

Welcome to Hope Sabbath School—an in-depth interactive study of the Word of God. We are continuing a series of studies on The Cosmic Conflict. Today's topic: **STANDING FOR THE TRUTH.**

1. Persecution prophesied

- a) Daniel 7:23-25 Who was the Little Horn that grew up out of the fourth beast and persecuted the saints of the Most High?
- b) Share some examples from history of persecution by the Little Horn power.
- c) Revelation 12:6,14 Who was the evil mastermind behind these persecuting powers?
- d) What prophesy did Jesus give about persecution of His followers? John 16:1-4
- e) What promise did Jesus give to those who were persecuted as His followers? Revelation 2:10
- f) Share the story of someone you know who has experienced persecution as a follower of Jesus.

2. Apostasy prophesied

- a) Why did Jude encourage Christians to “contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints”? Jude 1-4
- b) In addition to persecuting the saints, what other ungodly work did the Little Horn power seek to accomplish? Daniel 7:25, Daniel 8:9-12
- c) What warning did the apostle Paul give about this great apostasy? 2 Thessalonians 2:1-4
- d) What false doctrines were promoted during the great apostasy that were directly contrary to the clear teaching of the Word of God?

3. Standing firm for the truth as followers of Jesus

- a) How did the Jewish High Priest and the Sadducees treat the apostles who were serving Jesus with holy boldness? Acts 5:12-18
- b) How did the LORD show His affirmation of the apostles and what was Peter’s inspired testimony to the religious leaders who were persecuting the apostles? Acts 5:19-33
- c) Who did God use to speak truth to these religious leaders? Acts 5:34-40
- d) What was the response of the apostles after they had been intimidated and beaten? Acts 5:41-42
- e) What important lessons can we learn from the experience and testimony of the apostles?
- f) Name some faithful followers of Jesus during the Christian era who had the courage to stand firm for truth in the face of persecution and apostasy.
- g) What inspired passages from the Scriptures encourage us to stand firm as followers of Jesus when surrounded by apostasy and threatened with persecution? Ephesians 6:10-13, John 10:27-29, Revelation 1:17-18, etc.

