

1. Persecution of Christians through the centuries

- a) What prophecy of Jesus has been fulfilled down through the centuries of the Christian era? John 15:18-19, 16:1-4
- b) Name some individuals or groups who have been persecuted because of their faith in Jesus.
- c) Identify some powers that have led out in persecution of Christians? (Pagan Rome, papal Rome Muslims, Communists, etc.)
- d) What power exercised religious and political power for an extended period (1260 years from AD 538-AD 1798) in the Christian era and persecuted the saints of the Most High God? Revelation 13:4-8, 12:6,14, Daniel 7:24-25 (the Papacy)
- e) What apparently deadly wound was inflicted on the Papacy at the end of the 1260 years that ended the Papal domination during the Dark Ages? (1798)
- f) When was the deadly wound healed? Revelation 13:3 (Lateran Treaty, June 7, 1929) What were the details of the Lateran Treaty?
- g) How have you seen the Papacy increase its global influence in the last century?

2. Prophecy of end-time apostasy and persecution

- a) 2 Thessalonians 2:3-4,9-12 What prophecy does the apostle Paul give regarding apostasy prior to the return of Jesus?

- b) Revelation 13:11-15 Why will the saints of God refuse to worship the image of the beast?
- c) What Bible stories give us courage when threatened with a death threat if we refuse to bow down to false gods? Daniel 3:16-25, 6:16-23, Acts 12:1-10, etc.

3. The Mark of the Beast

- a) Revelation 14:9-10, 13:16-17 Is the mark of this beast power a literal mark or figurative?
- b) What is the significance of the location of this mark?
- c) What does this beast power of Revelation claim as a mark of its authority?
- d) What are the consequences of refusing to receive this mark of the beast power? Revelation 13:17,15
- e) What earnest appeal is given to saints of God who have any association with the beast and his image? Revelation 18:1-5
- f) Why is the judgment of God poured out on those who worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark on the foreheads or hands?
- g) What events in recent times illustrate the feasibility of enforcing such a global decree?

