

teemit' For CHILDREN

Bible Lesson Quarterly

Year 2 - 1st Quarter - "THE WONDERS OF REVELATION"

For our Bible lessons we are going to use the King James Version of the Bible, just like the boys and girls used to use to learn to read from in the pioneer days.

There will be some texts to look up for each day and you should practice your memory verse until you can say it without looking. Don't forget to learn the text too.

Weekly Bible Lesson #1: "JOHN ON PATMOS"

MEMORY VERSE: "I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty." Revelation 1:8

"THE WONDERS OF REVELATION"

INTRODUCTION:

For this quarter we are going to look at some of the wonderful lessons in Revelation. This is a very special book to us, as it tells about all the happenings that effect God's people until Jesus comes again. Of course, like we did with the book of Daniel, we have to just look at the main parts. We could spend a whole year on the lessons in Revelation.

There are many people talking about Revelation these days and most of what they are saying is not true. Why is this? There are many reasons; one of the main ones is that Satan knows that the great prophetic message that is soon going to shake the world and drive back the darkness of his lies, is from prophecy, mostly Daniel and Revelation, just like it was in the 1840's when the Adventists, the 'people of prophecy' spread the news everywhere that the prophecy of Daniel 8:14 was soon to end. In fact, it's the same prophecies, only with a bit more added!

Just like back there, Satan is raising up people in the popular churches to preach false ideas, which they claim, come from the Bible,

so that it will get people so mixed up that they won't believe the real message.

When the popular churches refused to believe the Advent message and the Sabbath message in the 1840's, they lost the ability to really understand the prophecies; so even when they want to, they don't get them right.

Another reason for false prophecy ideas is because people have changed from what our prophet told us was a right meaning, to whatever they want to believe. If you take a wrong turn at the beginning of a long trip, you will never get to the right place at the end of it. We can never take the ideas of the churches that the Bible tells us have fallen and can't know the prophecies, and think that we should copy their ideas to know the truth. They refused the truth, so they don't have it now!

Some people make up wrong ideas of prophecy or avoid it altogether because it sounds scary to them. Well, it is meant to sound scary, because Jesus wants all of us to wake up and come close to Him and work with Him to get all the sins out of our lives so we can go home with Him. He doesn't want any of us to be missing. If we listen to Him and give our hearts to Him, then we don't feel afraid anymore; but if

we don't, we need to feel afraid so we will run to Him!

○ How will we know that **we** are getting them right? Well, we will use the Bible and Spirit of Prophecy writings to explain the prophecies. E.G. White told us that the understandings the early pioneers (before 1850) had about prophecy were correct and would be taught again just before Jesus returns. So we will not follow ideas, which don't agree with these pioneers.

When we do this, we will find that all the prophecies fit together in a wonderful way that gives a clear picture of what Jesus wants to tell us. It won't be hard to understand or figure out and it will give us courage as we see how Jesus is in charge of His children, and will care for them in spite of all the tricks Satan can use to try to harm them.

In the last days Satan is going to use all the tricks he knows but always remember, Jesus defeated all of Satan's tricks, he can never fool Jesus, nor can he take us away from Jesus if we choose to stay with Jesus and His truth.

○ But, some may say, "I am just 'a kid', I can't understand these things." Oh, yes you can! If you are almost 10 years old or more, you can probably learn to understand them easier than older people.

If you want to be really smart, start reading the book 'Great Controversy', if it is hard at first, don't give up! Ask Jesus to send angels and the Holy Spirit to help you. If you find words you don't know, ask someone, or look them up in a dictionary. It will get easier and you will be surprised how much wonderful truth you will soon know. Remember, Satan hates that book and the Bible so he will try in dozens of ways to discourage you; don't let him win! Keep going until you read it all, and then read it again!

It was the children in Jesus' day that sang His praises when the adults rejected Him; it was children who preached in the 1840s when adults were forbidden to; and in the future it will be children who will give the message, when again adults will not be able to. There's no such thing as 'just a kid' in the sight of Jesus!

○ "But the LORD said unto me, Say not, I am a child: for thou shalt go to all that I shall send thee, and whatsoever I command thee thou shalt speak." Jeremiah 1:7

Read Revelation 1:

Sunday

Text: Revelation 1:1 The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him, to shew unto his servants things which must shortly come to pass; and he sent and signified it by his angel unto his servant John:"

The word 'Revelation' means something revealed or shown to us. Yet many people say it can't be understood. This is not true at all!

This verse shows us that it is Jesus who sent this message to us and John was the one who wrote it down. It also tells us that the things were to happen soon. We know that the messages in Revelation began to happen even while John was still alive.

Look at verses 5 and 6; see the wonderful words here— "Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood"- Jesus loves me! For the Bible tells me so!

"And hath made us kings and priests unto God"; we are to be kings and priests; children of the heavenly King, helping others to learn about Jesus!

There is another unique thing about this book; it has a special blessing in it! No other book has this blessing. Verse 3 "Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand."

There are 3 blessings - for those who read; but some refuse to read it; they won't have a blessing. For those who hear the words of the prophecy; but some will not listen to it; they will have no blessing. And for those who will keep the things written in this book; but many will not keep them; they will have no blessing.

Thought - I want those blessings, don't you? We will read the book, listen to it and with the power of Jesus keep what we learn here!

Monday

Text: Revelation 1:7 “Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen.”

Here is another place where Jesus is promising to come back to take His children home. “Jesus is coming in clouds of pure white, to take His children home! I must be ready when Jesus comes, to take His children home!”

But here we also learn of groups that see Jesus coming and are not happy at all! It says they will wail, that means they will scream and cry. It says first, those that pierced Him. The wicked men who tortured and killed Jesus will be raised from their graves to see Him come. How will they feel when they see the marks of what they did, on the great King of the universe!

The other group are those who have loved the worldly things and have not given their hearts to Jesus and are full of sin and selfishness. At this time they will have been planning to kill all of God’s people who would not disobey Jesus. But Jesus will put an end to their cruel plans.

In verse 8 he says, “I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty.”

In the Greek alphabet, Alpha was the first letter and Omega, which looked like a round horseshoe, was the last letter. So Jesus here is telling us He is there for us at the beginning, and will be there at the end, and all the time in between. We would say He is the A-Z.

Thought - Jesus will be with us when we come to Him and give our hearts to Him; when we live day by day; and all the way to the time when He comes to take us home with Him.

Tuesday

Text: Revelation 1:9 “I John, who also am your brother, and companion in tribulation, and in the kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ, was in the isle that is called Patmos, for the word of God, and for the testimony of Jesus Christ.”

How did John, the dear old man who loved Jesus so much and taught people about Jesus’ love, end up on that rocky, rough island of Patmos, where the Romans sent their criminals? Well, it is an interesting story.

The Roman Emperor was trying hard to get rid of all the Christians. He thought if he caught John, who was the last of Jesus’ disciples that was still alive, and killed him in a horrible way, that would scare the Christians enough to make them stop talking about Jesus and worship the emperor.

So he sent soldiers who caught the old man and threw him into prison. Then he ordered him to be boiled in oil! Have you ever dropped a potato chip into boiling oil and seen it sizzle and turn brown and crisp? Well, that is what the Romans wanted to do with dear old John.

They threw him into the huge pot of boiling oil, but he didn’t sizzle, he didn’t die, in fact he wasn’t even hurt! Just like the 3 Hebrews in the fiery furnace, he was quite safe there in the kettle.

They did not know what to do with this man they could not kill, so they sent him to Patmos with the criminals. They were sure they had put an end to his work. But there, on that rocky, barren island, Jesus came to visit him and gave him the Revelation.

John probably felt his work was nearly ended when he ended up on Patmos, but do you know that later he was set free, and it was then that he wrote Revelation. Later on he wrote the wonderful book of John, where he tells the story of Jesus, giving us special information we don’t find in the other gospels. His most important work was after

Patmos.

Thought - I sort of think that many of the criminals on Patmos, would have learned about Jesus and His love, while on that island with dear old John, don't you?

Wednesday

Text: Revelation 1:10,12, 13 **"I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and heard behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet, And I turned to see the voice that spake with me. And being turned, I saw seven golden candlesticks; And in the midst of the seven candlesticks one like unto the Son of man, clothed with a garment down to the foot, and girt about the paps with a golden girdle."**

It was the Sabbath day and John had gone off alone to worship his Lord in nature. As he sat thinking on spiritual things and praying, he was given a vision. That is what he means when he says, "I was in the Spirit".

One of the most important things about understanding prophecy, is that you must use the Bible to tell you what the Bible means, you must never guess or put your own ideas in there!

Some people try to tell us that when John said 'the Lord's Day', that he meant Sunday. There is nowhere in the whole Bible where Sunday is called 'the Lord's Day'. In fact Sunday is never called anything in the Bible except the 'First Day' of the week. But the Bible does have a day it calls the Lord's Day, in lots of places—It is the Sabbath day! "Therefore the Son of man is Lord also of the Sabbath." Mark 2:28

All at once John heard a voice, an amazing voice! And he turned quickly to see what it was. There he saw his dear Lord, but not toil-worn and poor as He was on earth, He appeared bright and glorious. Let's read what John saw;

Verses 14 -16: "His head and his hairs were white like wool, as white as snow; and his eyes were as a flame of fire; And his feet like unto fine brass, as if they burned in a

furnace; and his voice as the sound of many waters. And he had in his right hand seven stars: and out of his mouth went a sharp two-edged sword: and his countenance was as the sun shineth in his strength."

Do you know what the 'two-edged sword' is that went out of His mouth? It means the Word of God—the Bible! The Bible is the Christian's sword. With it we defeat the cruel enemy, Satan.

Thought - Think about what an amazing sight that John saw. This is what Jesus will look like when He comes in the clouds to take us home!

Thursday

Text: Revelation 1:17 **"And when I saw him, I fell at his feet as dead. And he laid his right hand upon me, saying unto me, Fear not; I am the first and the last:"**

John was so overwhelmed from seeing Jesus that he fell on his face on the ground. This is a very important point. When a messenger from heaven comes close to a person, he is so overcome with his own unworthiness that he will fall to the ground. He will feel very humble; he will not be bold or proud.

But it was the same Jesus who John had so loved when He was on earth, and now He came over to the dear old man and gently laid His hand on John to strengthen him. How precious to Jesus was that dear old disciple that had grown old in His service!

When we learned about Daniel, we read that he also fell on his face when he saw the heavenly beings. Even when God's Holy Spirit comes especially close to us, in prayer or in a worship meeting, you will find that people will become very quiet, and want to bow down humbly. Sometimes they will quietly weep as they feel how sinful they are. Even heavenly angels bow down and show reverence to Jesus.

This is why we should always be reverent and quiet in church or worship. The Holy Spirit is never found where there is noise,

loud, heavy beat music, clapping or shouting. He will not be present where people are all excited, jumping around and dancing. There might be a 'spirit' there, but it is a demon spirit, not a holy one.

Thought - If you meet people who are boastful and proud and talk a lot about how much they know God; you can be sure they really don't know Him at all.

Friday

Text: Revelation 1:18, 19 "I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death. Write the things which thou hast seen, and the things which are, and the things which shall be hereafter."

These words of Jesus are so wonderful to us. Jesus lives! He died for us, and He rose again and now He tells us that He has the keys of death. Have you ever had someone you love die? If they are very close to you, it makes you feel so sad and lonely.

But down through the ages, Christians have had a precious hope; Jesus was dead—and He rose again! And now He has the keys—the keys to let His dear people out of the prison of death and the grave. When someone dies in Jesus; we know they will come out of that grave again. When Jesus comes, they will rise again, because Jesus has the keys!

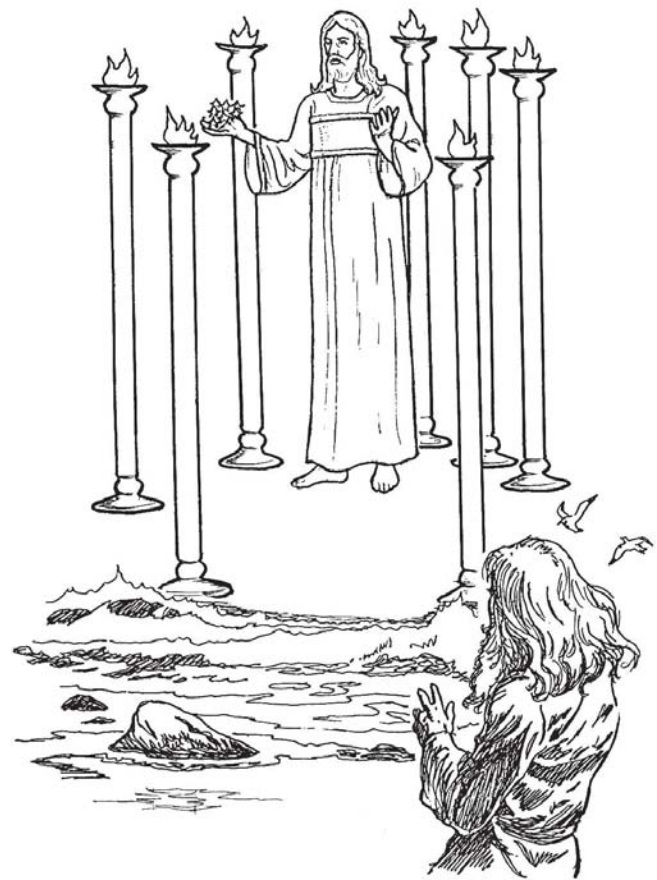
Did you know there is a man on earth today that claims he has those keys? Yes, the pope claims that he has the keys of heaven and hell. If you look on the Vatican flag, you will see a picture of two big old keys, crossed on there. But we know that Jesus has the keys, nobody else has them.

Now Jesus tells John to write down all that He is going to show him. He tells him to write down what he has seen, what is right then and also what is going to happen in the

future! Now only God really knows what will happen in the future, and this is what that book of Revelation is all about.

When John wrote it, most of it had not yet happened; but now when we read it, most of it has already happened; some of it is happening now, and the rest is soon going to happen.

Thought – How wonderful it must have been for John to see all those wonderful things, but I think what made him the happiest, was to see dear Jesus, don't you?
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Weekly Bible Lesson #2: "THE SEVEN CHURCHES"

MEMORY VERSE: "Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me."

Revelation 3:20

Note: We could spend a lesson on each church, but we will just see a few points. You can learn much more about these messages as you read the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy books. We are also going to have a Sabbath section for some of these lessons, as they are large.

Read Revelation 2:1-7

Sabbath

Text: Revelation 1:20 "The mystery of the seven stars which thou sawest in my right hand, and the seven golden candlesticks. The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches: and the seven candlesticks which thou sawest are the seven churches."

2:1 "Unto the angel of the church of Ephesus write; These things saith he that holdeth the seven stars in his right hand, who walketh in the midst of the seven golden candlesticks."

In the first chapter Jesus starts talking about the 7 churches and tells John to send the messages to them. Now there were more than 7 churches in John's day, so we know that the number and the names of these churches has a prophecy meaning. Seven in Bible numbers means complete or perfect. The seven churches means all God's people both back then and also down through the ages to the end of time.

It is important to understand that some of the Greek words, that John originally used to tell us about what Jesus showed him, are a bit different than we see them in English. The word used for 'churches' meant congregations, or groups of believers. And the word 'angels' means 'messengers'.

In each time in history, God's true people had a special 'message' and Jesus showed us that all who carry that message for their times are carefully held in His hand. He

watches them with love. He 'walks among the seven candlesticks'; this means He is always with His true people, guiding and teaching them.

These 'churches' stand for different periods in history, but the lessons in the messages to them, are also for all of God's children in all times.

Ephesus is the first, and it was the church of John's time. Its time was from Jesus' resurrection to around the death of the last of the apostles. This early church was pure and eager to spread the truth about Jesus to the entire world. They watched carefully, so that those who were false and meant to sneak in and do the church harm were sent away and the true believers were carefully taught.

But already there was a problem in this church; Jesus said 'they had left their first love'. By John's day there had come into the church those who wanted to rule and tell all others what to do. They were already looking to men, and not as much to Jesus, as they had been at first. Jesus warns them to go back to their first love or he would 'remove their candlestick'; they would cease to be His people.

Thought - Always remember that the lessons and promises in each of these 'churches' are meant for all God's children.

Sunday

Read Revelation 2:8-11.

Text: Revelation 2:8,9 "And unto the angel of the church in Smyrna write; These things saith the first and the last, which was dead, and is alive; I know thy works, and tribulation, and poverty, (but thou art rich) and I know the blasphemy of them

which say they are Jews, and are not, but are the synagogue of Satan.”

Smyrna means a sweet smell, like a perfume. This was the time when God’s people went through a terrible persecution by the emperor Diocletian. They would “have tribulation ten days.” This refers to the ten years of persecution from A. D. 303-313, where thousands were slain. Their faithfulness as they stood for His truth, was like a sweet perfume to God.

Though some of the people in the first ‘church’ had not gone back to their ‘first love’, many had, and now in this church they stood bravely for the truth. This is one church that Jesus has nothing bad to say about them.

Persecution has a way of making the church very pure, because selfish people are afraid to join it, and those who do join are ready to die for it. There were many martyrs during those ten years and if we are faithful, we will meet them when Jesus comes and raises them to take them home with all of His people.

There were some in the beginning of the time of this church, who were pretending to be Christians, but were not, and were just there to harm the church. Because this is a prophecy, ‘Jews’, here mean Christian believers, because after the death of Jesus, the real Jews were no longer God’s special people. The persecution no doubt got rid of the false ones.

The promise to this ‘church’ was that if faithful, they would not be ‘hurt by the second death’. This means they would be raised to have Eternal Life.

Thought - How kind Jesus was to point out to these dear people going through this terrible time, that He had also been dead and rose again, so they, if faithful, would also.

Monday

Read Revelation 2:12-17.

Text: Revelation 2:12,13 “And to the angel of the church in Pergamos write; These

things saith he which hath the sharp sword with two edges; I know thy works, and where thou dwellest, even where Satan’s seat is: and thou holdest fast my name, and hast not denied my faith, even in those days wherein Antipas was my faithful martyr, who was slain among you, where Satan dwelleth.”

Pergamos means ‘lifted up’. This was when Constantine pretended to be a Christian, and it began to be popular to be a Christian. This church covers the period of 323-538. During this time we see the rise of the Papacy, the idea that the Bishop of Rome should rule the entire world as a ‘god on earth’. This letter is addressed to those who were clinging to the truth and not going along with the wrong that was coming in to the ‘Christian church’.

In all these letters we notice that Jesus does not see as people see. He does not recognize the ones who have rejected His truth and are bringing in their own ideas as His ‘church’. One of the things Jesus was telling these people that they were doing wrong, was they were allowing the people who had the wrong ideas to stay and teach among them.

We see here the worship of idols coming in, and the ‘faithful martyr ‘Antipas’ dying for his faith. Who was this? It wasn’t just one person, but meant those who refused to go along with the idea of the Bishop of Rome being the ‘papa’ or pope over the church. Many were killed or had to flee for their lives.

The doctrine of the ‘Nicolaitans’, was the idea that the death of Jesus on the cross meant God’s law no longer had to be kept. And Balaam was the one who led Israel into joining with pagan idol worshippers to celebrate their holidays.

Jesus promises those who remained faithful that they would eat of the ‘hidden manna’ and have a white stone with a new name.

Thought - I sort of think that the stone with the new name meant they would be

members of the heavenly church, even though they were being thrown out of the wicked church that was claiming to be God's church, and having to flee for their lives into the wilderness.

Tuesday

Read Revelation 2:18-28.

Text: Revelation 2:18-20 "And unto the angel of the church in Thyatira write; These things saith the Son of God, who hath his eyes like unto a flame of fire, and his feet are like fine brass; I know thy works, and charity, and service, and faith, and thy patience, and thy works; and the last to be more than the first. Notwithstanding I have a few things against thee, because thou sufferest that woman Jezebel, which calleth herself a prophetess, to teach and to seduce my servants to commit fornication, and to eat things sacrificed unto idols."

Now in Thyatira, which means 'sacrifice and humility', we see God is no longer talking to that great 'church' that had set itself up as the 'ruler of the world' but rather to His true 'church' hiding in the wilderness. This is the church of the 1260 years of papal persecution, from 538-1798.

Jesus is pleased with their works as they humbly do their best to serve Him and still share His truths with the world, though often it cost their lives. These 'works' were so wonderful that Jesus mentions them twice.

But there is a problem; they were allowing 'Jezebel' to come among them. Who was this? Well, in the Bible Jezebel was the wicked wife of Ahab that led Israel into idol worship. So here it is meant that they were compromising by allowing teachers from Rome to come in among them.

This message talks about 'adultery'; in the Bible God says when His people join with earthly rulers and also with pagan idol worshippers, that they commit adultery, just like a wife who runs away with another man, not

her husband. Jesus calls His true church His 'Bride'.

As long as these churches of the wilderness remained pure and stayed completely true to the Bible Truth, they had great protection from God. Sometimes even armies sent out to destroy them were smitten with terror and fled away without ever coming near to the people of God. Other times God sent fog or storms to help his people and hide them from their enemies.

But when they made deals with the Romans, and began to give in, on even 'small' points of truth, God could not protect them so well, and terrible slaughters occurred.

Thought - When Satan can't get us to go all wrong, he tries to get us to decide it is OK to just give in a little bit, to make others happy. But once we do this, Jesus cannot keep us safe and soon Satan gets us all the way. Never give in to wrong, even a 'little bit'!

Wednesday

Read Revelation 3:1-6.

Text: Revelation 3:1,2 "And unto the angel of the church in Sardis write; These things saith he that hath the seven Spirits of God, and the seven stars; I know thy works, that thou hast a name that thou livest, and art dead. Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die: for I have not found thy works perfect before God."

Sardis means 'what remains', and we see Jesus saying that there were still some good things remaining in this church, but they needed to be strengthened. This is the time of the Protestant churches that grew out of the reformation.

Although they started out as 'Thyatira', humble and faithful, they soon stopped seeking for truth, became proud, and stopped learning new truth from the Bible. Instead they made 'creeds' and decided they would not believe anything that their fathers had

not believed, so Jesus could not teach them anymore. He told them that even though they thought they were so good, they were really spiritually dead.

He says here, that there were a few faithful ones among them, and if they were overcomers, they would remain in His Book of Life. He warned the others that if they did not 'watch', He would come as a thief and they would not know it. This is exactly what happened as when the 'Great Advent Awakening' began to happen in the 1830s, most of the churches of the world rejected it.

Thought - There are many still today, who think they are 'alive' and just fine spiritually, but they are really dead to Jesus and His claims on their lives.

Thursday

Read Revelation 3:7-13.

Text: Revelation 3:8,9 "I know thy works: behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it: for thou hast a little strength, and hast kept my word, and hast not denied my name. Behold, I will make them of the synagogue of Satan, which say they are Jews, and are not, but do lie; behold, I will make them to come and worship before thy feet, and to know that I have loved thee."

Philadelphia means 'Brotherly Love' and this is one of the 'churches' that Jesus has nothing bad to say about. This is another place where we see that Heaven does not look at things the way we do. No history book made by man would have declared that the Advent Movement and the Millerites of the 1830s -1844 were the 'True Church' for that time; but this is exactly what we see in this message.

Here again we see false Christians, 'that say they are Jews and are not'. These were the ones in the popular churches who rejected the message from heaven about the end of the great prophecy of the 2300 days

in 1844.

As they rejected this, they threw the true believers out of the churches and forbade them to preach about the coming of Jesus. Then when this did not stop the Advent Movement, they made fun of them and told ugly jokes. At this period for the first time in Protestant churches, they began to have church banquets, parties and fairs, and all kinds of entertainment in the churches.

In the Sardis church Jesus warned that most of the church was dead or ready to die spiritually. Now most of the church became fallen, the 'synagogue of Satan'. As they rejected the message of Jesus' soon coming, they showed they did not truly love Jesus, and Satan came in with his ways and they welcomed him.

The true believers went through hard times, as they were scorned and cast out of their churches, and even sometimes their families, for believing in Jesus soon coming. But Jesus says, don't worry, I have given you an open door and nobody can shut it. This was the door to the Most Holy place in the heavenly sanctuary.

The Advent believers were disappointed terribly when Jesus did not come to earth on Oct. 22 1844, BUT they were thrilled later to learn about the door opened in heaven, and how they could by faith see Jesus, as he did the work of deciding who's names would be left in the book of life and go to heaven with Him when He returns.

Thought - Soon the people who are alive on earth will be judged; this will happen as they decide whether they will obey God's Word and the commandments, or obey what men tell them to do, and disobey God.

Friday

Read Revelation 3:14-22.

Text: Revelation 3:17, 18 "Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable,

and poor, and blind, and naked: I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see."

There are two churches that Jesus said nothing bad about, but here is the saddest church of all, for Jesus has nothing good to say about them. This is our time and it is important that we understand this message. Laodecia means 'Judged' for we live in the time when the judgment is taking place in heaven to see who will go home with Jesus and who will not.

The sad thing about these people is that they think they are perfect, when they are not right at all! What can we do? We must believe what Jesus tells us, that we are a mess— poor, blind, miserable and naked.

Then we must repent and be sorry for our sins and pray, asking Jesus for 'white raiment'; His perfect character, 'Gold'; which

means the Faith and Love of Jesus, the kind Jesus had when here on earth. The 'eyesalve' for our spiritual eyes, means we need to have the Holy Spirit to teach us and guide us as we study the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy writings. Then, in the strength of Jesus, we will obey what we find there.

Jesus is outside the hearts of the people in this 'church', He warns them He may have to reject them, but He is trying so very hard to get them to open up their hearts and let Him in, so He can save them.

The people of this church will end up in two groups; the largest group will keep thinking they are just fine and nothing is wrong with their churches. They will obey men's rules and be lost. The other group will believe Jesus' Words, they will repent and ask Jesus to come in and take charge of their lives. Jesus and the Holy Spirit will work in them and with them, and they will be ready to meet Jesus!

Thought – We don't want to be lost and think we are just fine! We need Jesus in our hearts! = ^ .. ^ =

Weekly Bible Lesson #3: "THE THRONE AND THE BOOK"

MEMORY VERSE: "Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created." Revelation 4:11

Read Revelation 4-5

Sabbath

Text: Revelation 4:2, 3 "And immediately I was in the spirit: and, behold, a throne was set in heaven, and one sat on the throne. And he that sat was to look upon like a jasper and a sardine stone: and there was a rainbow round about the throne, in sight like unto an emerald."

In his vision, John now sees heaven opened and a great voice tells him to come and see what was there. He sees the great throne room of God in heaven, bright and full of beautiful colors.

In these visions everything has a meaning, so these colors have a meaning also. The Rainbow: this has several meanings, first we know the rainbow first appeared as a sign of God's promise not to again destroy the earth with a flood. It tells us about God's mercy mixed with His justice, and the Gospel of salvation mixed with the Law of God. It also is a symbol that Jesus uses; wherever in prophecy we see that rainbow, we know that Jesus is there.

Satan has stolen that symbol, as he steals everything that Jesus gives us, and he uses it for his own purposes. He uses it as a symbol for New Age spiritualism. But we

know it belongs to Jesus.

Jasper anciently was red and purple and the 'sardine' stone was bright red. Red was a symbol of royalty, and red and purple were usually worn by kings. Red also reminds us of the Blood of Jesus shed for our sins, and when put together with blue, which means God's justice and Law, we see purple, justice and mercy mixed together.

Emerald is a green stone. Green is a symbol of life and faith. In vision Ellen White was handed a green cord: "The green cord represented faith to my mind, and the beauty and simplicity of trusting in God..."

Thought - When Jesus comes in the clouds, a great rainbow will be around Him.

Sunday

Text: Revelation 4:4 "And round about the throne were four and twenty seats: and upon the seats I saw four and twenty elders sitting, clothed in white raiment; and they had on their heads crowns of gold."

Here we see a wonderful sight, twenty-four 'elders' sitting around the throne of God. Who are they? Why are they there? Well we can figure that out as we look at the clues given to us.

First the number; twenty-four is 2 X 12; there were 12 tribes of Israel and 12 disciples, together that is 24. This represents people from both the Old and New Testament times. It is very clear that these 'Elders' are human beings that God has taken to heaven ahead of time to help with the judgment. All proper courts use a jury and it has to be made of 'peers'. That word means 'equals', we could not have a jury of angels, or beings from other worlds, which would not be fair. No, these are a jury of people from earth.

We know this because it says they thank God for redeeming them from earth. (see Rev. 5:9) So who are they? Well, we don't know their names, but when Jesus rose from the dead, He raised a lot of people at that time,

and when He went to heaven to continue His work for us there, He took these ones with Him. (see Matt. 27:52,53)

Verse 5- "And out of the throne proceeded lightnings and thunderings and voices: and there were seven lamps of fire burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God." Here is a wonderful scene, it shows us how busy Heaven is, working for our salvation.

Lightnings— When the angels come and go from the throne of God on their errands to help people on earth, they are like bolts of lightning! Faster than any space ship man can even imagine, faster than light, these powerful messengers come and go bringing power and help to God's children on earth.

Thunderings and voices—this means messages from God going forth to do their work in the different times of God's people here on earth.

The Seven Lamps—Where did we just see those? Why in chapter 1, the candlesticks and lamps are the same thing; they are the congregations of God's dear children through all the ages and the work of the Holy Spirit in them and for them. We are shown them as right before the throne the center of God's attention.

Thought - When you are tempted to feel all alone or afraid, read these verses and think about that great throne room and those powerful forces all working hard to save you and me!

Monday

Text: Revelation 4: 6, 7 "And before the throne there was a sea of glass like unto crystal: and in the midst of the throne, and round about the throne, were four beasts full of eyes before and behind. And the first beast was like a lion, and the second beast like a calf, and the third beast had a face as a man, and the fourth beast was like a flying eagle."

Now we see something very different; four

'beasts' or 'living creatures' are before God's throne. Now it may be nice to imagine that God has some wonderful and strange beings in His universe and I am sure that He does, but this is prophecy, and in prophecy everything has a meaning and is shown us for a reason. You read about these 'creatures' and then turn over in your Bible to Ezekiel 1 and there you will find a similar description of these four 'creatures'. Both of these word pictures are telling us the same story and both are symbols with much meaning for us.

They are symbols that represent God's true people and their work on earth. They are shown as if they are already right there in heaven, in front of God's throne, because God's attention is focused on them, but they are really here on earth. It is the same as the lamps or candlesticks, they are shown as if they are in heaven, but they are God's congregations here on earth.

Let's look at some of what this word picture shows us. 'Full of eyes': eyes in prophecy mean several things: knowledge, the Holy Spirit and spiritual awareness. Remember that the last church, Laodecia is 'blind'; it is not 'full of eyes'.

But the people of God shown by these 'creatures' have the Holy Spirit, and He has been teaching them knowledge of God's Word, and they are using the 'eyesalve', and are spiritually aware of what God is doing in this world.

We'll look at the faces later, but notice what they are doing; they are saying "Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come." They are telling others about God, and their lives are bringing honour to Him. When we live the way Jesus has taught us to live, our lives are like Jesus' life on earth was, and we bring honour and glory to Him that sits on the throne. It is just like we were right there before God's throne, praising Him.

Thought - I want to live in such a way that my life is bringing glory and honour to

God, don't you? Then when we read about these wonderful creatures, we can know we are a part of them!

Tuesday

Text: Revelation 4:7 "And the first beast was like a lion, and the second beast like a calf, and the third beast had a face as a man, and the fourth beast was like a flying eagle."

Now, in Ezekiel we see that each 'creature' had four faces, here they have one each, but the same four faces. The meaning of the faces is the same.

The Lion: this means royalty, God's children are 'Kings and Princes' of the heavenly kingdom; we are 'children of the Heavenly King'. Also, Jesus is the 'Lion of the tribe of Judah', and His children are like Him.

The Calf, or Ox: This stands for sacrifice, as these animals were used for sacrifices. Also it means service, as the ox was a hard working beast of burden. These people of God have sacrificed all for Jesus, and they serve as did Jesus when He was on earth.

The Man: These are real people, doing a real task on earth. The symbol of a man stands for wisdom and knowledge.

The Eagle: The eagle, like the Lion can stand for courage, and with the wings, means also speed; but the main thing that Eagle means in prophecy is 'eyesight'. The eagle can see details at great distances; they have some of the most wonderful eyes in all creation!

What we see here are a people, who have the messages of Prophecy, which gives them the ability to see spiritual things and also to see great distances into the future. They are going forward with speed and courage to carry this message to others.

Thought - Each of God's children is to have what these four faces stand for in their lives! By this they give glory to Jesus.

Wednesday

Text: Revelation 4:8 “And the four beasts had each of them six wings about him; and they were full of eyes within: and they rest not day and night, saying, Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come.”

Wings! In prophecy they stand for speed, and the carrying of a message and here we see six of them!

Wings represent many things: In Exodus 19:4, wings “carried” the Israelites out of bondage; Eccl. 10:20 says, “that which hath wings shall tell the matter.” One of the things that wings represent is that they carry something, in the case of God’s last day people, it is the final warning from God. Another thing that wings represent is speed, as in Daniel’s vision concerning Alexander the Great. The final work will be rapid and the message of warning shall go out to the world very quickly by simple ways.

Another very common usage of wings in the Bible is as a covering such as this text from Ruth 2:12: “a full reward be given thee of the LORD God of Israel, under whose wings thou art come to trust.” In Ezekiel 1, two of the wings “covered their bodies.” God’s people will be ‘Under His Wings’ of protection and love, as they speed on errands of mercy and carry the message to the entire world.

In this verse we also see a clue about the message they carry, they talk about God ‘which was, and is, and is to come.’ Notice the start of the three angel’s messages in Revelation 14:7, we see that same message: God who was: He is the Creator; He IS: He is our God and is with us right now, and the judgment is happening; and He is to Come: Jesus is soon coming back to earth to take His people home.

Thought - These are very exciting times to live in, when the most wonderful messages ever given are ours to carry to the world and Jesus is coming very soon!

Thursday

Text: Revelation 5: 3,4 And no man in heaven, nor in earth, neither under the earth, was able to open the book, neither to look thereon. And I wept much, because no man was found worthy to open and to read the book, neither to look thereon.

The BOOK! Here we see God holding a book, all sealed up with seven seals. And the question is asked “Who is worthy to open this Book?” Nobody is found who can do this and John, who in the vision represents God’s people, begins to weep with sorrow.

What is this book? Well, as the prophecies unfold in Revelation, we see it stands for the history of man on earth and the plan of salvation. When man fell into sin and this world was taken captive by Satan, there was no way it could be saved—except one—the Creator Himself, Jesus, had to pay the price, no one else was ‘worthy’, no other being could do it.

So we see one of the elders say to John, don’t cry, there is hope! See, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered and can open the book! John turns around to see this fierce Lion, and what does he see? Why he sees a lamb! And not just a sweet little gentle lamb, but this lamb is wounded and dying, it is the lamb that has been slain.

But there is something very special about this lamb; it has seven eyes, and seven horns! We have already seen that eyes mean spiritual eyesight, the Holy Spirit, the ability to ‘see’ the future, and also knowledge. Seven means perfect, complete or ‘all’. This ‘Lamb’ has all wisdom, knowledge and ability to know the future.

He also has seven ‘horns’; again seven means perfect, complete, and horns stand for power, rulership, a king. So Jesus, the slain Lamb of God has ALL POWER, in heaven and earth. This is quite a wonderful Lamb!

Thought – If we, as humans think, were

going to show a mighty power; we would show a roaring Lion, or something savage and fierce; but God shows us the One who has all power in heaven and earth; the slain Lamb of God!

Friday

Text - Revelation 5: 8, 9 “And when he had taken the book, the four beasts and four and twenty elders fell down before the Lamb, having every one of them harps, and golden vials full of odours, which are the prayers of saints. And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation.”

The rest of this chapter is like a song of triumph and praise to our precious Redeemer. First the beasts and elders, representing mankind past and present, declare Him worthy. They sing a song, this song tells of how they were lost and hopeless and now

Jesus has saved them, and they will not only live, but be restored as Kings and Priests before God!

Next we see the thousands and ten thousands of angels and heavenly beings declaring that, yes, indeed, Jesus is worthy of praise and honour.

Finally we see all creatures in the whole universe declaring the same thing, “Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power, be unto him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever.”

When the ‘Great Controversy’ between Christ and Satan is all ended, every being in heaven and earth and the whole universe of other worlds, will agree that God is right and He could have done nothing better than what He did, to save mankind. Even Satan and the lost will admit this. How sad that they admit it too late!

Thought – Let us be among those who know it now, and admit it now, and tell others about it now, that Jesus is WORTHY! Worthy of our love, our trust, our obedience, our worship and our hearts forever! “And the four beasts said, Amen.” = ^ .. ^ =

Weekly Bible Lesson #4: “THE SEVEN SEALS”

MEMORY VERSE: “Surely the Lord GOD will do nothing, but he revealeth his secret unto his servants the prophets.” Amos 3:7

Read Revelation 6

Sabbath

Text: Revelation 6:1,2 “And I saw when the Lamb opened one of the seals, and I heard, as it were the noise of thunder, one of the four beasts saying, Come and see. And I saw, and behold a white horse: and he that sat on him had a bow; and a crown was given unto him: and he went forth conquering, and to conquer.”

In our last lesson we saw a book ‘sealed with seven seals’, and no one could open it until Jesus appeared as a ‘lamb as it had

been slain’. Now we’re going to look at this book. It is not like our books— back then their books were scrolls. These were long strips of paper, rolled around two sticks so that as you read them you would unroll from one side and roll up on the other side.

That is why the book could have seven seals and as each seal was opened, you could see part of the story of the book. This ‘book’ that only Jesus was worthy to open up and show to us, was the history of his ‘church’, His congregation of believers.

Just as the messages to the seven churches represented different periods of time in the progress of the true church, so

now this book goes over the same history, but It shows us the Great Apostasy, which allowed the Church of Rome to grow out of what once was a pure church.

The messages to the churches followed the history of the true believers, but the seals show the ones that did not heed the messages. All through both Daniel and Revelation, you will find the history of the world, from Christ to the end, told over and over again. But each time it is told, it is showing different information about it.

Here we see a white horse, galloping out over the earth; this meant the early church in its purity, carrying the gospel message to the world. It is the same as the 'Ephesus' church. Notice it was the first 'beast' that shows it— the Lion, representing Jesus and the Law, this beast is the spirit of this pure church. The Crown showed how this church would conquer as the truth of the Gospel of Jesus went out.

Thought - Try getting two small sticks and a strip of paper and make yourself a little scroll. You could write some memory verses in it.

Sunday

Text: Revelation 6:3,4. "And when he had opened the second seal, I heard the second beast say, Come and see. And there went out another horse that was red; and power was given to him that sat thereon to take peace from the earth, and that they should kill one another: and there was given unto him a great sword."

Now the second beast, the calf or ox presents the second horse. In this period as the church was turning more to the world. The true people of God suffered and had to make great sacrifices to stay loyal to God's Word. The calf or ox was an animal slain on the altars.

This horse is no longer white and pure, it is red, the color of sin and blood. The church began to be corrupted. The 'mystery of in-

iquity' was at work in Paul's day. Errors began to arise, and the love of the world came in at an early date. What happened was that some powerful heathen leaders joined the church, and instead of throwing away their heathen ideas and following the Bible only; they began to try and mix their heathen ideas with the Bible.

They thought they could do this, and make the Christian religion even better, but if you put muddy water in clean water, you have all muddy water. They didn't want to give up their 'Great Learning' from heathenism, but as they tried to bring their pagan ideas into the Bible and the church, they did not make the church better; they lost the pure truth of the Gospel and followed worldly ways.

It was at this time that many of the errors and wrong ideas that are found in the modern versions of the Bible first happened. The former Heathen leaders, now Christian in name, mixed their ideas into the Bible, and when Constantine ordered a new Bible to be written, these ideas were put in by them. Some of those old manuscripts are still around today, but the true church of Jesus never accepted them. The Roman church used them. They are what the writers of the new modern translations use, to try and confuse the true children of Jesus today.

This horse goes up to the time of Constantine, A. D. 323, where the church began to ask for help from the government and to try to please the government.

When we do not follow the Word of God faithfully and we begin to try and do things like the world, and have the power and pride of the world, then we loose our peace with Jesus. In this period, 'There was continual war and trouble.' Only Jesus can give us real PEACE, and He tells us, this does not ever come from the world; "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you". . . John 14:

Thought - The Bible shows us another group who have no peace (rest), it is those who 'worship the beast'. Rev. 14:11

Monday

Text: Revelation 6:5,6 “And when he had opened the third seal, I heard the third beast say, Come and see. And I beheld, and lo a black horse; and he that sat on him had a pair of balances in his hand. And I heard a voice in the midst of the four beasts say, A measure of wheat for a penny, and three measures of barley for a penny; and see thou hurt not the oil and the wine.”

The third beast, the man-face, shows us another horse. This time it is BLACK. It is the opposite of the first one. It is totally false. It is totally following the ‘wisdom’ of man and has rejected the Gospel of Jesus.

This is the time of the full setting up of the Roman Papacy. Now the idea of selling the gospel to the people for money, had come to be the big thing. The ‘wheat, and the barley’; God’s Word, the ‘bread of life’, was to be sold for money. This horse goes from Constantine’s time to 538 when the Pope had his full power.

The balances tell us that the church power and the government power would be working together. The church leaders controlled the courts of the land.

The oil and wine means the true gospel faith and love, and there was great danger the worldly spirit would destroy every trace of these from the apostate church.

The voice that said, “Hurt not the oil and the wine,” is not spoken by any one on earth, but comes from the midst of the four living creatures; a voice comes from heaven. This shows that even though men may not care for Jesus’ true sheep, yet the Lord was watching over them in this period of horrible darkness.

Jesus makes sure that the true spirit of Christianity is kept alive somewhere, and will not be entirely lost. In this darkness, some true believers began to flee into areas where they could keep the true gospel and read and obey the true Bible.

Thought - Jesus is the True Shepherd

and He never leaves His true sheep to be destroyed by false ministers. He teaches them Himself with His Holy Spirit from the Bible and Spirit of Prophecy writings.

Tuesday

Text: Revelation 6:7,8 “And when he had opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth beast say, Come and see. And I looked, and behold, a pale horse: and his name that sat on him was Death, and hell followed with him. And power was given unto them over the fourth part of the earth, to kill with sword, and with hunger, and with death, and with the beasts of the earth.”

Now, the eagle-face shows us a horrible horse! Our Bible calls it ‘pale’, but the Greek word used means ‘ghastly’, like something dead and moldy; “pale of yellowish color” that is seen in blighted or sickly plants. No horse is ever really this color, and no true church is ever like this papal monster!

The eagle in the Bible is an unclean bird that savagely kills and eats other animals and birds. Now from 538 to the time of the reformation in the 1500s– (most of the 1260-year time when the Papacy would rule the world), this corrupt church made it her business to kill and destroy all others who dared to disagree with her.

The ‘sickly-plant’ color was good to describe this time, as the ‘light’ from the Bible was taken from the people, and if you keep the light from a plant, it turns this sickly, pale color.

Just as Satan was allowed time to clearly show to the universe what his evil ideas would lead to, so this beast-power church was allowed to rule for a time and show what it stood for. Millions and millions of faithful Christians died for their faith and millions more perished from hardships as they fled this cruel power. Only God really knows how many this savage power killed.

Thought - Someday we will meet these dear souls in heaven, who loved Jesus

enough to die for His truth.

Wednesday

Text: Revelation 6:9, 10 “**And when he had opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain for the word of God, and for the testimony which they held: And they cried with a loud voice, saying, How long, O Lord, holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth?**”

No more beasts, or horses now; this seal shows us the symbol of the blood of the slain, faithful ones crying out to God. This is just the same as when God said that Abel’s blood cried out to Him. It does not mean that all these martyrs are somewhere, in a little box under an altar, crying. All those who died in that terrible persecution are asleep in their graves, waiting for Jesus to wake them up when He returns.

What does ‘under the altar’ mean? Well this world is what the ‘courtyard’ of the earthly sanctuary represents. The altar of burnt offerings, where the lambs were killed and burned, was in the courtyard. It was on this earth that the Lamb of God was slain.

So we can see that the ‘souls under the altar’ merely means that they are in their graves on this earth. They are sleeping, and it is only a symbol here, that their blood cries out to God. It is to show us that, although God allowed this cruel power to have its way for the time, and these dear ones were killed by it, Jesus does not forget about any one of them.

Verse 11 says that White robes were given to every one of them. They had been accused by the Papacy as vile heretics, and executed as criminals; their character had been robed in darkness. But the Reformation exposed the cruel crimes of the Papacy, and showed the truth about the holy martyrs of Jesus, and clothed them with white robes.

Hence, the sermons, the prayers, and songs of praise of the Christian church, have held these millions of the slain for Jesus’ name, up to the world in spotless purity.

The time of this seal is the reformation which began to bring to the end the Papal rule of the 1260 years. But it wasn’t over yet, others were yet to witness for their faith as martyrs, “their brethren, that should be killed as they were...”

It was at this time that a man named Fox, and others, began to collect up the stories of the martyrs that died for their faith and put them into books. God wanted their bravery and faith recorded and not forgotten. We can read the stories today and be encouraged, that the same Jesus who gave them strength and courage to be faithful to Him, will do the same for us.

Thought - Some people don’t like to read the stories of the martyrs as they think it makes them afraid, but when you think about how Jesus helped them, we get courage, not fear!

Thursday

Text: Revelation 6:12,13 “**And I beheld when he had opened the sixth seal, and, lo, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became as blood; And the stars of heaven fell unto the earth, even as a fig tree casteth her untimely figs, when she is shaken of a mighty wind.**”

NOW, we come to the end of the 1260-year period that ended in 1798. And we see some amazing things! We live in the times of this seal!

First; ‘a great earthquake’. This earthquake was real, and hit Europe on the 1st of November, 1755. Its centre was in Lisbon, Portugal, where the headquarters of the terrible inquisition had been. It hit on a ‘Holy day’ and all the churches were destroyed and

thousands were killed. They ran screaming, carrying their images of saints and crucifixes and clung to the altars in the churches, but all in vain. People and priests perished together. The earthquake affected at least four million square miles of the earth's surface.

The sun was darkened May 19, 1780.

"Candles were lighted in many houses. Birds were silent and disappeared. Fowls retired to roost. It was the general opinion that the Day of Judgment was at hand."

"It was midnight darkness at noonday. . . . Thousands of people who could not account for it from natural causes, were greatly terrified; and indeed, it cast a universal gloom on the earth. The frogs and night-hawks began their notes."

The moon refused to give her light the following night; and when it did appear, it bore the appearance of blood as described in this prophecy.

The stars of heaven fell Nov. 13, 1833.

Other meteor showers have been seen at different times, but this was the most remarkable and extensive.

This amazing seal goes from verse 6:12 all the way to the end of chapter 7. We are right now living between verse 13 and 14. The things that are going to happen in verses 14-17 are when Jesus comes in the clouds of heaven.

Thought – People, who have a lot of power, think they can get away with whatever they want to do—but someday soon, things will change.

Friday

Text: Revelation 8:1 "And when he had opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven about the space of half an hour."

Now we skip a chapter that gives us more information about God's people getting ready on earth for Jesus' coming.

In chapter 8:1 we see silence for half an hour. In prophetic time, half an hour would be one week of real time. The sixth seal ends with the wicked aware that Jesus is returning to earth to rescue His people, and crying for the rocks and mountains to fall on them. They, who have fought against God's truth, would rather be buried alive than to see the face of the One who died to save them; the One who they refused to obey and whose followers they killed and tormented.

Now if you go to a house and nobody is home, it is silent, isn't it? Well, If all the angels, and Jesus and all the beings in heaven are away, as they come to earth to gather the faithful ones and bring them home to the New Jerusalem, heaven will be silent, won't it?

And Ellen White tells us that when the redeemed children of God are taken into the cloud to travel back to heaven with Jesus, it will take 7 days. Heaven will be silent as all the holy beings travel with the rescued ones from earth to the Holy City. But oh what a lot of rejoicing and happy songs will fill it after they arrive! We can't even imagine.

Thought – I hope each one of you will be there that happy day! = ^ .. ^ =

Weekly Bible Lesson #5: "GETTING READY"

MEMORY VERSE: "For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little:" Isaiah 28:10

"The lips of children will be opened to proclaim the mysteries that have been hidden from the minds of men." Maranatha, page 30. This quote is talking about Daniel and Revelation—like we are studying them. Children like you can learn the prophecies— Jesus will help you!

Revelation 6:15-8:5**Sunday**

Text: Revelation 6:15-17 "And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains; And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb: For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?"

In our last lesson we looked at what the 7 seals meant— but there is more information under the 6th seal than we looked at. This period goes from the late 1700s right to the time of the coming of Jesus, so it covers the very time we are living in today!

When you read prophecies like Daniel and Revelation, you have to remember that they do not run in a straight-line like a story, but instead they are made up of separate word-pictures, almost like pieces of a puzzle, and by studying carefully we learn how the pieces go together.

Each piece gives us more information about the big picture and each piece helps us to understand other pieces. We have to remember though, to let the Bible show us how they go together, and not guess ourselves or we can get mixed up, and we must always pray and ask Jesus for guidance.

The word-picture in these verses takes place as the people see Jesus coming in the

clouds. What a sad situation! Jesus love us all so much that He came and died for us, to make a way for us to be saved. Heaven has done everything possible to help people get ready to go home with Jesus, but most people won't be ready.

Why? It's because they wanted to do their own sinful things, and refused to obey God's law. Now as they see He is really coming, and He is going to put a stop to all their cruel, selfish deeds, they want to be buried alive rather than see the face of the One who loved them so much.

Here just a short while before, these were the rulers and dictators that were getting ready to kill all of God's true people that were left. Then they were proud and boasting, making fun of those dear people who refused to disobey God, telling them how they were going to all be killed. Now these bullies are seen screaming to be buried alive— what a change!

Thought - "It will be in vain to call, Rocks and mountains on us fall; For His hand will find out all, In that day."

Monday

Text: Revelation 7:1 "And after these things I saw four angels standing on the four corners of the earth, holding the four winds of the earth, that the wind should not blow on the earth, nor on the sea, nor on any tree."

Now here John see another word-picture, again this does not happen after the one we just read, but it is a separate view showing something that happens during that 6th seal time.

John sees 4 mighty angels on the four corners of the world. Now some people say, "See the Bible is not true! The earth doesn't

have corners.” This simply means the four directions, north, south, east, and west. We often say things like, “The people came from the four corners of the earth,” and we mean from all over the earth.

Here these angels are holding the winds. Now, no human could hold ‘winds’, but these angels can. And what are the winds that they hold? Remember in prophecy, winds mean trouble, war, strife and destruction. God has powers working in this world to hold back the evil forces so that His people have a chance to get ready for His coming.

It says they protect the earth and the sea—this means the areas where there are lots of people (the sea); and where there are just a few people (the earth). And the ‘Trees’ mean governments or rulers. Remember Nebuchadnezzar’s dream where a great tree was used to mean his rule in Babylon.

Thought - If these angels were not holding back the ‘winds’, Satan would destroy the whole earth.

Tuesday

Text: Revelation 7:2, 3 “And I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the living God: and he cried with a loud voice to the four angels, to whom it was given to hurt the earth and the sea, Saying, Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads.”

Here comes another angel from the ‘East’, this means he comes from heaven with a message from God. Now we see why these angels are holding back the trouble, they are giving time for God’s servants, His true people to get ‘sealed’. A ‘seal’ is like a stamp of ownership. These people are going to have a ‘seal’ that shows they belong to God.

This ‘seal’ is on their foreheads; this means that they have chosen with their minds to believe and obey God. The forehead area of the brain is where we make our decisions.

Now this ‘sealing’ means making up their minds so strongly that they will never change. Each person has to study for their self, and get to know Jesus for their self and love Him with all their heart.

How do you get to love somebody? Well you have to get to know them, don’t you? So it is with God, as we learn about Him from the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy books, and we pray to Him and allow His Holy Spirit to come into our lives and teach and guide us, we get to know Him and trust Him more and more.

Finally there comes a time when we are so solid in our decision to love and follow Jesus that NOTHING would change our minds. Then we are sealed. This takes time, and so the angels hold the winds to give that time. God knows when His people are ‘sealed’ into loving and obeying Him.

The wicked end up ‘sealed’ too, but in a sad-bad way. They have disobeyed God for so long and rejected His love and His word until their hearts become hard and they reach a place where they would never change, not in a million years.

Thought - We know that the 7th day Sabbath is the ‘seal’ of God’s 10 Commandment Law. It is the only place where it tells God’s name, (the Lord thy God) His territory, (Heavens and Earth) and his authority (He is the Creator). The ‘sealed’ people of God will keep His Sabbath!

Wednesday

Text: Revelation 7:4 “And I heard the number of them which were sealed: and there were sealed an hundred and forty and four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel.”

The number 144,000 has been a puzzle to many people. Some think it is a symbol, and it is true that it means something. There were 12 tribes in Israel and there were 12 Apostles. Here Twelve thousand out of each tribe, 12 X12 = 144,000. It does seem here though, that it may be a real number. It rep-

resents the people of God who will be alive on the earth when Jesus returns. They will go to heaven without ever dying.

The twelve sons of Jacob, who became the heads of great families, called tribes, were Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar, Zebulun, Benjamin, Dan, Naphtali, Gad, Asher, and Joseph. But Jacob, on his dying bed, adopted the sons of Joseph, Ephraim and Manasseh, to form two of the tribes of Israel. Gen. 48:5.

But here in this list we find 2 names left out. Ephraim and Dan are not on this final list. The Bible says "Ephraim is joined to idols: let him alone." Hosea 4:17. The tribe of Dan was also involved in Idol worship.

Here is the list of 'tribes' as shown in these verses: Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar, Zebulun, Benjamin, Naphtali, Gad, Asher, Manasseh, and Joseph. There are some people who have done interesting studies about the characters of these different 'tribes'; you might like to read about it sometime.

Thought - God knows who these special people will be, who will be alive when Jesus comes and go home to heaven without ever dying. Maybe some of us will be among them!

Thursday

Text: Revelation 7:9, "After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands."

Some people worry when they think about the 144,000 because it doesn't seem like a very big number to be saved from the whole earth. But we never need to worry about that, there is lots of room in heaven for all, and nobody who really wants to be there and truly gives their heart to Jesus will be left out.

Just imagine this beautiful scene, all of the dear people of God from all different

countries, happy in heaven and singing joyful songs to Jesus. They have palm branches in their hands, as a sign of victory over sin and Satan, and white robes, which means they all have lovely characters like Jesus.

Sometimes when you have to stand alone because all your friends want to do wrong things, remember that wonderful crowd, so many you can't even count them, that are true to Jesus, and decide that you will be there also. On this earth it sometimes seems as if everybody is going the wrong way and following Satan, but very soon, that is all going to change.

Thought - All God's children who humbly trust His promises will be safe in that day when Jesus comes to take them home.

Friday

Text: Revelation 7:13,14 "And one of the elders answered, saying unto me, What are these which are arrayed in white robes? and whence came they? And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb."

Now here we are talking about this special group who have been sealed in their foreheads. They are in pure, white robes— this is their perfect characters that Jesus has given them. They came out of a time when the entire wicked world united to destroy God's truth and blot it from the earth. But in the strength of their mighty Lord, they stood firm for the truth and obeyed God's Commandments.

How did they get these pure characters? It tells you how; they washed them in the blood of the Lamb. They accepted the forgiveness made possible by Jesus death and they chose to have Him live His perfect life in them. They chose to have Jesus' character instead of their own sinful ones. Day by day, hour by hour, they kept choosing His

ways, in the strength He gave them and when temptation came, they refused to yield. They cried out to Jesus to take all sin and wicked selfishness out of their lives.

It took time, and as victory was gained over one sinful trait, the Holy Spirit would show them more things that had to be overcome, and they would cry again to Jesus for victory. The closer they came to Jesus, and the more they learned about His beautiful character, the more sinful they saw themselves to be and the more they cried to Jesus for Him to take away the sin from them and cover their poor selves with His robe of perfect character.

Finally, when Jesus finishes His work in the sanctuary, their comes a time when He pronounces that all who are righteous will stay righteous, He gives them His perfect robe of character for their own and their sins are blotted from the books of heaven.

Notice verses 15-17 “Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple: and he that sitteth on the throne shall dwell among them. They

shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more; neither shall the sun light on them, nor any heat. For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters: and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes.”

These ones have a special experience, all who are saved in heaven will have passed through trials and been overcomers, but these final ones have seen the whole world given over to Satan. They have seen the close of probation when the Mercy of God is totally removed from the wicked and Satan has full control of them. They have seen the terrible 7 last plagues of God’s anger fall on the wicked and have clung to Jesus through the time of Jacob’s trouble.

The 4 angels are still holding the winds—it is time to get to know Jesus and give your whole heart to Him! There is nothing more important than that!

Thought – Revelation 7:13-17, are some of the sweetest in the whole Bible, read them often and think about what they mean. We want to be in that group! = ^ .. ^ =

Weekly Bible Lesson #6: “THE 7 TRUMPETS, PART 1”

MEMORY VERSE: “Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.” John 14:6

Revelation 8

Sunday

Text: Revelation 8:3,4 “And another angel came and stood at the altar, having a golden censer; and there was given unto him much incense, that he should offer it with the prayers of all saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne. And the smoke of the incense, which came with the prayers of the saints, ascended up before God out of the angel’s hand.”

We are about to start hearing about the 7 Trumpets, which is another set of word-pic-

tures showing the events of history from another angle—this time from the main wars and battles that had some effect on God’s people. It seems also that these seven trumpets all talk about forces that attacked Rome; the first four—Pagan Rome, as it was breaking up and the last three—Papal Rome, especially as it persecuted God’s people.

But first we are shown something from near the end of the 6th seal. It is put in here to give encouragement to God’s dear children. Incense is special herbs or spices, that when you burn it makes a sweet smelling perfume in the smoke. This ‘angel’ here shown offering incense with the prayers be-

fore God is actually Jesus, our Saviour and He is pleading His perfect life and His spilt blood before His Father.

This is the 'incense' that makes our prayers able to be heard and answered by our Heavenly Father. It is only through Jesus' sacrifice that we can even ask for forgiveness or help. But we are told this so we can have courage that Jesus IS there pleading for us and offering the incense.

We are shown this scene from the 6th seal as encouragement, because the 7 Trumpets about to start, are going to show terrible scenes of war and strife. God wants us to know that our Redeemer is on the job, and we can have our prayers offered up by Him and receive help.

Remember though, that the incense is only offered WITH our prayers, if we don't ask for what we need and want, we will not receive it. We need to take ALL our needs and problems to our Heavenly Father through Jesus. Especially should we pray about sin problems that we see in our lives.

God does not come and snatch bad habits or sins out of our lives without our permission. BUT the Holy Spirit will work with us to get rid of all the sin and selfishness from our lives, if we pray to the Heavenly Father, claiming only the sacrifice of Jesus for us, and ask for the Holy Spirit and the Holy angels to do this in our lives.

It is a partnership, we choose and ask, the Heavenly Powers make it happen.

Thought - There is POWER for each one of us to overcome all bad things and sins in our lives. Not just to forgive them when they happen, but to change our hearts so they stop happening. "Ask - and ye shall receive." John 16:24

Monday

Text: Revelation 8:7 "The first angel sounded, and there followed hail and fire mingled with blood, and they were cast upon

the earth: and the third part of trees was burnt up, and all green grass was burnt up."

Now we start into the word pictures God uses to describe certain wars and events that happen from John's time to the coming of Jesus. It is important to remember that these things are symbols and so they mean something more than what they seem to say. A Trumpet is a symbol of warning and war. These 7 Trumpets all talk about forces that affected the area of the Roman Empire, first Pagan Rome and then Papal Rome.

The time covered by this first prophecy is from 395 to 419 A. D. It is the time when the Barbarians began to come from the North and attack the areas of the Roman Empire. 'Hail' in this prophecy represents that they came from the cold lands of the North. Just like hail destroys the gardens, so these warriors destroyed everything in their path.

You will notice that these word-pictures keep saying one-third of this and that; this is because there were three main parts to the Roman Empire after Constantine left his throne divided among his three sons.

The Goths, under their leader Alaric, who called himself "the scourge of God," attacked the failing pagan Roman Empire in the West. The 'fire and blood' talked about here refers to the terrible slaughter that these savage hordes brought upon the areas they ravaged. They burned whole towns and destroyed good farming areas and left them desolate. Finally Alaric was conquered in 403.

But more hordes of barbarians poured down from the north to attack the Roman empire under the haughty Rhodogast, who came with his armies almost to the gates of the city of Rome itself. After this, Alaric again returned, invaded Italy in 408, and in 410 he besieged, took, and sacked Rome, and died the same year. In 412 the Goths voluntarily left Italy.

Thought - The angel's trumpet message was a very clear picture of what happened.

Tuesday

Text: Revelation 8:8-9 “And the second angel sounded, and as it were a great mountain burning with fire was cast into the sea; and the third part of the sea became blood; and the third part of the creatures which were in the sea, and had life, died; and the third part of the ships were destroyed.”

We see here more attacks on a ‘third-part’ of the Roman Empire. The period covered by this Trumpet is from 428 to 476; and the prophecy was fulfilled in the terrible Genseric, King of the Vandals, and “Monarch of the Sea;” whose ravages gave us in human language the term “Vandalism;” meaning just wrecking and damaging things for no reason.

This time the force came from the south, from Africa and so the prophecy says a ‘burning mountain’ was cast into the sea. He formed a great navy with many war-ships and raided and took away slaves and treasure from the areas of the Roman Empire.

In 455, just at the time the people of Rome had risen against the Emperor Maximus, and stoned him and thrown his body into the river, Genseric arrived with his warships. He came into the city and ravaged it, taking away all the wealth he could find, including the things from the Temple at Jerusalem that had been brought there by Titus, when Jerusalem was destroyed in AD 70.

Finally the emperor of Rome decided to make himself a large navy to try and defeat Genseric’s war ships. Money was gathered with difficulty and a huge navy was built. They sailed down to Carthage, where Genseric’s fleet was, and could have conquered it. But the clever Genseric said he would surrender and asked for 5 days to ‘make terms’.

All he did was gather his forces and attack the Emperor’s fleet. During the battle, Genseric would take large barges full of burnable material and towing them close to the Roman ships, would set them on fire and let

them sail into the other ships setting them on fire also. How true the idea of a ‘mountain of fire being thrown into the sea’ really was.

Genseric destroyed the Roman fleet and before his death saw the western part of the Roman Empire totally destroyed.

Thought - When you study history in the light of the Bible prophecies, you see that those who do wicked, cruel things, have wicked, cruel things come back on them sooner or later.

Wednesday

Text: Revelation 8:10-11 “And the third angel sounded, and there fell a great star from heaven, burning as it were a lamp, and it fell upon the third part of the rivers, and upon the fountains of waters; and the name of the star is called Wormwood, and the third part of the waters became wormwood; and many men died of the waters, because they were made bitter.”

Now another terrible force is seen coming against the dying Empire of Rome. Some people get confused as this says the ‘star’ came from heaven, but we have to remember that these word-pictures are all symbols to describe the forces who attacked Rome to brought about the prophecy that it would be divided, and made place for the strange Little Horn kingdom, the papacy, to be set up. The prophecy points out that this ‘scourge would be brief but dramatic, like a blazing meteorite in the sky it soon vanishes. The period covered by this trumpet was brief as “a burning star,” 451-453.

By this prophecy we are directed to that other dreadful scourge, the haughty Attila with his frightful Huns, who, during his reign, became the “terror of the world.” Attila actually called himself the “Scourge of God;” “Grandson of Nimrod, and the terror of the world.” And “It is a saying worthy of the ferocious pride of Attila that the grass never grew on the spot where his horse had trod.”

He “alternately insulted and invaded the East and the West, and helped cause the rapid downfall of the Roman Empire.”

The ‘fountains of waters’, refers to the area that he mostly attacked, which was where most of the rivers started, in the regions of the Alps, and on the portions of the empire where the rivers flow to most of Europe in all directions. It was really the area of the “fountains of waters.” Wormwood, is a very bitter tasting herb. Attila was horribly cruel.

Finally he demanded the daughter of the Emperor, Honoria, to be his bride. At first this was refused, but finally as his attacks came again, she was given to him. There was a huge drunken feast at the wedding and the next day when Attila did not appear from his room, his men left him alone for a while, thinking he didn’t want to be disturbed. Finally when he did not answer their loud cries, they went to see what was wrong. He was found dead, from an artery in his throat having burst, and he drowned. This is what alcohol can do.

Thought - Remember the other conqueror that died as a result of a drunken feast? It was Alexander the Great.

Thursday

Text: Revelation 7:8:12 “And the fourth angel sounded, and the third part of the sun was smitten, and the third part of the moon, and the third part of the stars; so as the third part of them was darkened, and day shone not for a third part of it, and the night likewise.”

This trumpet shows the blotting out of the Pagan Roman government. Sun, moon, and stars are here used as symbols of the ruling powers in the government —its emperor, consuls, and senators. A. D. 476 or 479. The ‘sun’ is a good symbol for the Roman Emperor as some of them had claimed to represent the sun god.

The Emperorship was gone from Rome

and an Ostragoth king, ruled there, but some power remained in Constantinople, where the imperial symbols had been taken and an Emperor still reigned.

The imperial Roman power, of which either Rome or Constantinople had been the seat, whether in the West or the East, was no longer recognized in Italy, and the third part of the sun was smitten, till it gave not even the faintest rays. The power of the Caesars was unknown in Italy, and a Gothic king reigned over Rome.

But though the third part of the sun was smitten, and the Roman imperial power was at an end in the city of the Caesars, yet the moon and the stars still shone, or glimmered, for a little longer. The consul and the senate [‘the moon and the stars’] were not abolished by king Theodoric.

Then the general of the emperor of the East, Belisarius attacked and defeated the Goths (A. D. 552). In the order given in the prophecy, the consulate ended and finally the senate was no more.

Justinian transferred the power in Rome to the Bishop of Rome, and worked to help the growing power of the Papacy. This fulfilled a prophecy we will study later; “and the Dragon (here meaning Pagan Rome) gave him (the papacy) his power, and his seat (city of Rome) and great authority.” Revelation 13:2

Thought - It is amazing how long and complicated history events are told in a few words in the prophecies.

Friday

Text: Daniel 7:24 “And the ten horns out of this kingdom are ten kings that shall arise: and another shall rise after them; and he shall be diverse from the first, and he shall subdue three kings.”

The prophecy said that Rome would be divided into ten parts. It was not going to be conquered by another world kingdom, and that is just what happened.

But at first when the Roman Empire be-

gan to collapse, there were more than 10 'kings' attacking it. There were eighteen. But during the time of the first 3 Trumpets, some disappeared, moved away, joined with other nations, or were wiped out until only ten remained.

From the northern to the southern limits of the Western Empire, these ten, as they stood in 476 when the Roman Empire was extinct, were:

1. The Angles and Saxons in Britain.
2. The Franks in all Gaul (France).
3. The Alemanni in North Switzerland.
4. The Burgundians in west Switzerland and southeast Gaul.
5. The Visigoths in southwest Gaul and Spain.

6. The Suevi in that part of Spain which is now Portugal.

7. The Ostrogoths in what is now Austria.

8. The Lombards in Noricum

9. The Heruli in Italy.

10. The Vandals in North Africa, with capital at Carthage.

Now before Papal Rome could fully get its power, three of these nations had to be 'plucked up by the roots'. The three that were removed were the Vandals, the Ostrogoths and the Heruli. They were destroyed by 538 AD and the Papacy then ruled where the Caesars had ruled before.

Thought – Bible prophecy always comes true, exactly! = ^ .. ^ =

Weekly Bible Lesson #7: "THE 7 TRUMPETS, PART 2-THE 3 WOES"

**MEMORY VERSE: "Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:"
Philippians 2:5**

Revelation 9

Sunday

Text: Revelation 8:13 "And I beheld, and heard an angel flying through the midst of heaven, saying with a loud voice, Woe, woe, woe, to the inhabitants of the earth by reason of the other voices of the trumpet of the three angels, which are yet to sound!"

The last 3 trumpets are also called the 'three woes'. Why? Because they were even more terrible than the 4 before them and also they were different because a new religion is here introduced into the world. A religion of darkness; that was almost the exact opposite to the teachings of Jesus.

The western part of the former Roman Empire has been brought down in the first 4 trumpets. There is no emperor on the throne in the city of Rome any more. Instead the Bishop of Rome sits on the throne and rules over both the church and the government. So now the 5th and 6th trumpets bring attacks on the eastern part, where there still

a Roman Emperor ruling. By the end of the 6th trumpet, the eastern Roman Empire is destroyed completely also.

Thought - The word 'WOE' or 'WO' here, is a cry of sorrow. The evil ways of men bring suffering and misery on themselves and others. Only in loving and obeying Jesus is real joy to be found.

Monday

Text: Revelation 9:1,2 "And the fifth angel sounded, and I saw a star fall from heaven unto the earth: and to him was given the key of the bottomless pit. And he opened the bottomless pit; and there arose a smoke out of the pit, as the smoke of a great furnace; and the sun and the air were darkened by reason of the smoke of the pit."

If you look back at the 1st chapter of Revelation, you will see there that Jesus had seven 'stars' in His hand and we learned that these were messengers to the churches. Here we see a fallen star, a religious messenger,

but a fallen or false one.

Here we see him open up a pit and smoke comes out so thick that the sun and air is made dark. Now remember these are all symbols so what does it all mean? This is telling us about when the religion of Mohamedism was invented by the man that claimed to be a prophet. His name was Mohamed, and from his sayings, later a new 'bible' was written, called the Koran.

The Bottomless Pit here can mean the dark and evil side of the world or any desolate area and Mohamedism poured upon the world from the desert lands of North Africa.

Just as the gospel of Jesus is well described as light to the world, so this religion is well described as darkness. Jesus taught us to seek peace and love our enemies, this darkness teaches men that war and killing their enemies is the highest and best thing they can do for their god.

Christianity was never to be forced on people, but Mohamed taught that all should be forced to obey his religion, or they should be killed. These people were taught that to die in battle when forcing people to worship Mohamed or 'Allah' as they call their god, was the best thing they could ever do.

They were told that they then go straight to a wonderful place where they have all kinds of beautiful women, and wine to drink, and fancy food to eat forever. So they were happy to make war, and didn't mind getting killed, fighting for their 'faith'. This 'smoke' made it almost impossible for people taught like this, to see the light of Jesus' gospel or breath the pure air of Bible truth.

Thought - There are people today that say Mohamedism is a good religion, but that is not what the Bible tells us. Jesus longs to have these people blinded by the 'smoke' to come to Him and be saved.

Tuesday

Text: Revelation 9:3 "And there came out of the smoke locusts upon the earth: and unto them was given power, as the scorpions of the earth have power."

Here we see 2 more symbols that make us think of the deserts; the locusts that would come out of the deserts at certain times and eat up all the crops; and the scorpion, a nasty, poisonous creature, like a long-tailed spider with a sting, that would strike with the sting in his tail and it would really hurt!

9:4 "And it was commanded them that they should not hurt the grass of the earth, neither any green thing, neither any tree; but only those men which have not the seal of God in their foreheads."

Green things here means God's true people, who were not attacked by this power but 'those that had not God's seal' referred to Papal Rome. Remember by now they no longer had God's 'Seal', His true Sabbath.

9:5, 6 "And to them it was given that they should not kill them, but that they should be tormented five months: and their torment was as the torment of a scorpion, when he striketh a man. And in those days shall men seek death, and shall not find it; and shall desire to die, and death shall flee from them."

This power tormented the Eastern Roman empire but did not manage to destroy it completely, so the verse says 'they should not kill them'.

Notice the five months; this is prophetic time so a day = a real year. This means 150 years this force would be coming out of the deserts and striking the eastern part of the former Roman Empire. This time started in July 27th, 1299, so the one hundred and fifty years reach to 1449. However the Mohammedans started long before that, but this five months, was when they had 'a king over them.'

The tormenting power of these raiders made life a burden for the eastern empire, who were getting attacked by them, they would rather have been conquered by them and thus stop the torment.

Thought - There are many more interesting things this prophecy tells us but we don't have room for them all here. See 'Daniel and Revelation' by Uriah Smith for more.

Wednesday

Text: Revelation 9:7-9 “And the shapes of the locusts were like unto horses prepared unto battle; and on their heads were as it were crowns like gold, and their faces were as the faces of men. And they had hair as the hair of women, and their teeth were as the teeth of lions. And they had breastplates, as it were breastplates of iron; and the sound of their wings was as the sound of chariots of many horses running to battle.”

Here we have a description of what these desert warriors were like. It talks about their battle horses. The Arabian Desert horses were amazing animals. They were raised by their owners in the tents right along with the family and were treated with gentleness so they were very highly trained. At a word or touch from their master they would run like the wind into battle, or flee away across the sand.

The ‘Crowns of Gold’ were the yellow turbans these men wore.

They had long hair either braided up or loose and the ‘teeth of lions’ meant their fierceness in battle.

Again it talks about ‘many horses running to battle’; The Arab warrior on their swift horses did not march in rows or ranks like Greek or Roman soldiers, they swarmed down onto their enemies on their swift horses almost as quickly as if they were flying.

8:11 “And they had a king over them, which is the angel of the bottomless pit, whose name in the Hebrew tongue is Abaddon, but in the Greek tongue hath his name Apollyon.”

The rise of Mohamed was in 606 AD and for a long time after his death, there was no central king over them. Each tribe had its own ruler; but in July 27th, 1299, Othman became king and what we call the ‘Ottoman Empire’ was set up. We know that the five months begins at this time because the prophecy says ‘they have a king’.

Thought - This ‘woe’ ends in 1449 and

the second ‘woe’ starts.

Thursday

Text: Revelation 9:13-15 “And the sixth angel sounded, and I heard a voice from the four horns of the golden altar which is before God, Saying to the sixth angel which had the trumpet, Loose the four angels which are bound in the great river Euphrates. And the four angels were loosed, which were prepared for an hour, and a day, and a month, and a year, for to slay the third part of men.”

Now we see this same dark religious power but this time coming from the ‘river Euphrates’, which referred to area of the country of Turkey.

The ‘four angels’ refer to the four great kingdoms of which at that time the Moham-medan power was composed, Baghdad, Damascus, Iconium, and Aleppo.

Notice this time period — an hour, a day, a month, and a year— when it was all added together it went from the end of the Fifth Trumpet, July 27, 1449; all the way to, August 11, 1840. Then this period of an hour, and a day, and a month, and a year, would end. For this length of time, and to this date, the power of the Ottoman Empire was to continue. Did this empire lose its power at that time? Yes, it did!

On the 11th of August 1840, on board a ship, the Turkish leader signed a paper that took away the independence and power of the Turkish Sultan forever. Where, then, was Turkish supremacy Aug.11,1840?—It was gone. Who now held the power?—The four great Powers of Europe.

Up until that time, they had continued to attack that eastern part of the Roman Empire until the last remains of it were gone and the modern nations ruled.

Thought - This amazing prophecy was pointed out and written up in the newspapers before August 11,1840 and when it really happened on time, many people believed that God’s Word was true.

Friday

Text: Revelation 9:17-18 “And thus I saw the horses in the vision, and them that sat on them, having breastplates of fire, and of jacinth, and brimstone: and the heads of the horses were as the heads of lions; and out of their mouths issued fire and smoke and brimstone. By these three was the third part of men killed, by the fire, and by the smoke, and by the brimstone, which issued out of their mouths.”

What is this? Fire-breathing horses? That's silly!

Oh, no it isn't—at this time gunpowder and guns were used for the first time against the people in Eastern Europe. When the pistols were held close to the horses as they rode to the attack, it looked like fire and brimstone came from the mouths of the horses. This is also the time that knights in armour weren't much use any more as the armour would not stop the bullets.

Notice here, that it now says the third part of men were killed, where before they were only tormented. This power brought the Eastern Roman Empire finally to its political end.

“Having breastplates of fire, and of jacinth, and brimstone” These three colors red, yellow and blue were the ones these Turkish warriors wore. And again we see the amazing warhorses of these desert people, even

their horses were trained to attack and be fierce.

They also made great cannons and using their power, managed to overthrow Constantinople where the eastern Roman Emperor had for so long had his throne.

20-21 “And the rest of the men which were not killed by these plagues yet repented not of the works of their hands, that they should not worship devils, and idols of gold, and silver, and brass, and stone, and of wood: which neither can see, nor hear, nor walk: Neither repented they of their murders, nor of their sorceries, nor of their fornication, nor of their thefts.”

Here we see lessons that God wanted people to learn. The Roman Church was worshipping images, and they worshipped dead people as ‘saints’. When you worship the dead, you really worship devils. People also make idols of gold and silver money—always trying to get as much as they can away from other people.

The murders, thefts and sorcery are all part of the false system of worship and the persecution of all who differed with them. The ‘fornication’ is when the church uses the government power to force her religion on others.

Thought – Sadly, the Roman church did not learn its lesson from these woes. If we have a hard times or trouble come into our lives, it is good to see if there are some lessons that we need to learn! = ^ .. ^ =

Weekly Bible Lesson #8: "THE 7 TRUMPETS, PART 3, THE 2 WITNESSES"

MEMORY VERSE: "And he said unto me, Thou must prophesy again before many peoples, and nations, and tongues, and kings." Revelation 10:11

Revelation 10-11

Sunday

Text: Revelation 10:1,2 "And I saw another mighty angel come down from heaven, clothed with a cloud: and a rainbow was upon his head, and his face was as it were the sun, and his feet as pillars of fire: And he had in his hand a little book open: and he set his right foot upon the sea, and his left foot on the earth."

We are now getting into some of the most exciting prophecies in the Bible! These things in chapters 10 -11 are sort of 'between woes', they happen as the 6th trumpet is ending and the 7th is starting.

We know it is very important because look Who it is that appears here—we see clouds and a rainbow, and a face like the sun. Who is it? It is Jesus; just like in Rev. 1 and Daniel 10. He has a 'little book' and it is OPEN. Now what little book do we know that was closed? Why, the book of Daniel's prophecies. He was told, "seal the book" until "the time of the end".

The 'end' of what? Well this means the end of the wonderful time prophecies found in Daniel. The 2300 days/years and the 1260 days/years. The 1260 ended in 1798, and the 2300 ended in 1844.

Do we see something happening in history that has to do with the book of Daniel in this time? Yes, we sure do! Towards the end of the 1700s many people all over the world began to study that very book and they began to understand the time prophecies in it. And the Holy Spirit led them to preach and write about the Coming of Jesus and His judgment of the earth.

3,4 "And cried with a loud voice, as when a lion roareth: and when he had cried, seven thunders uttered their voices. And when the

seven thunders had uttered their voices, I was about to write: and I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Seal up those things which the seven thunders uttered, and write them not."

Hear the 'roar' of the Lion of Judah? It is announcing something important. And then we hear '7 thunders' speak through the earth. What did they say? John was told not to write it down. Then why did Jesus mention it at all?

Something was going to happen, and it was not written down, or it couldn't have happened the way it needed to happen. We are now quite sure about what the 7 thunders said; they told of the Great Advent awakening, followed by the 'Great Disappointment' of Oct. 22, 1844.

Thought - The happenings of 1843-1844 are clearly told about in different prophecies in Daniel, Revelation and the parables of Jesus.

Monday

Text: Revelation 10:5 "And the angel which I saw stand upon the sea and upon the earth lifted up his hand to heaven, And swore by him that liveth for ever and ever, who created heaven, and the things that therein are, and the earth, and the things that therein are, and the sea, and the things which are therein, that there should be time no longer: But in the days of the voice of the seventh angel, when he shall begin to sound, the mystery of God should be finished, as he hath declared to his servants the prophets."

Here is Jesus, making a legal announcement; He holds up his one hand to heaven, like we do in a court of law, and he 'swares' by Him who liveth for ever and ever and Who

is the Creator. This is Jesus Himself. He swears by Himself as there is none greater!

Then He says 'time shall be no longer'. What 'time'? Time for this earth? No, this earth lasted past 1844. Probation 'time'? No, we still have probation time today, although it is soon going to end. It means the prophetic time in the time prophecies. Jesus is here telling us that all the time prophecies end by that 1844 time; there are no more time prophecies waiting to be fulfilled.

Jesus goes onto to tell us that in the days of the 7th angel, when he starts to sound his trumpet, the 'Mystery of God should be finished'. What is this 'Mystery'? It is the wonderful time prophecies of Daniel that for many years were only partly understood and then towards the end of the 1260 days/years began to open up to serious Bible students.

8 "And the voice which I heard from heaven spake unto me again, and said, Go and take the little book which is open in the hand of the angel which standeth upon the sea and upon the earth."

In all prophecies, the prophet receiving the vision, represents the people of God, and they will do what we see the prophet in the vision doing. Here John takes the precious 'little book' from Jesus' hands. This is what God's people did at that time period, they took that book of Daniel as a special message from Jesus, which is just what it was.

Thought - There are people today that say there are more time prophecies to be fulfilled in the future: don't listen to them, because Jesus Himself said 'Time shall be no longer'; there will be no more time prophecies.

Tuesday

Text: Revelation 10:9-11 "And I went unto the angel, and said unto him, Give me the little book. And he said unto me, Take it, and eat it up; and it shall make thy belly bitter, but it shall be in thy mouth sweet as honey. And I took the little book out of the

angel's hand, and ate it up; and it was in my mouth sweet as honey: and as soon as I had eaten it, my belly was bitter. And he said unto me, Thou must prophesy again before many peoples, and nations, and tongues, and kings."

He took the little book and ate it up! Here we see God's people 'eating up' the book of Daniel. We use the expression, 'he likes ___ so much, that he just eats it up!' Well, God's people as they got into the prophecies of Daniel just 'ate it up'.

They loved it; it was like honey to them. Why? Because they really believed that this prophecy was meaning that Jesus was coming back to earth on that day. Those who love Jesus and really belong to Him with their whole hearts, long to see Him come back and take them home to heaven with Him.

But the prophecy says something happened after they 'ate up' that sweet message from Jesus. Their 'belly was bitter'. What an amazing way to describe exactly what happened to God's people at that time!

They were so happy thinking they were soon going home with Jesus. At first there was a mistake in the time they figured out, because they thought the period ended in the spring of 1843, or 1844. So there was a small disappointment. But then, as they looked closer at history and the Great Day of Atonement in the Sanctuary services of the Jews, they found the exact day; October 22, 1844.

Then the message seemed to go out like wildfire. The very words of the parable of Jesus were used; "Behold the Bridegroom Cometh! Go ye out to meet Him!" Everywhere throughout the world where there were any Christians at all, the message went.

As the day grew close, the believers prayed and searched their hearts to make sure they had put away every sin and made right every wrong deed to their families and neighbours. With solemn joy they gathered to await His coming. The hours were spent in quietness and prayer. No one ever made

'ascension robes' as some say, nor did anyone climb up in trees or stuff either. These are false stories.

But the bitter belly came, they were disappointed, the time passed and Jesus did not appear. Most of the people then laughed at their former belief and went away. Never again would these join with the true believers.

But the prophecy had a clue in it— "Thou must prophecy again!" This message is for us today also.

Thought - Jesus longs to have us come home to be with Him too; how sad He must feel when some of us would rather have the silly pleasures of the world, than have Him, who loves us so much.

Wednesday

Text: Revelation 11:1, 2 "And there was given me a reed like unto a rod: and the angel stood, saying, Rise, and measure the temple of God, and the altar, and them that worship therein. But the court which is without the temple leave out, and measure it not; for it is given unto the Gentiles: and the holy city shall they tread under foot forty and two months."

Here we see an angel talking about measuring something; measuring in prophecy refers to judgment. We know that Jesus started a special judgment in 1844, called the investigative judgment.

This verse tells us who was being 'measured' or judged here, it is 'the Temple of God'. What does this mean? It means God's people. Everybody that has ever claimed to belong to God has his name written in the Book of Life. But not all these people will go to heaven.

Why not? Well, take Cain and Abel; they both claimed to belong to God. Abel was faithful and obedient; but Cain was disobedient and became a murderer and never repented. When Cain's name was looked at in the Book of Life, unconfessed sin was there,

and Cain's name was blotted out and his sins remained in the book of sin. He won't be in heaven. So on and on the process goes, judging the dead by the records of their life and whether or not they had unconfessed and unforsaken sins in their record.

It says that God is not measuring the 'court', but it is left to the 'Gentiles'. This means that in this special judgment that happens before Jesus comes back for His people, the world, which is meant by the court, and the Gentiles are not looked at. These are people, who never even claimed to belong to God at all, they were just not interested. They are lost and will be judged later.

Here again we see another mention of the 1260 days/years of Roman rule and how they would trample underfoot God's people.

3 "And I will give power unto my two witnesses, and they shall prophesy a thousand two hundred and threescore days, clothed in sackcloth."

Then we see in verse 3, something new; two witnesses; and they are 'prophesying for 1260 day/years dressed in sackcloth'. If you read verses 3-7, you will see clues to know what they are. They are the Holy Scriptures, the Old and the New Testaments.

They are in 'sackcloth'. Why? Sackcloth is something people used to wear when they were very sad. And again we see that 1260-year period mentioned. The message of God's Holy Word is said to be sad and hidden at this time, as millions of true believers died for their faith. Even to be caught with a Bible meant death. But the Bible still had 'power'. When people would get hold of the Bible and read it, they found the saving power of Jesus in it.

Thought - It was the Bible that gave these people courage to live and die for Jesus' truth and it will do the same thing for us.

Thursday

Text: Revelation 11:7,8 "And when they shall have finished their testimony, the

beast that ascendeth out of the bottomless pit shall make war against them, and shall overcome them, and kill them. And their dead bodies shall lie in the street of the great city, which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified."

Now we come to an amazing story in prophecy; we see the 2 witnesses 'finishing' their testimony in sackcloth, for that is what the words in Greek really tell us. So we know that something happened to the Bible near the end of those 1260 years that ended in 1798. Did something happen then?

Yes, it says a 'Beast' comes out of the bottomless pit. The bottomless pit refers to the wickedness of this world, so out of this wicked world comes a new 'Beast'; a new ruling power.

In 1793, the power of Atheism, calling itself 'communism' arose mainly in France and they passed a law outlawing the Bible. The Roman power had kept the Bible from the common people, but now this new power declared that the Bible was to be destroyed forever. 'It was 'killed'; in other words, it was to have no political influence at all.

What city is here shown to us? The Bible says 3 things; Sodom, Egypt, and where Jesus was crucified. But these are symbols here; Sodom meant the wicked and dirty way they lived when they also ruled to have no marriage anymore, Egypt was where Pharaoh declared he 'knew not God', and France now declared the same thing; and Jesus was crucified symbolically, when His people were slain in France in the St. Bartholomew's Massacre, years before. The city? It was Paris, France.

There happened such terrible events, that they are known as the Reign of Terror! People were killed, by having their heads chopped off by a machine called a Guillotine. So many were killed that blood flowed down the streets and coloured the waters of the river red!

Thought - When people refuse the Bible and the authority of God's holy Law, it doesn't take long until terrible things hap-

pen. Why? Because when we refuse to choose to obey God, Satan forces us to do his will; there is no other choice.

Friday

Text: Revelation 11:9-11 "And they of the people and kindreds and tongues and nations shall see their dead bodies three days and an half, and shall not suffer their dead bodies to be put in graves. And they that dwell upon the earth shall rejoice over them, and make merry, and shall send gifts one to another; because these two prophets tormented them that dwelt on the earth. And after three days and an half the Spirit of life from God entered into them, and they stood upon their feet; and great fear fell upon them which saw them."

The other nations saw the terrible events that happened when France, by a decree of her government, passed a law doing away with the Bible and all religion and belief in God. For exactly 3 ½ years, as the prophecy says, this went on. Wicked people celebrated, but soon terror took the place of merry-making. No one knew when his head would be the next to come off!

Exactly 3 ½ years later, that same government passed a law putting the Bible and belief in God back in their rightful place. All thinking people who saw the events that had happened were made fearful of ever doing such a wicked thing again. After this time the Bible was held in greater reverence at least by the Protestant nations, than ever before.

12,13 "And they heard a great voice from heaven saying unto them, Come up hither. And they ascended up to heaven in a cloud; and their enemies beheld them. And the same hour was there a great earthquake, and the tenth part of the city fell, and in the earthquake were slain of men seven thousand: and the remnant were affrighted, and gave glory to the God of heaven."

This refers to the fact that a great missionary movement took place after this time. Bible societies were started and the True Bible carried all over the world to the heathen people by missionaries.

What about the Earthquake? And the Tenth part of the city? Well, France was a 'Tenth' part of Europe and the 'Earthquake', a symbolic one, referred to the terrible French Revolution. Like a real earthquake, it sure shook people up.

"And in the earthquake were slain of men [margin, names of men, or TITLES of men] seven thousand." France made war, in her revolution of 1789-98 and onward, on all titles of nobility. It is said by those who

have examined the French records, that just seven thousand titles of men were abolished in that revolution.

Thought – "And the remnant were affrighted, and gave glory to the God of heaven." Their God-dishonouring and Heaven-defying work filled France with such scenes of blood, carnage, and horror, as made even the infidels themselves tremble, and stand aghast; and the "remnant" that escaped the horrors of that hour "gave glory to God" - not willingly, but the God of heaven caused this "wrath of man to praise him," by causing all the world to see that those who make war on heaven make graves for themselves! = ^..^ =

Weekly Bible Lesson #9: "THE 7TH TRUMPET, THE PURE WOMAN & THE DRAGON"

MEMORY VERSE: "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." Revelation 12:17

**Revelation 11:14-19, Revelation 12
Sunday**

Text: Revelation 11:14-17 "The second woe is past; and, behold, the third woe cometh quickly. And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever. And the four and twenty elders, which sat before God on their seats, fell upon their faces, and worshipped God, Saying, We give thee thanks, O Lord God Almighty, which art, and wast, and art to come; because thou hast taken to thee thy great power, and hast reigned."

The Seventh Trumpet, which is the third Woe, covers a lot of ground. Many people get mixed up on it and think weird things, but if we remember it is full of symbols and what these symbols mean in other texts, then we

can see the word pictures God has put here for us.

The other 2 Woes were about armies that attacked Papal Rome and now here is a third Woe- what does it tell us is going to happen to Rome? Well, This 7th Trumpet begins in 1844 and we see here the time of the Investigative Judgment. What are the 'great voices'? It is the message of the Investigative Judgment being preached in the world. The Elders are happy that this 'Time' has finally come.

Why are they so happy about this? Because this is the time that Jesus is in the process of receiving His Kingdom! In some of the parables of Jesus we see more about this, in one He says He goes away to receive a kingdom; (Luke 19:12) in another He goes into the Marriage; (Matthew 25:1-13) in another the King (Heavenly Father) makes a marriage for His Son; (Matthew 22:1-14) Did you know that most of Jesus' parables are also prophecies? Yes, indeed they are, and they give us clues to understand the proph-

ets.

As we read this Woe, it sounds like Jesus is reigning through the whole thing, but this is a process that is happening now. The books are opened; all the people who have ever claimed to belong to God in the past are looked at. They are not there in person, but their records are all there in detail. For those who claimed belief in the Redeemer and remained faithful, Jesus represents them. Those who did not remain faithful, or who claimed to be God's while following their own ways, have no one to represent them. They are blotted out of the Book of Life.

Thought - We are living in the time of the 7th Trumpet, when Jesus is receiving His kingdom. Soon the process will be finished and He'll come to take His people home!

Monday

Text: Revelation 11:18,19 "And the nations were angry, and thy wrath is come, and the time of the dead, that they should be judged, and that thou shouldest give reward unto thy servants the prophets, and to the saints, and them that fear thy name, small and great; and shouldest destroy them which destroy the earth. And the temple of God was opened in heaven, and there was seen in his temple the ark of his testament: and there were lightnings, and voices, and thunderings, and an earthquake, and great hail."

So how is this a 'Woe' to 'Rome'? These verses show us; the dead are being judged, the saints and prophets are honoured by their names being kept in the Book of Life as part of Jesus' Kingdom. Think of the hundreds of thousands of people tortured to death and massacred in the Dark Ages! They are placed in the list to receive their reward; Eternal Life with Jesus!

But what about those who killed them? What about those haughty church leaders who pretended to be God's agents? This is

when the hidden things of darkness are made plain. Evil men have done many horrible deeds, and they thought because the people who knew about it were all killed, that nobody knew what they had really done. But this Woe is the time when ALL the records are opened on those who have pretended to be Christians and their wicked deeds are all written there.

I have a photo of 3 skeletons that were found buried beneath the floor of a Cathedral. They were found when the authorities demolished this old Catholic church to build a nuclear power plant. It looks like it was a young boy and his parents laid out there. There were hundreds of hidden skeletons in this old church. Who were they? We don't know. BUT the 'watcher and the Holy One' who wrote on Belshazzar's wall KNOWS! And it is all coming out in the Investigative Judgment.

Indeed it is a Woe on all who have done evil while professing to belong to God. Nothing is overlooked; not even a little child who loved Jesus, and was killed by wicked people is forgotten. All the true will receive reward and all the false will be blotted from the Book of Life.

'And the Temple of God was opened in Heaven' and there was seen the Ark of His Testament'. What is this? It shows that since 1844, the message about the Sanctuary and God's Law, including the Sabbath, has been being preached in the world. As the Judgment goes to the living, these things will be preached with a 'Loud Cry'. Then people will choose to either obey God and be sealed for His kingdom OR they will obey man's laws and honour Rome and get the Mark of the Roman Beast, and be blotted out of the Book of Life.

Thunderings= the loud preaching of a warning message from God. Earthquake= a great time of war and persecution just before Jesus' return. Great Hail= the final of the 7 last plagues. So you see that this Woe leads to the END of the Roman power forever and the Second Coming of Jesus to

'gather His children home'.

Thought - Do you see why this is such an important time? Soon the living will be judged. Let's choose to be faithful, so Jesus will be given each one of us to be in His kingdom.

Tuesday

Text: Revelation 12:1,2 "And there appeared a great wonder in heaven; a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and upon her head a crown of twelve stars: And she being with child cried, travailing in birth, and pained to be delivered."

Here we see a pure woman, which is a symbol of God's True people, His 'church'. She is 'clothed with the sun' = she has on Christ's robe of Righteousness. The moon is under her feet = she is standing on the promises of the Old Testament, which reflect the light of Jesus. On her head a crown of 12 stars = the 12 apostles of the New Testament.

She was expecting a Baby. Down through the ages the true people of God looked for the coming of Jesus and longed for this to happen. He was the Desire of Ages; the Desire of Women: Old Testament mothers longed to be the one chosen to bear Jesus.

3,4 "And there appeared another wonder in heaven; and behold a great red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his heads. And his tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven, and did cast them to the earth: and the dragon stood before the woman which was ready to be delivered, for to devour her child as soon as it was born."

Here is an interesting symbol, it shows that Satan took 1/3 of the angels of heaven and cast them down with himself when he fell into sin. And it means Satan was just waiting for Jesus to come to earth so he could try and devour Him!

5 "And she brought forth a man child,

who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron: and her child was caught up unto God, and to his throne."

We can be so glad that the Dragon, Satan was not able to eat up Jesus; He defeated Satan and now shares the Throne of the Universe. The Dragon also is a symbol of the power of Rome, which Satan worked through to try and kill Jesus even when He was just a baby.

Thought - This chapter goes back and forth between what the pure Woman is doing and what the cruel dragon is doing.

Wednesday

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

Here again we see the 1260-year prophecy. This is so important for us to understand, that Jesus repeated it in the prophecies of Daniel and John, seven different times! This is the terrible time that millions of true believers died for their faith in the Dark Ages of Rome's persecution. When Satan worked through Rome, it is also called the 'dragon' and the 'serpent'.

14-16 "And to the woman were given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness, into her place, where she is nourished for a time, and times, and half a time, from the face of the serpent. And the serpent cast out of his mouth water as a flood after the woman, that he might cause her to be carried away of the flood. And the earth helped the woman, and the earth opened her mouth, and swallowed up the flood which the dragon cast out of his mouth."

Here we see more details and another of the 1260-year prophecies. It shows how the True Church had to hide in the wilderness, while the false power ruled the world from Rome. The 'serpent', the wicked power, cast out water like a flood to destroy the woman;

time after time, armies were sent to attack the true believers, where they hid in the little-known places of the world, in mountains and wilderness areas.

The 'floods' that came out of the serpents 'mouth' also refer to laws and decrees poured out from the Roman popes against these true Bible believers.

This is how the 'earth helped' her by swallowing up the floods of water; It meant that the wilderness areas allowed at least some of the true people of God to manage to survive the persecution. Also it refers to the opening up of the mostly unpopulated Americas at that time, where many persecuted people were able to flee away from the Roman power and be safe to practice their Bible faith.

Thought - How thrilling to see all this history written down before any of it had happened!

Thursday

Text: Revelation 12:7-9 "And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels, And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven. And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

These verses take us back to the rebellion of Lucifer in heaven and tell how he was cast out by Michael, who we know is Jesus. It also tells us about what happened after Satan had done all he could to hurt and attack Jesus when He was here on earth, and after he actually got the wicked church leaders to use the dragon power of Rome to kill Him.

The loyal angels were amazed when they saw the terrible cruelty of Satan, in how he treated Jesus. He was proven to be wicked

in their eyes forever more - never again would any of them believe Satan's lies about God. They had seen what Satan's ideas really were made of.

10,11 "And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night. And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death."

These are further thoughts about the final victory of Jesus over Satan. Did you know that when you, or anybody that claims to be a Christian, does selfish, sinful deeds, that Satan accuses them to the Holy Angels and to Jesus? Yes, he says things like this; 'See there is Johnny or Suzy and they claim to belong to You and look how they act! It didn't do You any good to die for them, they are selfish and sinful and should be destroyed!'

But over in Zechariah 3, we see a story of what Jesus does finally for His faithful people. He washes away their past sins with His blood and He gives them His own clean robe of righteousness. He tells Satan, 'I died for Suzy and Johnny, I paid with My blood for the sins they did. They are sorry for their sins and have chosen to let Me take them away out of their lives and to be like Me.'

That is how the redeemed overcome Satan 'by the blood of the Lamb'. The word of their testimony means they are not ashamed to talk about what Jesus has done for them and they stand true to His word.

'They loved not their lives unto the death'. 'The Death' here means a martyr's death. This means that though these people liked to live as much as any of us do, they would not deny Jesus to save their lives. When the judges and church leaders yelled at them, 'Will you stop believing in the Bible and obey us', they would say, 'No, we will be faithful to the Bible'.

Thought - Jesus power is what can overcome sin in our lives and His power gives us

the courage to stand for the truth; even to 'the Death'.

Friday

Text: Revelation 12:12;17 "Therefore rejoice, ye heavens, and ye that dwell in them. Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea! for the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time." 17 "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."

Ever since Satan failed, when Jesus was on this earth, to get Him to disobey God's laws and obey Satan, he has been shown to be a liar and a murderer. All of heaven and the unfallen worlds are fully convinced that his charges against God's government are false. They are not fooled by him any more.

But the battle is still going on here, because humans are still fooled by Satan's lies and most of them still want to follow him, and enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season. Satan has 'great wrath', because he know his days are numbered by the same Holy Power that said to Belshazzar, 'thou art numbered and found wanting'. Even so, he wants to destroy as many people as he possibly can.

Why doesn't he just quit? Well, for one thing, he can't; his own sinful, selfish heart drives him on and on in wickedness and cruelty. And also each soul that he can get to turn away from Jesus, and end up lost, has to bear his or her own sins. Those who are saved, Satan will have to bear the punishment for the sins he tricked them to commit. So he has a real personal interest in getting people to be lost.

He has 'great wrath' against everybody in the world but especially against a certain group, he is 'wroth', super-mad! Who are they?

They, dear reader, are the 'remnant' of the

pure woman's seed. This group of true and faithful ones have kept on going down through the ages. Clinging to precious truth from the pure Word of God. Clinging to the precious Law of God. Clinging to their Saviour's promises. Led by the Holy 'Spirit of Prophecy'. On and on they have come down the bloodstained path of history.

Paul describes them; Hebrews 11:37-40 "And others had trial of cruel mockings and scourgings, yea, moreover of bonds and imprisonment: They were stoned, they were sawn asunder, were tempted, were slain with the sword: they wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins; being destitute, afflicted, tormented; (Of whom the world was not worthy:) they wandered in deserts, and in mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth. And these all, having obtained a good report through faith, received not the promise: God having provided some better thing for us, that they without us should not be made perfect."

In the last days the 'remnant', this last tattered remains of these faithful ones, will stand against the Dragon, the Beast and the False Prophet. They will be like those who went before them. They will cling to the inspired Word of God; they will trust in the promises and blood of Jesus; they will stand for truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth—even if it costs their lives!

AND they will WIN! By the Blood of the Lamb!

Thought - EARTH'S HEROES.

"They are coming this way!" he said, the angel who kept the gate, "They enter the city here. Would you see their cohorts? Wait. Within is a great feast spread, and the air with music stirs; For the King himself shall sit this day with the banqueters."

The heroes of earth! For these, in their march up the aisles of palm, I would wait: from within came forth the surge of a swelling psalm. At thought of the nearing hosts, I shrank in awesome dread — Chief captains and mighty men, who should pass with their martial tread.

Then, slowly, out of the mists up the way whence I looked to see, With glory along their crests, and light on their panoply, The warriors, splendor-shod, with whose names Time's annals ring — Came a bank of pilgrims;

worn as from years of journeying.

Slowly, with halting steps, they come; their unsandaled feet - Are bruised by jagged stones, are scorched by the desert's heat; Their faces are white, and lined with vigil and patient pain; Their forms are beaten and marred by the storm and the hurricane;

But the stronger uphold the week; and their leader upholds a cross. Impatient, I look away down the slopes where the palm plumes toss; Impatient, I turn to him,

the angel who keeps the gate, "But the heroes? Where are they, for whom you bade me wait?"

For answer, the gate swings wide, and dawn streams out on the night; And that way-worn band pass through, their raiment white as the light. For answer, I hear a voice from the heart of the halos say, While the veiled angel bows: "Earth's heroes? These are they!"

Emma Herrick Weed. = ^ .. ^ =

Weekly Bible Lesson #10: "2 BEASTS AND AN IMAGE"

MEMORY VERSE: "Fear thou not; __; for I am with thee; be not dismayed; __; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; __; yea, I will help thee; __; yea, I will uphold thee, __; with the right hand of my righteousness." Isaiah 41:10

(Put your own name in the blanks and learn it like that.)

Revelation 13

Sunday

Text: Revelation 13:1,2 "And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his horns ten crowns, and upon his heads the name of blasphemy. And the beast which I saw was like unto a leopard, and his feet were as the feet of a bear, and his mouth as the mouth of a lion: and the dragon gave him his power, and his seat, and great authority."

Here comes a beast up out of the water! Remember when Daniel saw beasts coming out of the water? We are continuing on from Daniel's prophecies here in the book of Revelation.

Look at this beast; he has parts of all the other beasts! 'Like a leopard'—Greece; 'Feet as a bear'—Medo-Persia; 'Mouth of a lion'—Babylon; 'Dragon gave him seat, power, and authority'—Pagan Rome and also Satan. Rome has beliefs and practices that come from each of these Pagan powers.

This beast is coming up out of the 'sea', which means it comes to power in a well-populated area. It has 10 horns and 10 crowns, so we know it is in the area that once was ruled by the Roman Empire—

which was broken up into ten parts. And it has seven heads.

On these heads we see the name of blasphemy; by claiming to be God on earth; by claiming to have power to forgive sins; by claiming to change God's law; and many other ways, this Papal Roman beast is a blasphemous beast and the heads, (rulers and nations) by accepting and honouring this power, also bring blasphemy on themselves.

3 "And I saw one of his heads as it were wounded to death; and his deadly wound was healed: and all the world wondered after the beast."

The deadly wound to this Papal beast was given to it in 1798, when Napoleon sent his general, Berthier, into Rome to remove the pope from power and throw him into prison. He died in captivity and it seemed for a brief time that the papacy was dead forever. The original wording for 'wounded' actual means 'killed'—it was 'killed to death'.

It is very interesting that Napoleon gave the order to remove the pope more than a year before 1798, but, somehow, it didn't get done until 1798. We know why, don't we? Because the prophecies said he would rule for 1260 years, not 1259! God's word never fails!

As soon as another pope was placed on the throne, this power began to work to 'heal

its deadly wound'. The text says it WILL be healed. What has to happen before the wound is healed? Well, first we have to look at what ended at the end of the 1260 years. The Roman church did not cease to exist, and shortly a new pope was elected; was the wound healed then?

No, it wasn't; you see, the Beast power is a combination of church AND government. It is when the church has full control to use the government to force people to obey it. After 1798 the Roman church continued as a church, but it no longer had power to rule the governments and force them to work for it. It is trying to get this power back—and it is getting very close to it!

Thought - All the world will wonder after the Beast! Do you see people all excited whenever the Pope comes to visit? Do you see people, even non-Catholics, admiring him? When we try to show the world what the Pope is intending to do—people get mad at us; the world is 'wondering after him'.

Monday

Text: Revelation 13:4-6 "And they worshipped the dragon which gave power unto the beast: and they worshipped the beast, saying, Who is like unto the beast? who is able to make war with him? And there was given unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and power was given unto him to continue forty and two months. And he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme his name, and his tabernacle, and them that dwell in heaven."

Prophecies as like a puzzle, God gives us clues, that when we put them together, carefully following what the Bible says the clues mean; we can see what He is telling us. These verses give more 'clues'.

They worshipped the 'dragon'; Pagan Roman leaders were worshipped as gods, and

also Satan, who is also the Dragon, is worshipped either directly or indirectly by all Pagan religions. So we see a power that had been worshipped, giving authority to another power, which is also worshipped, that is Papal Rome.

'Who is like unto the beast'? The kings of Europe during the dark ages well knew the power of the Papacy—they were afraid to oppose her; in fact, once, when a king had offended the pope, the poor king stood bare-foot and hatless for days outside the pope's palace in the winter-time, so he could beg forgiveness from the proud pope.

'Given unto him...A mouth speaking blasphemies'; to have a 'mouth' in prophecy means to be able to pass laws. The papal power passed many wicked and blasphemous laws during her time ruling the world. Ordering the Bible to be burned, and anyone who loved it to be burned also, was one of these laws.

'Forty and two months'; this is another 1260-year prophecy.

He 'blasphemes God's name; In Bible, God's Name represents His character—what He is really like; the Papacy through her ideas of purgatory and eternal hell fire, made millions look upon God as a monster instead of the loving Father He really is.

'God's Tabernacle'; By setting up human priests and telling everyone they could only be saved through the church and its ceremonies, Rome spoke against the ministry of Jesus for us in the heavenly sanctuary. The church leaders stood like a wall stopping the people from coming straight to Jesus.

'Them that dwell in heaven'; there are so many weird and wicked stories told to the people by the Roman church that say bad things about angels, Jesus, God, the Holy Spirit and so on. They also tell the people that all these old dead church leaders are now 'saints' in heaven and the people should pray to them.

Thought - To pray to the dead in any form— is to worship demons!

Tuesday

Text: Revelation 13:7-10 “And it was given unto him to make war with the saints, and to overcome them: and power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations. And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world. If any man have an ear, let him hear. He that leadeth into captivity shall go into captivity: he that killeth with the sword must be killed with the sword. Here is the patience and the faith of the saints.”

Here again we have more clues, so many in fact, that there just isn't ANY other power on earth that this can be—but Papal Rome! Here again we see it persecuting and killing the true followers of Jesus during the 1260 years of rule.

'Power was given him'; during the 1260 years, this wicked power was allowed to pretty much do what it wanted to do. Satan can never say to God and the universe that his religion would have worked, but God didn't give him a chance to prove it. No, indeed, for 1260 years that religion ruled and the effects on the world and on people and nations are written in history and in the books of heaven with letters of blood!

Then we are told that ALL on earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the Book of Life. This is very solemn; unless you have really given your whole heart to Jesus and serve Him only, you WILL end up worshipping the Beast! There is no other choice, and it is now that we better decide for the right—the time will come later when we will no longer have the choice.

'Captivity and sword'; Here is a warning from God; too bad the haughty popes did not spend much time reading the Bible, they could have been warned what would happen to them if they kept doing their wicked and cruel deeds.

It is also giving us more clues; for centuries, Rome threw the people of God into prisons, she sent armies with swords to kill them and drove them into hidden places of the earth; then in 1798, armies were sent against her and a military power threw the pope into prison. In the upheavals during the French Revolution, the Roman priests and leaders were slaughtered by the people, just as formerly the church had slaughtered God's children.

The people of God did read the Bible, during those years of cruel persecution; many were encouraged by God's promise that the persecuting power would have an end. This did give them patience and faith.

Thought - “Satan takes the control of every mind that is not decidedly under the control of the Spirit of God.” TM pg 79

Wednesday

Text: Revelation 13:11-13 “And I beheld another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb, and he spake as a dragon. And he exerciseth all the power of the first beast before him, and causeth the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed. And he doeth great wonders, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men.”

Here comes another BEAST! But this time it comes out of the 'earth'. Now if the 'seas' mean areas where there are lots of people, 'earth' would mean where there was not much people. Did a new power arise near the close of the 1260 years in areas where there was not many people?

Yes, it certainly did! And where these other beasts arose in the 'winds', that is with war and strife, this power just quietly arose and grew into power. It is the United States of America.

'It had 2 horns, like a lamb'; These horns mean that the power of church and state are

separate powers; and it is like a lamb, this means it is gentle, not harmful and cruel like the other beasts.

‘Like a DRAGON’; but something happens, this helpful, gentle beast begins to ‘speak like a dragon’! To ‘speak’ means to pass laws, this means this power will eventually pass laws ‘like a Dragon Power’.

Did you know that the power that the Dragon represented, besides Satan, was Pagan Rome, and that power, under Constantine, passed the world’s first SUNDAY-LAW! Yes indeed, in the 300s, before Papal Rome had received the seat and authority from the dragon, Pagan Rome passed 6 Sunday Laws after Constantine declare himself to be a ‘Christian’.

Now we see this lamb-beast working to force people to worship the leopard-beast of Rome. It does this by passing laws which honour Rome, such as forcing people to worship on Sunday, which Rome claims is its ‘mark’ of authority.

This lamb/dragon power does great wonders; the USA has great technology and does wonders in the use of atomic power and so on, also many people are arising that are performing miracles by means of demon spirits— but they think the power is from God!

How do we know for sure the power is demonic? Well, the Bible tells us ‘if they speak not according to this Word, there is NO light in them’. Isaiah 8:20. When these ‘miracle workers’ tell people to keep the Sunday, they show they are from the darkness.

Thought - Remember the ‘earth’ that helped the pure woman in our last lesson? Part of that ‘earth’ was the USA and Canada.

Thursday

Text: Revelation 13:14,15 “**And deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast; saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast, which**

had the wound by a sword, and did live. And he had power to give life unto the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed.”

Many people think that when anything happens that looks like a miracle, it has to be God who is doing it. Sadly they don’t read their Bibles, for we are told clearly that in the last days miracles are going to be the sign of the false power that seeks to force all to receive the Mark of the Beast!

These miracles are what will convince many people that this movement is right and they will follow it blindly and hate all who speak against it and who seek to show from the Bible where it is wrong. If you get people coming to you, all excited telling you about miracles; watch out! There WILL be true miracles, BUT when people do miracles and then tell you that God’s law has been changed or doesn’t matter, or that we can’t keep it anyway, or we have to keep sinning until Jesus comes, they are doing the devil’s work whether they know it or not!

So here we see this power, now speaking as a Dragon and it is saying to all the world, ‘Let’s make something that is a copy of the beast that was wounded; let’s make a copy of the Papacy.’ What would be a copy, ‘image’, of the Papal Beast? It would be when the USA starts to use government power and laws to FORCE people to obey religious laws just like Rome did in the 1260 years.

Can USA tell the world what to do? We see many examples lately that it is starting to do exactly that. Since Sept 11, 2001, USA has been rising up and talking more proudly than ever before, just like the proud Papal Beast before it, it is exulting itself. Now it is getting ready to push its weight around, and it has a lot of weight!

It is going to pass laws to force all people to not only keep Sunday, BUT to also break the 7th day Sabbath of the Lord. And those who won’t obey them—will not be able to

buy or sell. This is the very method that USA has been using for many years now against countries it doesn't like; it makes 'economic sanctions' and stops them from buying and selling, until they have to 'give in'.

But God's true people don't 'give in'. God helps them and they stand firm for His Sabbath. So then the lamb/dragon says they are all to die. A death decree is passed that on a certain day all the Sabbath keepers are to be killed. At that time, God closes probation on this earth and the plagues begin to fall on the wicked.

Thought - Always remember, God's obedient people have nothing to fear as He will help them and protect them. Even those who die as martyrs will be given all the courage and help they need. Jesus will hold their hand!

Friday

Text: Revelation 13:16-18 "And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads: And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name. Here is wisdom. Let him that hath understanding count the number of the beast: for it is the number of a man; and his number is Six hundred threescore and six."

Oh, what a lot of funny ideas people have about this 'mark' on the hand or forehead. It is no mystery; the MARK of Rome's authority is Sunday-keeping enforced by law. This is the mark of the beast.

People get it in their hand when they agree to obey the power, not because they believe in it, but just so they can buy and sell and not be persecuted. They get it in their forehead when they really believe in it, because of all the miracles Satan is doing to fool them. It isn't a real mark.

Notice the three groups, those who have

the 'mark'; that means those who keep Sunday, the Protestants; those who have the 'name of the beast', the Roman Catholics; and those who have the 'number of the beast's name—666', this represents the pagan religions and the new age movement, all of which have the number 666 somewhere in their devil worship. All three unite to persecute the true Sabbath keepers.

Then here we see the number 666; many people get mixed up and think that 666 is the 'mark' of the beast but it isn't, it is another clue. I'll show you how it works:

In Latin, Roman language, letters are also used for numbers, so a person's name can often have a number by adding up what the letter/numbers mean.

Documented Roman Catholic source states "The letters inscribed in the Pope's miter are these '**VICARIUS FILII DEI**', which is the Latin for '**VICAR OF THE SON OF GOD.**' Catholics hold that the church, which is a visible society, must have a visible head...., as head of the church, was given the title, '**VICAR OF CHRIST**'." *Our Sunday Visitor*, (Catholic Weekly) "Bureau of information," Huntington, Ind., April 18, 1915.

When you take the letters that are also numbers in this name and add them up it comes to 666.

V... 5, I... 1, C... 100, A... 0, R... 0, I... 1, U...5, S ... 0 = 112

F... 0, L... 1, L... 50, I... 1, I... 1 = 53

D... 500, E... 0, I... 1=501

112 + 53 + 501 = 666

Interestingly, the pope, John Paul II, was the first pope in history, whose own papal name in Latin, also added up to 666.

Thought - A vicar is someone who take another's place; vicar of God, means he takes God's place. In Greek the word 'ANTI' means 'takes the place of'. So 'Antichrist' is not someone who is against Christ, or a non-Christian power, it really means someone who claims to 'take the place of' Christ; that is exactly what the Roman power claims to do! = ^ .. ^ =

Weekly Bible Lesson #11: "3 ANGELS AND THEIR MESSAGES"

MEMORY VERSE: "Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus." Revelation 14:12

Revelation 14

Sunday

Text: Revelation 14:1,3 "And I looked, and, lo, a Lamb stood on the mount Sion, and with him an hundred forty and four thousand, having his Father's name written in their foreheads... And they sung as it were a new song before the throne, and before the four beasts, and the elders: and no man could learn that song but the hundred and forty and four thousand, which were redeemed from the earth."

It is interesting that often before a new prophecy scene is shown in Revelation, we are given a glimpse of the time when all the faithful will be in heaven and how happy they will be, singing and shouting praises to Jesus as they realize their trials are over and they have won the victory through the power of the blood of the Lamb.

So here we see a special group, the 144,000. They are the faithful remnant who will stand through the times of trouble and live to see Jesus come in the clouds and go home with Him without ever dying. There will be many, many more people who will be raised from the dead and go home to heaven also.

It tells us that they 'sing a new song'. In prophecy a 'song' means that they have had a special experience. That's why no-body else can learn this 'new song', because nobody else has had an experience quite like this group.

They have passed through the time of trouble such as never was since there was a nation; they have endured the distress of the time of Jacob's trouble; they have lived through the time when Jesus was no longer pleading for sinners in the heavenly sanctu-

ary and have seen the terrible 7 last plagues fall on the earth.

They have seen famine and war and sickness hit the earth like never before. They have seen what happens to men when the Holy Spirit leaves them forever and they are left completely controlled by Satan. They then will look and act like demons!

But this group of living faithful ones will have Jesus in their hearts. They will act and think like Him. They will have the Holy Spirit and holy angels with them to protect and strengthen them through this time, but the wicked will have nothing. They refused all efforts by God to save them, so they are left to the rule of Satan, which they chose to have.

Why do these things have to happen? Well, it is so the whole universe will see what sin really is and what it results in. Never again will anyone think that God's Law should be thrown away.

Thought - I know of people who have stopped following the truth because the time of trouble and things like that made them feel afraid, and they didn't want to think about it. But God's true people will have all the help and protection they will need at this time. The wicked will have nothing.

Monday

Text: Revelation 14:4,5 "These are they which were not defiled with women; for they are virgins. These are they which follow the Lamb whithersoever he goeth. These were redeemed from among men, being the firstfruits unto God and to the Lamb. And in their mouth was found no guile: for they are without fault before the throne of God."

Now here in these verses we have some

important clues about what the faithful are going to do. It says they are 'not defiled with women'. Now in prophecy a 'women' is a church, but this says women, plural. In our day we are seeing churches from all over the world gathering together, claiming to worship God, but really seeking to force people to worship man and obey councils and pastors instead of God's Word.

We have the World Council of Churches and other groups that try and get everyone to follow one set of ideas and these ideas actually come from the Roman Church. They are not God's truths and to obey them— we must disobey God.

The true and faithful ones will have to leave all church tradition and the rules of men and stand faithful only to Jesus and His Holy Word. They will say to these 'churches' and pastors that try and force people to obey man's laws, "Show us from the Bible where we are wrong and we will obey the Bible." They will say like Peter, "We must obey God rather than man."

They 'follow the Lamb, wherever He goes'. This means that no matter what troubles result from obeying God's word, and keeping His holy Sabbath day, these wise virgins obey God faithfully. It is in His strength they have gotten the victory over all their sins, and now in His strength they stay faithful to the end.

'In their mouth was found no guile'; 'guile' means to lie, or be dishonest. It means that these people do not tell anything but the truth. They are not claiming to be good when they really are doing wrong. They are not hypocrites. And they don't hide the truths of the Bible, just because to preach them would make some people angry.

This verse proves to be wrong those who try and tell us that God's people don't have to overcome and stop sinning and they will still be sinning right up to when Jesus comes. Instead, they will have the character of Jesus and act just like He did. They will be 'without fault'.

Thought - Jesus needs people who

choose to really live like He did; in total obedience to God's Law.

Tuesday

Text: Revelation 14:6,7 "And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people, Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters."

Here comes the first angel and his message. This message went out with great strength through the earth in the early 1800s and especially in 1843 -1844. The longest time prophecy in the Bible found in Daniel 8:14 was coming to its end and the Holy Spirit stirred up deep interest all over the world.

It is still going out as each angel adds his message to the messages of the ones before him. So at the end, three messages are going out and later we will learn that a fourth one joins the three.

The message told that God's Judgment was to begin in 1844 and people thought that this meant the 2nd coming of Jesus in 1844, but it does mean His coming is very close.

What does this message tell us in brief? Put GOD 1st in our lives; Honour GOD above men; Honour Him as Creator! Honour Him as Redeemer! Fear Him and OBEY Him! Keep all His commandments including the 4th! Did you know that the 4th commandment is the only one that tells WHO GOD IS? And WHY HE HAS AUTHORITY? It tells us why we should OBEY HIM.

This message about the judgment, the Law of God and how He is the Creator of all things, is to go to all the earth. Everybody is to hear about it and make their choice; to worship and obey God, or to keep right on doing whatever they feel like and obeying

their own made up rules. It is sad that most people will refuse to listen to God and truly worship Him, but at the same time they will claim they are worshipping God.

Each one of us has to decide what we will do; will we obey God and keep His commandments or not? Remember the 144,000 who are 'without fault'? They are the ones who choose to obey and Jesus gives them the power to do it.

Thought - In different places in the Bible, God tells us He created all things and this is the reason He, and He alone is the only real God there is.

Wednesday

Text: Revelation 14:8 "And there followed another angel saying "Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication."

In 1843 and 1844, especially as the message was linked with the cry, "Behold the BRIDEGROOM COMETH! Go ye out to meet Him!" It went with great power. October 22 1844; the prophecy of the 2300 days would come to it's close marking the start of God's investigative judgment, where all who have ever claimed to serve God will have their life records examined to see if they will be taken home when Jesus appears.

These messages set off a train of reactions. People began to show their true colors. Did they really LOVE JESUS and long for Him to return? Or were they more in love with worldly pleasure?

As the 'ADVENTIST' preachers put forth the warning, all over the world churches at first revived and came alive. But then a division occurred; those who wanted to see Jesus come, became more Godly in their lives and those who wanted a life of worldly pleasure, became more worldly. Then the worldly ones began to hate the Godly ones. This is the way it always is in this sinful world, and it is that way now also.

Soon churches were closing their doors to the Advent Message. In 1844 a tremendous change took place; the mainline churches began to mock the message of the prophecy of Daniel 8:14. Then they began holding big feasts and entertainments at which the message and the messengers were made fun of. Then solemnly the 2nd angels message went forward; 'Babylon, the proud, worldly Churches, has fallen!' It was added to the 1st angel's message in the summer of 1844, and was sounded through the world.

This 'Fall' has kept on going, as the churches today are more interested in entertainment and feasting, than repentance and obedience to God. It includes all churches, and this is why the 144,000 will not be found obeying any of those man-made organizations, that are showing by their lives that they are lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God. Instead, they will 'Come out', by following the Word of God faithfully.

Thought - This message is being repeated in our day in Rev. 18:2. This time it is warning all to come out before it is too late!!

Thursday

Text: Revelation 14:9-11 "And the third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand, The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb: And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name."

This is perhaps the most solemn warning in the entire BIBLE! Surely it is serious and all people must be interested in what it

means, because it effects us ALL! To understand this message it is necessary to do some background study-

As the Most Holy Place in heaven was opened in 1844 at the end of the 2300 days, God's 10 commandment law was revealed more clearly and students of the Bible found that they had been breaking the 4th commandment and didn't know it! Attention was brought to the 7th day Sabbath all over the world. This was the third angel's message beginning.

It is most interesting that each church had its attention drawn to the Sabbath question in the mid 1800s. From Catholic Priests to Baptists ministers, in each denomination, someone arose to proclaim that the Sunday was not the Bible Sabbath. Councils were held and in each case, although some individuals chose to keep the Sabbath, the churches decided to stick to the tradition.

This is part of the continued 'Fall of Babylon' and if you study the history of these churches, after they rejected the Sabbath, they became even more worldly in their practices. They also do not have the blessing of the Holy Spirit to help them correctly understand prophecy. This is because as you do correctly understand it, you see that you need to obey God and keep the Sabbath, and they have already decided not to do this. So they make up weird ideas about the prophecies that sound like a science-fiction movie.

The 'Mark of the Beast' is the changing of Sabbath to Sunday by the Beast power, Rome. Why does God tell us such terrible things will happen to those who 'receive this mark'? It is because to follow the ways of man and reject God's Law means there is no way God can save them. They will be lost forever.

Now you have to realize that God does not punish someone for breaking a law that he honestly knows nothing about, and never had a chance to learn about. The final test will be set up with 2 choices— obey God and keep His 7th day Sabbath and be perse-

cuted by man; or, obey man-made laws to force people to keep Sunday and receive the 7 last plagues and be lost.

It seems hard, but when you really know God and His promises, you see that He is going to take good care of all who choose to obey Him. The Beast power will NOT be able to overcome them.

The Beast is not able to save anybody; it can't even save itself! The Bible tells us it will be destroyed. Choosing to obey man's power is to leave yourself with no help at all.

Thought - Only lovers of the TRUTH who are willing to obey it, will understand God's Word correctly. Verse 12 "Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus."

Friday

Text: Revelation 14:14,15 "And I looked, and behold a white cloud, and upon the cloud one sat like unto the Son of man, having on his head a golden crown, and in his hand a sharp sickle. And another angel came out of the temple, crying with a loud voice to him that sat on the cloud, Thrust in thy sickle, and reap: for the time is come for thee to reap; for the harvest of the earth is ripe."

In the last part of Revelation 14, we have another word-picture; it is about two harvests. It is telling us what is going to be the result of this test that God sets up to let people choose whether they will obey God or not.

Two groups are formed; first the wheat is gathered. In Matthew 13, God's true and faithful ones, the faithful are called 'Wheat'. They are prepared to go home with Him.

Then there are grapes; what an interesting word-picture for the wicked ones of the earth, the ones who have decided to do what they please and refuse to obey God. They are compared to fat, purple grapes. Grapes are full of wine, and these wicked are full of

the 'wine of Babylon', which is the false doctrines of Rome and the fallen churches.

The grapes don't go home; instead they are thrown into a wine-press and crushed. This means that these wicked ones, who after God has done everything in His power to get them to decided to obey Him, still refuse and instead choose their own wicked ways, will be crushed and destroyed by their own wickedness and the 7 last plagues.

Thought – It is most interesting that both the wheat and the grapes are 'fully ripe'. This means that there is no doubt any more about who belongs to Jesus and who does not. Sometimes we see someone and we are not sure about whether he loves Jesus or not, but in this final harvest, the grapes will act just like the devil and the wheat will act exactly like Jesus. All can see it clearly.
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Weekly Bible Lesson #12: "FINAL EVENTS"

MEMORY VERSE: "And they sing the song of Moses the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, Great and marvellous are thy works, Lord God Almighty; just and true are thy ways, thou King of saints." Revelation 14:12

This week we will take a quick glance at events after probation closes.

Sunday

Text: Revelation 15:2-4 "And I saw as it were a sea of glass mingled with fire: and them that had gotten the victory over the beast, and over his image, and over his mark, and over the number of his name, stand on the sea of glass, having the harps of God. And they sing the song of Moses the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, Great and marvellous are thy works, Lord God Almighty; just and true are thy ways, thou King of saints. Who shall not fear thee, O Lord, and glorify thy name? for thou only art holy: for all nations shall come and worship before thee; for thy judgments are made manifest."

Chapter 15 opens with a quick glance at seven angels carrying the seven last plagues. But then it quickly shows us again a picture of the joyful ones around the throne who have won the victory over evil through the power of Jesus. Whenever there is something sad that has to be told, our loving Jesus always gives us first, a view of something happy to encourage us.

Here we see the saved ones again, all joyful before God's throne, and they are all declaring something very important. They are singing the song of Moses, and the Lamb. This is a song about unselfish love that wins the victory over evil by humble self-sacrifice; the song of people who have learned to love as Jesus loved.

They are also saying that God is fair and good, even though we are going to see some terrible things happen in the next few chapters of Revelation, things that will and must take place after the close of probation for this wicked world, still it is the love, mercy and justice of our loving Father in heaven that makes these thing needful. They are agreeing with what God has to do, even though it is sad and terrible.

Then we see the temple opened and out of it comes seven angels. They are dressed in white linen, which shows they are pure and holy, like Jesus. One of the four beasts gives each angel a golden vial, which is 'full of the wrath of God'. Remember that these beasts represent some of the people who have been saved.

What a very sad thing that our loving God, who has patience, unselfishness and kindness beyond anything we can even imagine; this wonderful Being who tells us His mercy

is new every morning; has to finally pour out wrath on those He has done everything to save, but who have despised all His goodness and are determined to kill His faithful children.

How cruel and wicked it is to wear out the patience of One so good. But still it isn't a case of God finally losing His temper! Oh, no indeed! It is necessary for the good of others that these terrible plagues have to fall on the wicked world. There are several reasons for them. One is that these wicked ones are determined to murder all of God's faithful children. He will not allow this to happen.

Another reason is to show to the universe that nothing God could do would ever get these rebels to change. No matter what, they will curse God and still go on being wicked and cruel.

The last verse of chapter 15 tells us that no body is in the heavenly sanctuary at this time. Probation has closed forever on the earth. The mercy and love, which for all the years of earth's history has been poured out for people through Jesus, has finally ended. The world is left to its chosen ways, while the faithful ones are surrounded by heavenly angels and protected.

Thought - It is a good idea that if we have to show anyone a mistake they have made or some other negative thing that we first say something kind and cheering to them.

Monday

Text: Revelation 16:1 "And I heard a great voice out of the temple saying to the seven angels, Go your ways, and pour out the vials of the wrath of God upon the earth."

Chapter 16 shows us the terrible 7 last plagues that will be sent on the wicked inhabitants of this world who are determined to destroy God's waiting, faithful children. We are told in the Spirit of Prophecy that these plagues will hit different parts of the

world, not all over at once, or nothing would be left alive. We also are assured that God will protect His people.

The first one is a terrible and painful kind of sore that comes on the people and no one can find a cure for it.

The second causes the water of the oceans to turn into something that is like the blood of a dead man.

The third causes the lakes, rivers and fountains of water to all become like blood. This is interesting, as the angel here says that this is only fair: "**For they have shed the blood of saints and prophets, and thou hast given them blood to drink; for they are worthy.**" They deserve it, in other words.

The fourth plague causes the sun to become so hot that it scorches people! This is also a very fair judgment because these people are exalting sun-worship and seeking to force all to worship the Sunday; so God gives them what they want—lots of sun!

The fifth brings dense darkness to the seat of the Beast; his kingdom is full of darkness. For centuries Rome has poured out spiritual darkness onto the world, now they find themselves in actual darkness.

The sixth plague talks about the dying up of a river. When real Babylon was conquered, the river that flowed through the city was dried up so the soldiers came into the city in the riverbed. So this shows us that spiritual Babylon is about to fall, as the 'waters', which represent the people of the world who support it, turn away from supporting it, and start to fight against it. This prepares the way for Jesus coming, represented as the 'Kings of the East'.

The seventh plague takes place as Jesus comes back to get His faithful people. A terrible hailstorm with huge chunks of ice comes and smashes all the proud cities of earth.

Thought - "A thousand shall fall at thy side and ten thousand at thy right hand but it shall not come nigh thee!" Read Psalms 91 and try to memorize it; this is the promise for those who live through the time of

trouble and plagues at the end of history.

Tuesday

Text: Revelation 16:13,14 “And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet. For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty.”

Always remember when you read the prophecies that they do not follow through in order like a story, but they are a lot of small word-pictures sort of mixed together. These two verses, although they are mentioned in the time of the 6th plague are actually happening long before that. They are happening now, as Satan uses his miracles and tricks to fool people into disobey God and seeking to force everyone to also disobey Him.

Notice the 3 symbols; The Dragon - spiritualism; the Beast - Papal Rome; the False Prophet - Protestantism. Satan gets them to join together and he gets the kings and mighty men of the earth to join in too; how? By performing miracles and wonders that get people believing the lies he is telling them. Only people who know and believe the Bible will not be tricked!

It is this gathering of all the powers of earth together for the purpose of fighting against God's law and His people that is called the Battle of Armageddon. There have been many funny things taught about this subject, but what it means is, this time when these powers seek to force everybody to break God's law. It is not a particular place or a literal battle between powers of earth.

19 “And the great city was divided into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell: and great Babylon came in remembrance before God, to give unto her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of his wrath.”

Here we see that Great Babylon, made out of these 3 parts, which Satan has worked so hard to bring together, quickly falls apart again and all the parts fight against each other.

Thought - Men may work with Satan to war against Jesus, but they will fail and fall.

Wednesday

Text: Revelation 17:3 “So he carried me away in the spirit into the wilderness: and I saw a woman sit upon a scarlet coloured beast, full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns.”

In chapter 17, John is shown something by one of the angels that had the plagues. He see it in the wilderness; here this means it's like behind the scenes. Like the angel says that he'll show him something that most people don't know about.

What does he see? A woman, which represents a church, and she is riding on a savage beast, which represents the world governments and powers. She is called a whore, which is a woman that goes out with other men, not her husband, for money.

The true church is a pure woman, and she is the bride of Christ. But this woman, who claims to belong to Jesus, has relations with all these kings and governments and she does it for money and power. That is why she is called the Great Whore.

4-6 And the woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet colour, and decked with gold and precious stones and pearls, having a golden cup in her hand full of abominations...And upon her forehead was a name written, MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH. And I saw the woman drunken with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus...

What a clear description of the Roman church! See her colors—purple and red; look at her riches and jewels and she has a cup in her hand full of false doctrines which make

people spiritually drunk when they believe them.

She is a mother church; this is exactly what the Roman power claims to be. The protestant churches are her daughters. And she is indeed drunken with the blood of saints and martyrs for Jesus, as she has persecuted and killed them by the millions!

Thought - Jesus never wants His church to use the power of earthly governments and courts to make others obey her wishes!!

Thursday

Text: Revelation 17:12-14 “**And the ten horns which thou sawest are ten kings, which have received no kingdom as yet; but receive power as kings one hour with the beast. These have one mind, and shall give their power and strength unto the beast. These shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them:**”

It is most interesting that in the plans which the world leaders and powers have drawn up for the ‘New World Order’, they have the world divided up into exactly ten parts—they will agree to let this Beast power rule— as this is the way they can best get the people under control— by using a religious power.

16-17 “And the ten horns which thou sawest upon the beast, these shall hate the whore, and shall make her desolate and naked, and shall eat her flesh, and burn her with fire. For God hath put in their hearts to fulfil his will, and to agree, and give their kingdom unto the beast, until the words of God shall be fulfilled.”

Isn't this interesting? These ‘horns’ agree to let the whore/beast power rule, but inside they really hate her and can't wait until they can destroy her and rule by themselves. But it is really no mystery—people who don't have Jesus in their hearts have no choice but to act like Satan, and he just wants to destroy and rule everybody and everything.

18 “And the woman which thou sawest

is that great city, which reigneth over the kings of the earth.”

Here is another clear clue as to what power this is— there is only one ‘city’ that claims to rule the kings of the earth and that is the Vatican in Rome!

Thought - We see here that God knows all about what these powers are planning to do and He told His people all about it long centuries before any of it happened. So we can know that He is in charge and if we stay obedient to Jesus—we are safe!”

Friday

Text: Revelation 18:1-3 “**And after these things I saw another angel come down from heaven, having great power; and the earth was lightened with his glory. And he cried mightily with a strong voice, saying, Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird. For all nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, and the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth are waxed rich through the abundance of her delicacies.**”

Chapter 18 is one of my favorite chapters in the Bible because it shows us that this cruel power, that has hurt so many people, is going to come to an end. These verses also show us a repeat of the second angel's message; only this time it is telling everybody to get out of these fallen churches before they end up destroyed along with them.

And we see another angel, a special fourth angel, and he has so much power that the whole earth gets lighted up with his mighty message! This mighty angel represents the ‘Loud Cry’ message given by the great power of the Holy Spirit in what we call the ‘latter rain’.

As the end troubles come, God's people

will come very close to Jesus and put away all their sins and worldly ways; then the full power of God's Spirit will come to them and He will send the final warning through the earth like lightening.

Notice what it says about how the merchants of the earth have gotten rich because of Babylon's delicacies. Have you ever thought about all the money that people spend because of holidays that had their start in the Roman church? Why if it weren't for all these holiday, the stores wouldn't sell nearly as much stuff.

Christmas, Easter, Valentines, Halloween, Christenings, 1st Communions, Birthdays and so on; it seems as if half or more of the things sold, have to do with one of these holidays. And people buy so much more food

and special treats, just because of holidays, and have nothing to do with what they need to live. The holidays all came from paganism and not from the Bible.

24 "And in her was found the blood of prophets, and of saints, and of all that were slain upon the earth."

This is a strange and interesting verse; "all that were slain upon the earth" but as you study history carefully, you will find that wherever there has been a war, or a terrible massacre or some cruel and hurtful thing done by people to other people, you will find the Roman power back of it somewhere.

Thought – Read this 18th chapter and notice all the things it talks about that you can find in the Roman church. = ^ .. ^ =

Weekly Bible Lesson #13: "YOUR WONDERFUL FUTURE"

MEMORY VERSE: "And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away." Revelation 21:4.

Sunday

Text: Revelation 19:1,2 "And after these things I heard a great voice of much people in heaven, saying, Alleluia; Salvation, and glory, and honour, and power, unto the Lord our God: For true and righteous are his judgments: for he hath judged the great whore, which did corrupt the earth with her fornication, and hath avenged the blood of his servants at her hand."

Chapter 19 tells us about how Jesus will fight for His people, and the cruel, corrupt powers that torture and kill, will come to an end forever! This is really the story of Jesus coming for to rescue His bride and receiving His kingdom.

Verse after verse tell of the joy of the redeemed ones in all the different groups; how they all agree that the Lord God is so wonderful and they are so happy that He is reigning.

This was such a wonderful scene that John, caught up in the wonder of it all, fell down to worship the angel who was showing him the scenes, (Vs.10.) and the angel quickly told him not to do it, but instead to worship God. He also told John something important. He told him that he, and the other angels are servants, to serve and help the people who have the 'testimony of Jesus', which is the 'Spirit of Prophecy.'

Now we call the writings of Ellen White, the 'Spirit of Prophecy', and indeed they are a wonderful gift of the Spirit to us today. Yet there is more to this work of the angels, as their job is to guide and direct every person who chooses to follow Jesus with all their heart. They also work with people who haven't given their hearts to Jesus, trying to guide them to the light.

If you really give your whole heart to Jesus, then the angels will help and guide you and God's 'Spirit of Prophecy' will teach

you; both through the writings of Ellen White, and the Bible. Sometimes, even if you are not a prophet, He will show you things by dreams and impressions. But always check out these things by the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy writings, because Satan tries to fool us. God will never send you a message that says something that doesn't agree with the Bible and Mrs. White's writings.

Thought - Sometimes the 'Holy Spirit of Prophecy' guides people who have given their hearts to Jesus, to help and teach people who don't know Him yet. In the story of Phillip and the Ethiopian, this Spirit sent Phillip out where he met a person who wanted to learn about Jesus.

Monday

Text: Revelation 20:1 "And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years."

Chapter 20 shows us what is going to happen after Jesus comes and gathers His dear children from off this earth. It talks about Satan getting tied up with a great chain. Now remember these picture stories are full of symbols. You could not tie up a spirit being with a real chain. It says he is cast into a 'bottomless pit', which means a place that is empty and deserted.

What happens when Jesus comes? All the people who have chosen to belong to Him are taken up into the cloud to go to heaven with Jesus. All the people who chose to go their own way and fight against God and His law are dead. So who is left? Just Satan and his nasty angels!

When Satan was first cast out of heaven, he was allowed to come back and visit at times. But after he cruelly killed dear Jesus on the cross, the angels would not allow him to even visit anymore. He can still visit other

planets though, and they are looking forward to the day when he can't come any more, because even though he cannot harm them, he likes to tell them all about the bad things God's children are doing. But when Jesus returns and takes His people to the heavenly city, God is going to do something that stops Satan and his bunch from being able to leave this planet.

For one thousand years these cruel and rebellious angels will have nothing to do except walk around and see the terrible mess they made of this once beautiful planet. Everywhere the cities are all smashed; the houses are all broken; nothing is left alive and there are dead bodies everywhere. And it is dark and dismal.

Children, that is the destiny of all who choose this world's so-called pleasures—to be one of the dead bodies rotting on this earth! Satan may give you the idea that the wrong things of this earth are 'fun' and that having your own way is what you need to try and do. But he doesn't have his own way, even now, and he sure won't in the future.

There is only one way to be truly happy and to 'have your own way' and that is to always choose God's ways. You see Jesus knows what is good, and He also knows what will only lead to pain and death. Everything the Bible or Spirit of Prophecy tells us not to do, is because those things will hurt you sooner or later. Remember this when you feel angry that you can't have things the way you want.

Thought - Remember, when we, who claim to belong to Jesus, do wrong things and say cruel nasty words, we give Satan something he can use to accuse Jesus with, to the angels and other beings.

Tuesday

Text: Revelation 20:4 "And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of

God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.”

What will the people, who go to heaven, do during the thousand years that Satan is stuck on this earth? They get to open the books and see why the ones who are lost are not in heaven. There may be someone who you thought would be in heaven and when you get there you look around and you don't find him or her. You will go and look in the books and there you will learn why they are not able to be there.

But more than this, we will judge the wicked people and the wicked angels. Each life will be looked at carefully, and the amount of time they must suffer in the final punishment, before they die forever, is written by each name. This is only fair of God, for some, like Satan's angels, have spent thousands of years doing cruel and horrible things while some people only lived a few years doing nasty things.

I have long looked forward to the time in heaven when we get to see history as it REALLY happened; when all the lies that have been told to us are exposed and the TRUTH is seen. Then we will see the stories of the poor martyrs who were killed hidden away where nobody knew about it. We will see how greedy and selfish men, under the control of devils, planned the terrible wars and cruel happenings in this world, behind the scenes.

We will know the truth about many leaders in the churches who pretend to be holy and are greatly admired, but behind the scenes, when they think nobody sees, they are wicked and cruel. We will know about how the corrupt ceremonies of Rome came down through the ages from before the flood. All questions will be answered, never again will we have to say, "I don't know."

We will also see the true and brave deeds of the redeemed, even little children that nobody knew about, who bravely stood for their faith in Jesus even unto death. In that day all TRUTH will be known. Learn to love TRUTH now, and don't watch, read, or make up, or listen to things that are not true. Only TRUTH will set you free and keep you free; lies and fiction will only enslave you and end up destroying you.

Thought - I have often wished that everything written in books and libraries, that was not true and honest, would just disappear! If that happened most libraries would be nearly empty! And most textbooks, students have to study, would be nearly empty too.

Wednesday

Text: Revelation 21:1,2 “And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea. And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.”

In chapter 21, John is shown the most glorious sight ever seen by human eye! The Holy city, New Jerusalem, that will one day be your home, if you choose to be faithful to Jesus. When you think about heaven, think about how wonderful it will be to live there!

It says in Hebrews 11:10 that Abraham looked for a city, whose builder and maker is God. There are some very nice cities on earth. Some have been carefully planned and laid out well and they are a pleasure to visit or live in, but most cities of earth are large and crowded and dirty and full of wickedness. In fact the evil in cities is growing so much that no Christian, who can possible live away from the cities, should be in them today. But a city that God builds— would be a wonderful place!

3 “And I heard a great voice out of heaven

saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God.”

The most wonderful thing about Heaven is that Jesus is there with us forever! When you were little, do you remember that the happiest times for you would be when your Mom or Daddy would come and play with you and spend time with you? You might have lots of toys and things to do, but nothing was as much fun as when Mom or Dad did it with you.

It will be like that in Heaven; everything will be so much more wonderful and fun because Jesus will be with us doing things with us. He will answer all our questions and teach us wonderful things that we can't even imagine now.

4 “And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.”

After the wicked are all destroyed, along with the devil and his nasty angels, all suffering and pain and death and fear will be gone from the whole universe. And it will never come back any more!

5 “And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful.”

The Holy City will come down to earth and after the fires that purify the earth, Jesus, our Creator, will make it all new for us. And we will be able to watch it happen! And then, what a celebration of joy and peace will come on that first Sabbath in the new earth! What music! What beauty! What wonderful friends we will have!

You will have animals and birds to enjoy, and you will be able to run and never get tired and also to fly! You will be able to travel through space and see things we can't even

imagine. You will travel with Jesus and angels and get to meet the people in other planets, who have been watching the sad history of this sin sick world and are so happy to see people redeemed from it. They will all be your friends.

Thought - Do you know that the people in other planets will want to hear about how Jesus saved you? Yes; this will be the wonderful story we will tell over and over again.

Thursday

Text: Revelation 21:24-26 “**And the nations of them which are saved shall walk in the light of it: and the kings of the earth do bring their glory and honour into it. And the gates of it shall not be shut at all by day: for there shall be no night there. And they shall bring the glory and honour of the nations into it.**”

Did you know that everything that is good and wonderful on this earth will be found in heaven? Yes, indeed! All the wonderful heroes of the faith will be there, and all the kind and noble people will be there. Everything that is right and good to do, will be also done in heaven.

There are so many funny ideas about what heaven is like, that some children have thought they would not want to go to such a place. They have been told that all you do is sit around on a cloud and play a harp all day. Or some have thought that everybody just sits around on hard chairs and looks very solemn and you have to be quiet.

But this is not true at all; heaven will be the happiest place that you can ever imagine! But there would be people who would not want to go to heaven—because the only things they like to do are sad, bad things and things that are harmful and wicked. Unless they allow Jesus to give them a new heart that loves the kind of things God loves,

they would not be happy in heaven. That is why they will not be there.

27 “And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb’s book of life.”

If a person wants to smoke dirty cigarettes or drink harmful alcohol or take drugs that hurt his body and brain; if he wants to do things that hurt or destroy other people or animals, they can never be allowed in heaven. They would be miserable there and they would also ruin the place.

Some people, if they were there, the first thing they would try to do is make rules to spoil everyone’s happiness; and then they would make a plan to keep all the gold and jewels just for themselves and not share with others. First thing you know they would make people have to pay to have fruit from the Tree of Life, and guards would be placed around the River of Life, and only certain people could go there.

This will not ever happen; heaven is a place of joy and freedom such as us poor creatures down here cannot even imagine! Never again will fear or oppression raise its ugly head.

Thought - As the years of eternity roll, we will have more and more joy and happiness and as we learn more and more about our kind Heavenly Father and our Saviour, we will have more and more LOVE. ‘Tis love that makes us happy’.

Friday

Text: Revelation 22:6,7 “And he said unto me, These sayings are faithful and true: and the Lord God of the holy prophets sent his angel to shew unto his servants the things which must shortly be done. Behold, I come quickly: blessed is he that keepeth the sayings of the prophecy of this book.

Here Jesus is telling us, “This is for real; it is true; and it is soon going to happen!” He then says those who ‘keep the things in the book’ are blessed. What does that mean? Well, it is telling us if we learn about the things this book tells us and we give our whole hearts to Jesus and let Him help us to live His kind of life, we will be very glad and happy. And someday, very soon, He will come and take us home.

Oh, I see some children interested in things that are only traps of Satan; they have TV programs or cartoons and videos and video or computer games and they think they are so important. Or they are all caught up with baseball, or football, or soccer, or hockey, or basketball and they think it is the most important thing in the whole world.

But it isn’t at all! The most important thing in the whole world is to live like Jesus, with Him in your heart, and be every day getting ready for heaven!

8-9 “And I John saw these things, and heard them. And when I had heard and seen, I fell down to worship before the feet of the angel which shewed me these things. Then saith he unto me, See thou do it not: for I am thy fellowservant, and of thy brethren the prophets, and of them which keep the sayings of this book: worship God.”

Here John gets excited again because of the wonderful things he is seeing and forgets and tries to worship the angel again, but he patiently reminds him, “Worship God.”

This is very good advice; when we really worship God, we think about Him, we admire Him, we love to talk about Him, our whole life aims towards Him; Then we will be truly happy.

14 “Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city. 15 For without are dogs, and sorcerers, and whoremongers, and murderers, and idolaters, and whosoever loveth

and maketh a lie.”

Who are going to be in heaven? Those who obey God. Who are going to be left out?

‘Dogs’; This isn’t bow-wow doggies, no, it means cruel and heartless, wicked people.

‘Sorcerers’; Have you noticed a lot of people into magic and witches and wizards these days? Well, they must repent and leave those things or never see heaven!

‘Whoremongers and murderers’; This means sexually impure people and those who kill and are cruel to others.

‘Idolaters’; people who love something better than they love Jesus and His ways.

Those who ‘Love and Make lies’; this is a very serious one, it includes people who like

to pretend things are true, that are not true, and people who like to read or see fiction stories, and it includes people who write or make fiction stories or movies. It also includes being dishonest in any way, and those who refuse to believe the Bible because they would rather have things some other way. The only safety is always love what is true!

Thought – I would invite all who read this, to look around in your life and if you find any things, (games, stories, books, TV, Movies) that are not true – get them out of your life! Then replace them with God’s Word and true things. I can tell you from my own experience, you will be soooo happy you did!
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