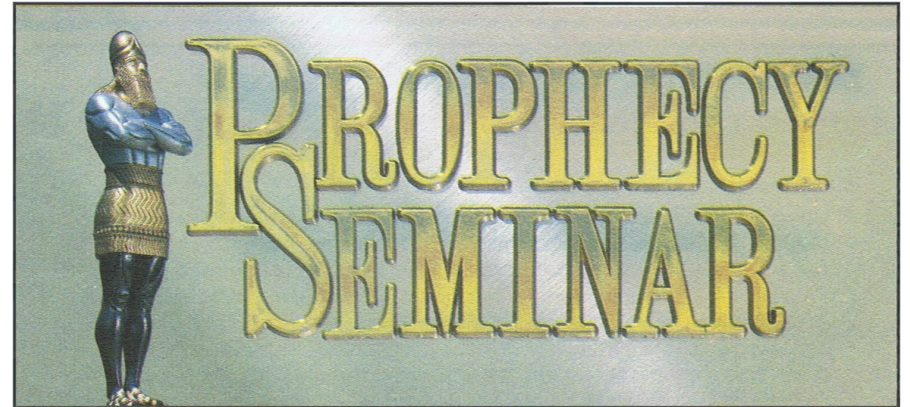


Notes, Questions & Prayer Requests

Lined area for notes, questions, and prayer requests.

DS-024



LESSON TWENTY-FOUR
THE MARK OF THE BEAST

QUIZ QUESTIONS

- 1. The second coming of Christ will be visible, personal and accompanied by a lot of noise. True
2. The Bible indicates that the saints will be raptured out of the world before the final time of trouble; thus the saints will not have to go through the troublous times of the last days. False
3. When Christ comes to gather His saints, only the righteous will know it. False
4. The great Dark Day occurred on May 19, 1780; the falling of the stars occurred November 12, 1833. True
5. The signs of the times indicate that we are not living in the time of the end today. False

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Lessons 24 to 31 should all be used in an attempt to gain a decision for your students to become members of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. While that specific question will not be asked in this lesson, you will still be drawing in the net.

As you make these appeals, be sure to do so with love, kindness and tact, but at the same time do not be afraid to make specific appeals for people to take their stand with God's remnant people.

You have laid a solid foundation throughout the series and you should find many of your students willing to take their stand with God's people. However, that will not happen unless you specifically ask them for that kind of decision.

Things to Review:

1. Review the key identifying marks of the little horn from Lesson 10. This can be done very quickly.
2. Review very quickly the Sabbath truth from Lessons 12 and 13. The points to review are:
 - a. God has commanded His people to keep holy the seventh day Sabbath.
 - b. Saturday is the seventh day.
 - c. It does make a difference which day is kept.
 - d. The Sabbath is a creation institution and not meant for the Jews only.
 - e. The Papacy is responsible for the attempted change of the Sabbath to Sunday.
 - f. The purpose of the Sabbath is to provide time for God's people to develop a relationship with Him.

While covering all of these points will give you an extensive time of review, it is absolutely essential for building your case in Lesson 24 .

Notes, Questions & Prayer Requests

Purpose of This Lesson:

Lesson 24 deals with the mark of the beast. Often people are concerned about presenting this lesson; however, previous lessons have laid a strong foundation and this lesson should not be difficult for your students to accept. Remember that you have already covered the identity of the beast and the change of the Sabbath.

This lesson is simply reviewing and putting together what has already been presented.

All of your students need to understand that the Bible presents the Sabbath/Sunday controversy at **THE** conflict of the last days.

The purpose of this lesson is to show the great importance of the Sabbath/Sunday issue and to lead your students into a decision to begin keeping the Sabbath in earnest. Many of them will have been attending the Sabbath Seminars on a weekly basis, but others will not have made a decision to keep the Sabbath.

This lesson should and will be the separating lesson. People who have been hesitant to make a decision about the Sabbath should be ready to make that decision after this presentation on the mark of the beast.

God bless you as you present this lesson, and we pray that many precious souls will be led to see the beauty of the Sabbath truth as a result.

Questions 1 & 2

These two questions review many of the points previously studied in the book of Daniel. The two great areas of conflict in Daniel are worship of the image in Chapter 3 and the experience with the lions' den in Chapter 6.

The point that should be raised in this section of the lesson is that these two stories illustrate conflict at the time of the end. Therefore, the last-day conflict is over worship. First, false worship will be proscribed, and then true worship will be prohibited. In other words, the final conflict will follow the same pattern as the conflict in the book of Daniel. Emphasize

here the fact that the stories of Daniel illustrate the crisis at the close of time.

This lesson will deal primarily with the book of Revelation, but your students need to see by your emphasis in these first two questions that the basic conflict described in Revelation is taught in embryo in Daniel through the stories and the prophecies.

Questions 3 to 5

These three questions very briefly review what was previously studied in Lesson 10. You will not need to spend a lot of time on these, but it is important to review them if you have not already done so in your introduction to this lesson.

Questions 6 to 10

These questions introduce the United States as the second beast. They merely establish the identity of the United States as this second beast. When you talk about the Papacy or the United States, please do so with kindness. When mentioning the Papacy, make it clear that you are referring to the system, not to the people who belong to the system.

When you talk about the United States, let your students know that you are proud of your country (if you are in the United States). Be sure to thank God before your students for the freedoms that are enjoyed in the United States.

Let your students know that you are thankful for the good things that this country has accomplished through the years. Let them know that you wish the prophecy did not go on to describe religious persecution, but since the Bible does describe it, we must examine the Biblical record.

Question 11

It seems hard to imagine that the United States could eventually become a persecuting power. Obviously, in order to do this the United States will

As you approach your appeal, challenge your students to take as strong a stand as the three Hebrew worthies did. Challenge them to remain true to God and to follow Him regardless of the consequences.

Remember, some of them may be facing the loss of a job over the Sabbath. You might even wish to use the loss of job issue as an example: some people may be faced with the loss of a job, family, or friends because they decide to keep God's Sabbath and follow Christ implicitly.

And their decision must be the same as the three Hebrew worthies: whether God works out their job situation, whether their family and friends remain true to them or not is not the real issue. The real issue is: Will they serve God?

Response Questions:

1. If it is clear to you from this lesson that the Sabbath/Sunday question is the outward issue in the mark of the beast, but that the real issue is the setting aside of time to build a strong relationship with God, place a check mark in Box #1.
2. If it is your desire to prepare now to avoid the mark of the beast by keeping holy God's seventh-day Sabbath from sundown Friday to sundown Saturday, place a check mark in Box #2.
3. If you feel that you are going to have some problems with keeping the Sabbath, perhaps with a job or with family, and you would like us to pray with you for that problem, place a check mark in Box #3.
4. If you still have some questions regarding the Sabbath and you would like to have them answered before you make your decision, place a check mark in Box #4.

Be sure to read the note under Question 24, especially the second paragraph. In this section of the lesson we want to make clear to the student that the Sabbath/Sunday issue involves more than just a day of worship—it involves a relationship with God.

Many people dismiss the Sabbath/Sunday question as of minor importance.

This lesson attempts to reveal the importance given to it in the book of Revelation: it is not just the outward issue of what day a person is keeping, but whether that person has given God full authority in his life and has developed a vital relationship with God.

Question 25

The reason for this severe warning is not because God is arbitrary, but because God is attempting to show people the importance of the issue.

Remember, you are now into the section of the lesson that is building the major premise that you are trying to build in this entire lesson: that the Sabbath issue is not just a minor issue, but **THE** major issue in the book of Revelation, because it deals with a relationship with God. Be sure to read the note under Question 25, especially the second paragraph.

Question 26

At this point in the lesson you again will refer back to the experience of the three Hebrew worthies. The height of that passage is the statement by Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego that is recorded in this part of the lesson. Turn to Daniel 3:16-18 and read the passage.

Help your students to see again that the issue is not one of deliverance. The issue is that they will serve God. Likewise with God's last-day people. The issue will not be their deliverance. In fact, their deliverance is not their chief concern. Like the Hebrew worthies, their concern is that they not disappoint God. They will remain true to Him regardless of what happens.

have to repudiate every principle of its Constitution which guarantees the rights of the individual and freedom to worship God according to the dictates of one's own conscience. Yet the Bible very clearly foretells that this will happen.

Question 12

It is at this point that the link with the book of Daniel is clearly seen. The issue in the final conflict is over worship. It is not over oil fields; it is not over the Middle East. The conflict is over worship: true worship over false worship. This is the issue in Daniel; that is the issue in Revelation.

Do not hesitate to again draw the parallels with Daniel 3 and 6. It is at this point that people are induced to worship a false power. Yet to come, of course, is the command that prohibits the worship of God. Both issues are involved in the final conflict.

Question 13

The beast power performs miracles, signs and wonders in his attempt to get people to worship this first beast. This is to give authenticity to his claims.

Since he does not have Biblical support, the beast then appeals to miracles, signs and wonders as the authenticating voice of God. This point will be elaborated upon in the next lesson.

Question 14

Here is the erection of the image to the beast. This is the most trying time for the people of God. Now to worship God and fail to worship the beast is to be regarded as treason. God's last-day people will be placed in the same position as Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego in Daniel 3.

Question 15

This is the same crisis that came to the three Hebrew worthies. The death decree is passed upon those who will not worship the image to the beast.

Question 16

Now the mark of the beast is imposed. The mark is received either in the right hand or in the forehead. People will worship the beast because they are commanded to do so. They may actually believe the truth of the Word of God, but will receive the mark in the hand to save their lives.

Others receive the mark in the forehead, signifying that they really believe that the beast power is of God. But whether a person really believes, or only goes along with it to save his life, he is still deceived by the beast power.

Question 17

Economic restrictions are now placed upon those who do not cooperate with this power. They are not able to buy or sell. The imposition of the mark of the beast fulfils both parts of Daniel: true worship is prohibited and false worship is commanded under penalty of death.

Question 18

While you have clearly drawn from the text that there is going to be a major confrontation between the people of God and those who worship the beast, you have yet to clearly identify what the mark of the beast is. These next few questions will make that identification.

Question 19

Please take the time to read through each of these quotations with your students. If there are others that you have discovered, you might want to

read them to your students also. Make it clear that you are not putting words into the mouth of the Roman Church, but these quotations are all claims that she herself makes regarding her authority to change the Sabbath. Be sure to read the note after all the quotations.

The main point here is that if the beast is the Roman Church, then the mark of the beast would be that which the Roman Church claims as the mark of her authority and power—the changing of the day of worship to Sunday.

Question 20

These two statements are bold, clear admissions of the Roman Church that Sunday keeping is the mark of her authority and power. Be sure to make very plain to your students that no one has the mark of the beast now.

The mark of the beast does not come until it is imposed by civil legislation and people are forced to keep Sunday because it is the law of the land.

The point, however, is that if a person continues to keep Sunday now, when he knows what the Bible says, chances are increased that he will keep it when it is imposed by legislation. That's why it's important for people to make a decision now to keep the Sabbath.

Questions 21 to 24

These questions deal with the seal of God. It is an attempt to end this lesson on a very positive note. While we must resist the mark of the beast, it is also important that we follow God's truth implicitly by receiving His seal.

As these questions point out, the seal of God is involved with keeping the true Sabbath as a means to obtaining a deeper relationship with Christ. Again, the point is that unless a person has developed a deep personal relationship with Christ, he will finally receive the mark of the beast. The seal of God is the opposite of the mark of the beast.