

Chapter(s)

The Preeminence of Jesus Christ

- _____ The risen and glorified High Priest that appears to John
- _____ The tender Shepherd sending letters to His needy churches
- _____ The risen Lamb who takes the scroll then sits on the throne
- _____ The One found worthy to open the seals of the great scroll
- _____ The One who sounds the powerful trumpets of judgment
- _____ The Mighty Messenger that stands on both earth and sea
- _____ The One who sends forth the two faithful witnesses
- _____ The Great Commander in Chief of Heaven’s vast armies
- _____ The Great Messenger that comes to Earth to reap and reign
- _____ The Mighty Warrior who is victorious over Babylon
- _____ The Mighty Warrior who is victorious over Satan
- _____ The Life-giver who dwells with His people in New Jerusalem

What a clear picture! Jesus really is the center of Revelation! With a *sure foundation* (key #1) and a *sharp focus* (key #2) we are now responsibly and powerfully equipped to begin unlocking and discovering the apocalyptic prophecies of the books of Revelation and Daniel! What an amazing and enlightening adventure it will prove to be. Won’t you come along as we Discover Prophecy? You won’t regret it. Great and grand things are waiting for us in the Bible’s thrilling and enlightening pages!

Our Next Topic Will Be:

Discover: How Ancient Babylon Foretold the End of the World

Don’t miss a single session! May God richly bless you!

—Discover Prophecy—

with David Asscherick, DP Speaker

No. 01

Discover that *You* Can Understand Bible Prophecy

The Book of Revelation, contained in the Holy Bible, is a remarkable book indeed. Its fantastic imagery and poetic language have fascinated people for generations. Even today, nearly 2000 years after it was written, it inspires and intrigues the mind. The root word of Revelation is *reveal*. To reveal is to *uncover, to disclose, or to make plain*. This title is consistent with the Greek title of the book, *apokalupsis*, which also means to *unveil or uncover*. The very title of the book suggests that it can be understood! How very unusual, then, that many Christians today, both laity and clergy alike, suggest that it is “a closed book” which cannot be understood or comprehended! Strange indeed!

The Book of Revelation is a *prophetic book*, meaning that its primary content is *prophecy*. Nevertheless, it must be noted at the outset, that according to the first three verses of Revelation, the primary purpose of the book is to reveal Jesus Christ! It is a revelation of *Him!*

But what is *prophecy* anyway? _____

Give two Biblical texts, one from the OT, and one from the NT, that define the essence of *prophecy* _____ & _____

In short, history addresses the _____; current events address the _____; and prophecy addresses the _____. Simple!

As we survey the many “holy books” in existence today, we notice that they are all, with just one exception, utterly lacking in prophecy. Why might this be? _____

By contrast, approximately what percentage of the Bible is prophecy? _____%

Remarkable indeed! In order for God to *declare* the future, he must first *know* the future. You can trust your future to a God who *knows perfectly* and *declares perfectly* the future. That God is the God of the Bible!

What are the two *kinds* of Biblical prophecy?

1. _____ prophecy, examples: _____
2. _____ prophecy, examples: _____

What are the two books that Jesus specifically mentioned, by name, that we should read and understand? _____ & _____

In the DP seminar, we will concentrate on apocalyptic prophecy, as it specifically addresses the times in which we are living. Classical prophecy was directed primarily at ancient Israel, as the OT clearly reveals. It is, of course, still highly instructive for us today, as the seminar will also bear out.

Key Point: did you notice that the two books that Jesus specifically counseled us to read and understand are the same two books that consist primarily of apocalyptic prophecy? This is no coincidence.

Correct Interpretation

This brings us to the question of interpretation. How can we correctly interpret apocalyptic (end-time) prophecy? As we'll discover, the Bible itself holds the keys to unlock the message of its own prophetic books, especially Revelation. It is simply a matter of discovering the keys, then using them.

- **Key #1:** The book of Revelation rests upon the broad foundation of _____ history, imagery, and prophecy.
- **Key #2:** _____ is the focus of apocalyptic prophecy, especially the book of Revelation.

Key #1: The Old Testament Foundation

How many verses are contained in the book of Revelation? _____
Approximately how many are taken directly from the OT? _____

Wow! Trying to understand Revelation without the OT is like trying to read a book while ignoring the foundation of the alphabet. It is impossible! Now, let's

note 5 powerful and simple examples of how the book of Revelation rests on the foundation of the OT.

Example #1 _____

Example #2 _____

Example #3 _____

Example #4 _____

Example #5 _____

Clearly, the foundation of Revelation is the history, imagery, and prophecy of the OT. Trying to understand and interpret Revelation apart from the OT is a venture doomed to failure; like trying to read without first knowing the foundation of the alphabet and the rules of grammar. Nearly all of the imagery, context and symbols of Revelation come directly from the OT. This point simply cannot be overstated. Many today try and understand Revelation, not with their Bible in hand, but with their newspaper in hand. We must be responsible in our interpretation. We don't want to encourage sensationalism or fanaticism, so we must use correct interpretive principles in seeking to understand the great prophecies of the Bible.

Key #2: Jesus Christ, the Focus

This second key, like the first, is absolutely essential. The focus of the book of Revelation is Jesus Christ. In fact, the book begins and ends with Him. Just read the first two verses and the last two verses. Sure Revelation contains imagery of beasts, angels, great battles and even a dragon, but these are not the *focus* of Revelation. Jesus Christ is! In fact, a brief survey of the book of Revelation will quickly reveal how completely prominent and central Jesus is to this important and powerful prophetic book. In each of the 22 chapters, Jesus Christ emerges as the preeminent figure. Fill in the appropriate chapter(s):

- Who is symbolized by the belly of bronze? _____
Reigned from _____ to _____
- Who is symbolized by the legs of iron? _____
Reigned from _____ to _____
- Who is symbolized by the feet of iron and clay? _____
Reigned from _____ to _____

*Note: according to verse 39, these powers had to be universal powers, not localized or regional entities. Each of them ruled over the then-known world.

Consider the following quotation from Edward Gibbon, the famed English historian, “The images of gold, silver, or brass, that might serve to represent the nations and their kings, were successively broken by the iron monarchy of Rome.” Even secular historians recognize the historical verifiability and accuracy of this prophecy! Historians, however, can only look *back* and describe what *has been*, but God can look *forward* and predict what *will be*. The Bible can be trusted!

The Kingdom-stone, verses 44, 45

The stone that smashes the image represents what? _____
When, according to v. 44, will it strike the image? _____

The _____ coming of Jesus Christ to earth will usher in the eternal reign of the Kingdom of _____. When, precisely, will this happen? The answer is: we don’t know, but we do know that we are living in the very last part—the toes—of the great metal man. Men try in vain to solidify and unite the “feet of iron and clay”, but the Word of God is clear: “**They Shall Not Cleave**”. The futile efforts of man cannot thwart the great plans and purposes of God! Just as this heavy statue would be wobbly with its feet-foundation of clay, so too we live in “wobbly” and unstable times. No man, no politician, no leader can solve the great problems that face this world. We need an external solution, and that solution is God and His marvelous coming Kingdom! How near is it? Nearer than we think!

Our Next Topic Will Be: Discover: How Near is the End?

—Discover Prophecy—

with David Asscherick, DP Speaker

No. 02

Discover: How Ancient Babylon
Foretold the End of the World

Many are wondering *when*, or *if*, the world will ever come to an end. This question has intrigued mankind since the dawn of time. But does the Bible have anything to say about this subject? The answer is: *yes, it has much to say!* In fact, the Bible is the only reliable guide concerning this subject, as we will soon see. Before going into the details of one of the Bible’s most incredible prophecies, let us first note the Four Essentials of Bible Prophecy.

1. To set the God of the Bible apart from other gods as the _____ God
⇒ Text: _____
2. To accurately reveal the _____ and thus create _____
in the heart of the hearer
⇒ Text: _____
3. To reveal to the hearer the _____ and _____
of his heart
⇒ Text: _____
4. To introduce the hearer to _____ and his
heart’s need of Him
⇒ Text: _____

These four essentials constitute the core reasons that Bible Prophecy was given. Bible Prophecy is not given merely to accommodate and satisfy mankind’s curiosity about the future; Bible Prophecy serves a *moral purpose*, that is, to effect conversion and transformation in the heart of the hearer.

Considering one of the great prophecies of the Bible

Let us turn our attention to one of the cornerstone prophecies of the Bible. This prophecy, as we will see, perfectly embodies the Four Essentials of Bible

Prophecy. This prophecy, given roughly 2,500 hundred years ago, is precisely calculated to give us hope and courage in these strange times. Most people recognize that the world is seemingly spinning out of control. Violence, immorality, war, pollution, and a host of other factors, at unprecedented degrees, are causing thinking people to wonder how much longer we can go on like this. Yet, as distressing as these times are, the Bible tells of a better day to come and gives us true hope and security even now. Let's see...

Setting the Context:

This foundational prophecy is found in the book of _____, chapter _____.

Approximately when was the book written? _____; by who? _____

Where was the book written? _____; what was the condition of Daniel's hometown, Jerusalem, at the time it was written? _____

Why was Daniel taken from his homeland? _____

What does the name *Daniel* mean? _____

The King Has a Dream, verses 1-12

King _____ had a dream in which year of his reign? _____

Who did the king call for help? _____

Could they give the help the king wanted? _____; What two things did the king demand to know? _____ and _____

According to the king's counselors, who alone could give the information that the king wanted (note: see verse 11)? _____

Daniel Sought, verses 13-18

Daniel asked the king for _____; What did Daniel do after visiting with the king? _____

What would you have done? _____

God Answers Daniel's Prayer, Reveals the Dream, verses 19-23

What is the first word of verse 19? _____; Why is this word so important in this setting? _____

Remember the words of Jesus in Matthew 7:7, "Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened." Notice how easy it is to remember: **Ask, Seek, Knock— A.S.K.**

Daniel Returns to the King, verses 24-30

According to Daniel, who alone could reveal the dream? _____

Did Daniel take any credit for his ability to reveal the dream? _____

According to v. 28, to what time does the dream apply? _____

According to v. 30, why did God give the king this incredible dream? _____
_____ (remember #3 of the Four Essentials!)

The Dream, verses 31-35

The king saw a great _____ man. Fill in the appropriate materials:

⇒ Head of _____

⇒ Chest of _____

⇒ Belly of _____

⇒ Legs of _____

⇒ Feet of _____

What happened to the image in the king's dream? _____

What happened to the stone at end of the dream? _____

Remember that King Nebuchadnezzar would have an been idolater. God purposefully chose and idol-like image to arrest the king's attention!

The Interpretation, verses 36-43

Don't forget that the king wanted two things: the dream *and* the interpretation. In verse 36 Daniel makes it clear, no doubt to the king's utter dismay, that the dream was exactly as he had told it. Daniel could stand with confidence before the king, because he had knelt before God! Now we turn our attention to the interpretation of this remarkable dream.

- Who is symbolized by the head of gold? _____
Reigned from _____ to _____

- Who is symbolized by the chest of silver? _____
Reigned from _____ to _____

Can it Really Be?

Stunning! What a powerful, understandable, and revealing lesson! Just like a birth, these signs are increasing in both _____ and _____. This is an essential point that must not be missed. Jesus, Paul, Peter and John in Revelation all told us to _____. Now these were all intelligent men, would they tell us to _____ for something that could not be seen? That makes no sense at all. Can you imagine someone telling their friend to watch for an upcoming street sign that the person knew either didn't exist or couldn't be seen? How ridiculous. The reason that these men told us to watch is simple: *there is something to watch for!* Just as we watch for signs on a road, so to we must watch for signs on the road of time. Jesus has given us many of these so there would be no mistaking when His return is near, very near!

These signs coupled with the prophecy of Daniel 2 (in addition to several other Biblical prophecies still to come in our seminar) must lead us to the inescapable conclusion that Jesus Christ's Second Coming cannot be far off.

How near is the end? The best answer, and the Biblical answer, is *soon*. The signs of the _____ point unmistakably to the coming of Jesus Christ and the end of the world, as we presently know it. But just there is a pivotal point: the end is really a *beginning*. Because the end of the world "as we know it" is just the beginning of the world as God intended it—a world without pain, death, fear, sickness, and all of the heartache that so typifies this present-world. That wonderful day is coming. And soon! Don't you want to be there?

Our Next Topic is: Discover: Bible Prophecy's Answer for Human Suffering

—Discover Prophecy—

with David Asscherick, DP Speaker

No. 03

Discover: How Near is the End?

Here at the Discovery Prophecy Seminar we believe that Jesus is coming soon! But how do we know this is true? And how *soon* is soon? Haven't people been saying that for many, many years? How can we be sure that the Second Coming really is immanent? Fortunately, the Bible powerfully, compellingly, and clearly answers these questions. Let's turn our attention to the Bible and see what it has to say about this important topic.

A Quick Review of Daniel 2

The great metal _____ of Daniel chapter 2 tells the story of the history of this planet. The five elements of that image—gold, silver, brass, iron, and clay—represented five major _____ from the time of Daniel to the setting up of God's Kingdom. Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, and Rome each passed *on*, and then *off*, the world's political scene. Today we live in the feet of iron and clay, that is, divided Rome. The last part of that dream showed a _____ that struck the image on the _____, thus symbolizing that _____ eternal kingdom will be set-up "in the days of _____ kings" Daniel 2:44. We are living in those very days that Daniel foretells. Do you remember what Daniel said to King Nebuchadnezzar about the time to which the dream especially applied? See verse 28. The dream applied to the _____ days! The Kingdom of God is at hand!

What Do the Experts Say?

It is not only the Bible and Bible-believers that insist that we are living in strange and unusual times. Many recognized experts and authorities, in various fields, suggest that we are living in extraordinary and unique period of Earth's history. Many of these individuals are not writing from a Biblical or theological perspective. They are simply writing from an observational and evidentiary perspective. They see that the evidence points in a fearful and unusual direction.

The Second Coming in Revelation

The second coming is a major theme in the book of Revelation. Consider the following texts:

- Revelation 1:7
- Revelation 3:11
- Revelation 22:7
- Revelation 22:12
- Revelation 22:20

What do these verses have in common? _____

Clearly the second coming is a prominent component of Revelation. It is the capstone of the book, the whole Bible, and God's eternal plan of salvation.

How Quick is Quick? How Soon is Soon? How Close is Close?

These are excellent questions. These are the very kinds of questions that people ask today. They might say something like, "people have been saying for years that Jesus would return, how do you know that He actually will?"

Revelation 16:15 gives us part of the answer to this important question. What is the operative word in this passage? _____. Consider, also, the following verses:

- Matthew 24:42
- 1Thessalonians 5:4, 6
- 1Peter 4:7

What do all of these verses have in common? _____

All of these verses tell us to _____, but the question is: *for what?* The answer is _____, that is, _____.

Consider Matthew 24: The Olivet Discourse

In Matthew 24 Jesus deals with the issue of the _____ of the _____. In this chapter Jesus masterfully _____ the destruction of Jerusalem in _____ with the destruction of the world at "the end of the age". In this parallel, Jesus employs two revealing and helpful analogies for understanding the last days and the end of the world:

- 1.
- 2.

These two analogies have three points in common: They are both:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Jesus Gives the "Signs of the Times"

We will now briefly consider 10 Signs of the times. There are others, but we will consider just these 10 in this lesson. Be sure to make notes about each of the signs:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.

Surveying “Worship” in Revelation 13 and 14

What do the following verses have in common: 13:4, 8, 12, 15; 14:6, 7, 9?
They all contain the word: _____. Do you see it? Worship is the issue!

Satan longs for worship, yet he does not deserve it. God alone is worthy of our worship, for he created us and redeemed us! In a very real sense Satan does not want to be *like* God, he only wants the power, privileges, and prerogatives of God. (More on this in a future lesson.)

“Bow Down and Worship Me”

Unquestionably the most audacious thing that Satan ever did is found in Matthew 4. Jesus had been fasting in the wilderness. Satan came to tempt Him. He urged Jesus to make stones into bread. Jesus refused with a plain, “it is written”. Satan then urged Jesus to cast Himself from the pinnacle of the temple. Again Jesus refused. Finally, Satan grew desperate and showed Jesus “all of the kingdoms of the world and their glory” (v. 8) and then said, “All these things I will give You if You fall down and _____ me.” (v.9) Jesus responded with utter indignation: “Away with you, Satan! For it is written, ‘You shall _____ the Lord your God, and Him only shall you serve.’” (v.10, quoting Deuteronomy 6:13) This is where Satan’s rabid and ridiculous idea reached its pathetic height! He had the audacity to ask Jesus, the Creator and the Redeemer, to worship him! The height of folly!

God alone is worthy of our worship! Also, God is not chargeable with the pain, suffering, sin, and death that we see all around us. Satan is. God allows it, yes, but He did not cause it. God is in the business of alleviating pain and suffering, not inflicting it. Jesus’ own ministry clearly demonstrates this. He did not give blindness, disease and paralysis; He took them away. God is the life-giver; Satan is a life-destroyer.

Whose side do you want to be on? _____ (See Joshua 24:15)

Next Topic: Discover: The War Behind the Wars part 1

—Discover Prophecy—

with David Asscherick, DP Speaker

No. 04

Discover: Bible Prophecy’s Answer for Human Suffering

If God is so good, then why does the world seem so bad most of the time? Why do bad things happen to good people? Why does there have to be so much pain, suffering and sorrow in the world today? What is going on?

These are all legitimate questions, good questions. Some people think that there are no answers to questions like these. They are wrong. The Bible gives the answers to these questions. They are not “pat” or “easy” answers, but they are good, powerful, and even logical answers. Suffering, pain and death are terrible indeed, but the Bible, and the Bible only, can give us a compelling context with which to understand these things. Behind it all, the heart of God, cries out for the devotion, salvation, and worship of His people.

In the beginning... “God” and “good”

In order to understand the present condition of our world, we must first consider its original condition, as it came fresh from God’s hand. What was that original condition as described in Genesis, the book of beginnings?

Note the following the verses: Genesis 1: 1-3, 10, 12, 16-18, 21, 25, 27, 28, 31.
What word do these verses have in common? _____
Consider especially vs. 31, how is it different? _____

This point is highly instructive. In Genesis 1 and 2, before the entrance of sin, the world was perfect, beautiful, and untainted by death, disease, or pain. A perfect couple, in perfect love, in a perfect environment with a perfect God! So then, what happened to create the state of affairs we see today? Pain, death, suffering, and disease are the rule, not the exceptions.

Weeds and Wheat

In Matthew 13:24-30 Jesus tells a parable (a story that illustrates a spiritual truth) about a field that was planted by a farmer. In verses 37-43 Jesus

Himself explains the parable. Consider especially verse 27, what kind of seed was originally sown in the field? _____. This agrees perfectly with Genesis. According to verse 28, who planted the weeds? _____ In verse 39, Jesus identifies this enemy. Who was it? _____

Here is an essential point. Jesus confirms what Genesis described, namely, that God made things “very good”. According to Jesus, the Devil is the one who has ruined it. He is the responsible party. See also, Luke 13:10-16. In this story who does Jesus credit for “binding” the woman? _____ Note again, God was the healer; Satan was the enemy and afflicter! Jesus made *good* what Satan had made *bad!* Here is yet another important point: Satan can only destroy, but God can build and create!

Satan’s Hometown is WHERE!?

In Luke 10:18 has to be one of the most shocking verses in the entire Bible! Fill in the blank: “I saw Satan _____ like lightning from _____.” According to Jesus—as amazing as it sounds—Satan, the Devil, is originally from Heaven! What an important discovery. But how can this be? What does the name “Satan” mean? _____

What Happened in Heaven?

Ezekiel the prophet compares Satan to an ancient and evil king, the king of Tyre. Consider the following passage: Ezekiel 28:11-14. The word “perfect” occurs three times in this passage. Verse 13 says that he had been in the Garden of _____. Verse 14 says that he was “the anointed _____”, which is an _____.

This angel was created perfect. One aspect of that perfection was that God invested him with genuine freewill, that is, the ability to make his own choices. *Remember, true love, in order to be love, must have the right to say no.* God does not desire the service of robots or computers. He desires genuine companionship, fellowship and love. This necessitates true freewill. According to vss. 17, 18, who does God hold responsible for this angel’s fall? _____

_____ is the foundation of God’s government.

God did not create _____. God created _____, and _____ by his own free will became _____. Amazing, but true!

A Look at Lucifer’s Heart, Isaiah 14:12-14

The prophet Isaiah gives a deeper look into what actually happened in heaven. Isaiah describes what was happening in the heart of this angel named Lucifer. (And clearly Isaiah is surprised by it!) What does the name Lucifer mean? _____ Notice again that the Bible says he is “fallen”. God did not push him or trip him, he fell. The responsibility is his own. According to verses 13 and 14 Lucifer had an _____ problem. On this note, what is at the center of P-R-I-D-E? _____ What is at the center of S-I-N? _____. It is clear from these verses that Lucifer wanted that which was not rightfully his. He wanted the worship, adoration, and obedience of the heavenly angels.

What three things did Lucifer desire?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

The BIG Issue in Revelation

According to the book of Revelation, the dividing issue at the end of time will be the issue of _____. Note the way the Apostle Paul describes the antichrist power in 2Thessalonians 2: 1-4. Do you see any similarities between the antichrist’s attitude and Satan’s? Of course! Both long for that which is not rightfully theirs! The antichrist goes into the temple of God, not to show that he is *against* God, but rather that he _____ God! He exalts himself above all that is called _____ or that is _____. Amazing! Clearly *worship* is the issue!

Revelation chapter _____ is the antichrist chapter in the book of Revelation. Note verses 1-4. According to verse 2, who gives the antichrist “his power, his throne and great authority”? _____. Who is the dragon, according to Revelation 12:9? _____ Note carefully the “switcharoo” in verse 4! When the beast is worshipped, who else is worshipped? _____ This is because the beast is Satan’s “front man”. Again, worship is the issue.

Satan Was “Cast Out”

Did you catch the significance of the 3rd stage? It is essential that you do! Remember Revelation 12:9? What word occurs there 3 times? _____ Note also that the same word appears in vss. 10 and 13. Clearly, this is an important truth to have been mentioned five times in three verses. When did this event take place? According to Jesus Christ in John 12:31; 14:30; 16:11 it occurred at the _____. But why there? Because at the _____ perfect love and perfect hate stood face to face. The holy character and nature of _____ stood in direct contrast to the selfish character and nature of _____. Perfect love and perfect evil had a stare-down, and perfect love, in the face of Jesus Christ, prevailed. Praise God!

The Cross settled the matter once and for all in heaven. Heavenly angels relinquished any and all remaining questions, or “sympathies for the devil”. Heaven saw plainly that Satan was a _____ who wanted nothing more than to promote his own selfish plans and schemes. (See John 8:44). The cross made a fool out of the devil. At the cross, Satan bore his chest only to receive the promised stroke of death. (See Colossians 2:14, 15) The only place in the entire universe that is still undecided about God’s way versus Satan’s way is: _____. We alone are undecided!

A close look at Revelation 12 makes all of this plainer still. Vss. 7-9 make it clear that _____ was “cast out”. V. 10 then gives the context, “_____ salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down.” When did this happen? At the _____. Verse 12 then calls for the _____ to “rejoice”, but promises _____ to the earth! Why? Simple, because Satan was no longer allowed even limited access to Heaven. He now, after the Cross, was confined to this planet. The rest of v. 12 makes this clearer still when it says that following this “casting down”, the devil “knows that he has a short time”. The Cross sealed his fate, just as Genesis 3:15 had promised. From v. 12 down to v. 17, the battle only intensifies. Like a rabid dog who knows he will die, Satan pours out his last bit of hateful fury on planet earth, and especially the followers of Jesus Christ. But Christ’s followers are promised victory.

Our Next Topic: Discover: The War Behind the Wars part 2

—Discover Prophecy—

with David Asscherick, DP Speaker

No. 05

Discover: The War Behind the Wars part 1

We live in an age in which, sadly, war is common. All war is ugly. The loss of life and resources from war is inestimable. Even so-called “just” wars leave a trail of residual suffering and death that extends beyond the punishment directed toward the offender. The pain and despair created stretches for years and decades into future generations. In the last 150 years this planet has witnessed the most deadly and terrible wars ever. Yet, as horrific as these wars were (and are), they are comparatively insignificant to the first war ever fought. This first war had the most terrible ramifications. In fact all wars since then are the direct result of that first war. Worse yet, that first war is still being fought! And the battle is intensifying, not abating.

In order to understand the Book of Revelation we must grasp the profound significance of this First War. It sets the backdrop for the entire book. This is exactly what we will attempt to do in this lesson. We will discover that we are all very involved in this great war—the war behind the wars.

Revelation 12, The Great Battle

What are the five main elements, or divisions of this pivotal chapter?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

What does a woman represent in Bible prophecy? _____

Give two supporting texts _____ & _____

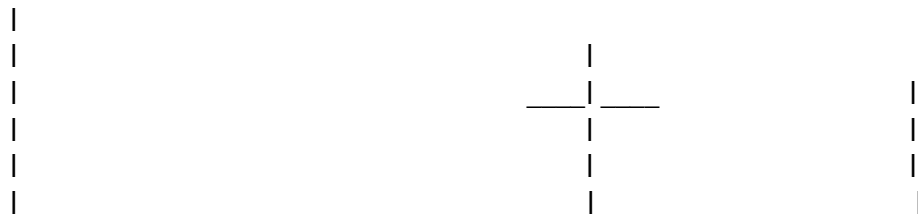
According to v. 9 what does the Dragon represent? _____

More than any other chapter in the book, Revelation chapter _____ describes the great battle that is waging between the forces of light and darkness, good and evil. This chapter “pulls back the curtain” that separates the seen from the unseen and enables us to see what is going on “behind the scenes”. In order to grasp Revelation as a whole, we must understand this chapter. Many scholars and commentators agree that this chapter represents the focal point, the pinnacle of the entire book of Revelation!

Eden to Eden

The Bible is more easily understood against the backdrop of the _____ state of man (and this planet), as contrasted with the _____ state of man (and this planet). In the beginning, before the entrance of sin, we see a perfect couple in perfect communion with a _____. This is described in Genesis 1 and 2. The couple lived in the Garden of _____. Significantly, when we move from the first two chapters of the Bible to the last two, Revelation 21 and 22, we find *the very same thing*, namely, a perfect people in perfect communion with a _____!

Note the following diagram. The left line represents _____. The right line represents _____. The Cross in the center symbolizes the death of Jesus Christ that rescues believers from the downward spiral of sin. Tracing a line downward toward the Cross from the left represents man’s downward spiral into sin, selfishness, and death. Then, tracing a line upward from the Cross to the top of the right line symbolizes man’s potential recovery, if the salvation secured for him/ her on the Cross is _____ *received*.



Battle to Battle

This is where things really get amazing! Not only are the two Eden’s like “bookends” on the entire Bible, there are also two battles that act very much the same way. If you move one chapter forward from Genesis 1 and 2, what chapter would you be in? _____. This chapter tells the story of the _____ battle that God fought with the serpent (Satan) on this planet. Now if you move one chapter backward from Revelation 21 and 22, what chapter would you be in? _____. This chapter tells the story of the _____ battle fought with the serpent (Satan) on this planet. Amazing! So not only are there two Edens, there are two Battles that “bookend” the Bible. This larger picture helps us to see the major themes of the Bible—the vindication of God, the redemption of man, and the victory over Satan and sin. Add the two battles to your diagram; this should really help you to see the Bible from a larger, overarching perspective.

The 6 Stages of Revelation’s Great Battle

Now we will trace six distinct phases of this great battle, and the eventual and promised victory of Jesus Christ, right through the entire Bible. You will be amazed as you see this unfold right before your eyes. This is no *make believe* battle, it is as real as the chair you are sitting on. Write out the 6 stages and give the Bible references for each one.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.

Just think of it: the infinite, illimitable God of the universe condescended to become a man. More than this, He condescended to die. And even more than this, He condescended to be ridiculed, mocked, and die the ignominious death of a common criminal. What love! What marvelous condescension! What absolute selflessness!

The word condescend has at its root the word _____. The prefix 'con' means _____. So when we speak of God's condescension we are speaking of His *going down together with us*. God did not remain aloof and detached in Heaven when he saw his children spiral into the pit of sin, selfishness, death, and despair. No! He was moved to action. By what? By His incomparable _____. Note John 3:16. This familiar verse tells us that God's _____ was _____ strong that it caused Him to do something—to *act*.

The Cross of Jesus Christ is the very center of it all. The Cross alone enables us to make sense out this troubled and sin-filled world in which we live. The cross utterly demonstrates God's character as a character predominated and characterized by _____.

But it also upholds the principles of His _____ and His eternal _____. (More on this later.) Yes, at the Cross both God's _____ and His _____ were plainly and perfectly demonstrated.

Psalms 85:10 says "_____ and _____ have met together; _____ and _____ have kissed." Nowhere is this more true than in God's character. And God's character was most perfectly revealed at the _____. (See Romans 1:15-17)

God's Solution, Your Weapon

The Cross of Jesus Christ is God's solution to the problem of evil. We can either accept this incredible manifestation of love, and believe God, or we can reject it and believe Satan. The Cross is the fulcrum, the pivot-point for all of human history, more importantly, it is the fulcrum, the pivot-point for every person. What will you do with the Cross, and with the Christ of the Cross?

—Discover Prophecy—

with David Asscherick, DP Speaker

No. 06

Discover: The War Behind the Wars part 2

In the last two lessons we learned that there is a great battle waging between the forces of light and darkness, good and evil. Satan's undiluted fury is being poured out upon this planet. He has already been cast out of Heaven and is now confined to this planet. If we are to withstand the increasing and ongoing attacks of the Devil, then we must have a potent and powerful weapon to employ. Fortunately, the book of Revelation promises just such a weapon! In this lesson we will learn about this important weapon.

The Cross

The Cross is central in Revelation 12. Note especially verse 10, it is all about the Cross of Jesus Christ. "Now _____, and _____, and the _____ of our God, and the power of His _____ have come, for the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down." All of these things were ushered in when Jesus Christ gained the victory over Satan on the Cross.

The _____ of _____ is Revelation's _____.

Verse 11 makes this truth clearer still! According to this verse, what are the two things that God's people employ in order to overcome Satan?

1.

2.

That is, the _____ and the individual's _____ with that cross. Compare this verse with v. 17, and notice the similarities, they are powerful!

Cast Out, Yes, But Why Did God Wait

As we discovered last lesson, Satan was cast out of Heaven following Jesus' death on the Cross. Prior to this Satan still had limited access to heavenly beings (see Job 1:6-8); Revelation makes this clear. The Cross convinced the universe that Satan's ideas, plans, and accusations were groundless and false. But why didn't God just destroy Satan right at the beginning? After all, He certainly knew what was going to happen with Satan's rebellion. In order to understand this, we must go back to the parable of the wheat and the tares.

The Parable of the Wheat and Tares, Matthew 13:24-30

It can be difficult to distinguish desirable plants and non-desirable weeds when they first begin to sprout. To the uninitiated gardener, they can look almost identical! Even after weeks of growth, certain weeds prove to be almost indistinguishable from certain plants. Yet, the difference is clear to the seasoned, experienced gardener. Only at _____ can the inexperienced see the true difference between the weeds and the wheat. This is exactly what Jesus' parable is designed to teach. Read it over and over until you see it!

God knew from the beginning the terrible direction that Satan was headed (See John 8:44 and 1John 3:8). But here is an important point: *the angels didn't see it so clearly!* Satan's arguments, ideas and insinuations must have been very persuasive indeed! Don't forget that he deceived a full _____ of the angels. (See Revelation 12:4) God allowed Satan to come to this planet to demonstrate his way of running things, his _____ principles. The angels, and the entire on-looking universe was then invited to "watch and see". The Apostle Paul alludes to this idea in 1Corinthians 4:9. He says we are "a _____ to the world, both to _____ and to _____."

The Two Revelations of the Cross

There are two great truths that shine forth from the Cross:

- 1.
- 2.

The Center of it All

In a very real sense Satan does not want to be *like* God, he only wants the power, privileges, and prerogatives of God. Compare Philippians 2:5-8 with Isaiah 14:12-14. Note carefully the two different directions: Satan wants to go _____; God, in the person of Jesus Christ, is abundantly willing to go _____.

Five Steps: Very Different Directions

This next part of our study is both stunning and easily understood. In a simple comparison of two passages we will see the essence of the character of God as contrasted with the essence of the character of Satan. Prepare to be amazed and humbled by the infinite and illimitable love of God!

Satan's 5 steps _____

1. I will _____ into Heaven.
2. I will _____ my throne.
3. I will sit on the _____ of the congregation in the _____.
4. I will _____ above the _____ of the clouds.
5. I will be like the Most _____.

Jesus Christ's 5 steps _____

1. made Himself of no _____
2. taking the form of a _____
3. came in the likeness of _____
4. became obedient to the point of _____
5. even the death of the _____

The Amazing and Final Result

At the end, however, Satan is _____ and Christ is _____!

One embodies almost reckless _____ for the benefit of _____; the other embodies calculated _____ at the expense of _____.

In Conclusion

The stage is set! We are now prepared to identify the antichrist. The Biblical picture is compelling and conclusive. In our next lesson we will give 10 identifying characteristics of the antichrist.

We began this lesson with John 17:3. This text makes it very clear that salvation is beautiful in its sublime simplicity. Salvation is based on a relationship of love and commitment between an individual and God. The plan of Satan (through the antichrist), in brief, is to obscure the person and place of Jesus, and thus compromise or prevent altogether that relationship. The essence of deception is that one doesn't know that he or she is being deceived. So a person may actually believe that he has a relationship with God, when, in reality, he has been deceived by the antichrist. The Bible is the elixir (the cure) for deception. Our relationship with God must be based on love *and* truth—Biblical truth! This is what Jesus meant when he said in John chapter four that we must “worship in Spirit and truth.”

Bible truth makes our love for God _____. Never forget this. We must be sure that we are worshipping and serving the *right God* in the *right way*. Christianity is based on a relationship of love. This love, however, cannot be sloppy, haphazard, or unbiblical. Our love for God must be informed by sound Biblical teaching. This is an essential point that cannot be overlooked.

Our next lesson will make this clearer still.

Our Next Topic Will Be:

Revelation's Antichrist Exposed, part 2

—Discover Prophecy—

with David Asscherick, DP Speaker

No. 07

Discover: Does Jesus Christ Have a Twin?

This lesson and the following lesson will address the very important issue of the antichrist *from a Biblical perspective*. Conjectures, opinions, and ideas about the identity of the antichrist abound. We are not interested in these. We want to know the truth; we want to know what the Bible *actually* teaches. This is, of course, a serious topic so we want to be sure to be honest and humble in our study. God will richly bless us if we seek to do this.

Simple Salvation

Perhaps the simplest salvation text in all of the Bible is John 17:3: “And this is _____, that they may _____. You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.” There it is, simple. Eternal life comes from “knowing” God. That is, having a faith relationship with Him. To know God, then, is to have salvation. To not know God is to fail of experiencing salvation. As we shall see, the thrust of Satan's attack (through the antichrist) is to prevent individuals from coming to know God personally and truly. This is precisely why we spent the last three lessons grounding ourselves in the Cross of Jesus Christ and its prophetic importance. Knowing who the antichrist is won't save anyone! Knowing Jesus Christ, however, will result in salvation.

Are You Deceived? Are You Sure?

The _____ of deception is that you are _____ you are being deceived. That's what makes deception so sticky. After all, no one ever says, “Hey, I'm being deceived right now.” If one knows he is being deceived, it ceases to be deception. You may be sitting there thinking to yourself, “Well I'm just glad that I'm not deceived.” The problem is *that is exactly how deceived people think!* How can we be sure that we will remain undeceived? Simple: be sure that _____ you believe is consistent with the Bible. The Bible is the _____ for deception.

The Apostle Paul and the Antichrist

Paul wrote about the coming antichrist in 2Thesallonians 2:1-4. In v.3 Paul uses two names to refer to the antichrist, what are they?

- 1.
- 2.

What is the significance of that second name? Only one other person in the Bible is referred to by that moniker (name). Who was it? _____.

In what text is that found? _____
Wow! What a discovery! _____ did not violently oppose Jesus Christ, rather he subtly betrayed Him. He came, not from the violent opposition of the Pharisees or the Romans, but from the very _____ of Christ's followers, the disciples. He looked friendly, but secretly betrayed.

The antichrist will not appear as a _____, but as a _____. This is very important to grasp.

Note also that according to verse 4, the antichrist goes into "the temple", not to show that he is *against* God, but rather that he _____ God!

Another important text, taken from a sermon that Paul preached in Ephesus, is found in Acts 20:28-30. Here Paul says that these coming deceivers would arise from within the church. Just like Judas Iscariot, the conflict comes from inside (betrayal), not from outside (overt opposition).

Before we go on to the book of Revelation, remember what the dividing issue is in the book of Revelation. It deals with the issue of _____. Remember also that Satan uses the antichrist as a *front-man* in order to procure what he always wanted, namely, _____. This helps to solidify still further that we are looking for a religious figure who will obscure the true *place, power and person* of Jesus Christ, thus preventing people from coming to truly know Him. Amazing! Plainly, this is serious stuff!

Does Jesus Christ Have a Twin? The Great Counterfeit

The book of Revelation, as we would expect, agrees perfectly with what Paul says about the antichrist. We discover that the antichrist is a religious entity that seeks to obscure the true place and person of Jesus Christ. In fact, strange as it may seem, the antichrist actually seeks to impersonate Jesus Christ. This is portrayed very clearly in Revelation. This is why this lesson is entitled *Does Jesus Christ Have a Twin*. Of course the answer to that question is *no*. But the way that the antichrist seeks to "ape" Jesus, one would wonder.

We will now compare the picture of Jesus Christ given in the Gospels with the picture of the antichrist given in Revelation 13. We will note 8 points of counterfeit and comparison. (Remember to put the Scriptural reference.)

<u>Jesus Christ</u>	<u>Antichrist</u>
1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	
5.	
6.	
7.	
8.	

- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.

So Who Is It?

Only one entity fits all of the identifying characteristics given in the Bible. Only one qualifies. It is the _____. Is that shocking? It really shouldn't be. The Bible is so clear so as to be unmistakable on this point. As a case in point, every single protestant reformer from Wesley to Luther to Calvin and beyond shared this same conclusion. Of course, God is not against people! He loves people, all people (See, for example, John 3:16). Yet, God does hate *systems* that keep people in ignorance about His true character, purposes, and nature. Sadly, this power has sought to usurp the three-fold office of Jesus Christ. This power has claimed the prerogatives of prophet, priest, and king. It claims to speak for God, to minister for God (forgive sins, etc.) and to rule for God. In doing this, it has obscured the person, power, and place of Jesus Christ. You are encouraged to do your own research on this subject. Check it out for yourself. Read and reread the Bible passages that deal with the antichrist and see if it isn't a hand-in-glove fit. Go to the library, see for yourself! Remember, Bible truth is never sent to discourage, overwhelm or humiliate us. It is sent to save us! Keep your eyes focused on Jesus Christ and His saving love. God is on your side!

Next Topic: The Rock That Simply Will Not Role

—Discover Prophecy—

with David Asscherick, DP Speaker

No. 08

Discover: The Actual, Definite, Certain,
Unavoidable *Identity* of the Antichrist

Last lesson we learned that the antichrist is a *subtle, religious imposter*, not a *violent, political opposer*. He is a *counterfeit* more than a *combatant*. Paul referred to him as the “son of perdition” and the “man of sin”. That first name is used to describe only one other individual in the Bible, Judas Iscariot. He was not an opponent from *without*, but a betrayer from *within*. Paul drew that parallel purposefully.

In this lesson we will identify the antichrist, *from the Bible*. We will note ten identifying characteristics from the Bible, and then draw the obvious conclusion. As we shall see, it is really an elementary matter.

The Three-fold Office of Jesus Christ

As we learned last lesson the goal of Satan is to obscure the person, place and power of Jesus Christ. But what does this mean? How could Jesus Christ ever be obscured in the mind of the world, much less in the mind of the committed believer? In order to answer this question, we will take a look at the three-fold office that Jesus Christ fulfills for the believer. Jesus Christ is:

1. _____; text _____; one who _____ for God
2. _____; text _____; one who _____ for God
3. _____; text _____; one who _____ for God

This is who Jesus Christ is. The antichrist will seek to obscure or even _____ these various offices from Jesus Christ. How very important, then, that we know who Jesus Christ *really* is according to the Bible! Can you see how essential it is to know Jesus according to what is *true*? Remember, our knowledge of worship of God must be “in _____ and in _____”!

The Who?

The actual name “antichrist” is not used very frequently in Bible. Only the author John uses it, and then only in his smaller epistles. The antichrist is referred to by a number of different names or monikers in the Bible. Here are most of them:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

That last one, number 5, is found in the book of Daniel, chapter 7. Let us turn there to uncover the identity of the antichrist.

Four, Frightening, Ferocious, Feral Creatures

God is the greatest _____ in the universe, and just like any good human teacher He uses the twin teaching techniques of _____ & _____. In Daniel chapter 2 God showed King Nebuchadnezzar a great metal _____. That metal _____ was a timeline that continued from the time of Daniel down to the second coming of Jesus Christ. It consisted of five different elements representing five eras, or epochs, of human history. They were:

1. Head of _____ represented _____
2. Chest of _____ represented _____
3. Belly of _____ represented _____
4. Legs of _____ represented _____
5. Feet of _____ represented _____

This very same timeline is spelled out in Daniel 7, but this time instead of using a metal image, God uses four great _____. Are these beasts literal? _____. Note vs. 17 and 23. According to these two verses, what do these beasts represent? _____. This practice of referring to _____ as beasts is still common even today. For example, what modern _____ are represented by the following beasts:

Bald eagle = _____
Bear = _____

Dragon = _____
Rooster = _____

These four beasts retrace exactly the same timeline that the image of Daniel 2 did, but with more detail thrown in to confirm historical correspondence. Fill in the following beasts and the eras they represent:

Beast 1. _____
Beast 2. _____
Beast 3. _____
Beast 4. _____

The fourth beast had _____ horns. According to verse 24 what do these horns represent? _____ Notice the perfect correspondence with the ten toes of the image of Daniel 2. But here comes some new information...

The Little Horn that Balked and Stalked

According to verse 8 what comes up “among” the ten horns? _____ When he arose what did he do to three of the other horns? _____ There he is. That _____ is the antichrist. He is one and the same with the Beast of Revelation 13, as a comparison between the two quickly shows. So here he is, now we have to identify him. In order to do this, we are going to note 10 identifying characteristics found in this chapter, and then apply them to the only figure that could fit all 10 identifiers. Simple enough! Let’s get started... (Remember to give the characteristic *and* the corresponding verse.)

<u>The Identifying Marks</u>	<u>The verse(s)</u>
------------------------------	---------------------

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

But it gets even more amazing. The Harlot Woman of Revelation 17 is depicted as wearing all the colors that the high priest wore, except one. (Remember, a woman in Bible prophecy represents _____ . A chaste woman would be a faithful _____ with one Husband; a harlot woman would be an unfaithful _____ with numerous lovers.) According to Exodus 28:31-36, the colors that God directed the priests to wear were: _____, _____, _____, and _____. Now, look at Revelation 17:1-5. This unfaithful, end-time church (a woman) is depicted as wearing all of the same colors as the high priest except _____. Why? Because she has forgotten and disregarded the _____ of God. Amazing!

What is the Purpose of the Law?

The law of God is like a _____. It shows us two things:

- 1.
- 2.

As we look in the mirror of God's perfect righteousness, His perfect _____ we see that we are _____ in need of a _____. So, the law points us to _____. The law is not like a bar of _____, that is, its purpose is not to clean us up, but to show us our great need.

Jesus said, "If you _____ me _____ my commandments." So God's faithful people keep His law because they love Him; Not in order to be saved, but because they are saved by His amazing grace. Some people say the law has been done away with, but this teaching isn't found anywhere in the Bible. Think of it, which of the 10 Commandments should we get rid of? Which one is obsolete? Which should be thrown out? Here they are, in brief:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1. No other Gods | 6. Thou shalt not kill |
| 2. No worshipping idols | 7. Thou shalt not commit adultery |
| 3. Don't take God's name in vain | 8. Thou shalt not steal |
| 4. Remember the Sabbath | 9. Thou shalt not bear false witness |
| 5. Honor your parents | 10. Thou shalt not covet |

Christ is our _____; He does not _____
 His Word is our _____; it does not _____
 His Holy Law is our _____; it does not _____

—Discover Prophecy—

with David Asscherick, DP Speaker

No. 09

Discover: The Rock That Simply Will Not Roll *part 1*

We live in a time when very few things are solid and lasting. The promises and pledges of politicians are fleeting. The moral values of society are increasingly in flux. The economy can be strong, then weak, then strong again all in a short time. Even the most stable and secure jobs can be lost in a moment. And a seemingly stable marriage can fall to pieces in short order. Life is unstable, uncertain, and prone to dramatic upheavals. Life is characterized by change more than stability. Yet the human heart longs for solidity and stability.

In this lesson we will see that there is a source of unmovable and unshakable stability. We will see that there is something that can be trusted to last even through life's uncertain times and storms—an anchor, a Rock that won't roll.

Tradition or Scripture?

There are many differences that separate the Roman Church-State from Scripture-based believers, but the central difference is found in the disparate emphases put on _____ versus _____. One camp has the former as the foundation; the other camp has the latter. The word _____ occurs _____ times in the Bible (KJV) and only _____ of those uses are in a positive context. Consider, for example, the following texts:

- Matthew 15:3, 6
- Mark 7:1-13
- Colossians 2:8
- 1Peter 1:18

There is nothing wrong with traditions, per se. But when traditions conflict with the commands of God there is a problem. One must be made subordinate to the other. The Roman Church-State makes Scripture bow to tradition, while Scripture-based believers would insist that traditions bow to God's command and Word. This is the essential difference between these two camps.

It is significant to note that the word “law” occurs approximately _____ times in the Bible (KJV). The word “commandment(s)” occurs approximately _____ times. The simple difference in numerical occurrence between _____ and “law”/ “commandment(s)” is telling indeed.

The Antichrist and God’s Law

Last lesson we learned that one of the identifying characteristics of the antichrist is that he would “_____ to change times and laws” Daniel 7:25. Think of it. The antichrist is so bold as to think that it can change the very Law of God. Can this power actually change the Law of God? _____ But that he would even _____ to is amazing enough!

An important contrast, in relationship to God’s Law, is seen in the Book of Revelation. Note the following texts:

- Revelation 12:17
- Revelation 14:12
- Revelation 22:14

Concerning God’s Law, one camp says “_____” and the other seeks to _____. The contrast is important and striking.

Who is the Rock Upon Which the Church is Built?

Scripture is absolutely clear on this point. _____ is the Rock. Consider the following texts that unmistakably establish this:

- Daniel 2:44
- 1Corinthians 10:4
- Ephesians 2:20
- Matthew 21:42-44
- Matthew 7:24-29

But what about Matthew 16:13-18? What does this passage teach? The answer is simple. Peter (petros) means _____. Rock (petra) means _____. This language itself makes it abundantly clear what Jesus what saying. And when one takes into account the rest of what the Bible has to say about who the _____ is, it becomes unmistakably clear, easy, and simple. The Bible interprets itself.

Jesus Upheld the Law of God Above Man’s Traditions

The question of tradition versus God’s Law is not a new one. Jesus addressed it in His own day. Consider, for example, Matthew 15:1-9. In this narrative, which did Jesus uphold as the more important of the two? _____ Really, this is what we should expect when we consider Jesus’ words in passages like Matthew 5:17, 18. The Law is more stable than the earth itself!

The Law of God: The Big, Biblical Picture

The Law of God is solid, unmovable, and unchangeable. It is a _____ of God’s own character. Abraham kept this law. So did Moses. And the many Old Testament prophets. And Jesus. And the disciples. The Law of God was written by the finger of _____ on tablets of _____. Exodus 31:18. This law was then placed in the _____. Exodus 25:21; Deuteronomy 10:2, 5.

Now why did God write this law on tables of stone? To show that it was temporary, transient, and passing away? Of course not! It was to show just the opposite - that it is lasting, eternal, and solid, just like God Himself.

Blue Commandments?

As amazing as it sounds, the Ten Commandments were blue! How do we know that? They were carved out of the very throne of God, which is made of blue sapphire! Exodus 24:9-12; Ezekiel 1:22-28; 10:1. Note especially verse 12 of Exodus 24: “Then the LORD said to Moses, ‘Come up to Me on the mountain and be there; and I will give you tablets of stone, and the law and commandments which I have written, that you may teach them.’” The literal rendering in the Hebrew reads “I will give you tablets of _____ stone”. It’s a specific stone. The only stone mentioned in this passage is the one found in verse 10, the sapphire stone. So, the 10 Commandments were carved out of that blue sapphire stone that makes up God’s standing platform and throne. Talk about awesome. Exodus 32:16 says, “Now the tablets were the work of God, and the writing was the writing of God engraved on the tablets.” So, both the tablets and the writing were the work of God.

The Jews were required to wear _____ tassels on the borders of their garments. Why? _____ See Numbers 15:37-41. But why blue? To remind them of the blue sapphire stone of the 10 Commandments, of course!

But What About the Apostles?

Not surprisingly, the apostles also all kept the _____. See for example: Acts 17:1, 2; 18:4; 13:13-15, 32-44; Luke 23:56; Matthew 24:20.

Of course they kept the _____; why wouldn't they, after all, every single true follower of God from Adam to Abraham, and from Abraham to Moses and from Moses to Jesus and from Jesus to the Apostles kept that special day as a memorial of both _____ and _____.

Wow! I didn't Know That!?

The _____ is all about _____ and our _____ with Him! Yes, despite the overwhelming evidence, many Christians still believe that the Bible teaches _____ observance. They base this belief on 3 main texts:

- John 20:19; 1Corinthians 16:1-3; Acts 20: 6-11

Yet these texts, when read in _____, suggest no such thing. Not at all.

So Then Who Did It?

The answer as we saw at the beginning is: The Roman-Church State did it! That has been their historical claim, and we have found it to be true. In fact, as we have already seen, this change was foretold in Bible Prophecy! See Daniel 7:25. According to the book of Revelation, there will be _____ calls to worship and _____ claims on authority!

Its All About Jesus!

The _____ and its observance is really all about a surrendered relationship of love to Jesus Christ as both Creator and Redeemer.

1. _____ in the beginning _____ it.
2. _____ at Mt. Sinai _____ it.
3. _____ in His life, _____ it.
4. _____ in His death _____ it.
5. _____ in His church _____ it.
6. _____ in Revelation _____ it.

Wow a weekly date with God! How totally exciting, beautiful and powerful!

Next: Discover: How Jesus Christ Will Defy the Skeptics and Return to Earth

—Discover Prophecy—

with David Asscherick, DP Speaker

No. 10

Discover: The Rock That Simply Will Not Roll *part 2*

We have been building, lesson after lesson, toward some very important conclusions. We have seen that the Bible is, in fact, the inspired Word of God, and that it must be the foundation of our teachings and beliefs as Christians. We have seen that we are living in what the Bible calls the “last days”. We are living in the “toenails” of the image of Daniel chapter 2. We have seen that there is a great battle waging between the forces of light and darkness. Satan rebelled in heaven, and is continuing his rebellion here on planet Earth. We have seen that the dividing issue at the end of time will be the issue of *worship*. Additionally, we have seen that the antichrist will be a *subtle religious imposter*, more than a *violent political opposer*. We have emphasized the importance of standing on the Rock of Christ, His Word, and His perfect law of love! Now, we are poised to grasp one of the issues in its larger significance. What issue strikes at the heart of worship, Biblical fidelity, tradition versus the commandments of God, and the subtle religious sophistries of Satan? We will answer that important question in this lesson.

The Whole World?

According to the book of Revelation, the antichrist will lead the entire world to believe his deceptions. Note, for example, the following verses:

- Revelation 12:9; 13:3, 8

What do these verses have in common? _____
In this lesson we will learn that many, unknowingly, are living under one of the most subtle deceptions of the antichrist. We should not be _____ if we discover that much of the world has unwittingly bought into one of the deceptions of the last days. In fact, according to Revelation, we should expect it! Remember, we do not arrive at truth by majority vote, but by the Bible.

An Incredible Claim! Is it True?

The Roman Church-State has historically made one of the most remarkable and disturbing claims known to man. Namely, they claim that they actually changed the day of worship from _____ to _____. Consider, as an instance of this claim, the following quotation from the Catholic Encyclopedia, Volume 4, page 153: "The church, after changing the day of rest from the Jewish Sabbath of the seventh day of the week to the first made the Third Commandment refer to Sunday as the day to be kept holy as the Lord's Day." Literally dozens more statements like this one could be cited. This is the historical, traditional position of the Roman church. Our question is this: Is this remarkable claim true, or can the change from _____ to _____ be supported from the Bible?

In the Beginning

In order to address this claim, we turn to the book of beginnings, Genesis. In Genesis chapters 1 and 2 we discover that God did set a _____ aside as special. This day was the _____ day of the week. God did three very special things on this day, list them below:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Clearly, God wanted this day, the _____, to be set apart as special. In fact the word _____ means to set apart for a holy, special purpose.

Remember Me...

In Exodus 20, the chapter containing the _____, God reminds His people about the importance of the _____. We can be sure that God was reminding them about the day because he begins this command with the word: _____. Don't forget, who wrote this law? _____. With His what? _____. On tables of _____ And it was placed _____ the ark. God wrote this law on stone to show that it _____ change. God made this day holy in Genesis, and here in Exodus reminds the people about it. It is worth noting that only _____ can make anything holy.

What Does It Mean?

Consider the following texts: Ezekiel 20: 12, 20. According to these verses the Sabbath is a sign that it is _____ who can make us _____. Isn't that true! Of what two things is the Sabbath a sign and symbol?

- 1.
- 2.

Just as Adam and Eve were called to _____ in and _____ God's work of Creation, so too we are called to _____ in and _____ God's work of Salvation. We cannot earn salvation, we must _____ in the salvation that has already been won for us by Jesus Christ. Amen. What a powerful symbol! God is both _____ and _____, and the _____ is a powerful sign and symbol of that fact!

Who Was the Creator?

According to the teaching of the NT, _____ was the One through which _____ created the world and the universe! Note especially John 1:1-3, 10; Hebrews 1:1-3 and Colossians 1:15-17. If Jesus created the air, water, grass, birds, lions, whales etc. then what did he also create? _____ Note: Not only was Jesus the creator in Eden He was the _____ on Mt. Sinai! This is the clear teaching of the NT! See, for example, John 8:58.

This is why Jesus Christ repeatedly affirmed that He was _____ of the _____. After all, He had *invented* it, *created* it and *commanded* it. See Matthew 12:8, Mark 2:28, Luke 6:5.

But how did Jesus relate to the _____ when he walked as a _____ on this planet? See Luke 4:16. Note that Jesus performed many of His most powerful miracles on the _____! This was to show that the _____ is for the benefit of man. He removed it from all of the traditions that the religious leaders, the Scribes and Pharisees, had _____ it with!

In fact, even in death Jesus kept the Sabbath. See Luke 23:53 to 24:1. Just as He rested on that day in _____, so He did the same in _____!

“One Will be Taken, the Other Left”

The *Left Behind* series that we mentioned earlier derives its name from Luke 17:36. The claim is made that the righteous will be “whisked away” in a secret rapture. We have seen that this imaginative scenario simply cannot be harmonized with the teaching of Scripture. What’s more, it utterly fails to grapple with the issue of who is _____ and who is _____!

Watch carefully as the picture unfolds from the Bible...

In Matthew 24:36-42, Jesus compares the Second Coming to the days of Noah. He also says that in the flood scenario, “the flood came and took them all away”. One group remained and one group was “taken away”. In Noah’s day, who was “taken away” by the flood? The wicked! See Genesis 7:21-23, note especially verse 23, where it says that “Only Noah and those who were with him in the ark remained *alive*.” Notice that “alive” is in italics meaning that it was supplied by the translators. The verse actually reads: “Only Noah and those who were with him in the ark remained.” Wow! Noah wasn’t taken. He remained; the wicked were taken, swept away by the flood.

Compare Luke 17: 26, 27. Here again there are two groups, those that were in the ark, and those that were “destroyed”. It is even clearer here. Those that were “destroyed” were not in the ark; they are the same group as those who were “taken away” in Matthew 24. Now see Luke 17:34-37. These verses are the logical climax of the passage. They make it clear that those who are “taken” are “taken” to destruction to be eaten by the vultures and eagles. Compare Revelation 19:17, 18. When it comes to understanding these passages in context, it becomes very clear that you don’t want to be in that class that is “taken”, for in Jesus’ use of the language, these are those that were taken to destruction!

Let’s be sure that we are looking for the right thing to come in the right way. Let’s be sure that our beliefs about the Second Coming come from the Bible! Let’s be ready to meet Him soon. Amen and amen!

—Discover Prophecy—

with David Asscherick, DP Speaker

No. 11

Discover: How Jesus Christ Will Defy
the Skeptics and Return to Earth

The word “rapture” does not appear in the Bible. Yet, correctly understood, it is a Biblical teaching. Like the words “trinity” or “millennium”, which also do not appear in the Bible, some words essentially become synonymous with certain Bible teachings. There is nothing wrong with this, per se, but we must labor to be sure that our beliefs and teachings *all* come from the Bible. The purpose of this lesson will be to demonstrate, from the Bible, how and when the “rapture” will take place in relation to other end-time events. It will be a great lesson!

The Rapture in the Book of Revelation

As mentioned above, the word “rapture” is not found in the Bible. What, then, does this word actually mean? The answer is: _____

This theme of the _____ of God’s people to Himself is found throughout the book of Revelation. Consider, for example, the following texts:

- Revelation 1:7
- Revelation 6:15-17
- Revelation 22:7, 12, 20
- Revelation 14:14, 15
- Revelation 19:11, 14
- Revelation 11:15

Second Coming Essentials

In seeking to correctly understand the rapture and the second coming, we must address 6 essentials surrounding the Second Coming:

1. Who, _____
2. What, _____
3. Where, _____
4. When, _____
5. Why, _____

6. How, _____

One reason that it is so essential that we start from the very basics is that our forebears, the _____, provide a sober example for us to consider. Think of it. The _____ preached and anticipated the coming of the Deliverer, the Messiah, for more than a thousand years. They longed for His coming. They prayed for His coming. They trusted in His coming. They knew many of the details about His coming. They taught, promoted, and heralded His coming. Yet, amazingly, on the whole they _____ His coming! It almost defies reason! How could it have happened? The answer, to a great degree, lies in the fact that they missed the “_____”, that is the _____ of His first coming. Could the Christian church be poised to do the very same thing today with His _____? The _____ looked for a coming military deliverer who would rescue them from their humiliating subservience to Rome. They understood many things about the Messiah’s first coming, but they missed the “_____”. We must ensure that we do not commit the same folly, as there are millions of dear people today, most of them _____, still looking for the Messiah’s first coming, while you and I await His second coming!

So then, How Will It Happen

We will answer this question from the Bible text by text. We will discover that the second coming will be characterized by 6 important elements. Be sure to list each one with notes and Bible verses for support. This is important stuff!

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

6.

The Secret Rapture

The concept of the “secret rapture”, as we have seen, is very difficult to harmonize with the Biblical picture presented above. There is simply nothing secretive or clandestine about it. In fact it will be the most non-secret event that this world has ever seen. “Every _____ will see Him”, says Revelation 1:7. Some kind of secret that is! A secret that everybody sees and knows! It defies both grammar and logic. Yet this idea is rather popular in this day and age. It has been made so, in no small part, by a series of fictitious scenarios depicted in the novel-series *Left Behind*. While this series may make for exciting reading and gripping adventure-fiction, it makes for poor theology. If you want to know what the Bible says, be sure to spend time actually reading the _____, not just books about the _____.

“A Thief in the Night”

The Bible does, in fact, teach that the Second Coming will resemble, in some sense, a thief in the night. But what does this mean, that it is a secret that no one knows? Let us see...

- Matthew 24:36, 43, 44
- 2 Peter 3:10

Notice what it is that comes like a thief. It’s not the Messiah, but the _____ and the _____. That is to say that the _____ is like a thief. No good thief calls ahead to alert you of his arrival. He times his coming so that you won’t expect it. Only in this sense is the Second Coming like “a thief”.

A word of caution is in order here. God is not out to “get” us or “surprise” us so that we will be lost. No, no, no! In fact, as we remember our presentation on the Signs of the Times, we see that He is trying to do the very opposite! Remember what Jesus, Peter, Paul, and John urged us to do? They said _____! Why? So we would be aware of the lateness of the hour. So that we would be prepared. This highlights an important point: the Second Coming is a surprise only to the _____, not to the committed, watchful believer. This makes the “thief in the night” texts so very easy to understand. It is the *timing* that comes like a thief, not the *event*.

Elucidation or Obfuscation? Which Will You Choose?

Elucidation means to make *light* or *clear*. Obfuscation means the exact opposite, that is, to *darken* or to *obscure*. The Bible, especially prophecy, is sent to enlighten that which is dark! See both 2 Peter 1:19-21 and Isaiah 60:1, 2. The 1260 years, extending from 538AD to 1798AD that we have spoken of earlier, are commonly called the “dark ages”. The reason they were dark, among others, is that the Word—God’s *light* and *lamp*, the Bible— was nearly extinguished by the Roman Church-State. See also Psalm 119:105.

The Three Essential Questions of Life

The Three essential questions of life are:

1. Where am I from?
2. Why am I here?
3. How should I live?
4. Where am I going?

The Bible alone can enter these questions coherently and compellingly. It is the light that can dispel that darkness of deception that will be so prevalent in the last days of earth’s history. In fact, according to Paul in 2 Timothy 3:13, “Evil men and imposters will grow _____, deceiving and being deceived.”

Be Not Deceived: A How-to Guide

1. _____ the Word
2. _____ the Word
3. _____ the Word
4. _____ the Word
5. _____ the Word
6. _____ the Word

The key to remaining undecieved is to be totally grounded in the Word of God, the Bible. The Bible *is* Revelation’s Sharp Sword. It alone can cut through the cultural, political, moral and even religious darkness that saturates this planet. We must be sure that _____ we believe can be traced to a plain “thus saith the Lord”. This alone will ensure our safety from deception in the difficult days in which we live. Jesus will help us! He will see us through!

—Discover Prophecy—

with David Asscherick, DP Speaker

No. 12

Discover: How to Get and to Remain Undeceived

Deception is dangerous. Unfortunately, deception can also be difficult to detect. Deception “apes” truth and remains as close as possible to truth. It is close enough to be convincing, but *off* enough to be wrong. This is what makes deception so very dangerous. This lesson deals with the *essence* of deception and the *cure* for deception. These are both topics that we have already addressed somewhat. We will go into more detail in this lesson.

Deception defined:

According to Webster’s Dictionary, deception has two primary definitions. Write them out in the space provided below.

- 1.
- 2.

Three Kinds of Deception

There are 3 different *kinds* or *types* of deception; the motives are different in each instance, but the results are the same.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Deception in the Last Days

According to Jesus, deception will be rampant in the _____ days, that is, the days just before His _____. Consider, for example, Matthew 24:1-5, 11, 24. A false prophet is a religious imposter. According to Jesus, _____ will be deceived by these false prophets. Not all false prophets work miracles, but apparently those that do are more dangerous and convincing. False prophets do not announce that they are false prophets. In fact, they themselves might not even know that they are false prophets. They would be *self*-deceived. Jesus described these prophets as _____ in sheep's _____. Paul even went so far as to say that _____ himself transforms himself into an _____.

What Revelation Says About Deception in the Last Days

The book of Revelation foretells that _____ will reach epidemic proportions in the _____. Note, for example, the following texts. What do they all have in common?

- Revelation 12:9
- Revelation 13:14
- Revelation 19:20
- Revelation 20:10

The dragon uses deception. It is the hallmark of his plans and strategies. He used it on the heavenly angels. He used it on Eve in Eden. And today, no surprise, he continues to employ deception. In fact, his deceptive power will only increase as we near the end of time.

Paul Shared Jesus' and John the Revelator's Concern About Deception

Note 2 Thessalonians 2:1-9 and make comparison with Matthew 24 and the above texts from Revelation. Did Paul share the same concerns as Jesus and John about deception in the last days? _____

In this passage Paul expresses concern about several issues:

1. the _____ of the Lord's return
2. the _____ of the "Man of Sin" and Satan himself
3. the rejection of _____ and the embracing of _____
4. the deceitful _____ of sin and _____

My Own Heart Betrays Me?!

According to Jeremiah 17:9, what is deceitful above all things? _____. Perhaps the most dangerous kind of deception is _____. Write down several texts that warn about this kind of deception.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

This is a very important, and often overlooked, point. The heart is steeped in sin and selfishness and thus longs to accept that which accommodates and caters to its unregenerate nature. The unconverted heart loves to hear that which flatters it. It is almost as though our heart wants to be deceived and lied to. This is especially true if that lie "frees" the heart and mind to indulge in unrighteous pleasure and sin.

The Elixir (Cure) for Deception

The _____ is the elixir for deception! It alone can free us from deception's power and influence. Think, for example, of Eve in the Garden of _____. How different things would have been if Eve, like Jesus in the wilderness, had stood on a plain "thus saith the _____", and "it is written". Eve should have trusted the Word of God; it could have immediately dispelled the darkness of Satan's power.

In John 1:1-3, Jesus is referred to as the *logos*, that is the _____.

Consider the following texts that equate _____ with God's Word:

- John 17:17
- 1 Thessalonians 2:13
- 2 Timothy 2:15

Jesus and the Sanctuary

The imagery, ceremonies and drama of the sanctuary all pointed to _____. In fact _____ was the very heart of the sanctuary! He was the lamb, the priest, the High Priest, the tent itself, the bread, the Most Holy Place, the veil, etc. Every detail pointed, in some way, to Jesus Christ as our Redeemer. It is absolutely essential that this point be understood!

Three Compartments; Three Phases of Ministry

The 3 compartments of the Israelite sanctuary each represent the 3 phases of the ministry of Jesus Christ. Please explain this below:

1. Altar:
2. Holy Place:
3. Most Holy Place:

Just as the earthly temple pointed toward to the heavenly temple, so too the office of the high priest pointed forward to Jesus' own priestly ministry. Just as the high priest entered the Most Holy Place of the earthly sanctuary, Jesus Christ, as our great High Priest will enter the Most Holy Place of the heavenly sanctuary. Our question, then, is: *When will Jesus enter into the Most Holy Place of the Heavenly Sanctuary and thus commence the final judgment and the cleansing of the Heavenly Sanctuary?*

This is precisely the question that we will answer in the next lesson...

—Discover Prophecy—

with David Asscherick, DP Speaker

Discover: There Really is a Final Judgment
(But Don't Be Afraid, It's Good News)

No. 13

This series of presentations covers a very important topic: the sanctuary, that is, the temple of God. We must begin by noting that there are two temples: an *earthly* and a *heavenly*. As we shall soon discover, the temple on earth was a picture—a *model*—of the temple in heaven. Just as the high priest ministered in the earthly *sanctuary*, Jesus Christ, our High Priest, is ministering in the heavenly sanctuary!

The Seven Times Periods of Daniel 7 and 8

List the major time periods of both Daniel 7 and 8:

Chapter 7	Chapter 8
1.	1.
2.	2.
3.	3.
4.	4.
5.	5.
6.	6.
7.	

Daniel 7 deals largely with political kingdoms and political movements. Daniel 8 covers basically the same time period, but primarily addresses spiritual issues and spiritual battles. The beasts of Daniel 7 are _____ beasts; the beasts of Daniel 8 are _____ beasts, from the _____ service.

Daniel 7 and the Little Horn's "Pompous Words"

The _____ words of the little horn call to session the _____ court. Additionally, the _____ of _____ people, in _____ name calls to session the _____ court. The judgment is a major theme of Daniel 7. The sequence: "Rome, little horn, judgment" occurs 3 times in this chapter alone. It is essential to grasp the significance of the timing.

crucified right on time. Remarkable! This is why Jesus would say things like: “My time is not yet come” when people would seek to “lay hands on Him”. Jesus knew the prophecies of Daniel intimately. He knew the divine schedule of God, and was operating in exact accordance with it. His birth, His baptism, His crucifixion and resurrection, all of it was perfectly timed. They followed a _____ schedule.

If you follow the 70th week to its end, it closes in _____. What happened then? The answer is the very foundation of the book of Acts, namely the preaching of the Gospel to the gentiles. See Acts 7-11. The Gospel, following the stoning of Stephen, in _____, went like wildfire to the gentile communities in and around Jerusalem, Asia Minor, North Africa, India, Armenia, Europe and beyond! The nation of Israel had forsaken its special opportunity to be the chosen people of God, as a *nation*. See Acts 13:46; Acts 22:21; Acts 1:7, 8; Matthew 21:43.

Now, the finale, if we add the remaining 1810 years to the 490, we find that the prophecy ends in _____. Wow! This is powerful stuff. This date, then, is the year in which the _____ of the _____ would begin in heaven. That is the time when Jesus Christ our Great High Priest would enter into the _____ of the Heavenly _____. Just as this prophecy foretells the _____ hour of Jesus Christ’s ministry, so too it reveals the _____ hour of His ministry. The historical accuracy of His baptism in 27AD, His crucifixion in 31AD and the spread of the gospel to the gentiles in 34AD, all perfectly confirm and necessitate the closing of the prophecy in _____. Like a template, if the first part matches up, the last part is certain. Plus it agrees perfectly with Daniel 7 and 8 which foretold that the judgment would take place after the reign of the antichrist. This lasted from 538AD to 1798AD, and _____ fits perfectly within that timeframe.

There we have it. The hour of God’s Judgment has already begun. We are living, literally, in the judgment hour. This is no time for religious games and facades. It is time to be right with God through His Son Jesus Christ, for only in Him can we have any hope of passing the judgment! In fact, in Him, we cannot fail or fall in the judgment. See, for example, Romans 8 and 14:4, 10-12. For those who have put their trust in Christ, the Judgment is good news!

—Discover Prophecy—

with David Asscherick, DP Speaker

No. 14

Discover: Perfect, Prophetic Proof of Jesus Christ’s Identity

This series of lessons covers a very important topic: the sanctuary, that is, the temple, of God. We must begin by noting that there are two temples: *an earthly and a heavenly*. The temple on earth was a picture, or a *model*, of the temple in heaven. Just as the high priest ministered in the earthly *sanctuary*, Jesus Christ, our High Priest, is ministering in the heavenly sanctuary!

We concluded the last lesson with the following paragraph: Just as the earthly pointed forward to the heavenly in terms of the temple, so too the office of the High Priest points forward to one aspect of Jesus’ ministry, namely, His entrance into the Most Holy Place of the heavenly sanctuary. Our question, then, is: *When will Jesus enter into the Most Holy Place of the Heavenly Sanctuary and thus commence the heavenly judgment, that is, the cleansing of the Heavenly Sanctuary?*

The Timing of the Judgment

We have already learned that the NT writers referred the judgment as taking place in the _____, as the following texts make very clear:

- Acts 17:31
- Acts 24:25
- Romans 2:16
- Romans 14:10-12
- Hebrews 10:30

This agrees perfectly with what we have learned in Daniel chapters 7 and 8. Remember that important sequence: Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, Pagan Rome, Little Horn (antichrist), Judgment, 2nd Coming. So both Daniel and the NT apostles agree: *the judgment takes place sometime after the reign of the antichrist and before the 2nd Coming*. See: Revelation 14:6, 7 and 22:11, 12

The Judgment and the Cleansing of the Sanctuary

These two events are one-in-the-same, as a comparison of chapters 7 and 8 makes clear. The cleansing of the sanctuary, which took place on the Day of _____, was a day of solemn _____ for ancient Israel. This was the day when God was once again “one” with his people. The people were cleansed, the priest was cleansed, and the sanctuary itself was cleansed. On this special day, the defilement of sin was ceremonially removed, and God was in a state of “at one ment” with His dear people.

Remember, God _____ sin, but _____ the sinner. This is a very difficult situation for God! Think of it: *the supreme object of His love, and the supreme object of His hate are wrapped, almost inexorably, together!* God longs to save the sinner, but destroy the sin. This is delicate surgery indeed! To separate sin from sinners is the most difficult, and delicate, surgery that has ever been performed!

Christ the Lamb, Christ the Priest

As we learned last lesson, the sanctuary was a picture, in all of its important detail, of _____. He was the very center of the sanctuary’s imagery and drama. He was both the _____ lamb, and the _____ priest. It is essential that this point is grasped! All of the divine drama in the sanctuary pointed forward to the work of Jesus Christ on behalf of sinful humanity. It was a picture of the plan of salvation! See Hebrews 4:2.

Putting the Pieces Together: Daniel 9 and the Explanation of the Vision

In Daniel 9 we find Daniel seeking to understand the troubling vision of Daniel chapter 8. He seeks the Lord in prayer and supplication. Verses 4-19 record one of the most powerful and beautiful prayers in all of the Bible. In the middle of this prayer, the angel Gabriel comes to answer Daniel’s prayer. The answer is found in the form of the angel explaining the meaning of the troubling vision of Daniel 8. The vision of Daniel 8 had to do with the “pompous” *words* and *wars* of the antichrist, “the little horn”. These *words* and *wars* call to session the heavenly court for the purpose of judgment and the vindication of God’s people who had been wrongly accused by the Roman Church-State. The terrible record of this power is doubly compounded by the fact that it carried out all of its persecutions and blasphemies in the name of _____!

The 70 Weeks and the 2300 Days

It is imperative to remember that a “day” in end-time Bible prophecy actually represents a _____ of actual, literal time. Not only are beasts, horns, women and water symbolic, so is *time* in end-time prophecy. As we learned last lesson, the vision of Daniel chapter 8, the 2300 days, extends all the way down to “the distant future” Daniel 8:26, NIV. As the angel returns to explain the 2300 day vision, he begins by telling Daniel of another time period. This period would last _____ prophetic weeks, or _____ prophetic days. According to the angel Gabriel this was a time period especially allotted to the _____ nation. During this time period, six specific events were to take place. All are taken from Daniel 9:24.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.

Judgment fell in 70 AD when Jerusalem was sacked by the Roman army. Verse 25 gives us a starting point for these time prophecies. That date is _____. Gabriel then explains that after 69 weeks (483 literal years), the Messiah would come. This happened in _____. Note: The word “Messiah” and “Christ” mean the same thing, namely, *anointed*. Jesus of Nazareth was anointed by the Holy Spirit at His baptism right on time. See Luke 3:1-4, 21; Acts 10:37, 38. Have you ever wondered how Jesus knew *when* to leave the carpenter’s bench and begin his public ministry? How about John the Baptist: how did he know when to start preaching in the Wilderness of Judea? The answer is simple: both were students of the prophecies of Daniel. In fact, just after Jesus’ baptism by John in the river Jordan he said, “_____” see Mark 1:14, 15. What time? The answer: *the* time. God operates on a tight, organized schedule. See also Galatians 4:4.

Not only was Jesus baptized on time, He was _____ right on time. See Daniel 9:26 and 27. Vs. 27 says that He would be “_____” in the “_____” of the week. What week? The 70th, remaining week of course. What is the middle of 7? The answer is 3 1/2. From the Fall of _____, the time of Jesus’ baptism, to the Spring of _____, is exactly 3 1/2 years! Jesus was

to death as a “sleep”. The disciples did not understand Jesus’ reference, so He then told them “plainly, Lazarus is dead” John 11:11-14. When Jesus later encounters Martha, Lazarus’ sister, notice carefully what she says about her brother’s resurrection. She says it will occur “at the last day” v. 24. We might legitimately ask the question: *What did Martha believe about death?* The answer is simple: She believed that death was a temporary state of unconsciousness that would be ended by the “resurrection at the last day”. This is exactly what the Scriptures teach. In fact, the Bible refers to death as a “sleep” more than _____ times! See 2Samuel 7:12; 1Thessalonians 4:13-17; 1Corinthians 15:51-55; John 5:28, 29; Daniel 12:1, 2 etc.

The Spirit...

Many Christians believe that “the Spirit” that returns to God is some kind of conscious entity. No where does the Bible teach this. The “Spirit” is simply the “breath” of God, as both the OT and NT translations of this word make clear. In the OT _____ means *breath*. In the NT _____ means *breath*. The “breath of God”, that is, the vivifying, life-giving power of God, returns to God following the death of the individual. Remember the light bulb. This is exactly like that. The energy simply “returns” to the power source. See James 2:26.

The First Lie...

The first lie recorded in the Bible was told by the Father of Lies himself, Satan. Genesis 3:4 finds Satan whispering those enticing and dangerous words to Eve: “You will not surely die”. What a lie! God had said “In the day that thou eatest thereof, thou shalt surely die” Genesis 2:17. Who told the truth? God of course! Yet today there are many, even Christians, who would rather believe the Devil’s enticing lie than the plain teaching of the Word of God. The Pagans laid hold on this immortality concept. The Egyptians, the Babylonians, the Greeks, the Romans, all believed in the natural immortality of the soul. Yet, it is not Biblical as many of today’s most prominent and respected theologians freely admit. So then, where is Mary according to the Bible? *In the grave, awaiting the resurrection*. This other so-called “Mary” is a liar, a spirit sent from Satan no doubt. Once again he has transformed himself into “an angel of light”. Yes, God has a solution to the problem of death, and that solution is the _____. Don’t you want to be in that number, when the saints go marching in? Won’t you make that decision right now? Please do!

—Discover Prophecy—

with David Asscherick, DP Speaker

No. 16

Discover: How to Face Death Unafraid
and With Absolute Confidence

The question of death, and what happens when one dies, are questions that have intrigued mankind since the very dawn of time. Even today, with significant advances in technology, medicine, and science, the question of the mystery of death remains entirely unanswered. Truth be told, science is ill equipped to deal adequately with the issue of death. Death is more than the ceasing of physiological functions and activities. It has mental, emotional, and certainly spiritual ramifications both for the dying and for those who remain. The Bible, the Holy Scriptures, contains the keys that unlock this mystery. The Bible can provide the kinds of answers that humanity is seeking for concerning the question of death. The Bible alone can illumine the dark door of death.

The Resurrection

According to the Bible, death is not the end. It is not the terminal stop on the journey of life. There is more beyond death’s door. The next chapter, following the death-event, is what the Bible calls the _____. In fact, as we will learn in a future lesson, there are actually _____ resurrections.

The Risen Christ

The book of Revelation is full of post-resurrection pictures of Jesus Christ. See Revelation chapters 1, 4, 5, 7, 14, 19. There is good reason for this. The resurrection of Jesus Christ is the _____ and _____ of the Christian faith. Without it we have no _____. See 1Corinthians 15: 12-20. The future resurrection of Christ’s followers is founded upon the historical fact of Jesus Christ’s own resurrection. As GB Hardy says in his book *Countdown*, “There are only two essential questions: one, has anyone ever cheated death, and two, is it available to me? Let us survey the historical record: Buddha’s tomb, *occupied*; Mohammed’s tomb, *occupied*; Confucius’ tomb, *occupied*; Jesus’ tomb, *empty*. Argue if you will, but for me and my purposes there is no point in following a loser.” It is difficult to argue with this kind of logic.

Is the Soul Immortal or is There a Resurrection?

This is a very important question. Most Christians have not reflected adequately on this important question. Consider Mary, the mother of Jesus. According to both Catholic and Protestant teaching, Mary has been making frequent appearances here on planet earth to encourage, inspire, and warn believers of a coming calamity. These appearances, or apparitions, are occurring with increasing frequency. Millions claim to have seen Mary at locations all over the globe. Bleeding statues, weeping statues, visions in the sun and clouds, and physical appearances are all cited as mounting evidences that Mary has returned with an important message. This phenomenon has even been reported in many of the popular newspapers and news magazines of the world. While this is largely a Catholic phenomenon, it is by no means entirely so. Even Protestants, agnostics, atheists, and others have reportedly been visited or in some way “touched” by this Mary. All of this raises serious questions for the committed Christian believer. Is this *really* Mary? Could it even be her? How can we tell if this is true, or a dangerous and clever deception of Satan? These are some of the very questions we will seek to answer. In answering these questions, we will answer our larger question about the resurrection and the immortality of the soul.

The Two Foundations of Spiritualism

All spiritualism, both ancient and modern, can be rooted in two essential, foundational tenets. They are:

- 1.
- 2.

In seeking to understand the Bible position, it will prove very helpful to us to keep these foundations of spiritualism in mind.

The Original Creation of Man

In seeking to unlock the mystery of man’s spiritual and physical makeup it will prove exceedingly helpful to note how mankind was first created in Genesis 1 and 2. According to Genesis 2:7, God formed man of two elements: _____ and _____. After these two elements converged, “man _____ a _____”. Notice that it says he “became”, not that he “had” or “was given” a _____. This is utterly essential. Like a

light bulb, which needs both the physical housing and the electricity to create light, man is the coalescing of the physical body and the _____ of God. Now we understand creation! Here it is in brief:

- Body + Breath = A Living Soul, or
- Dust (elements of the earth) + the vivifying breath of God = A Soul

This is very simple 1+1=2 mathematics. Now listen carefully, death is simply creation in _____. The body minus the breath of God results in death. Like a box that is constructed of nails and boards, when the nails are removed the box *simply ceases to exist*. It does not go to “box heaven”.

What About Immortality?

This is very easy to grasp from a Biblical perspective! Man is _____ naturally immortal. Why can we say this with such confidence? Simple:

- *Mortal* means subject to death
- *Immortal* means not subject to death, or *imperishable*.

Is man subject to death? Of course! He is, therefore, by definition, *mortal*. In fact, the Bible teaches that God _____ is immortal. See 1Timothy 6:16; 1:17. Romans 2:7 makes it clear that man does not naturally possess immortality, but “_____” for it.

Death is the End Until the Resurrection

Consider the following texts, what do they all have in common?

- Psalm 115:17; 146:5
- Ecclesiastes 9:5, 6, 10
- Job 7:9, 10

They all speak of death as the end of conscious _____. Now here comes the real key...

The Sleep of Death

The story of the raising of Lazarus, found in John 11, is one of the clearest stories in the Bible concerning death. Note first of all that Jesus Himself refers

What About Everlasting Fire?

The Bible does speak of “eternal fire” in Jude 7, but this is fire that has *eternal consequences*. It does not burn for eternity. In fact in the context it speaks of Sodom and Gomorrah as “examples” of this “eternal fire”. We might rightly ask the question: Is Sodom or Gomorrah burning right now? The answer obviously is _____. See also 2Peter 2:6.

Eternal Punishment

The Bible also speaks of “eternal punishment” in Matthew 25:46. This simply means punishment that has *eternal consequences*. Notice that the phrase is “eternal punishment”, not “eternal punishing”. The difference is enormous. The only reason that someone would insist that this phrase means eternal conscious torment is if they already believed the non-biblical teaching that man is naturally _____. This teaching, however, as we have seen, is not Biblical.

How Long is Forever?

This might seem like an usual question. The Bible does use the word “forever” in the context of the final punishment. (See, for example, Revelation 14:11) But several things must be considered before arriving at an unwarranted conclusion.

1. The word “forever” means *as long as a thing shall last*.
2. “Forever” in the NT can be translated “an age” or “until the end of the age”.
3. The word “forever” is used in the Bible to refer to things that lasted for a finite period of time. See Exodus 21:6; 1Samuel 1:22, 28; Jonah 1:17; 2:6
4. The word “forever” has to be interpreted and translated in a way that is consistent with the original languages and is also consistent with *everything* the Bible has to say about the subject of hell.

Jesus Endured Hell

Jesus said, as he stumbled into the Garden of Gethsemane, that his “soul was exceedingly sorrowful, even unto death” Matthew 26:38. Compare this with Matthew 10:28. Clearly, when the soul dies you are experiencing “hell”. Jesus endured this horrific experience—the second death—for you on the cross! *Jesus would rather go to hell for you than live in heaven without you.* This is the great good news of hell. What a wonderful Savior! Praise Him!

—Discover Prophecy—

with David Asscherick, DP Speaker

No. 18

Discover: The Good News About Hell

The word Gospel means ‘good news’ or ‘good tidings’. The whole Bible is filled with good news, with Gospel. Even the subject of hell, rightly understood, is good news. There have been, down through the ages, significant misunderstandings about the subject of hell. In this lesson we will seek to cut through those misunderstandings and pre-programmed pictures in order to arrive at Bible truth. If we let the Bible speak we will surely succeed.

The Millennium

The clear teaching of Scripture is that there are _____ resurrections. Jesus Himself affirmed and taught this in John 5:28, 29. See also: Acts 24:15; Daniel 12:1, 2; Hebrews 11:33-35; Revelation 20:5, 6.

Five Events that Begin the Millennium

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

The Earth, a Desolate Wilderness

The Bible describes the earth as being “a bottomless pit”. This phrase comes from the Greek word *abusos*. What English word does that sound like? _____ Not coincidentally, the word *abusos* is used to translate the condition of the earth in Genesis chapter 1 in the Septuagint translation (the Greek translation of the Hebrew Old Testament). Consider the following passages:

- Revelation 6:15-17; Isaiah 24:19-22; Jeremiah 4:23-27, 33

The earth is desolate following the 2nd Coming. Satan and the fallen angels are left alone for 1,000 years to contemplate the woeful result of their rebellious experiment! The righteous are in heaven. But what are they doing there?

Five Events that Close the Millennium

Five events close the millennium, list them and give textual support.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

Inside or Outside?

At the close of the millennium, following the resurrection of the wicked, *everyone who has ever lived* will be alive all at the same time. What a sight that will be! All of the righteous will be inside of the city, the New Jerusalem; all of the wicked will be outside of the New Jerusalem. The Bible says that the walls of the New Jerusalem are *clear*. See Revelation 21:18. The righteous and the wicked will be able to see one another. The wicked make an effort to overtake the city by force. It is at this time that the fires of the vengeance and judgment of God descend upon them and “devour” them.

Hell Happens at a Certain Time For a Certain Purpose

The word “hell” occurs ____ times in the Bible (KJV). ____ times it occurs in the OT where it is translated from the Hebrew word _____. This word means *grave* or *place of the departed*. In the NT the word “hell” is translated from the Greek words _____ and _____. The word _____ means *a place of burning or destruction*. The word _____ simply means *grave*, like the OT word _____.

When, Where, How Long?

In answering these three questions from the Bible we will arrive at a correct, and perhaps shockingly new, picture of what hell is.

1. When is hell? _____
2. Where is hell? _____

The Question of How Long is the An Easily Answered Question

As we have already learned human beings are not _____ immortal. Immortality is a _____ from God that comes as a result of accepting Jesus Christ as one’s personal _____. See, for example, 1John 3:15; John 3:16; Romans 2:7; 6:23; 1Timothy 6:16; Ezekiel 18:4, 20. It is absolutely critical to understand this simple point: *if man is not immortal then there is no need for hell to burn throughout the ceaseless eternal ages*. To put it another way: *the foundational reason that hell has been assumed to be eternal is that man has been assumed to be immortal, and thus indestructible*. It is essential that this be understood. If man is not immortal, then there is no need to insist that hell be eternal.

Remember that it is the Greeks, Babylonians, Egyptians and others who believed this idea of the immortality of the human soul. It is not a Biblical concept. It is called anthropological dualism.

According to the Bible, the fate of the wicked is as follows:

- They will die. Romans 6:23; Matthew 10:28
- They will perish. Luke 13:3; John 3:16
- They will be burnt up. Malachi 4:1
- They will be devoured by the flames. Revelation 20:9
- They will be utterly consumed. Psalm 37:20; Isaiah 47:14
- They will be turned to ashes. Malachi 4:3
- They die the second death. Revelation 20:6, 14; 21:8; Matt. 15:4
- They will suffer destruction. 2Thessalonians 1:9; Philippians 3:19
- They will be as though they had not been. Obadiah 16
- Satan will be totally destroyed. Ezekiel 28:17, 18; Hebrews 2:14

More on this in our next lesson...

A New Covenant

The Bible speaks of a _____ covenant between God and His people. It is absolutely essential that we look at the nature of this _____ covenant in seeking to understand the Mark of the Beast. The new covenant promise is that God will write His _____ into our _____ and _____. And that He will remember our _____ no more. See Hebrews 8:8-12. Your mind (which has its seat in the brain) is right behind your _____. The frontal lobe of the brain is where moral decisions are made. It is where our character resides, and where decisions related to character are made. This agrees perfectly with what we saw in Deuteronomy 6 doesn't it? (Remember, Deuteronomy 5, the chapter just before chapter 6, is one of two chapters that list all of the 10 Commandments!) God puts His law, His name, His character into our minds and hearts! How? By the power of the Holy Spirit, of course.

Our obedience is in _____ to God's mercy. Our obedience does not _____ salvation for us. It shows that we have received God's salvation by _____. God writes His law—a transcript of His holy character, His holy name—into our minds! We are sealed with God's character by God's Spirit. God is our authority and King, not the traditions of man. We have the seal of God's righteousness and law, not the _____ of the beast's authority and his law. Simple. See John 14:15; Revelation 12:17; 14:12; 22:14; Isaiah 8:16; Daniel 3; 6; Ezekiel 8; 9

- So who are you taking orders from?
- Whose authority are you under?
- Whose law are you going to obey?

“As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord...” Joshua 24:15

—Discover Prophecy—

with David Asscherick, DP Speaker

No. 19

Discover: How Not to Get the Mark of the Beast

The Mark of the Beast is one of the most serious and misunderstood, subjects in the Bible. Since we have already identified the Beast of Revelation 13, we need only to discover what his *mark* is. After all, the mark of the beast is just that: *the mark of the beast*. That is, it is the *beast's mark*. Once the beast has been Biblically identified the matter of uncovering his mark becomes almost elementary, as we shall see...

Don't Forget the Issue...

As we study the topic of the mark of the beast, we must bear in mind what we have learned from our past studies of Revelation. First, we have learned that there is a great _____ that surrounds God, His character, His law, and His government. Satan has claimed that God is unfair, unjust, and self-serving. Satan has claimed that he could run the universe better than God. This backdrop of the larger issue at stake, namely God's own character, helps us to understand with clarity the “big-picture” issues in Revelation. Second, the central issue at the end of time, according to the book of Revelation, is the issue of _____. Keeping these two “Revelation essentials” in mind will be exceedingly helpful in understanding the mark of the beast issue.

God's Seal Versus the Mark of the Beast

In order to understand the mark of the beast, we must _____ understand God's seal. These two are the opposite of one another. If you have one, you cannot have the other. The issue, then, for the believer, should be about ensuring that he/she does have *the seal*. In short, the seal of God should be the primary focus, not the mark of the beast. In obtaining the seal one is guaranteed that he/she cannot also receive the mark of the beast. Let us first, then, seek to understand the seal of God...

The Seal and the 144,000

The 144,000 spoken of in Revelation 7:1-4 and 14:1-5 all have the seal of God in their forehead. Note that the mark of the beast can be received either in the _____ or in the _____, but the seal of God can be received

only in the _____. According to Revelation 6:12-17, the 144,000 are those who are _____ when Jesus Christ returns to earth. They sing a song that no one else can sing because they pass through an experience that no other generation has known. The number does not have to be a literal number, as everything in Revelation is highly symbolic, and the number itself is quite obviously steeped in theological significance. These 144,000 are undefiled by “women”, that is false _____. They have God’s seal in their _____, that is in their hearts and beliefs. See Deuteronomy 6:6-12.

God’s Name, God’s Character and God’s Law

In the Bible, name represents _____. This is demonstrated by the number of people who, following a transformative encounter with God, had their name changed as a symbol of the larger character change. For example:

- Saul became _____
- Jacob became _____
- Abram became _____
- Sarai became _____
- Simon became _____

God’s holy character and name are synonymous with His _____. See Exodus 33:18-34:7. So God’s seal, which is His name and character, are found to be synonymous with His _____. Those people who receive God’s seal at the end of time will be those who honor and keep God’s holy law. This is exactly how Revelation describes them in Revelation 12:17, 14:12 and 22:14. This is powerfully significant.

The Sabbath, and its Uniqueness Among the Commandments

The 7th day Sabbath of the Fourth Commandment stands out as unique in the 10 Commandments as the one commandment that identifies God as creator, deliverer, and law-giver. Satan knows well the power and purpose of the Sabbath, and he has sought tirelessly to obscure it and cause it to be forgotten. Yet, God’s end-time people will not forget it. They will honor it and keep it as a memorial of both _____ and _____. See Exodus 20:8-11 and Ezekiel 20:12, 20. The Sabbath is a sign that it is God _____ who can make us _____. Our own works _____ make us holy, we must _____ in and _____ in God’s work for us. Therefore, the Sabbath is a _____ of trusting totally in _____ righteousness and not our own! God’s own character, exemplified in His holy

law, is God’s seal. Those who, through a faith commitment to Jesus Christ, honor and obey God’s righteous law need not fear the coming mark of the beast crisis! After all, they have the seal of God!

The Mark of the Beast

The mark of the beast is the _____ of the seal of God. The beast’s mark is his claim to ecclesiastical authority and power. The mark of the beast is the mark of the _____ authority. What is this mark? Remember Daniel 7:25 which says that this antichristian power “will _____ to change times and laws.” Have they attempted to do this? The answer of history is: *yes!* They have sought to “transfer” the holiness and solemnity of the 7th day Sabbath to Sunday, the first day of the week. There is no Biblical authority or mandate for this change. The church has done it out of her own sense of authority. She has placed convenience and tradition above the Bible. The Roman Church-State has historically made this claim, and continues to even today. She claims that this change proves her sovereignty and authority in religious matters. It is her _____ of authority. It is the mark, the identifying mark, of the beast and its usurped ecclesiastical power.

More Than a Day

This issue is about more than “just a day”. (Imagine Adam saying, “It was *just an apple.*”) It is about Biblical fidelity and faithfulness to Jesus Christ. In short, the issue could be boiled down to the following sentence: *Who are you taking orders from—from the Roman Church-State, or from Jesus Christ?* This is an issue of loyalty and authority. It is an issue of the commands of God versus the traditions of man. The _____ is a sign of Christ’s _____ and _____. _____ is a sign of the church’s authority and man’s convenience. Which will you choose?

We’re Not There Yet...

The key word in Revelation 13 relating to the mark of the beast issue is the word: _____. The second beast of Revelation 13 will enforce and command the worship of the first beast of Revelation 13, the Roman Church-state. This will happen when mandatory _____ worship is enforced by the secular government. It will be a choice between God’s law or man’s law. The Biblical _____ will be forgotten, despised, and neglected.

which seeks to model and reflect Christian principles of liberty, freedom and fairness, and would eventually possess unprecedented global influence?

Only one nation could fit: _____. Revelation 13 foretells the coming together of these two entities: one a super-power, the other the perceived “moral” super-power. This marriage will not be a pretty one.

And How Was the Roman Church-State Originally Formed?

The Roman Church-State has no standing army. It has always worked through existing _____ governments to achieve its purposes. So the image of the _____ will not be a literal _____. Rather it will be the resurgence of the kind of power and influence the Roman Church had in the Dark Ages. As the church worked, historically, through secular _____ to achieve its ends, so too at the end of time the resurrected beast will work through secular _____ to achieve its ends. The United States will, sadly, play that role. This is what the prophecy means in 13:11 when it says it will speak like a _____, that is like the _____.

God made man in His own _____ (Genesis 1:26) then He _____ into Him. So too the “image of the beast” comes to life when the _____ breathes his power into the Roman Church. The “image of the beast”, which looks just like the beast did in the Dark Ages, will be suddenly brought back to life. The _____ works with the Roman Church to “bring this nation back to God”. This seemingly noble experiment climaxes when _____ the _____ of the Roman Church’s authority in religious matters is enforced, first with economic sanctions, and then finally on pain of death.

All Roads Lead to Rome

Protestant churches are beating Rome’s door down to be allowed back into the _____ church. The phenomenon, called _____, is happening at an alarming rate. This coming together of the churches strengthens the Roman Church’s plans and potency. More on this in a future lesson.

Just like Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, God’s last-day people will be forced to choose between “forced worship” and God’s commandments. In Daniel 3 we find them standing strong by God’s enabling grace. May Jesus Christ grant us the grace, courage, and power to do the same. May we say with Peter: “We ought to obey God rather than man.” Amen and amen.

—Discover Prophecy—

with David Asscherick, DP Speaker

No. 20

Discover: The United States’ Role in Bible Prophecy

The United States is unquestionably the most powerful nation on earth today. More than this, it is the most powerful nation that has *ever existed* in the history of the human race. This political, economic, and military potency has caused many to inquire what role, if any, the United States would play in Bible Prophecy. This is precisely the question we will seek to answer in the lesson.

Worship or Else!

The word _____ is an important word in Revelation 13. It occurs there _____ times. The word _____ means to _____ in this context. We might ask the question: Does God ever force people to worship Him? The answer, plainly, is _____. See Matthew 11:28-30; Jeremiah 31:3. God urges, invites, encourages, woos, and draws us to worship Him, but He never _____ us to. Forced worship, like forced love, is a contradiction in terms and is surely rooted in Satan’s perverse and insatiable desire for worship.

The Mark of the Beast

The mark of the beast is the mark...of the _____. That is, it is the beasts’ mark of authority. We have identified, from the Bible, the beast as none other than the Roman Church-State. This identification is consistent with essentially *every one* of the protestant reformers from Martin Luther and John Wesley to William Tyndale and John Calvin and many, many others. The mark of the beast, then, would be the mark of the Roman Church-State. Simple.

Last lesson we learned that the mark of the Roman Church-State’s authority in religious matters is found in her presumptuous claim to have _____ the Christian day of worship from _____ to _____. This is her claim. And it is an amazing one indeed.

Remember Daniel 7:25 which says that this antichristian power “will _____ to change times and laws.” Have they attempted to do this? The answer of history is: *yes!* They have sought to “transfer” the holiness and

solemnity of the 7th day Sabbath to Sunday, the first day of the week. There is no Biblical authority or mandate for this change! The church has done it out of her own sense of authority. She has placed convenience and tradition above the Bible. The Roman Church-State has historically made this claim, and continues to even today. She claims that this change proves her sovereignty and authority in religious matters. It is a _____ of her authority. It is a mark, an identifying mark, of the beast and its usurped ecclesiastical power!

We're Not There Yet...

The key word in Revelation 13 relating to the mark of the beast issue is the word: _____. The second beast of Revelation 13 will enforce and command the worship of the first beast of Revelation 13, the Roman Church-state. This will happen when mandatory _____ observance, to the exclusion of the Biblical Sabbath, is enforced by the secular government. It will be a choice between God's law or man's law. The Biblical _____ will be forgotten, despised, and neglected.

"Impossible" you say. Note that 36 states already have _____ laws on the books just waiting to be enforced. The climate is ripening for just this kind of thing. Many a politician, and many a religious leader are keen on "getting this country back to God." We also are keen on it, but we have serious reservations about the methods that modern-day politicians and religionists have in mind for doing this. Their primary goal is to use *legislation* to promote their religious agenda. This is always a dangerous mixture, as the 1260-year period known as the _____ ages clearly reveals. The first amendment of the constitution is a safeguard against this very kind of thing, but the constitution is being radically reevaluated. The climate of the United States right now, post-9-11 is a very different world than the pre-9-11 world. The world will never be the same again. Neither will the United States. We are living in strange and portentous times indeed, as an increasing number of politicians and legislators claim that they are Christians on a mission to "turn this nation back to God."

To put it very plainly: Sunday observance will be _____. This will be the enforcement of the _____ of the beast. It's really quite simple. The transfer from the Biblical Sabbath to _____ is the beast's _____. This _____ will be "caused" or enforced. The United States will play a pivotal role in this enforcement, as Revelation 13 makes clear.

Two Beasts: Who is the Second?

Revelation 13 describes _____ beasts. The first beast rises up out of the _____ and has _____ horns, the body of a _____, the feet of a _____ and the mouth of a _____. This imagery, of course, comes directly from Daniel 7, as we have already seen and studied. Notice the sequence:

- 10 horns—leopard—bear—lion

This is the exact opposite order that Daniel had seen them. He saw:

- Lion—Bear—Leopard—Strange beast with 10 horns

Why the difference? Daniel was looking forward into the future, that is _____. John was looking backward into history, that is _____. The first beast is the Roman Church-State, as we have already compellingly seen. Who is the Second beast? Note the following identifying characteristics:

1. Rises out of the _____ as opposed to the _____.
2. Has two horns like a _____, but eventually speaks as a _____.
3. Horns have no _____; there is no _____ or _____.
4. Rises up about the same _____ the first beast goes _____.
5. Does not conquer other nations but was seen _____ up.
6. Eventually possesses _____ power and influence.

What nation arose around 1798, not by violent conquest so much as by quiet, plant-like growth in a relatively unpopulated and "new" area of planet Earth, that advocates a democratic form of government, without a king or queen,

Identifying God's End-Time Community of Faith

Does God still have a _____ on earth today? The answer must be: _____. If the answer is: _____, then Jesus was wrong when he said, "the gates of hell will not prevail against" her. Jesus wasn't wrong, and he wasn't lying! His church is still alive, and amidst the confusion and fallen-ness of the contemporary religious environment, she upholds *God's Word*, *God's Law*, and most importantly *God's Gospel*. List the identifying characteristics of God's last-day community of faith. Be sure to give textual support.

- 1.
2.
 - a.
 - b.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.

Is God Calling You? Yes!

Could it be that God is calling you to join His end-time movement? Will you accept that invitation? God has a plan for your life, and it is not by accident that you came to these meetings. God has brought Bible truth to you because He believes you can be trusted with it. "Walk in the light while you have it."

—Discover Prophecy—

with David Asscherick, DP Speaker

No. 21

Discover: Babylon is Alive and Well!

Many people wonder why there are so many Christian denominations. This is a fair question. After all, there is just *one* Bible, *one* Savior and *one* God, so it is difficult to understand why there should be so many different churches. The purpose of this lesson will be to understand both *the cause of* and *the solution to* this phenomenon.

How Many Churches Did Jesus Establish?

According to Matthew 16:13-19 (especially v. 18), how many churches did Jesus Christ establish? _____. Ephesians 5:25-32 reveals the same thing. Jesus Christ established, and "gave Himself" for "_____ church", that is, _____ church. This is an essential point to grasp. There are over 1000 separate Christian denominations and sects in the world today, yet Jesus established just a single church. What happened? Revelation holds the key...

Is Jesus A Polygamist?

Revelation 12 depicts a chaste, beautiful and virtuous woman. This woman represents God's _____ church, His _____ people. (Remember, a woman in Bible prophecy represents a church. See Jeremiah 6:2; 2Corinthians 11:2) In Revelation 17 we find an unfaithful, adulterous woman the Bible calls a _____. In verses 1-5 she is accused three times of having committed _____. She also has numerous _____ who are themselves adulterous and unfaithful. Notice that there are many different women (churches) here in Revelation. This is especially incredible when you remember that we have already learned that Jesus Christ established just _____ church prior to his ascension.

A Babylonian Bride

Revelation 17:5 tells us the "name" of this unfaithful woman: "Mystery, Babylon the Great the Mother of Harlots and of the Abominations of the Earth". This reference to Babylon is an important one, and we must not overlook it!

Genesis 11:1-9 and Daniel 4:30 are two passages that sum up what Babylon represented and stood for. Babylon (both *ancient* and *neo*) was:

- A _____ system of religion
- A _____ of image worship
- The center of false teachings about _____
- The center of _____ worship

The two cardinal characteristics of end-time Babylon are:

- 1) man-made (a tribute to man and his “wisdom” and artifice)
- 2) a center of confusion

Identifying End-Time Babylon

Revelation 17 gives not less than nine identifying characteristics of end-time Babylon. They are as follows:

1. Church
2. Area of many nations
3. City
4. Rules over kings
5. Seven mountains/ hills
6. Purple and scarlet in color (missing the *blue* of the High Priest)
7. Rich
8. Persecutes
9. Blasphemous

Significantly, Revelation describes this woman, this unfaithful church, as dressing in the same colors as the _____ of the Old Testament. There is just one color missing: *blue*, see Exodus 28:5, 6, 13-15. According to Numbers 15:37, the *blue* in the priestly garment in the Old Testament was a symbol of the *remembrance of and adherence to the _____* of God. The woman of Revelation 17 purports to be God’s priest, God’s representative, but in the absence of the color *blue*, John, the author of Revelation, is communicating that this unfaithful church has forgotten the _____ of God. Clearly, she cannot be Christ’s true bride, for Christ’s true bride at the end of time keeps the commandments of God. See Revelation 12:17; 14:12; 22:14. The above identifying characteristics make it

clear that the identity of end time Babylon is none other than the Roman Church. Her daughters are those churches or communions which adhere to either Roman or Babylonian doctrines, dogmas, and teachings. Daughters look similar to their respective mothers, yet are not _____. In short, end-time Babylon is a fallen, unfaithful group of churches which adhere to the teachings, doctrines, and commandments of men and ignore the plain teachings of the word of God. They thus create a confusion-laden environment. End-time Babylon is the _____, fallen. She is not the _____ of Christ.

Come Out of Her My People

Rev. 18:1-5 finds God calling His people out of end-time Babylon. God claims the people, but the systems that teach error and ignore the plain teachings of the Bible are judged and disavowed. The importance of this point cannot be overstated. Like Lot of old, God calls His people out prior to the coming destruction. Babylon is not to be _____, but _____. It is not difficult to discern whether or not one is “in Babylon”; one need only ask, and answer, a simple question: Does my church, my “community of faith”, contain any residual papal, pagan, or Babylonian elements or teachings?

Out of Babylon, Into What?

We have seen the “exit” sign, but now we need to know, from the Bible, where to go—the “enter” sign. Fortunately, the Bible is clear on this. The woman of Revelation 12 is depicted as being clothed with those things that bring _____ to this planet—sun, moon and stars. God’s end-time church will be steeped in the Bible—its teachings, its principles, its practices, and its commandments. Verse 17 of this chapter makes it clear that God’s end-time people will be a commandment-keeping people. This would include, of course, the _____ commandment of the Ten Commandments, which tells of the sanctity and beauty of the _____. God’s end-time church will uphold the teachings and commandments of God over the traditions and teachings of man. God’s end-time church will adhere to the faith of Jesus. It will uphold the divine law as the great moral standard, but it will point to Jesus Christ as the only way of salvation. Law and gospel will be joined beautifully in this end-time community of faith. Faith and obedience will be inseparably coupled; like the old Gospel hymn says: “*Trust and obey for there is no other way to be happy in Jesus, than to trust and obey.*”