

Biblical Research Guide

At the feet of **Jesus**



Level 3

At the feet of Jesus

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Level 3

20 DOES THE ANTICHRIST ALREADY EXIST?

Although there are many theories about the antichrist, there is only one revelation that is trustworthy - Bible prophecy. What does the word antichrist mean? Anti = against Christ. It opposes both the doctrine of Jesus Christ and Jesus Christ Himself. The study of this subject may cause awe, sadness, anger, disappointment or satisfaction. Daniel the prophet was very disturbed when he received this revelation (Daniel 7:15, 28). God has given us prophecy so we have light and know the truth (2 Peter 1:19).



THE ANTICHRIST

1. Were there antichrists at the time of the apostles? 1 John 2:18, 19; Galatians 1:6, 7.

They were brethren, because it says: "They went out _____."

2. Was the antichrist an atheistic power, or did it claim to be Christian? Titus 1:16.

They profess _____ God; but _____.

- They attribute to themselves virtues that apply only to God: sanctity, infallibility, unchangeableness (2 Thessalonians 2:3, 4).
- It opposes and persecutes the disciples of Christ (Revelation 13:7).
 - The method that Christ used was love -not threat, torture, fear, or persecution.
- It attacks the law of God and establishes human laws and tradition (Matthew 15:8, 9).
 - On the contrary, Christ established, taught, and kept the commandments. (John 15:10).
- The antichrist preaches salvation through human works (2 Thessalonians 2:10).
 - Christ shows that salvation is by faith and our works are the fruits of Christ's love working in us. Who is the antichrist in prophecy? The book of Daniel, which was written more than 2,600 years ago, reveals this mystery.

THE SEVEN KEYS OF THE PROPHECY

3. What do winds and waters symbolize in prophecy?

- Winds represent wars (Jeremiah 49:36, 37).*
- Waters represent _____ (Revelation 17:15).*

4. What do beasts, heads, wings and horns represent?

Beasts represent kingdoms (Daniel 7:23). Heads and horns represent division of kingdoms (Daniel 7:24). Wings represent speed (Habakkuk 1:8). Many nations are still represented by similar symbols: the USA, by an eagle; Great Britain, by a lion; Russia, by a bear; China, by a dragon; France, by a cock. In prophecy, a day equals one year (Ezekiel 4:6; Numbers 14:34).

FOUR NATIONS IN PROPHECY

6. What did Daniel see in vision? Daniel 7:2, 3.

- The four _____ strove upon the _____, which means there would be wars among multitudes of people.
- Four _____ came up from the sea.

Keys to the interpretation of prophetic symbols used in the Bible



7. What do the four beasts represent? Daniel 7:16, 17, 23.

- They are the same kingdoms represented in the statue of Daniel chapter 2.

8. What were the characteristics of the first beast? Daniel 7:4.

A _____ with two _____.

- Represents Babylon (606 - 538 B.C.).
- Just as gold is the most precious metal, the lion is the king of the jungle.
- The two wings represent Nebuchadnezzar's speedy conquests.

9. What did the second beast look like? Daniel 7:5. _____

- Represent Medo-Persia (538 - 331 B.C.).
- It leans on one side, representing the superiority of the Persians over the Medes.
- It held three ribs in its mouth, depicting its conquest of three provinces - Babylon, Lydia and Egypt.
- It devours much meat, meaning they were very vicious in their conquests.

10. What characterized the leopard depicted in verse 6?

It had _____ and _____. This represents the Greek Empire (331 - 168 B.C.).

- The four wings represent the speed of conquest - twice that of Nebuchadnezzar. It took Alexander the Great only 8 years to conquer an area of 5 million square kilometers.
- Four heads: When Alexander the Great died (323 B.C.), his empire was divided among his four generals: Lysimachus ruled over Thrace; Cassander over Greece; Seleucus over Syria and Babylon, and Ptolemy over Egypt.

11. What was the fourth beast like? Verses 7, 19, 20, 23. _____

- The fourth beast represents Rome (169 B.C. - A.D. 176). Its cruelty is represented by its bronze nails and iron teeth.
- The ten horns are equivalent to the ten toes in Daniel 2, and they represent the ten nations of Western Europe, which remained at the end of the Roman Empire (Verse 24).

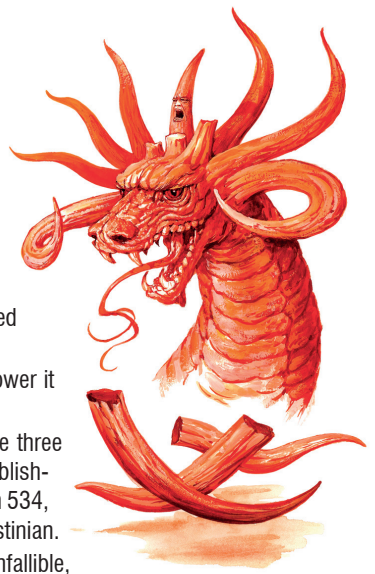
THE SMALL HORN

12. What characterized the small horn that came up?

Verses 8, 20-25.

When this horn came up, _____ were plucked up. It had _____ like of a man and a _____ that spoke great things.

- a) It was different from the other horns, which means that it was not a political power but a religious one. Which power assumed the place of Imperial Rome? The papacy.
- b) It was bigger than the other beasts, apart from its religious power it also had political power. Its influence is still powerful today.
- c) The three horns that fell when this one came up represent the three Aryan kings who were defeated and destroyed before the establishment of the papacy. In the year 493, the Heruli were defeated; in 534, the Vandals; and in 538, the Ostrogoths were conquered by Justinian.
- d) It would speak against the Most High. The Pope calls himself infallible, gives indulgences, and calls himself the Holy Father, attributes that belong only to God (Matthew 23:9).



13. What would the little horn do to the saints, the true believers? Daniel 7:21.

This reminds us of the dark ages mentioned in history, when millions of Christians who were called heretics were put to death by various horrible means during the "Inquisition."

14. What did that power think to change according to the prophecy? Verse 25.

The Ten Commandments were changed. In the catechism, the second commandment is omitted and the tenth is divided into two. The fourth commandment, which commands the observance of the Sabbath (Saturday) as the true day of rest, has been substituted by "keep holy the Lord's day." God has not authorized anyone to change His holy law (Matthew 5:16, 17; Ecclesiastes 3:14).

15. How long was the persecution to last? Daniel 7:25, last part.

A time is equal to a year; times is equal to two years; and the dividing of times is equal to half a year, totaling three and a half years. If we calculate a biblical year as having 360 days, it's 1,260 days. This



is the same calculation that is mentioned in Revelation 12:6, 14 and 13:5. These 1,260 prophetic days are 1,260 literal years. This is the period starting in 538, when the papacy's supremacy began, to 1798. During the French Revolution, Napoleon sent General Berthier to take Pope Pius VI captive. This Pope died in exile.

CONCLUSION

- God Himself guides the destiny of nations.
- Prophecy outlines the development of history and the war between light and darkness, but Christ is the victor, and all who believe in Him will share in this great victory.
- This prophecy clearly shows that Christ does not change His law, but the antichrist attempted to do so. Let not men change God's truth.
- Let us acknowledge the eternal validity of the Ten Commandments because Jesus Christ wants us to keep them and He wishes to bless those who accept Him as their Savior and Lord.

My decision: *I acknowledge that Christ did not change the Holy Law but was the work of the antichrist.* ☐ Yes ☐ No

21 THE FASCINATING PROPHECY OF THE 2,300 YEARS



There are about 2,300 fascinating prophecies in the Bible. They have more than ten accurate mathematical predictions. They are God's clock. In the prophecy of the 2,300 years, fascinating revelations show us the development of history - the rise and fall of kingdoms, the year of Christ's baptism and death, the time when the truth that the antichrist has overthrown will be restored, and the beginning of the time of the end. It is a prophecy worth knowing!

THE PROPHECY OF DANIEL 8

1. What did Daniel see in vision on the banks of the Ulai river? Daniel 8:3-9.

- A _____ with two horns, one _____ the other, and the ram pushed forward towards the north and south, wounding its opponent. No other animal could resist him.
- A _____ came from the west, so fast that it did not touch the ground. It had a single _____ between its eyes. It cast the _____ down to the ground and broke its two horns. Then, in its greatest strength its own horn was broken and four horns came up in its place.
- Out of one came a _____, which grew exceedingly great toward the south, the east and the _____ (Palestine).

2. Whom did the ram symbolize? Verses 15, 16, 20.

It symbolized the _____.

It charged with its horns toward the east (Greece), the north and the south (Egypt). This prophecy was fulfilled in 550 B.C. when Babylon was still in power.

3. What did the goat symbolize? Verses 21, 22. _____

Its first king was Alexander the Great. The statement "it did not touch the ground" depicts Alexander's speed as a conqueror. In only 8 years he conquered the then known world, and his dominion reached as far as India. He died at the height of his glory. 4 horns - four generals succeeded Alexander and divided the kingdom into 4 parts: Macedonia, Thrace, Syria-Babylon and Egypt.

4. What came out of one of the horns? Verses 9, 23, 25.

Compare these verses with the little horn in Daniel 7. That horn that grew referred to Rome in its dual facets: pagan Rome and papal Rome. It grew, and its conquests spread out to the east towards Greece, Asia, and towards the south to Africa, Carthage and Egypt. The pleasant land referred to is Palestine. "The place of his sanctuary was overthrown" (verse 11). Rome opposed Christ. In A.D. 70, the Roman army destroyed Jerusalem. Papal Rome was the continuation of the pagan Rome of the Caesars and it would "destroy... the holy people" (verse 24). This referred to the Inquisition. "... and by him the daily sacrifice was taken away" (Verse 11). We are justified by Christ; He intercedes for us. But the church created a series of human mediators. With the institution of the mass, in which the priest becomes a mediator, and the teaching of justification by works, Christ was displaced. It cast down the truth, acted according to its own will and prospered. It attempted to change the law of God by substituting Sunday for the Bible Sabbath and introducing human commandments.

5. The question arises: “How long shall... the transgression of desolation be?” (Verse 13).

In other words, how long will the antichrist conceal the truth about Christ's continuous mediation for the sinner? How long will the people of God be persecuted? How long will the truth be cast down to the ground and the law of God be trampled underfoot? How long will judgment be delayed? What was the answer? (Verse 14).

6. What period of time did these 2,300 days refer to? Verses 17, 19, 26.

For the time of _____. Daniel did not understand the vision of the 2,300 days; it worried him so much that he became ill. Verses 26, 27.

KEY REVELATIONS TO THE PROPHECY OF DANIEL 9

After a fervent prayer in which Daniel humbled himself before God, he received the answer (Daniel 9:20-23), the full explanation of the 2,300 years mentioned in the previous chapter.

7. How many prophetic weeks were determined or cut off from the 2,300 days for the people of Israel? (Verse 24). _____

How many literal years are there in 70 prophetic weeks? If we use the prophetic key of 1 day = 1 year (Ezekiel 4:6; Numbers 14:34), we conclude that 70 weeks times the seven days of the week = 490 prophetic days or 490 literal years.

8. What would happen during those 490 years of grace for the Jewish people? Verse 24.

_____ would be put to end, _____ would be atoned for, and _____ would be achieved through the sacrifice of Christ. The vision and prophecy would be sealed, as the 333 prophecies concerning Jesus were fulfilled. The Saint of Saints would be _____. The name Christ means “anointed one”.

9. What was the starting point for the 2,300 years and the 70 weeks that are a part of prophecy? Daniel 9:25.

The date when the order _____.

The starting point in these mathematical calculations is the year 457 B.C. (the third quarter), when Artaxerxes, king of Persia, signed the decree to rebuild the city of Jerusalem (Ezra 7:7; 6:14). Jerusalem was deserted because the Jews were exiled in Babylon.

10. In what year would the 2,300 days end?

There are 456 years and one quarter in the B.C. era. To complete the 2,300 years, we need 1,843 years and a quarter, and that takes us to the third quarter of the year A.D. 1844, which is exactly 2,300 years. The year 1844 is the end of this long prophetic period.

THE 70 WEEKS PROPHECY

11. How many weeks were there to the coming of the Messiah? Daniel 9:25.

_____ weeks and _____ weeks.

- Seven weeks are 49 days or 49 years. This was the time it took to rebuild the temple and the walls of Jerusalem. What year does that bring us to? 408 B.C. (407 and a quarter).
- To reach the year of Christ's baptism we calculate $62 \text{ weeks} \times 7 = 434$ literal years. We subtract those years from our diagram starting at the year 407 and a quarter, and we are left with 26 years and three-quarters. This places us in the year A.D. 27, the year in which Christ was baptized. Galatians 4:4; Matthew 3:13-17.

12. What year would Christ be crucified? Daniel 9:26, 27.

After the sixty-two weeks. To complete the 70 weeks, we need one week (7 years). What would happen in this last week, or seven years? The 62 weeks ended in the year A.D. 27; if we add 7 years we reach the year A.D. 34.

At mid-week, the sacrifice and offering would cease. This is the year A.D. 31, in the month of Nisan in the Hebrew calendar, which corresponds to our month of April, the eve of the Jewish Easter. Jesus was crucified on that date, in the spring of the year A.D. 31, by order of Pilate.

Bible prophecy is very accurate! The sacrifices would cease because they symbolized Christ. When He died for our sins, there was no more need to shed the blood of animals. At the very moment Jesus died, the veil of the temple was torn in two (Matthew 27:51).

13. When did the time given to Israel as God's people end? What happened to Jerusalem? Verses 24, 26.

At the end of the _____ weeks or _____ years.

This period ended in the year A.D. 34. Three and a half years after Jesus' death, the gospel was preached only to the Jews. The Roman soldiers besieged Jerusalem in the year A.D. 70 and after reducing it to famine, it was taken, burned and destroyed, leaving more than one million of its inhabitants dead.

CONCLUSION

The accuracy of Bible prophecy, particularly these mathematical calculations, is a seal or guarantee of biblical validity and is the irrefutable proof that the Bible was inspired by God. The prophecy of the 70 weeks is clear proof that Christ was the promised Messiah. The end of the 2,300 years in 1844 mark the time for the restoration of the truth and the purification of the sanctuary.

What does this mean? We will see this in our next topic.

.....
My decision: I believe the 2,300 days ended in 1844 and that from this point the restoration of the truth began. ☐ Yes ☐ No
.....

THE FASCINATING PROPHECY OF THE 2,300 YEARS

2,300 DAYS (YEARS)

SANCTUARY SERVICE IN HEAVEN



HOLY PLACE



MOST



HOLY

70 WEEKS (490 YEARS)

7 weeks

62 weeks

one week

3rd
Decree

Jerusalem rebuilt

BC
457

BC
408

The Anointed
(Baptism)

AD
27

AD
31

AD
34

off

cut

1844

Gospel to the Gentiles

1,810 DAYS (YEARS)

1844

THE TIME
OF THE END

Sanctuary cleansed
Judgment in heaven

PROPHETIC SCALE: 1 DAY = 1 YEAR
(Numbers 14:34; Ezekiel 4:6)

SANCTUARY AND TYPICAL SERVICE ON EARTH





In one of Jesus' parables, we are told the story of a king who gave a wedding party for his son. Matthew 22:1-14.

- The wedding invitation is the gospel.
- The first invitation was given to the people of Israel from the time of Christ's baptism until His death.
- The second invitation was also given to the Jews after Christ's death, for three and a half years more, up to Stephen's death.
- The third invitation, once the Jews rejected God's invitation, was addressed to the Gentiles.
- Where did these guests, who were invited from the streets and roadsides, get their wedding garments?

In ancient times, it was customary in the East for the king to provide proper garments at wedding celebrations to each guest upon entering the banquet. This garment is the symbol of Jesus' righteousness. He covers our filthy works of the past and declares us righteous. The person who is not wearing the wedding garment will stand before a judgment. If we do not wear the garment of Christ's righteousness, if we do not accept Him as our Savior and Lord and do not do His will, we are condemned and cast out of God's presence.

THE INVESTIGATIVE JUDGMENT

1. What will God take into account in the judgment? Ecclesiastes 12:14; 2 Corinthians 5:10.

- a) When Jesus Christ comes to raise the righteous dead to life and take them with Him, the decision on who will be saved and who will be lost will already have been made. An investigative judgment will already have taken place. When will this judgment be? When will the King come to see if everyone is wearing the wedding garment? There is a precise day. Acts 17:31.

2. Daniel saw the investigative judgment in vision. Who takes part in it? Daniel 7:9, 10, 13, 14.

- The judge is _____.
- We are the accused.
- The witnesses are the angels. How many angels are there? (verse 10) _____
- The proof is what is written in the books (Rev. 20:12).
- The accuser is the devil (Rev. 12:10).
- The law by which we are judged is _____ of God (James 2:12).
- Our defense attorney is _____ (verse 13; 1 John 2:1).

3. Our sins are registered in the sanctuary of God. An investigative judgment and a work of cleansing are necessary. When would this begin, according to the prophecy of Daniel 8:14?

- a) The _____ days or years ended in 1844, which is when the investigative judgment began.
- b) It is the beginning of the time of the end and the restoration of the truth that was trampled underfoot by the antichrist. These solemn truths began to be preached.
- c) It was also the beginning of the seventh and final church period-Laodicea. It was the beginning of the investigative judgment in heaven-the cleansing of the sanctuary to determine who will be saved and who will be lost before the coming of Jesus. To clearly understand what "cleansing of the sanctuary" means, we have to look into the Old Testament and study the antitype.

THE CLEANSING OF THE EARTHLY SANCTUARY

4. What did God command Israel to do? Exodus 25:8. _____

5. What had to be shed so man could be forgiven? Hebrews 9:22, 12. _____

God said to Adam and Eve, "Ye shall not eat of it... lest ye die." Man sinned and was condemned to death, but Christ offered to die in man's place. Until the moment came, an animal was sacrificed, representing Christ's sacrifice (Hebrews 9:9).

6. In the sanctuary built in the wilderness there were two compartments separated by a veil, the Holy Place and the Most Holy. How often did the priests enter the Holy Place, and for what purpose? Hebrews 9:6. _____

In Leviticus 4 we read about different kinds of sin: • If a person sinned, he was required to present an animal without blemish, place his hands on the animal's head, thus transferring his sins to the animal, and then kill it. Then, the priest took the blood, sprinkled it on the horns of the altar, and poured the rest at the foot of the altar. • If a priest or the congregation of Israel sinned, he had to take some of the blood from the sacrifice, then enter the Holy Place and sprinkle blood on the veil. In this way, he transferred the sin to the sanctuary.

7. Who was the only one who entered the Most Holy Place, and how often? Hebrews 9:7.

The _____ entered the Most Holy Place once a _____.

On the Day of Atonement, the sanctuary was cleansed. First, the high priest sacrificed a bull for himself and his family. Then, he took two goats and cast a lot over them, one symbolizing the Lord, and the other, the scapegoat or Satan. The one that represented Jesus was sacrificed. The high priest took the blood and entered the Most Holy in a cloud of incense; there he sprinkled the mercy seat, the Ark of the Covenant, which represents the throne of God, seven times with his finger. In the most Holy Place was the light of the SHEKINAH or divine presence. The law that was transgressed required the death of the sinner and that law was beneath the mercy seat. When the priest sprinkled the blood, mercy was granted to the transgressor. Thus, the veil was cleansed just by the presence of God in that place and the people were forgiven (Leviticus 16:16). Then they brought the goat, and the high priest placed his hands on its head and confessed all the sins of Israel and then the animal was led into the wilderness.

THE HEAVENLY SANCTUARY

8. Where is the real sanctuary? Hebrews 8:1, 2. _____

9. Who is the High Priest in the heavenly sanctuary? Hebrews 9:24. _____

The temple of God was open in heaven (Rev. 11:19) and Christ was seen wearing the garments of a priest (Rev. 1:12-15), and walking among the candlesticks. He presents Himself, in the form of an angel, as ministering before the altar, holding a gold censer and receiving the prayers of the saints (Rev. 8:3, 4).

10. Whose blood did He offer? Hebrews 9:11, 12. _____

- In Revelation, "a Lamb as it had been slain" is mentioned (Revelation 5:6; 13:8).
- He cleanses our conscience from dead works, that is, from sin (Hebrews 9:14).

11. When would the heavenly sanctuary be cleansed? Daniel 8:14.

- a) In 1844, when the investigative judgment begins. b) It must be purified with a better sacrifice (Hebrews 9:23, 24). c) He took our sins on Himself, as the prophecy states (Isaiah 53).

CONCLUSION

12. What will Jesus exclaim when he ceases to intercede for us and the investigative judgment comes to an end? Revelation 22:11. _____

When He casts the golden censer on the earth (Rev. 8:5), there will no longer be a mediator for man.

13. Our words, works and motives will all be judged. Is there a second opportunity for those who do not repent today? Jeremiah 2:22. _____

Perhaps, at this very moment your fate is being decided. The standard in the judgment will be the law of God, which we can obey only through the power of Christ's righteousness in us. Jesus is eager to justify us, to declare us innocent through His merits. There is only one way: to surrender ourselves to Him. Will you take Him today as your advocate and give Him your heart?

My decision: *I believe the investigative judgment began in 1844 and that Christ went into the Most Holy in the heavenly sanctuary.* ☐ Yes ☐ No

23 WHY ARE THERE SO MANY RELIGIONS?



Many ask themselves this question when they see that:

- There are hundreds of religious groups and thousands of sects. Each group claims to possess the truth, and the majority base their teachings on the Bible and believe in Jesus Christ.
- Are all these God's church? Does the Lord acknowledge all churches as His elect people, or does He have a special people? If so, how can God's church be identified?
- In every religion, there are sincere people who love God, but that does not necessarily mean that the church they attend is the true church. The word of God, and especially the prophecies, gives us some clues that will help us identify God's true remnant.

SYMBOLS REPRESENTING THE CHURCH

- 1. What is the true church compared to, in both the Old and the New Testament? Isaiah 5:1, 2, 7; Matthew 21:33.**

With a _____ surrounded by a _____.

- a) The vine (John 15:1, 2, 4): Christ is the stock of that vine. He is eternal. We are the branches. If we abide in Him we will bear fruit, otherwise we will be cut off.
- b) The wall: its purpose is to establish a border between the land of the Lord and the rest. This wall protects the church as long as it does God's will. The wall symbolizes God's law.
The area outside the law of God is sin (1 John 3:4).

Any church that leaves out any of God's commandments makes a hole in the wall.

- 2. Throughout the Bible the church is compared to a woman (2 Corinthians 11:2). According to Song of Solomon 6: 8, 9; 4:7, how many churches does the Lord acknowledge as His?** _____

- 3. What does prophecy say about the women (churches) of our times? Isaiah 4:1.**

- a) Seven women: all of them are churches (7 represents plenitude).
- b) They all take hold of one man: all churches speak of Christ.
- c) They eat their own bread: they all have their own doctrines, instead of the word of God.
- d) They wear their own apparel: self-justification (Isaiah 64:6), instead of the garment of Christ's righteousness (Matt. 22:11, 12). They are satisfied to be called by His name: Christians (Ezekiel 33:31).

GOD'S CHURCH IN REVELATION 12

- 4. What did the woman described in Revelation 12:1 look like, and what did she represent?**

- a) The woman symbolized the true church. She was clothed with the _____. The sun represents Christ, the Sun of Righteousness (Malachi 4:2).
- b) The _____ under her feet. This is a symbol of the Old Testament, the foundation of the Christian church. Just as the moon receives its light from the sun, the Old Testament received its light from Christ. The 12 stars represented the twelve apostles.

- 5. The church was promised a seed, a Savior (Genesis 3:15). Who does the child represent? Revelation 12:2, 5.** _____ (Psalms 2:7-9).

- "Pained to be delivered": there was no room available in Bethlehem, and he was born in a stable.

- 6. There was another sign, a dragon. Who does it represent? Revelation 12:3, 4, 9.**

It was _____ personified in the Roman Empire.

- It stood before the woman to devour her child; this refers to the children's slaughter ordered by Herod.

7. Where did the woman, the church, flee as a result of persecution? Verses 6, 13-16. _____

- During the Middle Ages, the believers had to flee because of the persecution of the papacy and they hid in remote, solitary places.
- The wings symbolized the speed with which the church had to flee.

8. How long was the persecuting power against the faithful last? Verses 6, 14.

_____ prophetic days.

- The same period is also given as three and a half times. One time equals one year of 360 days, which, when multiplied by 3.5 totals 1,260 days. According to the prophetic key these 1,260 days are literal years. This was the duration of papal supremacy, which lasted from 538 to 1798, when the Pope was imprisoned by the French.

9. How else were persecutions described, and how was the church helped? Verses 15, 16.

And the serpent cast out of his mouth _____ as a flood... And the _____ helped the woman.

- Water symbolizes multitudes of people (Revelation 17:15, which were sent to persecute the faithful.
- The earth helped the woman: during the 16th century Reformation, various European governments protected the lives of the people who were being persecuted. The discovery of America was a great help, since many left Europe and found shelter and freedom there.

10. At the end of the prophecy we see the woman again; this represents the people of God at the end of time. What characteristics will mark the true church? Revelation 12:17.

- a) It was to be a persecuted church. "The dragon.. went to make war with..."
- b) It would be a remnant, a few people (Zephaniah 3:12). c) THEY WOULD KEEP GOD'S COMMANDMENTS.
- d) They would have the testimony of Jesus, which is the spirit of prophecy (Revelation 19:10).

11. What other type of woman does the book of Revelation describe? Revelation 17:1-6.

It is called _____ the great. Babylon means confusion. Babylon is classified as a harlot because it flirts with kings (politicians) instead of belonging only to Christ. She is unfaithful to Him (James 4:4); this too was Israel's sin (Isaiah 1:21, 22).

- a) Its dominion is universal (waters, Revelation 17:15); its headquarters, Rome, is on seven hills (verse 9); the scarlet color and its wealth in gold (verse 4), the false doctrines it preaches (cup full of abominations); and its history of persecution (verse 6) reveal the identity of the church.
- b) Babylon is a religious system. If there is a mother church, there are also daughters. Who are they? The churches that in some way imitate the church of Rome. For example, they keep Sunday, preach immortality of the soul, or have no objection to participating in war.

A PURE CHURCH

12. How can the doctrine of the church, whose head is Christ be described? Ephesians 5:23, 26, 27.

13. What should the church of God be like? 1 Timothy 3:15. _____

CONCLUSION

14. What call does God still address to the faithful in Babylon, all those who are in the wrong religious system? Revelation 18:4. _____

- Jesus invites us to come into the fold, to be a part of the body which is His church.
- The true people of God are characterized by their obedience to His commandments. Let us be faithful to Jesus, thus showing our love to Him. Let us remain in the vineyard that is surrounded by a protecting wall, and let us remain attached to the vine which is Jesus Christ Himself so we can bear much fruit.

.....
My decision: I believe the true church distinguishes itself because it keeps the commandments of God. ☐ Yes ☐ No
.....

666 AND THE UNITED STATES IN PROPHECY



Who can the number 666 be applied to?

There are many theories and speculations about this issue. Some attribute this number to Nero; and others, to Hitler. There are films that relate it to spiritualism and exorcism. Others associate this number with an enormous computer. Reality is quite different: the symbolic beast of Revelation 13, whose number is 666, is the same power represented by the little horn of Daniel 7.

THE FIRST BEAST OF REVELATION 13

1. Where did this beast come from, and what details show the geographical location of its headquarters? Revelation 13:1, 2.

- It rose up from the _____. This shows that this power came from a place with a large population.
- It had _____ heads and _____ horns. Revelation 17:9 states that the seven heads represent seven hills.
- The body of this beast was similar to that of a leopard, its feet were like those of a bear, and its mouth like a lion's.

These are the same beasts that represented Greece, Medo-Persia and Babylon in Daniel 7.

Undoubtedly, the beast of Revelation 13 had the same characteristics that predominated in those kingdoms of the past.

2. What did the beast of Revelation 13 receive from the dragon mentioned, as mentioned in Revelation 12 (Satan and Rome of the Caesars)? Revelation 13:2.

... And the dragon gave him _____, and _____, and great authority.

- The only power which received its seat and authority from pagan Rome is the papacy.
- This power would exist until the end of time, since the prophecy mentions the beast during the fifth plague (Revelation 13:9, 10; 16:10, 11).
- It is mentioned several times as Babylon (Revelation 14:8, 17:5, 18:2-4).

3. What correlation is there between the beast of Revelation 13 and the little horn of Daniel 7?

THE BEAST OF REVELATION 13

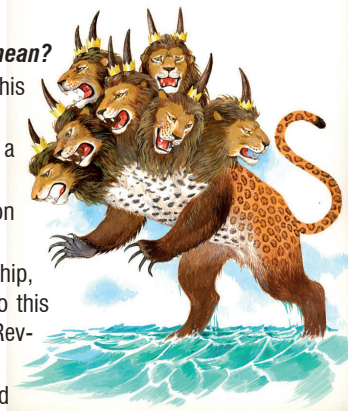
- It had a mouth that spoke great things and blasphemies (Revelation 13:5).
- It blasphemed against _____ (verse 6).
- It was permitted to make war with the saints and to overcome them (verse 7).
- It would play its part for 42 months, which corresponds to the 1,260 days or "for a time, and times, and half a time" (Revelation 12:6, 14).
- It was given power over kindreds, tongues, and nations (Revelation 13:7).
- It would be led into captivity and killed with the sword (verse 10).

THE HORN OF DANIEL 7

- It had a mouth that spoke great things (Daniel 7:8).
- It spoke great words against the Most High (verse 25).
- It made war with the saints and prevailed against them (verse 21).
- They were given into its hands until "a time, and times, and a half time" (Daniel 7:25).
- It was more stout than its fellows (verse 20).
- The judge would take away its dominion and destroy it in the end (verse 26).

NOTE: What does blasphemy and speaking against the Most High mean?

- The papacy claims to forgive sins, while in fact only God can do this (Mark 2:7).
- By being called "Holy Father," the pope is attributing to himself a name that belongs only to God (Matthew 23:9).
- He pretends to be the head of the church, thus taking the position that belongs to Christ (Ephesians 5:23; 4:15).
- Allowing people to kneel before him is an act of praise and worship, which belongs only to God. Peter did not permit Cornelius to do this (Acts 10:25, 26), and neither did the angel allow John to do so (Revelation 19:10; 22:8, 9).
- For this reason, when Paul referred to the "man of sin," he said that he sat in the temple of God, "showing himself that he is God" (2 Thessalonians 2:3, 4). The word *antichrist* means one that is against Christ, or takes His place.



4. How else can the beast be identified? Revelation 13:18.

It is the number of a man and his number is _____.

In Latin, the official language of the papacy, many letters have numerical value. If we add up the value of all the letters in the title inscribed on the Pope's triple crown, VICARIUS FILII DEI, which means Vicar (representative) of the Son of God, we obtain the following result:



666

LATIN

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

F	=	0
I	=	1
L	=	50
I	=	1
I	=	1

D	=	500
E	=	0
I	=	1

666

**"VICARIUS FILII DEI"
OR
"VICAR OF THE SON
OF GOD"**

**5. What would happen to one of its heads?
Revelation 13:3.**

It received a _____ which was healed; and all the inhabitants of the earth _____ the beast (Revelation 13:5).

During the period of the 1,260 prophetic days or 1,260 years (Ezekiel 4:6) following the decree of Justinian (A.D. 538), great persecution was carried out against the dissident Christians by the so-called "Holy Inquisition." Not only in France, Spain and all of Europe, but also in the American colonies, Mexico and Peru; more than 50 million people were tortured and killed. In 1798, on the very date the 1,260 years ended, that power received a mortal wound. General Berthier, following the orders of Napoleon, took Pope Pius VI captive (Revelation 13:10), abolished Justinian's decree, confiscated the five states the papacy had in the center of Italy, and seized the temporal (political) power that the pope possessed. It looked as if the papacy would never recover from that mortal wound.

6. What happened to the deadly wound? Revelation 13:3, 4, 8.

It was _____, and all the world _____.

The wound was healed. Gradually, the papacy regained its influence. In 1929, Benito Mussolini signed an agreement with the pope, giving him the 44 acres that compose the Vatican state. The popularity of the pope increases daily as he visits protestants, orientals, communists and even the United Nations. Practically the whole world worships him, praises him, and thus worships the dragon for which the pope is an instrument and from whom he received his power (Revelation 13:2-4).

THE OTHER BEAST

7. Where did the other beast come from and what was it like?

Revelation 13:11.

- a) It came up out of the _____. It did not arise out of the sea (multitudes of people) but from a place with a relatively small population.
- b) It had horns. First, it was like a _____, and then it spoke as a dragon. The buffalo is an animal that has these characteristics, and it is the symbol of the United States of America (the buffalo appears on certain American coins).



8. How did the prophecy describe the uniting of the United States (Protestantism) with the papacy (Catholicism)? Revelation 13:12.

It would cause the earth and all who dwell therein to _____ the first beast whose deadly wound was healed.

9. What kind of miracles would Protestantism and spiritualism perform in the United States? Revelation 13:13, 14.

Many will be deceived by these signs and will believe that this religious system, the image of the beast, is really of God.

10. In what way does Protestantism in the United States worship the papacy, and why is it called the image of the beast? Verse 14.

- According to the prophecy in Daniel 7:25 and the historical documentation available, we know that it was the papacy that imposed the observance of Sunday as the day of rest, instead of the Sabbath given in the Bible. Protestantism accepted this human commandment and thus honors the papacy and becomes its IMAGE, that is, something similar. Not only does Protestantism have the observance of Sunday as a common point with Catholicism but it also shares the doctrine of the immortality of the soul and participation in politics and war.

11. What will Protestantism, via its alliance with the United States government, try to do with the faithful remnant? Revelation 13:15-17.

They will not be able _____ or _____. “

Just as Rome used political power to persecute the dissident minority, the moment will come when the U.S. government will issue laws which will impose the observance of Sunday, and heavy penalties will be placed on those who keep the Sabbath.

12. What is the mark of the beast mentioned in Revelation 13:16?

- The seal of God is the holy Sabbath (Ezekiel 20:12, 20).
- The Catholic Church says that Sunday is a sign of its power.

THE THREE ANGELS' MESSAGES OF REVELATION

13. What did the first angel, having the eternal gospel, call all nations, tribes and people to do? Revelation 14: 6, 7. _____

- To give Him glory by acknowledging His redeeming grace and respecting His commandments (Ecclesiastes 12:13).

- This message shows us that we are living in the time of the investigative judgment (since 1844) and that we must worship the Creator. How? Keeping the Sabbath holy, which is the day of creation and the seal of God.

14. What did the second angel announce? Revelation 14:8.

Babylon is fallen, is _____.

The true people of God, symbolized by this angel, preach the fall of the false churches (Babylon).

15. What urgent and dreadful warning did the third angel give? Revelation 14:9-11.

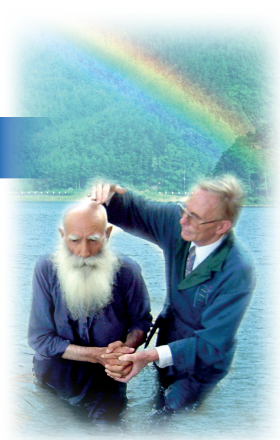
GOD WILL SAVE HIS CHILDREN

16. With what words did the apostle present the characteristics of God's remnant church, who carries the solemn message for our time? Revelation 14:12.

From the very beginning there has been a struggle between light and darkness, truth and error. As the coming of Jesus approaches, Satan will increase his wrath against the remnant of God who keep His commandments. But He who defeated Satan at the cross will be the support of the believers during the difficult times of the final calamity. Jesus calls us today to take a decided stand to be on His side to receive the seal of God.

.....
My decision: *I accept that the three angels' messages is the final call of love that the church of God will give to a world perishing in wickedness.* ☐ Yes ☐ No
.....

25 THE MOST IMPORTANT DAY OF ONE'S LIFE



What is the most important day in our life?

For some, it is the day they were born; for others, it is the day they graduate; for the wandering foreigner, it is the day he receives new citizenship and can settle down in a new country; for many, it is their wedding day.

What day does God consider the most important in our life?

It is a day that actually combines all of the above events: birth, graduation, citizenship, marriage, death, resurrection, and a happier life. It that all possible in one day?

THE PRIVILEGE OF BEING BORN AGAIN

1. What condition did Jesus tell Nicodemus, a leader of Israel, was necessary to enter the Kingdom of God? John 3:1-4. _____

2. What characteristics are we born with? Job 15:14-16.

- _____
- a) We live in the lusts of our flesh (Ephesians 2:3), and our fruits are sad (Galatians 5:19-21).
 - b) Those who live according to the flesh, without being born again, cannot please God (Romans 8:7, 8).
 - c) We deserve to die (Romans 3:23; 6:23).

3. How can we be born again? John 3:5.

Of _____ and of the _____.

a) *To be born of the spirit means:*

- To accept Jesus into our life, and to change our thoughts and feelings (Ezekiel 36:26, 27).
- The word of God works in us through the Holy Spirit (1 Peter 1:23).
- Paul had that experience (Galatians 2:20).

b) *To be born of water means baptism, a covenant with God, the public testimony of a new life (1 Peter 3:21).*

4. What example did Jesus give at the Jordan River? Matthew 3:13-17. _____

Why was Jesus baptized? He was sinless, yet He did it for our example.

5. What did He command His disciples to do? Matthew 28:19, 20.

They were to _____ in the name of the _____, the _____ and the _____.

WHAT METHOD IS BIBLICAL: SPRINKLING OR IMMERSION?

6. What does baptism symbolize and commemorate? Romans 6:3-6.

- a) It commemorates the _____, _____ and _____ of Christ.
- b) It symbolizes the death and burial of the "old man" of sin.
- c) It represents resurrection to a "new life."
- d) It symbolizes divine cleansing from sin (Acts 22:16).

It is an outward sign of the change that has taken place within the heart of the sinner through the grace of God. Sprinkling does not represent what God said was the meaning of baptism. True baptism is done by immersion since it symbolizes a burial.

7. **What does the word baptism mean?** *The Greek words baptize means “immersion” not sprinkling. Archaeology proves that all the baptisteries of the first centuries were built to baptize the believer by immersion. A traveler can still see these baptisteries in the Negev region, Thessalonica, Ephesus, Rome, Pisa, and more.*

8. **What evidences is there that baptism was done by immersion? Acts 8:36-39.**

*After Philip presented the message to the Ethiopian and the latter asked to be baptized, both went **down into the water and then came up**. When we read about Jesus’ baptism we also read that they **came up** from the water. If baptism had been done by sprinkling, they would not have needed to go down to a river.*

WHAT SHOULD PRECEDE BAPTISM?

9. **The candidate should be thoroughly instructed. What did Jesus specifically recommend be taught? Matthew 28:19-20.** _____

10. **What does the person who is baptized need to be saved? Mark 16:16.** _____

11. **What attitude should we have regarding our sins? Acts 2:38.**

To repent is to have genuine sorrow for sin and to turn away from it. Before we are baptized, we need to confess our sins and abandon them. We should be ready to die to sin and live for God (Romans 6:11). Can a newborn fulfill these requirements? Certainly not!

12. **Through what door do we enter His church, which is the body of Christ? 1 Corinthians 12:13, 27.** _____

Just as marriage is the fulfillment of the love declaration of a man and woman, so baptism is a love declaration of a child of God. Jesus showed His great love on Calvary. Baptism is a public expression of surrender, love, and loyalty to Jesus.

THE LORD’S SUPPER, AN ORDINANCE GIVEN BY JESUS

13. **What do the wine and bread represent? 1 Corinthians 11:23-26.**

- a) Bread represents His _____.
- b) Wine reminds us of the _____ He shed for us.
- c) This ordinance is to be celebrated in His memory, since it commemorates His death.
- d) It announces the second coming of Jesus.

14. **What should be done before one takes part in the Lord’s Supper? Verse 28, 29.**

15. **What did Jesus command to be done on occasion of the Last Supper? John 13:4-15.**

The ceremony of the washing of the _____ . It is a rite of humility.

CONCLUSION

Christ’s sacrifice will be remembered for all eternity (Matthew 26:29). The marks of His crucifixion will remain as a reminder of the price paid for our salvation (Habakkuk 3:4). To be baptized and then to periodically commemorate His death through the Lord’s Supper is the way Jesus provided to give us His grace and participation in His sacrifice (John 3:5).

.....
My decision: *I wish to prepare to make a covenant with God through biblical baptism.*

☐ Yes ☐ No

.....

HOW IDENTIFY A TRUE PROPHET



One day we may have to face the question that Paul addressed to King Agrippa: "Believest thou the prophets? I know that thou believest" (Acts 26:27). However, we are usually skeptical of a person who claims to have a message from God. How can we differentiate between true and false? Throughout time, God has guided His people through messengers. Does the Bible suggest the existence of prophets in our day?

GOD COMMUNICATES WITH MAN

1. In the beginning, God communicated with man face to face, but sin separated him from God (Isaiah 59:2). Christ bridged the gap between man and God. **What means did God provide to reveal His mysteries to men? Amos 3:7.** _____

The prophets spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit (2 Peter 1:21).

2. **Is being a prophet by human designation, by inheritance, or does it come directly from God? Ephesians 4:8, 11.** _____

3. **What is a prophet?**

The word prophet comes from two Hebrew words: roeh, which means to see; that is why a prophet is also called a seer (1 Samuel 9:9), and the word nabi, which means to declare. Therefore, a prophet sees and declares what God shows him and then he writes down the message (Daniel 7:1). He tells of future events, according to the revelation and will of God.

4. **How does God transmit His messages to the prophets? Numbers 12:6-8.**

_____ to _____: this method was used only with Moses

In _____: with his eyes opened, but without breathing, the prophet sees in a panoramic view what God shows him concerning the past, present or future, as well as events in the invisible world.

Through prophetic dreams: this method should not be confused with common dreams, which are a product of the mind's automatic, natural subconscious (Ecclesiastes 5:7). Prophets existed in both the New and Old Testament times. Many misinterpret the text in Matthew 11:13 and think that after John the Baptist there would be no more prophets. However, we can see that there were other prophets after John: Agabus (Acts 21:10), Anna (Luke 2:36), Simon (Acts 13:1), and more. Paul, Peter and Judas also prophesied.

5. **What type of prophets are to arise at the end of time? Matthew 24:24.** _____

6. **What is God's purpose in giving the prophetic gift to His people? Ephesians 4:11, 12.**

To _____ the saints, showing them their errors and warning them. To _____ the body of Christ by showing the wonder of His plan of salvation and the events to come. To help bring about unity in faith, clearly showing God's will.

7. **According to the book of Revelation, would the last church have the gift of prophecy? Revelation 12:17; 19:10.** *The testimony of Jesus is the* _____.

8. **How can we distinguish a true prophet from a false one?**

TEN CHARACTERISTICS OF A TRUE PROPHET:

1. His life should be an example (Matthew 7:15, 16). "Ye shall know them by their fruits." The results of his work will testify of their divine origin.
2. "To the law and to the testimony" (Isaiah 8:20). His teachings will be in harmony with the law of God and with the message of previous prophets.

3. All the prophecies he proclaims come true (Deuteronomy 18:22).
4. He does not incite apostasy or separation from the will of God (Deuteronomy 13:1-4).
5. He acknowledges Christ's incarnation (1 John 4:1-3).
6. His messages are straightforward. He does not flatter; on the contrary, he points out the people's sins (Isaiah 58:1), and God's imminent judgment (Revelation 14:6, 7).
7. His messages are important, not trivial. He contributes to the spiritual growth of the church and gives advice on religious matters (2 Corinthians 13:2, 3).
8. His teachings and his life will have Christ at their core (2 Corinthians 10:5).
9. He will prophesy in the Lord's name and he will never give his own interpretation (2 Peter 1:20, 21).
10. We should look at how he receives the visions and his relationship to the people of his time (Daniel 10:8).

THE PROPHETIC GIFT AND THE WOMAN

9. Can a woman have a prophetic gift? The Bible mentions:

- a) Miriam (Exodus 15:20) b) Deborah (Judges 4:4) c) Hilkiah (2 Kings 22:14)
 d) Anna (Luke 2:36) e) Phillip's four daughters (Acts 21:9).

10. Was this gift manifested in the church of God in the times of the end?

In 1844, when according to prophecy the truth that had been trodden underfoot would be restored, God sent a message to his people through the Spirit of Prophecy. Ellen Harmon, later Ellen G. White, a feeble 17-year-old young woman, was a precious instrument in God's hands. She fulfilled all ten characteristics previously mentioned. Those who have read her writings see that they work for the improvement and spiritual growth of the church and promote unity of faith. In spite of her limited education, she wrote about 100,000 pages published in more than 50 books which are in circulation today, along with hundreds of pamphlets, and about 4000 articles for several magazines. Religious scholars acknowledge that her writings are inspired. She received revelations, wrote, and preached to millions of people from 1844 to 1915, which is more than 70 years. Many people testify that she led an exemplary life. At every moment, she exalted Jesus Christ as primary and presented Him in the most wonderful way; she also lifted up the holy law of God. Her prophecies were all accurately fulfilled, including the First World War, the destruction of ships and large buildings, and fires that no one was able to put out; the destruction of San Francisco and Oakland (California) in the 1906 earthquake; the increase of spiritualism and the union of Catholics and Protestants; without having any formal education in astronomy, she gave accurate astronomical data, and she also gave scientific information about health, such as prenatal influences. Furthermore, the origin of cancer, nutrition, etc. In her many writings, there is no contradiction with the Bible. Her writings are like a microscope; they do not contradict but amplify details. They are also like a telescope that does not recreate new stars but shows the beauty of the ones that exist. A few of her books are: Steps to Christ (published in more than 100 languages), The Great Controversy, The Desire of Ages, The Ministry of Healing, Patriarchs and Prophets, Prophets and Kings, Child Guidance, Testimony Treasures, etc. The central point of Ellen White's message was Christ's life - His incarnation, ministry, death, resurrection and present work on behalf of sinners in the heavenly sanctuary. The best glimpses into the life of Jesus Christ ever written are found in her books: Steps to Christ and The Desire of Ages, among other, whose reading we advise.

CONCLUSION

11. Thanks to this divine help, we have a deeper understanding of God's ways. What happens to God's people without the prophetic word? Proverbs 29:18. _____

12. What advice does God give us? 1 Thessalonians 5:20, 21. _____

God's word says that the last church will have the gift of prophecy. If these revelations did not exist, we would not meet the requirements of the true church.

13. How long will this gift be necessary? Ephesians 4:13. _____

14. What does God promise to those who believe in the prophets? 2 Chronicles 20:20 _____

My decision: I believe that God revealed Himself to the last church through the spirit of prophecy. ☐ Yes ☐ No



God wants us to be healthy and live happily. 3 John 2.

- Our happiness is closely related to our health.
- We should take care of our body, because God considers it His temple. 1 Corinthians 6:19, 20.
- God wishes to give us wisdom so we can avoid illness or recover our health.

1. The Bible says that our body is the temple of the Holy Spirit. What will God do to those who deliberately defile it? 1 Corinthians 3:16, 17.

As we consider our great responsibility in caring for our bodies, let us take into account seven important points.

Seven Keys to a Healthy Life:

- **One:** Use water internally and externally. Doctors recommend six to eight glasses of water a day, drunk between meals, to detoxify the system. Showering daily is also very advantageous, as it stimulates the elimination of toxins through the pores, thus contributing to excellent physical health.
- **Two:** Rest sufficiently. We should sleep at least 8 hours a day (though children need more) because it strengthens the nervous system. Furthermore, a weekly rest day, such as the Sabbath, is a blessing both for the body and the soul.
- **Three:** Implement regular habits. Keep a fixed eating schedule. Eating between meals overloads the stomach. When we finish eating, we should rest the stomach for about four to six hours, without ingesting anything else but liquids.
- **Four:** Practice temperance. One should be temperate when eating, at work and in all activities: sexual, intellectual, etc. Even the healthiest food, if taken in excess can be detrimental to our health. We should leave the table feeling that we could have eaten more. Digestion starts in the mouth, so chew your food well. Temperance means balance. We should not to eat just because we like something but also because it is good for us.
- **Five:** Consume natural foods. We will expand below:

2. What kind of food was man given when he was created in Eden? Genesis 1:29.

Fruits, plant yielding seeds, and cereals were foods given to man in the beginning.

3. When was man allowed to eat certain kinds of meat, called clean meats? Genesis 7:2; 9:3, 4.

Before the flood, about 1,500 years after creation, God's people did not eat meat. There were people who lived up to 500 years; but when meat was permitted in man's diet, longevity immediately diminished.

Although man was allowed to eat meat after the flood, he was never allowed to eat blood, fat or unclean animals. He could only eat the kinds of animals mentioned in Leviticus 11 and Deuteronomy 14.

4. When the people of Israel were in the wilderness on the way to Canaan, the Promised Land, God wanted to give them a special diet without meat. What punishment did they suffer for not wanting to obey God's rules? Numbers 11:4, 19, 20, 33, 34.

5. Who should learn from the above example, and what command did the Lord give the people living at the end of time? 1 Corinthians 10:5, 6, 11.

God's purpose is that His people return to the healthful food given to man at the beginning of the world: fruits, nuts, vegetables and cereals; a natural diet without meat.

6. Will meat be eaten in heaven and for eternity? Revelation 21:4; Isaiah 25:8.

The delicious fruits that grow each month will be eaten (Revelation 22:2). The diet man received in paradise, which was altered by sin, will be restored at Jesus' coming.

7. What advantages did Daniel and his friends have by avoiding the consumption of meat and alcoholic beverages? Daniel 1:8-20.

8. What advantages are there to a lacto-ovo vegetarian diet?

PHYSICAL:

- a) Ten times less risk of contracting diseases.
- b) Less intake of cholesterol, thus avoiding cardiovascular diseases.
- c) Less intake of uric acid, thus avoiding rheumatoid arthritis.
- d) Better digestion and less risk of cancer.
- e) Avoid hormones, vaccines, and general injections that are administered to animals to enter our body.
- f) More resistance since our body is not full of toxins.
- g) Increased longevity.

MORAL:

- a) Compassion toward animals.
- b) Less tendency to violent passions.
- c) Less irritability, as meat contains stimulants.
- d) Moral sensibility is not weakened.
- e) Less expense and more people can be fed.
- f) Avoid homosexual tendencies, which is partly due to foods with feminine hormones.
- g) More sympathy towards others.

SPIRITUAL:

- a) Fewer risks of weakening the fine sensibilities of our mind.
- b) Temperance and self-control.
- c) Greater spirituality.
- d) Creatures made by God are not killed to satisfy our appetite.
- e) No danger of consuming animal blood, which is prohibited by God.
- f) We glorify and praise God when taking care of our body.
- g) We return to the original diet, thus fulfilling God's plan for our time.

➤ **Six: Avoid stimulants and drugs.**

- Tobacco is a merciless murderer of millions of people. One in five smokers dies of cancer. We should not destroy our body, because it is the temple of God (1 Corinthians 3:16, 17).

9. What does the Bible say about the consumption of alcoholic beverages? Proverbs 20:1; 23:29-33.

10. What kind of diet was John the Baptist, who prepared the way for the first coming of Jesus, to have from his mother's womb? Luke 1:15.

As we prepare the way for Christ's second coming, do you think our diet is less important now than it was in those days?

11. What other stimulants are detrimental to our health?

- Coffee, tea, mate, and soft drinks all contain caffeine (mateine and theine are similar), which affects the nervous system and produces physical distress. They should, therefore be avoided.
- Drugs such as LSD, morphine, marijuana, cocaine, and certain medicines make the body sick, destroy the mind, degrade the soul, and offend our Creator.

➤ **Seven: Use natural medicines, and ask God for help.**

12. Why were plants created? Psalm 104:14.

Jesus used clay to cure a blind man, and He recommended the use of water (John 9:6-12). King Hezekiah was cured with a fig poultice (2 Kings 20:5-7), showing God's approval of natural methods of healing.

13. What should we do when we are sick? James 5:14, 15.

The Bible foretells that there will be many false miracles and wonders at the end of time. There may be salvation without a cure and a cure without salvation. Many will be deceived at the final judgment (Matthew 7:21-23).

Let us glorify God in our body (1 Corinthians 10:31). Jesus, in His unparalleled love, gave His life to save me; should I neglect to take care of this body, which He created and for which He died?

14. What can I do in response to His love? Romans 12:1, 2.

If those who look for worldly glory in sports take such good care of their bodies how much more should we do so, since we are serving God (1 Corinthians 9:24-27)?

15. How can we lead a temperate life, according to God's precepts? Philippians 4:13.

My decision: *I intend to nourish myself naturally, according to the indications God gave to man in the beginning.* ☐ Yes ☐ No

A vertical collage of historical illustrations depicting the evolution of vegetable production. The collage includes scenes of ancient agriculture, the Columbian Exchange, the Industrial Revolution, and modern vegetable processing. A large, stylized '1844' is prominently displayed in the center.

28 **HOW TO SOLVE MY FINANCIAL PROBLEMS**



Some people talk about good luck, but the Bible speaks about God's blessings. But does my attitude have anything to do with material prosperity? Certainly. A businessman has to invest his money well to make a profit. A farmer has to sow and properly manage his crops to have a good harvest. If we are administrators, we have to manage to the best of our ability, especially if the means are not our own. Many people would feel honored, and would consider it a privilege if they were asked to invest in a prosperous commercial enterprise. That is exactly what God invites us to do. He asks us to be His partners in the greatest enterprise of all by helping the world escape condemnation and prepare for His coming kingdom of glory. But how can I prosper and solve my financial problems? How can I be blessed by God? How can I make an investment when I am not a merchant, sow if I am not a farmer, close financial deals when I am not an accountant or find a partner who can help me make a profit when I have no capital? God reveals to us a plan in the Bible through which we can prosper.

THE RIGHTFUL OWNER OF ALL THINGS

1. **Man usually claims property ownership however, who is the rightful owner of all things? Psalms 24:1, 2; 50:7, 10-12.**

2. **What does God say about the silver and gold that man claims? Haggai 2:8.**

3. **What should we never say if we have prospered financially and what should we recognize? Deuteronomy 8:11-14, 17, 18.**

4. **On what basis does God claim everything as His?**
 - a) Because He _____ (Psalms 100:3).
 - b) Because we were redeemed with the precious _____ of Christ (1 Peter 1:18, 19).
 - c) For _____ (Acts 17:28).
We were not only created but also saved by infinite grace. Every moment we are sustained by His great love. This ternary cause makes us acknowledge Him as our Savior, Lord, and the rightful owner of our life.
5. **What should I ask myself when I see what Jesus has done and continues to do for me every day? Psalms 116:12-14.**

STEWARDS OF GOD'S PROPERTY

6. **What should we do with our bodies, property, time and money? What title was given to us? 1 Peter 4:10.**

As every man hath received _____, even so minister the same one to another, as _____.
Everything we have belongs to God. We are just stewards.

MY BODY

- I am God's property.
- I glorify God with my body and care for it properly.
- I don't weaken my body, nor do I destroy my vital energy by consuming things detrimental to my health.
- I use my body and its strength to collaborate in God's plan for the salvation of the world.

a) **My body:** we are God's property (1 Corinthians 6:19, 20; 10:31). Let us glorify God in our body by keeping it in good health. Let us not weaken or destroy our vital energy by consuming things that are detrimental to our health. Let us use our body and strength to collaborate in God's plan for the salvation of the world.

MY TIME

- God gives me six days to work and devote to my own interests.
- God claims the Sabbath, the seventh day, as His own. By dedicating this day to my own interests and not to Him, I am stealing from the time that belongs to Him.
- I dedicate some time each day to speaking to others about the plan of salvation.

b) **My time:** God gives us six days to work and devote ourselves to our own interests, but He claims the seventh day, the Sabbath, as His (Exodus 20:9, 10). That day was set aside by God and sanctified; if we dedicate it to our own interests and do not observe it properly, we are stealing from the time that belongs to the Lord. It was instituted for our own good. Let us dedicate this time to speaking with others about the plan of salvation (Acts 4:32).

MY TALENTS

- I use my God-given talents to speak, sing, help the sick, instruct children, etc. to help proclaim the kingdom of God.
- Every day I do something for God; I speak to others of the love of Jesus and teach them about the great truths I learn in His word.
I feel happy and my talents are developing!

c) **My talents:** What do we do with the talents God has given us? Do we use them for Him? Talking, singing, caring for the sick, teaching children, etc., are all talents that God may have given us to be used to proclaim the kingdom of Christ (Matthew 28:18-20).

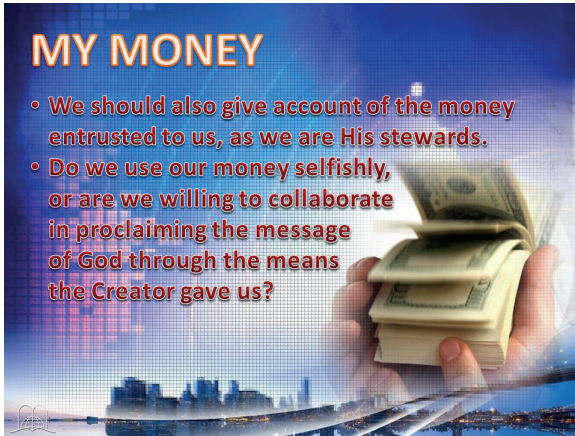
The parable of the talents is solemn and very important (Matthew 25:14, 19-30). We should work every day for God by speaking to others about the love of Jesus and teaching the great truths that we learn from His word. We will feel very happy and our talents will develop!

MY MONEY

- We should also give account of the money entrusted to us, as we are His stewards.
- Do we use our money selfishly, or are we willing to collaborate in proclaiming the message of God through the means the Creator gave us?

d) My money: we will also have to give an account to God for the money that He has entrusted to us.

Do we use money in a selfish way, or are we ready to support the preaching of the message with the means the Creator has given us?



How do we answer the question in Psalm 116:12: “What shall I render unto to the Lord for all His benefits towards me?” What we respond? Proverbs 3:9-10.

This is the secret of material prosperity. We should give a part of our income to help spread God's message.

THE DIVINE PLAN

7. What portion of the property God has entrusted to us does He claim for Himself? Leviticus 27:30-32.

Tithe is one-tenth of our income. We actually do not give it to God, since everything is His; we just return that part and keep nine parts for ourselves. In this way God tests our faith, loyalty and love for a world that needs to receive the light of the gospel through our financial assistance.

8. What is the tithe used for? Numbers 18:20-24.

For their _____ which they serve, even the service...

The tithe is used only for preaching the gospel so God's ministers can dedicate their time for the salvation of souls. For this reason, the tithe is given to the church treasurer, who distributes the income and covers the expenses of the workers.

9. What was the tithe used for in the New Testament? 1 Corinthians 9:13, 14.

They which preach the gospel should _____

10. Long before the days of Moses, Abraham and Jacob gave their tithes to God. What means are we taught to give from? Genesis 14:20; 28:20-22.

Tithe, marriage, and the Sabbath originated in paradise. The tree that belonged to God and which Adam and Eve were not to eat of, represents the tithe. We are also tested.

PRINCIPLES REGULATING POVERTY AND PROSPERITY

11. What is one of the great secrets of material prosperity? Proverbs 11:24, 25.

12. What does the Bible say about the results of generosity? 2 Corinthians 9:6, 7, 10.

13. What blessings does God promise the believers? Malachi 3:10-12.

God says that those who keep for themselves what belongs to Him _____.

He calls for faithfulness, saying: "Bring." He allows us to test Him, because He is faithful to His promise. "I will open the windows of heaven and pour out _____."

Those who return to the Lord what corresponds to Him can tell their own experience of how the Lord has kept His promise. The 90% that is left goes farther than the 100% of those who do not pay tithe.

14. What else should we give? Malachi 3:8.

Offerings. These may be of thanksgiving, first fruit (Deuteronomy 18:4), for the poor (Galatians 2:10; Romans 15:26). In Psalms 41:1, 2 and Proverbs 19:17, there are promises for those who give generously to the poor.

CONCLUSION

15. How can we save in the bank of heaven? Luke 6:38.

Give _____ for with the same measure that you measure _____.

God loves those who give with a cheerful heart, but we should remember that we are not really giving anything, because everything belongs to Him. When we return what is His, we are simply saying, "I acknowledge You as my Lord, I love you. Here is the interest of what You gave to me to manage." And He will say, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy Lord." Matthew 25:21.

.....
My decision: *I am willing to be a faithful steward of God and to cooperate in His work.*

☐ Yes

☐ No

.....

29 TRUE BEAUTY



What does true beauty consist of? How can we obtain it?

There was once a very attractive young lady whose face was very pretty and whose body was slender and symmetrical. She had lovely silky hair, and smooth, rosy skin. She could have won a beauty contest. A young man who admired her very much had the opportunity to get to know her in her own environment. He soon realized that she was selfish, proud and false and expressed herself in a very vulgar way. He was deeply disappointed, because he had been deceived by her appearance.

True beauty is not found in the external appearance or personal care, such as make-up, jewels or fancy clothes, but in a gentle, attractive character.

How nice it is to be in the company of a person who has a beautiful character even if she is not that physically beautiful!

It is not important how man sees us; what counts is how God sees us.

ADORNMENT OF THE SOUL

1. What is true beauty called, which shines from the inside out, with the help of the Holy Spirit? 1 Thessalonians 4:3, 7; Romans 6:22.

*When a potter works with clay and shapes a pot, he works from the inside out. God also wants to change us inside so the expression of His holy will can be seen on the outside. **This process is called sanctification.***

2. What part of our being is sanctified by the Holy Spirit's work in us? 1 Thessalonians 5:23.

Our thoughts, feelings and actions must be sanctified. In our manner of eating, dressing, speaking and living, it should be noticeable that we are followers of Jesus.

3. What advice is given regarding our clothing and personal appearance? 1 Timothy 2:9, 10.

4. What does the true adornment of the Christian woman consist of? 1 Peter 3:2-5.

5. What truly enhances a person's appearance? Proverbs 15:13.

The women of ancient Israel were commanded by God to wear a blue ribbon stitched to a fringe on their garments to distinguish them from the heathen. What is the blue ribbon that sets us apart? Modesty in the way we dress, avoiding jewelry, make-up and the coloring of the hair, which affects our health and contributes to vanity and deform the person God created. By following such practices, we are telling the Creator, "I am not happy with the way You made me." A happy, natural countenance and a meek, sincere character should be the Christian's true adornment.

6. What type of clothing displeases the Lord? Deuteronomy 22:5.
-

7. Does the Bible say anything about the length of ladies' hair? 1 Corinthians 11:14, 15.

- Will an unkempt, filthy, disheveled person please God? Certainly not. We should wear things that are in good taste, purchase or make clothes of good quality, when possible, and abide by the rules of good hygiene.
- We should radiate freshness, gentleness and simplicity so everyone can see something different in us. However, we should avoid being influenced by fashion or the opinion of others.
- Let us maintain a noble independence, trying to live for God. The joy of having loved and obeyed Jesus will be our reward. In Isaiah 3:16-26, we can read the fate of vanity and disobedience.

AMUSEMENTS

8. What principles in the Bible can we apply to amusements and entertainment? Philippians 4:8.

In light of this text, we should assess the appropriateness of our choice of entertainment. Check your reading, TV programs, sports, etc.

9. Can our spiritual life be affected by watching scenes of violence, crime and adultery, even if they are not true? Isaiah 33:15-17.

10. What advice is given to the person who wants to look for things that are good and uplifting? 1 John 2:15-17.

11. What does God instruct those who wish to show gratitude to Jesus for having saved them? 1 Peter 1:13-19 (mention 3 things).

There are those who think they can purchase heaven with their deeds, but this is impossible.

12. What alone should motivate us to obey God? 1 Peter 2:21-25.

When Saul was a persecutor and Jesus appeared to him and invited him to follow Him, he asked, "What wilt Thou have me do (Acts 9:6)?" This should be our attitude. We will receive the answer if we ask ourselves: "What would Jesus do in my place?" Let us tell Him: "Lord, I want to act as you would if you were in my place," and He will show us what we should do.

CONCLUSION

13. Where can we gain strength to change our habits and customs? Philippians 2:13; 4:13.

14. What reward awaits overcomers? Mark 10:28-30; 1 Corinthians 9:23-27.

My decision: I want to glorify God through my clothing and entertain myself according to His will.

☐ Yes ☐ No

30 THE SECRET TO SUCCESS

Every human being wants to be successful.

Young people want to succeed in their studies; a mother in the education of her children; a man or a woman in his or her professional life; a politician in his ambition for power; an athlete in his attempt to win; a sick person in his attempt to recover health. A Christian also wants to succeed in identifying with Christ and inheriting eternal life. How can we achieve this? What key points does the Bible give to help us succeed in our temporal and spiritual life? God desires our prosperity and well-being (3 John 2), and He wishes to give us strength to have great success.



TWELVE SECRETS TO SUCCESS

1. **Give your heart to Jesus and accept His salvation and justification (Romans 5:1). What words does He address to you? Proverbs 23:26.**

2. **Put God in first place. What were Jesus' words regarding this? Matthew 6:33.**

3. **We should accept our human weakness and unite our heart with Christ's, trusting in His grace every day. What is this connection compared to? John 15:4, 5.** _____
4. **Carefully search God's word daily (Acts 17:11). What should be our purpose? Deuteronomy 17:19.** _____
5. **Always pray. How many times a day did Daniel pray? Daniel 6:10.** _____
6. **Have faith. What can we not do without faith? Hebrews 11:6.** _____
7. **Attend church meetings (Hebrews 10:25). What was Jesus' custom? Luke 4:16.**

8. **Forgive and love. What example should constantly inspire us? Colossians 3:13, 14.**

9. **Follow Jesus' example in the obedience to His commandments. Who is salvation promised to? Hebrews 5:8, 9.** _____
10. **Be a light to others. What does the Lord want us to be? Acts 13:47.**

Through our work and means, we should cooperate in the salvation of others.

11. **Be steadfast. What promise can we cling to? Hebrews 10:23.**

In time of trial, let us always remember that God never allows us to be tempted more than we can bear (1 Corinthians 10:13).

12. **Trust and allow God to work in us. What promise does the Lord give to those who surrender themselves wholly before Jesus? Philippians 2:12, 13.**

For it is God _____

If we have surrendered to Jesus by placing ourselves on the side of the upright, God will place in our hearts the desire to obey Him and will give us the necessary strength to do so. He influences our will power with His Holy Spirit. He has called us and wishes to make us happy.

IS SUCCESS THE RESULT OF FATE?

13. What opportunity does God give every human being? Deuteronomy 30:14-16, 19.

God wants us to be saved, but He will not force us. He gave us a free will, and He places before us two ways: life or death, curse or blessing. We receive life and blessing if we obey His commandments. How tenderly He calls us! Choose life so you and your descendants can live. He did everything to save us and give us victory. Now it all depends on us to make the right choice.

14. What advice does Jesus give us? John 12:35, 36.

-
- Our success or failures in life—salvation or destruction—lie in our own hands. The message of Elijah comes to us, “How long halt ye between two opinions? If the Lord be God, follow Him: but if Baal then follow him (1 Kings 18:21).”
 - You have received Jesus’ invitation. In this course, you have seen the noblest truths that have ever been given to men. What will your response be?
 - Jesus showed His great love during His ministry on earth; He suffered in Gethsemane and on Calvary. May His sacrifice not be in vain!
 - He suffered indescribable pain, whipping, mockery of an angry mob, the bitter scorn of those He had helped, and cruel treason of him who had walked with Him. He bore the heavy burden of the cross, the bleeding wounds of the thorns on his head, and the unbearable pain of those nails piercing his flesh while the cross was lifted. Most of all, He bore the sins of this unfaithful world in that lacerated and despised body, tried to the utmost.
 - Nevertheless, he forgave his executioners and those who crucified Him with their sins and transgressions. Will we allow this sacrifice to be in vain?
 - He did everything to save us, and today He wants an answer from us. Let it be a positive one! He offers us heaven and eternal life and only asks for our heart. Will we give it to Him?

SEVEN WONDERFUL PROMISES OF GOD

To him that overcometh...

1. “Will I give to eat of the tree of life (Revelation 2:7).”
2. “He shall not be hurt of the second death (Revelation 2:11).”
3. “I will give to eat of the hidden manna, and will give him a white stone and in the stone, a new name written (Revelation 2:17).”
4. “To him will I give power over the nations (Revelation 2:26).”
5. “He shall be clothed in white garments and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life (Revelation 3:5).”
6. “I will make him a pillar in the temple of my God and he shall go no more out (Revelation 3:12).”
7. “I will grant him to sit with me in my throne (Revelation 3:21).”

My decision: *I wish to be numbered among the overcomers and to live a victorious life with Jesus.*

☐ Yes

☐ No

Studies 20-30

REVIEW QUESTIONNAIRE

This questionnaire's purpose is to assess your understanding of the content of the studies you have completed. If you wish, you may complete it in the presence of the instructor and later track the questions you answered correctly. If you have any doubts, review the lessons once again or ask the instructor.

1) List the symbolism of the beasts Daniel saw in vision.

- a. A lion with wings _____
- b. A bear _____
- c. A leopard with wings _____
- d. A dreadful beast _____

2) What would the little horn do to the true believers?

3) How many prophetic weeks are determined upon the Jewish people?

4) In what year do the 2,300 days end?

5) What would begin in heaven in the year 1844, according to the prophecy of Daniel 8:14?

6) What is Christ's work in heaven?

7) What symbolic figure is used in the book of Revelation to represent the church?

8) What are two characteristics of those who make up the church of the Lord?

9) The beast that rises up from the sea, having 7 heads and 10 horns represents:

- a. Political power
- b. Papal power
- c. Atheism

10) The beast that comes up out of the earth, having 2 horns represents:

- a. Russia
- b. China
- c. U.S.A.

11) What is the condition for entering the kingdom of God?

- a. Go to church
- b. Do good works
- c. Be born again

12) How can one distinguish the true prophet from the false? (2 characteristics)

- a. _____
- b. _____

13) Can a woman be a prophet?

14) What good was consumed in Eden?

15) List 2 keys to a healthy life.

- a. _____
- b. _____

16) What percentage of our earning is to be set aside for God's service?

17) What is the secret to success?

18) What adornment is the Christian to try to have?

19) What principle is revealed in the entertainment and hobbies of Christians?

20) List one of the secrets to victory in the Christian life.



REVIEW PHRASES

A series of phrases have been prepared, which serve as a review and contain our most important decisions.

This list can be helpful in assessing our progress in the Christian life.

1. I believe the whole Bible is the inspired word of God. ☐
2. I believe we are living in the last days of the earth's history and that Jesus Christ will soon return in a personal and visible way. ☐
3. Apart from Jesus there is no other means of salvation. ☐
4. I am justified only through faith, and works are simply the fruits of faith and the proof of my love. ☐
5. I believe that sanctification is the work of Christ in me, through the Holy Spirit. ☐
6. I pray every day to the Lord. I also ask for a blessing over my meals. ☐
7. I believe in the eternal validity of the Ten Commandments. ☐
8. I believe the Sabbath is the true day of rest and I am willing to keep it. ☐
9. The dead know nothing and are asleep until the final resurrection. ☐
10. I believe that I should only seek help from Jesus, not from seers, healers, astrologers or spiritualists. ☐
11. I believe in eternal life and that God will create a new earth after the millennium. ☐
12. In 1844, the investigative judgment began and Jesus is in the Most Holy Place of the heavenly sanctuary. ☐
13. The true church of God is known for keeping God's commandments and having the faith of Jesus. ☐
14. I wish to be baptized to be part of the body of Christ, which is His church. ☐
15. I believe that God revealed Himself through the spirit of prophecy in Ellen G. White. ☐
16. I intend to nourish myself in a natural way, according to the guidelines God gave to men in the beginning. ☐
17. I acknowledge that all my possessions belong to God. I wish to hire Him as my partner by giving tithes and offerings in gratefulness to Him. ☐
18. I intend to dress according to Christian norms and to entertain myself in accordance to the will of God. ☐
19. I wish to share with others the word of God and to speak to them about salvation. ☐
20. I wish to be numbered among the overcomers and to live a victorious life with Jesus. ☐

Address and phone number of nearest church

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At the feet of Jesus

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**INTERNATIONAL MISSIONARY SOCIETY
SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH REFORM MOVEMENT
General Conference**

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