church. Revelation 12) This church is the Roman Church. Verse 18. That great city = Rome. Woman = apostate church. Therefore we have the Church of Rome. The Papal Church is the mother of harlots. She has daughters who are also apostate. These daughters are the churches which have come out from Rome, but still hold to her false practices and teachings. Such is the condition of the professedly Protestant churches of today. See Bible Readings, Page pp. 257, 258.

The Fall of Babylon.

1. Babylon falls before her destruction, which does not occur till the seventh plague. Revelation 16:19. Hence her fall must be a moral fall.
2. In 1844 the only division of Babylon that could fall was Protestantism. Great Controversy, Page 382, 383.
3. Babylon fell because of her false doctrines. Verse 8; Testimonies to Ministers, Page 61: 3.
4. She fell because she rejected the first angels message. Since then she has fallen more and more as she has continued to reject truth. Great Controversy, Page 389, 390.

Fulfillment.

1. About halfway between March 21 and October 22, 1844, the Midnight Cry was given. The churches as a whole rejected this message, and about 50,000 believers were compelled to separate. Great Second Advent Movement, Page pp. 173, 174.
2. As a consequence of their rejection of the first message, the churches experienced a moral fall which has continued to this day. Great Second Advent Movement, Page 151, 152; Daniel And Revelation, Page 661, 662; Great Controversy, Page 389, 390.

For Further Study

1. Give evidences of the moral fall of professed Protestant churches of today.
2. Compare their present standards with those of their founders.
3. The influence of modernism in the church. "Protestantism Imperiled," chapter 10.
4. See current numbers of Signs of the Times, Watchman, Review and Herald, etc.
5. When was the Second Angel's Message first proclaimed?
6. To whom did it then apply? Great Controversy, Page 389: 2.
7. What does it mean to come out of Babylon?

NOTES ON REVELATION

8. Read Daniel And Revelation, Page 647-663.

Questions on the Lesson

1. What proves conclusively that the term Babylon is figurative?
2. Give the origin and meaning of "Babylon."
3. What were the leading characteristics of ancient Babylon?
4. What constitutes modern Babylon?
5. Prove that the Second Angel's Message applies particularly to apostate Protestantism.
6. What has caused the downfall of the Protestant churches?
7. What was the Midnight Cry? When was it given?

30. THE THIRD ANGEL'S MESSAGE

(Revelation 14:9-20)

Character of the Three Messages.

1. The messages of Revelation 14 are cumulative, that is, one does not cease when another commences. Hence when the third message is being proclaimed the first and second are also sounding.
2. Note the logical connection between the three messages. There is a natural sequence, each message being dependent upon the preceding one.
3. In point of time the Third Angel's Message is God's final message to men. It is to be followed by Christ's coming as judge. Verse 14.

The Rise of the Message.

1. As noted in previous studies, the first and second messages commenced previous to the great disappointment of 1844. The great disappointment pictured in Revelation 10: 9, 10 occurred in October, 1844, because of a mistaken interpretation of the sanctuary.
2. Following the disappointment another message, world wide in extent, was to be proclaimed (Revelation 10:11), and this message was to be based upon the sanctuary truth. Revelation 11:1. "The subject of the sanctuary was the key which unlocked the mystery of the disappointment of 1844. It opened to view a complete system of truth, connected and harmonious, showing that God's hand directed the great Advent Movement." - Great Controversy, Page 423: 1.
3. A study of the sanctuary truth directed the minds of the believers to the law of God (Revelation 11:19), and hence to the true Sabbath. They saw that Sunday was a counterfeit Sabbath, the mark of a counterfeit system of religion. Thus they were led to understand the nature of the message of Revelation 14: 9. The Sabbath truth was first brought to the attention of Adventists as a body in 1846.
4. No one can proclaim the Third Angel's Message unless he understands the meaning of the symbols employed. This necessitates a study of the prophetic Word, and it becomes evident that only students of prophecy can make known God's last message.

Meaning of the Symbols.

As we have studied the symbols mentioned in Revelation 14: 9, 10, it will suffice if we briefly summarize them in this connection:

1. The beast: Representing the Papacy.
2. The image to the beast: An organization similar to the Papacy, consisting of a union between church and state, and exercising persecuting power similar to the church of Rome. See Great Controversy, Page 445: 1.
3. The mark of the beast: The Sunday institution.
4. The two-horned beast: In its fullest sense representing apostate Protestantism, which makes the image and enforces the mark. (Though this beast symbol is not mentioned in Revelation 14, it is necessary for an understanding of the prophecy.)

The Third Angel's Message is a fearful warning against the worship of the beast.

Punishment of the Beast-Worshippers.

1. Revelation 14:9-11 contains the most awful threatening in all the Bible.
2. Judgments without Mixture: God's wrath is filled up in the seven last plagues. Revelation 15:1. These

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plagues are poured out when probation closes, and so are unmixed with mercy. This punishment is executed when Christ comes. Revelation 19:20. Isaiah 34:8-10 probably refers to the same event.

3. Duration of Punishment: Verse 11.

For ever and ever: From the Greek "aion," which is defined to mean "a period of time of significant character; life; an era." (Bagster's Analytical Greek Lexicon.) The word denotes a period or state of undefined length. The duration of time to which it refers must be determined by the context or the circumstances of the case. Now Revelation 20:9 proves conclusively that the wicked will not burn eternally. ("Devoured," same word as in Matthew 13:4.) The expression "for ever" was used among the Jews in the sense of until the accomplishment of a set purpose or as long as it was possible to be. See Exodus 12: 23, 24; Leviticus 25:30; Jonah 2: 6.

Fulfillment of the Prophecy.

1. There is only one message being proclaimed to the world today which meets in full the specifications of the prophecy of Revelation 14, and that message is the one borne by Seventh-day Adventists. See Daniel And Revelation, Page 669-671.

2. "The light that we have upon the third angel's message is the true light. The mark of the beast is exactly what it has been proclaimed to be. Not all in regard to this matter is yet understood, and will not be understood until the unrolling of the scroll; but a most solemn work is to be accomplished in our world."-Testimonies, Volume 8, Page 159: 3.

3. Secure data on the present standing of our work.

Blessed Are the Dead. Verse 13.

From henceforth-indicates from some particular point of time, probably from the commencement of the message in 1844. This is the only company of dead thus described in the Bible. Why Blessed? Because all who have died in the faith of the third angel's message are to be raised in the partial resurrection to be upon the earth when Christ comes the second time. Daniel 12:2; Great Controversy, Page 637: 2.

The Second Advent. Verses 14-16.

1. The culmination of the great threefold message is the Second Coming of Christ. Verse 14. The grand purpose of the Second Advent is to reap the righteous that they might be gathered to Christ. John 14: 3. When Christ comes for His people, He comes as Son of man, as King, and as the great Reaper. Verse 14.

2. Note that while the time when the judgment work commences is announced on earth (Verse 7), the time of its completion is announced only in heaven (v. 15). No man knows the day and hour. Matthew 24: 36.

The Third Advent. Verses 17-20.

1. Verses 17-20 deal more particularly with events connected with the third advent which takes place at the close of the millennium. The grand purpose of the third advent is the complete destruction of sin and sinners. Jude 1:14. The harvest is the harvest of the wicked, who are compared to the bloated clusters of the vine.

2. During the millennium the righteous sit in judgment on the wicked. Revelation 20:4. No doubt this will take place in the sanctuary. It is from "the temple which is in heaven" (Verses 17, 18) that judgment angels come.

3. The scene of verse 20 no doubt occurs outside the New Jerusalem, in the preliminary slaughter which takes place just before fire is sent from heaven. Revelation 20:7-9; Ezekiel 28:6,7; Great Controversy, Page 671, 672.

For Further Study

1. Read Daniel And Revelation, Page on Revelation 14: 9-20.

Questions on the Lesson

1. The messages of Revelation 14 are cumulative. Explain their connection with one another.
2. What truth made possible the declaration of the Third Angel's Message? How?
3. State briefly what is meant by the beast; the image of the beast; the mark of the beast.
4. What solemn warning is given by the third angel?
5. What is meant by judgment without mixture?
6. Show that the expression "for ever and ever" does not teach eternal torment.

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7. How is the Third Angel's Message meeting its fulfillment today?
8. What company of the dead are especially blessed? Why?
9. How does the Message culminate? What will then take place?
10. When is the harvest of the wicked reaped? What for?

31. THE SEVEN LAST PLAGUES

(Revelation 15, 16)

Revelation 15-The Introduction. A Preparatory Scene.

Revelation 16-The Pouring Out of the Plagues.

Character of the Plagues.

1. The seven last plagues contain the fullness of the wrath of God. Verse 1.
2. The angels who carry out this work are clothed in linen pure and white. God's judgments are righteous. Verse 6.
3. The vials are given to the angels by one of the living creatures. Verse 7.
All heaven seems to be waiting for the termination of the controversy.

God's People Redeemed. Verses 2-4.

1. Before dealing with the judgments the Lord reveals those who have passed safely through the plagues. Verses 2-4.
2. The righteous are satisfied that God's judgments are just.

Christ Leaves the Temple. Verses 5-8.

1. The temple opened: The work in the sanctuary is finished. The investigation of records begun in 1844 has now terminated.
2. Probation closed: Verse 8. "No man" (owdeis) = "no one," "no being." There is no Intercessor in the temple for man. Man's probation has ended. Great Controversy, Page 627:3.
3. All cases will have been decided. Revelation 22:11,12. Only the sealed will be safe. Ezekiel 9:1-7.

Chronology of the Plagues.

1. After probation has closed. Revelation 15: 5, 8.
2. After the image of the beast has been formed, and hence after the Third Angel's Message. Revelation 16:2.
3. They fall upon the same generation of men. Revelation 16:10,11; Compare Verse 2.
4. When Michael stands up, i.e., commences to reign. Daniel 12:1.

God's Unwillingness to Punish.

1. God's work of punishing is His strange act. Isaiah 28:21,22.
2. God has no pleasure in the death of the wicked. Ezekiel 33:11.

The First Plague. Verse 2.

1. Directed against the worshippers of the beast.
2. All have been warned of the coming judgments in the Third Angel's Message, and so all are left without excuse.
3. Exodus 9:8-11: An example of what will take place on a much larger scale.

The Second Plague. Verse 3.

1. The sea turned to blood.
2. Think of its effect on commerce and on the great ports such as London, New York, Sydney, etc.

The Third Plague. Verses 4-7.

1. Rivers and fountains of waters become blood. Man's supplies contaminated.
2. God's judgment is a righteous one. Why? Verses 5-7.

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3. The blood of all the saints is imputed to the last generation. Matthew 23:34,35; 1 John 3:15. "In like manner Christ declared the Jews of His time guilty of all the blood of holy men which had been shed since the days of Abel; for they possessed the same spirit, and were seeking to do the same work, with these murderers of the prophets." - Great Controversy, Page 628.

The Fourth Plague. Verses 8, 9.

1. The sun scorches men with fire.
2. Joel describes the terrible nature of this plague. Joel 1:8-12,15-20: The earth desolate; famine everywhere; fires devour the pastures; rivers dried up. Many die with this plague. Amos 8:3.
3. Sun-worship has been the most widespread of idolatrous forms of worship. Now the sun which men have glorified as the source of blessing, smites men. Sun-day is the sign of sun-worship, and these plagues fall on those who cling to this sign.

The Fifth Plague. Verses 10, 11.

1. A plague of darkness upon the seat of the beast.
2. The seat of the beast at present is Rome.
3. His kingdom: May refer to the land over which he exerts temporal power. In 1929 temporal dominion was restored to the Papacy; the Pope now rules over a kingdom. This plague is probably much more extensive than the actual Papal territory; it no doubt has reference to those kingdoms who support the Papacy. Revelation 17:12-14.

The Sixth Plague. Verses 12-15.

The judgments of this plague are literal as in the other plagues, but several symbols are employed in describing it.

1. The River Euphrates:

For the following reasons this cannot refer to the literal river in Mesopotamia:

- (a) The Euphrates would not hinder an army, so there would be no necessity to remove it in order for an army to pass over. Verse 12.
- (b) The rivers were dried up under the fourth plague. Joel 1: 20.
- (c) The plagues are judgments upon men, and only a small population would be affected if the River Euphrates were meant.

2. Meaning of the Symbol:

For the following reasons the River Euphrates must symbolize the nations surrounding that river:

- (a) Waters symbolizes peoples, multitudes, nations, tongues. Revelation 17:15; Isaiah 8:7,8. (Note the plural number.)
- (b) In the only other instance of its use in Revelation, the term is used to symbolize the Mohammedan power. Revelation 9:14. As waters symbolize peoples, nations, etc., it does not seem correct to limit its application to Turkey. It no doubt includes all the Mohammedan nationalities.

3. The Drying Up of the Euphrates:

- (a) The drying up of the Euphrates would appear to be the utter consumption of the peoples, multitudes, nations, and tongues that live around the Euphrates in the Middle East.
- (b) The sixth plague is a judgment upon Mohammedanism. Mohammedanism has been the great apostasy of the East as Roman Catholicism has been of the West. In the East no system has done more to blind men to the truth than this "smoke" from the "bottomless pit." Revelation 9: 1, 2. And if Romanism, the instrument of Satan in the West, is punished, we would expect that God would also punish Mohammedanism, which has been the instrument of Satan in the East. The fifth plague is poured out upon the Papal power; the sixth upon the Mohammedan power.

4. The Gathering for Armageddon:

- (a) When the Mohammedan nations are removed, "the kings from the rising sun," the nations of the Far East, march west to Armageddon in Palestine. "Kings of the East" would point to a number of nations.

(b) Notice the translation of this passage as given by various translators:-

Rotherham: "The sixth poured out his bowl upon the great river, the Euphrates; and the water thereof was dried up, that the way might be prepared of the kings who were from the rising of the sun. . . . For they are the spirits of demons doing signs, which are to go forth unto the kings of the whole habitable earth to gather them together unto the battle of the great day of God the Almighty. And he gathered them together unto the place that is called in Hebrew Har Megeddon."

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Fenton: "Then the sixth emptied his vial upon the mighty river Euphrates; and its water was dried up, so that a road might be prepared for the kings from the rising sun.... For they are spirits of demons producing signs which they cause to be sent out to the kings of the whole habitable world, to muster them for the war of the great day of God the Almighty! . . . They accordingly mustered them to the place which in Hebrew-is named Har-Megeddon."

Moffatt: "The sixth poured out his bowl on the great river Euphrates, and its waters were dried up to prepare the way for the kings from the east. . . . Demon spirits performing miracles, who come forth to muster the kings of the whole world for battle on the great day of almighty God. . . . They were mustered at the spot called (in Hebrew) Harmagedon."

Weymouth: "The sixth angel poured his bowl into that great river, the Euphrates; and its stream was dried up in order to clear the way for the kings who are to come from the east. . . . For they are the spirits of demons working marvels-spirits that go out to control the kings of the whole earth, to assemble them for the battle which is to take place on the great day of God, the Ruler of all.... And assemble them they did at the place called in Hebrew HarMagedon."

(c) Evil spirits working through Paganism (the dragon), the Papacy (the beast), and apostate Protestantism (false prophet), gather the nations to Armageddon. Verses 13, 14. Mighty miracles will be wrought by Satanic agencies to deceive the nations. Verse 14.

5. A Warning: Verse 15.

Now is the time to watch. As we see the preliminary movements taking place we should be clothed with Christ's righteousness. It will be too late to make preparation once probation has closed.

6. Armageddon: Verse 16.

Location: Bible Readings, Page 299.

Whatever clash there may be between nations, the prophecies are clear that the actual conflict in the battle will be between man and God. Revelation 16: 12-17.

Jeremiah 25: 26-33. All the kingdoms of the earth will be engaged in this conflict. "The Lord bath a controversy with the nations."

Joel 3:9-12. The nations of the heathen (kings of the East) will be gathered to the valley of Jehoshaphat (the valley of decision). Verse 13. God puts in His sickle.

Zephaniah 3:8. The nations are assembled that God might pour upon them His indignation.

The Seventh Plague. Verses 17-21.

Universal: Verse 17. Poured out into the air which envelops the whole earth.

Voices in Heaven: Vv. 17, 18.

1. God speaks: "It is done."

Joel 3: 16: Causes the heavens and the earth to shake. Hebrews 12:25-27

Jeremiah 25:30.

2. Other voices: These voices declare the doom of the wicked and later the day and hour of Christ's coming. Great Controversy, Page 637-640.

The Great Earthquake: Vv. 18, 20. Read Ezekiel 38: 19, 20. Great Controversy, Page 636, 637. Babylon Punished: Verse 19. The three parts: In its broadcast sense Babylon embraces all false religions-Paganism, Papacy, and apostate Protestantism.

The Plague of Hail: Verse 21.

Isaiah 28:17; 30:30. Pointed out by Isaiah.

Job. 38:22,23. God's armory.

Isaiah 32:18,19. The righteous protected.

(Talent = about 57 pounds.)

For Further Study

1. The Eastern situation today. ("This Mighty Hour," pp. 113-125.)

2. Who constitute "the kings of the East"?

Questions on the Lesson

1. What do the seven last plagues contain?

2. What encouraging vision was given before the plagues are described?

3. Prove that probation has closed when the plagues are poured out.

4. How does God express His unwillingness to punish?

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5. Describe the first four plagues.
6. What power is punished under the fifth plague?
7. In the sixth plague what is symbolized by the River Euphrates? The drying up of the Euphrates?
8. What does the drying up of the Euphrates cause? Locate Armageddon.
9. How are the nations urged on to Armageddon?
10. Who will be the real contestants in Armageddon?
11. What nations are mentioned particularly as being there?
12. What solemn announcement is made under the seventh plague?
13. What awful devastation occurs under the seventh plague? How will God's people escape it?

32. BABYLON-THE MYSTERY

(Revelation 17)

Revelation 16 closes with judgments upon Babylon.
Revelation 17 deals with an explanation of this great system.

Church and State. Verses 1-4.

The Great Whore: Symbol of an apostate, impure church. (Contrast with Revelation 12.) This church is the church of Rome. Verse 18.

Many Waters. Symbolizing the many nations and people which she dominates. Verse 15.

An Unlawful Union: Verse 2. The state and church are unlawfully connected. All the world has been affected with Rome's doctrines.

The Scarlet-Colored Beast: The seven heads and ten horns designate this beast as Rome during its united and divided forms. We have a picture, then, of Rome and its ten divisions supporting the church, or of the church controlling the state. The waters on which the woman sits no doubt indicate that other nations besides the 10 kingdoms of Rome lend their support to the Papacy. Verse 15; Revelation 13: 8.

The Roman Church described: Verse 4.

Her apparel SDA Source Book, Page 70 (Guinness).

Her cup SDA Source Book, Page 71 (Hislop).

"You may know the harlot by her attire as certainly as by the name upon her brow."

The Name.

Mystery: There are two mysteries, the mystery of God (Revelation 10: 7) and the mystery of iniquity (2 Thessalonians 2: 7). This is the mystery of iniquity. SDA Source Book, Page 71, 72 (Wordsworth).

Babylon the Great:

1. Babylon is more than a city: it is a system, a religion, the counterfeit of Satan to the religion of God.
2. In its first mention (Genesis 11), Babylon is an apostasy; later in history Babylon is a false religion (Daniel); and again in the Revelation, Babylon is the Great Apostasy.
3. Babylon from its foundation has stood for confusion-the confusion of falsehood. Though she has manifested herself in different ways and under various names, yet she is the same counterfeit system all along, as the following comparison will show:

ANCIENT BABYLON

Claimed a priesthood with exceptional powers and privileges. Daniel 2:1-4.

Denied that divinity could dwell in humanity. Daniel 2: 11.

Claimed universal spiritual jurisdiction and demanded submission under penalties. Daniel 3.

THE CHURCH OF ROME

Makes the same claim.

Denies that God in Christ dwelt in the same flesh as fallen man, through the Dogma of the Immaculate Conception.

Claims universal spiritual authority and demands obedience under pains and penalties. Teaches the right to persecute.

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Boasted in her own works. Daniel
4: 30.

Repudiates the fundamental doctrine
of righteousness by faith, and depends
on works for righteousness.

Persecuted God's people.

The great persecutor of God's people.
SDA Source Book, Page 69 (Guinness).

From the above comparisons it is clear that the religion of Rome is the religion of Babylon. Note carefully
SDA Source Book, Page 68 (Hislop).

4. The Mother of Harlots: Babylon has daughters who are also harlots. The churches which came out of her
but still hold to her practices and maintain her character may truly be called her daughters. Any church
which becomes erroneous in its doctrines, worldly in its standards, and domineering in its spirit, becomes a
harlot, and any harlot church constitutes a part of Babylon.

John's Amazement. Verse 6.

To see a professedly Christian power persecuting the saints amazed John. The word "wonder" is used in the
sense of to marvel, or be amazed.

The Beast Explained. Verse 8.

John's Viewpoint: Verse 3. In spiritual vision John is carried to the wilderness, i.e., to the period AD 538-
1798. Revelation 12: 6, 14. Hence John views the Papacy from the standpoint of 538-1798, not from the
standpoint of the first century.

The Beast that Was: Papacy previous to 1798. Exercising dominion.

The Beast that Is Not: Papacy after the deadly wound in 1798. Power gone. "The Papacy was extinct: not a
vestige of its existence remained." SDA Source Book, Page 392 (Trevor).

The Beast that Yet Is: After 1798 "is not" (in power), "yet is" (in existence).

John must be viewing the beast just after 1798, when the deadly wound was given, for he refers to the beast
which was (past time) and yet is (present). The Papacy was killed in 1798, and yet, strange to say, the
system of Babylon still lived. Though void of its former power, after 1798 it still continued its counterfeit
work.

The Seven Heads. Verses 9-11.

1. Seven heads (symbolic) = 7 mountains (symbolic) = 7 kingdoms (literal). Verses 9, 10. "They are seven
kings." RV Heads = kingdoms. Daniel 7:6; 8:22. Mountains = kingdoms. Jeremiah 51:24, 25.

One symbol is explained by substituting another for it, as in Revelation 11: 3, 4. Thus it is emphasized that
the 7 heads = 7 kingdoms.

2. These 7 kingdoms are successive. Verse 10.

3. These 7 kingdoms evidently take us back in history as far as Babylon for the beast has the lion character
of Babylon. Revelation 13: 2. (Compare with Daniel 7: 44

Note also that the woman is named Babylon, and so denotes the apostate church from the time of Babylon's
foundation by Nimrod. Satan's counterfeit system began at Babel, and there are no Scriptural grounds for
beginning with Egypt. The religious system raised up in Babylon is the system adopted by the apostate
church ever since. SDA Source Book, Page 68 (Hislop).

4. The 7 great kingdoms which Satan uses to oppose and oppress God's people are: -

(1) Babylon

(2) Medo-Persia

(3) Greece

"5 are fallen"-in 1798

(4) Rome, Pagan

(5) Papacy

(6) Papacy Wounded – "one is" - wounded Papacy had just been ushered in as John viewed events
from the standpoint of 1798.

(7) Papacy Restored "not yet come"-must continue a short space. The 7th head will last only a
short time. This proves conclusively that the 7th head cannot represent the entire period of the Papacy.

The Seventh Head-Also the Eighth.

Verse 11: "The beast that was and is not." (The Papacy exerting power previous to 1798.)

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This power of the Papacy will again be exercised, for he will ascend out of the bottomless pit, i.e., the chaos of the French Revolution. Revelation 17: 8; 11: 7.

Though of the 7, this restored Papacy is really the 8th persecuting power, because another power has come into prominence between 1798 and the restoration of Papal power.

Who Is the Real Seventh (in point of time)?

1. Just after the deadly wound was given in 1798, “another beast” arose into power—the U.S.A. (apostate Protestantism). Revelation 13:1.

2. Largely through this power the Papacy will again be restored. Revelation 13: 12; Testimonies, Volume 6, Page 18.

3. The work of the two-horned beast and of the Papacy is contemporaneous. Revelation 13:12,14, RV: “In his sight,” “in the sight of the beast.”

4. Therefore apostate Protestantism is the 7th persecuting beast, thus making the restored Papacy really the 8th, although he is “of the seven”. That is, he is the 7th so far as this symbol is concerned, but he is the 8th persecuting power because his period of greatest power follows the work of apostate Protestantism.

The Ten Kingdoms. Verses 12-14,16,17.

(A European confederation.)

1. Verse 12 indicates the reappearance of the ten kingdoms in the last days. How many are there today?

2. They are to receive power in co-ordination with the beast.

3. They will hold their power for “one hour” (a short space, v. 10). Groly translates “in the same era.”

4. During this time they yield their allegiance to the Papacy. Verse 17; Revelation 13:4. Just whether this will be done by a political confederacy we are not told. It may be only friendly or diplomatic alliance.

5. By doing this they make war with Christ, who will overcome them. No doubt this is done by their making war with God’s people. Verse 14. Revelation 19:19; Great Controversy, Page 615, 616.

6. Finally they turn against the Papacy and destroy her. Verse 16.

Questions on the Lesson

1. What double symbolism is used in Revelation 17?

2. Who is represented by the harlot woman? The waters?

3. How does the papal church agree with the woman of Revelation 17 in her attire?

4. What act of Rome identifies her with the cup?

5. Give the full title on the harlot’s brow.

6. Explain the title “MYSTERY” as applied to Romanism.

6. Show the aptness of designing Roman Catholicism as Babylon the Great.

7. Give evidence for the support of Hislop’s contention that the religion of the Papacy is the paganism of ancient Babylon.

8. How is the Roman Catholic Church a mother? Who are her daughters?

9. From what viewpoint does John see the beast? How is it the beast “that was,” “that is not,” and “yet is”?

10. Who are the seven heads? The one that “is”? The one yet to come?

11. How can the beast be the eighth and yet the seventh?

12. What power will the ten kingdoms yet hold? What will they do?

33. THE CALL OUT OF BABYLON, AND HER DESTRUCTION

(Revelation 18)

Babylon’s Great Fall. Verses 1-4.

The Last Call: This message constitutes the last call that is given to sinners just previous to the destruction of Babylon.

Character of the Message: The message with a few more specifications concerning Babylon’s fall is the same as the Second Angel’s Message of Revelation 14: 8. It is not a new message, but a further development of the Second Angel’s Message. Comparing Revelation 14:8 with 18:1-5, we conclude that the message, “Babylon is fallen,” first proclaimed in 1844, will be given again with greater power just before the end. Great Controversy, Page 603. This message is spoken of in the Spirit of prophecy as the Loud Cry. Early Writings, Page 277.

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Reason for the Message: The denunciations of this message refer in particular to the, fallen Protestant churches. Daniel And Revelation, Page 710, 711. Since her rejection of light in 1844, Babylon has continued to fall. Great Controversy, Page 389, 390. The message is given when spiritualism controls the churches. Verse 2. Today spiritualism is rapidly gaining ground in the churches, and evolution and higher criticism are permeating the religious bodies.

The Power of the Loud Cry: Another Angel: This will be the fourth angel; three are already speaking. The message is one of mighty power. Verse 1, 2, 4; Early Writings, Page 278:1,2; Great Controversy, Page 612; 464.

Babylon's Punishment. Verses 5-19.

- Verse 5, 6. Rewarded double according to her works.
Verse 7. Babylon's boast. Having the State to back her up, she glories in her power.
Verse 8. The suddenness of her destruction. The expression "one day" cannot be taken definitely to mean one year in this connection. There is no statement in the Bible that states the exact length of the period of the plagues. Whether this refers to a literal year or not, it certainly does indicate that the period is short. See Isaiah 34: 8.
Verse 9-11. A figurative description of her downfall. The fall of Babylon means commercial loss. The very first plague will cut off all trading with the beast.
Verse 12, 13. Babylon's merchandise.
Verse 14. The plagues bring hunger. The earth no more yields her fruit. Joel 1:10-12.
Verse 15-19. The wicked lament.

Rejoicing of the Righteous. Verses 20-24.

- Verse 20. Babylon pays the price for the death of all the apostles and prophets. Revelation 16: 4-7.
Verse 21. Ancient Babylon's doom was declared in a similar way (Jeremiah 51:59-64), and was exactly fulfilled. Isaiah 13:19-22.
Verse 22,23. Complete destruction.
Verse 24. Babylon is responsible for all that were' slain upon the earth.
Therefore Babylon embraces all false systems of religion.

For Further Study

1. What will constitute the great final test of loyalty? Great Controversy, Page 605: 2.
2. What branch of our work will be largely used in giving the message of Revelation 18?
Testimonies, Volume 7, Page 140.
3. What constitutes the "loud cry" of the Third Angel's Message?
Testimonies, Volume 8, Page 118. Early Writings, Page 277.
4. What will be the effect of this message? Early Writings, Page 277.
5. "The Final Warning." Great Controversy, Chapter 38.
6. The Latter Rain. Testimonies to Ministers, Page 506-512.
7. Read Daniel And Revelation, Page on Revelation 18.

Questions on the Lesson

1. Describe the message of Revelation 18:1-3. How is it related to the Second Angel's Message?
2. With what power is the final call given? What causes it to be proclaimed?
3. What is the urgency of the call?
4. To what degree is Babylon to be punished?
5. How is Babylon symbolized in this chapter?
6. What prominent features of Babylon are mentioned in connection with her fall?
7. Who rejoice at Babylon's fall? Why?
8. What shows that Babylon in its fullest sense includes all false systems?

34. THE MARRIAGE OF THE LAMB

(Revelation 19:1-10)

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The Song of the Righteous.

Time: Revelation 19:1. Sung by the righteous in heaven just after the destruction of Babylon at the commencement of the millennium.

Character: The righteous proclaim the justice of God's judgments. Verse 2. The beings around God's throne are in harmony with this song. Verse 4. The climax of the song. Verse 5, 6.

The Marriage of the Lamb. Verses 7-9.

1. The marriage of the Lamb is a definite event which takes place at a definite time. The expression is not figurative. There is to be an event called Christ's "marriage." This marriage is not to be estimated by the practice of human marriage, which differs considerably in different lands. The one common element in marriage is that it marks the reception of the wife by the husband.

2. The Lamb's Wife: Verse 7-9. The Lamb's (Christ's wife is the New Jerusalem. Revelation 21:2,9. The marriage of Christ is His reception of the New Jerusalem. However, because the New Jerusalem is the capital of Christ's kingdom, the marriage of Christ is the reception by Christ of His kingdom. Great Controversy, Page 426:2. Therefore with the reception of the city Christ receives His throne, which is the throne of David. Daniel 7:27; Luke 1:32,33.

3. The Time of Christ's Marriage: Christ is given His kingdom at the close of the work of the Investigative judgment in the Holy of Holies in heaven, for the wedding is over when He comes to the earth. Luke 12:35,36; Early Writings, Page 55; 251; 280. The Investigative judgment takes place before the marriage. Matthew 22:10,11. It is clear, therefore, that God's people will not be present in person at the marriage. It is also clear that the church is not the bride. Great Controversy, Page 426, 427.

4. Going into, the Marriage: God's people are spoken of as going in to the marriage before the close of probation. Matthew 25:10. Therefore it is by faith that they attend the marriage, which occurs in heaven while they are still on earth. Since the marriage takes place in the sanctuary, it is those who by faith followed Christ in His work in the second apartment who go in to the marriage. Luke 14:15-24. The Lord is looking for guests for the marriage supper which follows the marriage, and though many spurn His invitation He will make up the number He desires. Matthew 22:11-14. Only those who have on the robe of Christ's righteousness can enter as guests. The Investigative judgment is determining who are to be accepted as guests. Many may profess to be the friends of the Bridegroom during the marriage, but only a select company will be accepted at the marriage supper. Revelation 10:8. When the righteous enter, the city is said to be arrayed in fine linen.

The Marriage Supper. Verse 9.

The people of God will be present in person at the marriage supper.

Blessed Are They Which Are Called:

Matthew 26:29.

We shall drink the fruit of the vine with our Redeemer.

The sacrament of the Lord's Supper is to remind us of this.

Luke 22:30.

We shall eat and drink at Christ's table.

Luke 12:37.

Jesus Himself will serve us.

Early Writings, Page 19.

A view of the table of the Lord.

Effect on John: Verse 10.

John was about to worship the angel. Gabriel's position: he was but the servant of those who had the Spirit of prophecy.

Questions on the Lesson

1. Where is the song of Revelation 19 sung? By whom? When?
2. Who is the Lamb's wife? What therefore constitutes the marriage of the Lamb?
3. Show that the saints cannot be the wife of Christ. Will they be present at the marriage?
4. When does the marriage of the Lamb take place? Where?
5. What invitation is now extended to all? Who only can attend the heavenly marriage supper as guests?
6. Who are said to be especially blessed?
7. Describe the marriage supper.

35. THE COMING OF THE KING OF KINGS

(Revelation 19:11-21)

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Christ as King. Verses 11-16.

The preceding verses picture the marriage of the Lamb and the invitation to the marriage supper. Verses 11-21 deal with the coming of Christ after the consummation of the marriage in heaven. The Coming King:

1. A Warrior. Verse 11; Isaiah 63: 1.
2. Names: "Faithful and True." Verse 11.
"The Word of God." Verse 13.
"King of kings, and Lord of lords." Verse 16.
3. Appearance. Verse 12, 13.
4. The Leader of the armies of heaven. Verse 14.
5. Comes to execute vengeance. Verse 15; Psalm 2; Isaiah 11:4.

The Supper of God. Verses 17-21.

The birds called to the supper. Vv. 17, 1&

Note the circumstances:

1. The beast and the false prophet are cast into a lake of fire at the commencement of the millennium.
Verse 19, 20; Daniel And Revelation, Page 675.
2. The remnant are slain. Verse 21.
3. The earth will be covered with many slain. Isaiah 66: 15, 16.
4. Birds of prey and fierce beasts remain and are invited to the supper.
Isaiah 34:8-17; Revelation 19:17, 18, 21.
5. It appears that ultimately even the birds die out. Jeremiah 4:23-27.

Questions on the Lesson

1. How does Christ return to earth to receive His saints to the marriage supper?
2. What names are given Him?
3. Besides gathering His people, for what purpose does Christ appear?
4. What supper is pictured in the last part of Revelation 19? When does it take place?
5. Who are invited to the supper of the wicked?

36. THE MILLENIUM

(Revelation 20)

The Bottomless Pit. Verses 1-3.

1. Whatever the bottomless pit refers to, it is clearly the place where Satan is punished. We must go to other scriptures to find out where he is punished.
2. Satan is finally punished upon the earth. Ezekiel 28: 17, 18.
3. Meaning of the Term: The word rendered "bottomless pit" in Revelation 20 is from the Greek word "abussos," which is the equivalent for the word translated "deep" in Genesis 1:2, where the earth is described. A more literal translation would be "waste," "abyss," "chaos."
4. The earth then could be described as the bottomless pit when it comes back to a condition similar to, that of Genesis 1:2.
5. It will do this. Jeremiah 4: 23.
6. The earth will again be without form and void (an abussos) when Christ comes the second time. Isaiah 24: 1-4, 19; Revelation 6: 14-17; Jeremiah 4: 23-26.

Events of the Second Advent.

1. The seven last plagues, which will reduce the earth to chaos. Ezekiel 38:19-22; Jeremiah 25:31-33.
2. The first resurrection: the righteous dead raised. 1 Thessalonians 4:16.
3. The righteous living translated. Verse 17.
4. Impenitent living slain. Luke 17:26-30.

The Binding of Satan.

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1. Thus Satan is bound by a chain of circumstances stronger than any iron chain. Isaiah 14:12-20.
2. He remains thus for a period of 1,000 years. Revelation 20:2,3.
“A combination of circumstances renders it impossible for him to act.”

The Righteous During the Millennium.

1. All the righteous are taken to heaven at the Second Advent. 1 Thessalonians 4: 16, 17.
2. Here they live and reign with Christ for 1,000 years. Revelation 20:4. Note. This could not take place previous to the Second Advent, for it is only then that the righteous are taken to be “with Christ.” John 14:1-3.
3. A Work of Judgment: During the millennium the righteous engage in a work of judgment with Christ. Revelation 20:4; Daniel 7:21,22; 1 Corinthians 6:2,3. Thus all the redeemed will be allowed to see that God’s decision is just, and will no doubt determine the degree of punishment.
4. In the second death the righteous will not be affected. Revelation 20:5,6; Isaiah 33:14-16; 66:24.

Satan Loosed and Destroyed.

1. The wicked are raised at the close of the thousand years. Revelation 20:5; Isaiah 24: 22, 23.
2. When the wicked are raised, Satan is loosed. Revelation 20: 7, 5.
3. This second resurrection is the resurrection of damnation. The wicked are raised to be punished. John 5: 28, 29.
4. just previous to the final destruction of the wicked, the New Jerusalem descends to earth. Zechariah 14:4.
5. Satan’s last attempt fails. Revelation 20: 8, 9; Great Controversy, Page 663, 664, 673.
6. All evildoers and all sin will be burnt up in the fires which purify the earth. Revelation 20:10; Malachi 4:1-3.
7. Heaven and earth disappear before God’s throne. Revelation 20:11; 2, Peter 3:7-13; Daniel And Revelation, Page 744, 745; Great Controversy, Page 672.

The Judgment Scene. Verses 10-15.

Verses 12-15 take us back to a scene just preceding the punishment by fire. The book of life is opened that all may see that God’s judgment is just. Great Controversy, Page 666. All are judged according to their works. This indicates degrees of punishment. Great Controversy, Page 673. Only those whose names are in the book of life will be saved.

For Further Study

1. Popular beliefs on the millennium.
2. Read Great Controversy, Chapters 41, 42.
3. What will all finally acknowledge? Great Controversy, Page 670.
4. Does this acknowledgment bring any change in the character of the wicked? Great Controversy, Page 671: 2.
5. How completely will sin and Satan be destroyed? Ezekiel 28:18,19; Malachi 4:1.
6. What will be the only reminder in the new earth of the work that sin has wrought? Habakkuk 3:4 (margin); Great Controversy, Page 674: 1. Read Daniel And Revelation, Page on Revelation 20.

Questions on the Lesson

1. Prove that “the bottomless pit” is the earth.
2. When does the earth become “the bottomless pit”? How?
3. How do the prophets describe the earth during the millennium?
4. State the events associated with the Second Advent.
5. How is Satan bound? How loosed?
6. Show that the millennium could not possibly precede the Second Advent.
7. Describe the work of the righteous during the millennium.
8. What events loose Satan?
9. How is the work and reign of sin terminated?
10. Describe the last judgment scene. Who meet on that occasion? When is it?
11. Who only will be saved from eternal destruction?

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37. PARADISE RESTORED

(Revelation 21 And 22)

Introductory Note.

1. The Bible opens with a picture of God's perfect creation, free from the blight of evil. Genesis 1:31. The picture is one that shows us God's design for man-that this world should be beautiful and inhabited by a race of sinless beings. Isaiah 45:18.

2. We are given, however, only a brief glance at this fair creation, for the picture is soon darkened by man's sin. As a result man is ruined and condemned to death (Romans 6:23), and he loses his paradise home with its tree of life. Genesis 3:22-24. The beautiful earth itself is marred with the curse of sin. Genesis 3:17; 4:11, 12. Finally, because of man's sin, the world which came from God's hand is destroyed by a flood. 2 Peter 3:6. Since the Deluge we live in an altogether different world from the world that the patriarchs saw, for "the world that then was perished." How marked with the curse of sin must be the earth with which we are acquainted!

3. But through Christ God has purposed to restore all things, and the Bible closes with a picture of paradise restored. All that we see lost in Genesis we find restored in Revelation. This "restitution of all things" has been the message that God has been speaking to men through all the prophets. Acts 3:21.

A New Heaven and a New Earth. Verse 1.

1. The material world experiences three phases

(a) "The world that then was" (previous to the Flood). 2 Peter 3:6.

(b) "The heavens and the earth which are now" (our present world). Verse 7.

(c) "New heavens and a new earth" (the future world). Verse 13.

2. God's creative power will be exercised in producing the new earth. Isaiah 65:17.

3. This new earth will be eternal. Isaiah 66:22.

4. No more sea: The sea passes away with the earth, but there will doubtless be a new sea in the new earth. Zechariah 9:10. There was a sea in the original perfect creation. Genesis 1:10.

Restoration of God's Presence. Verses 2-6.

1. What a wonderful promise, "He will dwell with them.... God Himself shall be with them." Verse 3. This was God's plan in the beginning, but sin prevented such close association with men. Hebrews 12:29.

2. "The tabernacle of God is with men": May it not be that God will shift the capital of His universe to this earth once marred by sin? No place can be so dear to God as the place where His Son died. See Revelation 22:3: Probably the tabernacle here referred to is the heavenly dwelling-place of God, the sanctuary which is now the center of the work of salvation. It will always be a reminder of that work to the redeemed.

3. All that has come as a consequence of sin will be gone when sin is gone. Verse 4; Isaiah 25:8.

4. We are not building castles in the air in studying these things. They are realities pledged to us by the One who cannot lie. Verse 5.

The Home of the Righteous. Verses 6-8.

1. "It is done": Referring no doubt to God's great plan for the restitution of all things. Now the work is accomplished. The words of verses 6-8 will probably be the words spoken to the righteous when the new earth is ready for habitation.

"I will give unto him that is athirst": This will be done even in this life (Matthew 5:6), but the Lord here promises to continue to satisfy our righteous ambitions in the days of eternity. Education 307.

2. All these glorious promises are for the overcomer. Verse 7.

3. Paradise regained is no place for the fearful (see Isaiah 51:7), the unbelieving, the abominable, murderers, whore mongers, sorcerers, idolaters, and liars. Verse 8.

The New Jerusalem. Verses 9-27.

1. The New Jerusalem is the bride of Christ. Verses 9, 10. Paul calls her the mother of us all. Galatians 4:26. Christ is our everlasting Father. Isaiah 9:6.

Description of the City: Her Character, Verse 10; Glory, Verse 11; Light, Verse 11; Wall, Verse 12. Her

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Twelve Gates: Verse 13. Guarded by 12 angels. One gate for each tribe of God's Israel. Three gates on each side of the city. Each gate a pearl. Verse 21.

The Foundations: Verse 14. 12 in number. Inscribed with names of 12 apostles. The colors: Verses 19, 20. See Daniel And Revelation, Page 759, 760.

The Dimensions: Verses 15-17. A perfect square, 1,500 miles right around. 375 miles each side.

Area: 140,625 square miles; 90,000,000 acres; 3,920,400,000,000, square feet. Allowing 100 square feet for a person, or a space 10 feet square, the city would hold 39,204,000,000 persons, or 26 times the present population of the globe. "Equal" (v. 16), from isos (Greek) = in proportion. The wall: 264 feet high (cubit = 22 inches).

The Materials: Pure gold. Verse 19, 21.

The Magnificence: In the old Jerusalem the temple was the glory, but in the New nothing will draw the attention from Christ. There will be a temple. Verse 3; Revelation 22:3. The sense here is that there will be no more sacrificial temple. No need of sun or moon because of the resplendent glory of God, the source of all light. Verse 23, 25. There will be days in the new earth. Isaiah 66: 23.

The increased glory of sun and moon will still make a contrast. Isaiah 30: 26.

3. There will be organization in the new earth. Revelation 21:24,26. Each tribe will be a nation presided over by the twelve apostles as kings. Matthew 19:28.

4. Again it is made clear who will enter this glorious city. Verse 27.

The River of Life and the Tree of Life. Revelation 22: 1, 3.

1. The source of the river of life is in God's throne.

2. Tree of life: Not a tree but the tree, the same as in Eden. Fruit yielded every month, when all come up to worship. Isaiah 66: 23.

3. Verses 1, 2 is a picture of Eden restored.

"The garden of Eden remained upon the earth long after man had become an outcast from its pleasant paths. The fallen race were long permitted to gaze upon the home of innocence, their entrance barred only by the watching angels. At the cherubim-guarded gate of paradise the divine glory was revealed. Hither came Adam and his sons to worship God. Here they renewed their vows of obedience to that law the transgression of which had banished them from Eden. When the tide of iniquity overspread the world, and the wickedness of men determined their destruction by a flood of waters, the hand that had planted Eden withdrew it from the earth. But in the final restitution, when there shall be 'a new heaven and a new earth,' it is to be restored more gloriously adorned than at the beginning.

"Then they that have kept God's commandments shall breathe in immortal vigor beneath the tree of life. And through unending ages the inhabitants of sinless worlds shall behold, in that garden of delight, a sample of the perfect work of God's creation, untouched by the curse of sin-a sample of what the whole earth would have become, had man but fulfilled the Creator's glorious plan." - Patriarchs And Prophets, Page 62.

No More Curse. Verse 3.

The curse is sin, and sin is transgression of God's law (1 John 3: 4); but in the new earth all will serve God. Verse 3.

Nahum 1:9	Sin will never rise up again.
Isaiah 32:18.	A peaceable habitation, a sure dwelling.
Isaiah 60:18	Violence no more.
Isaiah 55:13.	The marks of the curse removed.
Isaiah 33: 24.	No sickness.

Christ's Face. Verse 4.

Most precious of all promises-to see our blest Redeemer's face. Only when His name (character) is written in our foreheads will this privilege be ours.

Great Controversy, Page 674: "Every trace of the curse is swept away.... One reminder alone remains: our Redeemer will ever bear the marks of His crucifixion. Upon His wounded head, upon His side, His hands and feet, are the only traces of the cruel work that sin has wrought. Says the prophet, beholding Christ in His glory, 'He had bright beams coming out of His side: and there was the hiding of His power.' Habakkuk 3:4, Margin. That pierced side whence flowed the crimson stream that reconciled man to God-there is the Savior's glory, there 'the hiding of His power.' . . . Through the eternal ages the

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wounds of Calvary will show forth His praise, and declare His power.”

They Shall Reign for Ever and Ever. Verse 5.

“No night there”:

“None will need or desire repose. There will be no weariness in doing the will of God and offering praise to His name. We shall ever feel the freshness of the morning, and shall ever be far from its close. ‘And they need no candle, neither light of the sun; for the Lord God gives them light.’ The light of the sun will be superseded by a radiance which is not painfully dazzling, yet which immeasurably surpasses the brightness of our noontide. The glory of God and the Lamb floods the holy city with unfading light. The redeemed walk in the sunless glory of perpetual day.” - Great Controversy, Page 676.

“Reign for ever and ever”

“And the years of eternity, as they roll, will bring richer and still more glorious revelations of God and of Christ. As knowledge is progressive, so will love, reverence, and happiness increase. The more men learn of God, the greater will be their admiration of His character. As Jesus opens before them the riches of redemption, and the amazing achievements in the great controversy with Satan, the hearts of the ransomed thrill with more fervent devotion, and with more rapturous joy they sweep the harps of gold. And ten thousand times ten thousand and thousands of thousands of voices unite to swell the mighty chorus of praise.” - Great Controversy, Page 678.

For Further Study

1. The glories of the new earth.

Isaiah 33:20-24; Ezekiel 34:20-31; Isaiah 11:6-9; Isaiah 35; Genesis 13:14, 15; Isaiah 64: 4,

2. “The Controversy Ended.” Great Controversy, Chapter 42.

3. “The School of the Hereafter.” Ed. Patriarchs And Prophets, Page 301-309.

Questions on the Lesson

1. How does the Bible open? What does it reveal to us concerning God’s design for man?

2. What spoils the fair picture given in Genesis 1 and 2?

3. Compare the last two chapters of Scripture with the first two.

4. What three worlds are referred to by Peter?

5. How will the new earth come into existence? Show that it will never pass away.

6. What does John mean by saying there will be no more sea?

7. What original plan of God will be realized?

8. How does the angel emphasize the reality of the New Earth state?

9. Who will inherit all things? Who are for ever excluded from the New Earth?

10. What forms the capital of the new earth?

11. Describe its character, glory, light, wall, gates, foundations, materials, magnificence, and size.

12. What system of organization will exist in the new earth?

13. From whence does the river of life proceed?

14. Describe the tree of life.

15. What assurance of eternal security is given?

16. Which is the most precious of all privileges?

17. How are we assured of eternal life?

38. CONCLUDING COMMUNICATIONS

(Revelation 22:6-21)

The Importance of the Revelation. Verses 6, 7, 10.

1. The book is important because it is true. “These sayings” - the communications contained in the Book of Revelation “are faithful and true.” God Himself testifies to the veracity of the Book of Revelation. Verse 6.

2. The book is important because it is a revelation of things which “must shortly be done.” If that were true in John’s day, how much more so is it true now. Verse 6; Romans 12: 11, 12.

3. The book is important because its sayings prepare one for Christ’s soon coming. Verse 7.

4. The book is important because it is a revelation, an unfolding of God’s purposes, and has never been

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sealed up. Verse 10.

The Effect on John. Verses 8, 9.

1. Read Early Writings. 230.
2. Even the angel Gabriel who stands next to Christ in heaven says, "I am thy fellow servant," and forbids any to worship him. What a contrast to the one who once stood in Gabriel's place as the covering cherub!

The Final Decree. Verses 11-13.

1. The decree of verse 11 must be located at the close of probation, because
 - (a) It is not true so long as the gospel invitation is extended to men. Revelation 22:17; Isaiah 55:7; 1:16-18.
 - (b) It is followed immediately by the Second Advent to reward every man. Verse 12.
2. When Jesus leaves His position as man's Intercessor before God, the solemn announcement is made, 'He that is unjust, let him be unjust still.' "All the angelic host lay off their crowns as He makes the solemn announcement. . . . Every case has been decided for life or death. Christ has made the atonement for His people, and blotted out their sins. The number of His subjects is made up."-Great Controversy, Page 613.

The Character of Those Who Enter the City. Verses 14, 15.

1. Commandment keepers have a right to enter the city. Although the RV alters the reading of the text, there is every reason for considering that of the AV as correct. See Daniel And Revelation, Page 769. The Book of Revelation testifies that those who are awaiting their Lord will be commandment keepers. Revelation 12:17; 14:12.
2. Verse 15 gives us the character of those who are shut out. Dogs. See Philippians 3:2. Galatians 5:15.

The Divine Signature. Verse 16.

The Book of Revelation is signed by Jesus Himself. Note His title.

An All Inclusive Invitation. Verse 17.

Come! Come! Come! Whosoever will. The invitation is to all. John Bunyan said: "If God had written it with His own hand, 'If John Bunyan will come to Me, I will save him,' I should have hesitated, for I would have said, 'To be sure, it is not this poor drunken tinker; it is another John Bunyan. To be sure, it cannot be this poor, miserable sinner.' But when God says, 'Whosoever,' I know that it takes in this John Bunyan."

The Warning. Verses 18,19.

A terrible future awaits those who tamper with the Scripture. "Men cannot with impunity trample upon the Word of God." - Great Controversy, Page 268.

The Last Promise in the Bible. Verse 20.

1. "Surely I come quickly."
2. Our response: "Even so, come, Lord Jesus."

The Benediction. Verse 21.

Read Daniel And Revelation, Page 774-776.

Questions on the Lesson

1. Why is the Book of Revelation so important?
2. How did the visions affect John? What gentle rebuke was he given?
3. Give your reasons for regarding the words of Revelation 22:11 as constituting the decree which closes probation.
4. Who have a right to the city? Who are shut out?
5. What divine signature does the book contain? .
6. What is the last invitation in the Bible? The last promise?
7. The last prayer? The last warning? The last benediction?

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THE COMING OF HIS FEET

IN the crimson of the morning, in the whiteness of the noon,
In the amber glory of the day's retreat,
In the midnight, robed in darkness, or the gleaming of the moon,
I listen for the coming of His feet.

I have heard His weary footsteps on the sands of Galilee,
On the temple's marble pavement, on the street,
Worn with weight of sorrow, faltering up the slopes of Calvary,
The sorrow of the coming of His feet.

Down the minster aisles of splendor, from betwixt the cherubim,
Through the wondering throng, with motion strong and fleet,
Sounds His victor tread, approaching with a music far and dim
The music of the coming of His feet.

Sandalled not with shoes of silver, girded not with woven gold,
Weighed not with shimmering gems and odors sweet,
But white-winged and shod with glory in the Tabor-light of old-
The glory of the coming of His feet.

He is coming, O my spirit! With His everlasting peace,
With His blessedness immortal and complete;
He is coming, O my spirit; and His coming brings release;
I listen for the coming of His feet.