

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: THE IMPENDING CONFLICT.

1. Worthy of worship

- a) What is the key issue in the final conflict? Compare Revelation 14:7, 4:11 with Revelation 14:9-10.
- b) Why is the LORD worthy of our worship?
- c) What is Satan's ultimate desire? Isaiah 14:12-14, Matthew 4:8-9
- d) How did Jesus respond to Satan's appeal to be worshipped? Matthew 4:10
- e) Why is the Sabbath of the 4th commandment such a central issue in this battle over worship?
- f) Why is the unbiblical teaching of a naturally immortal soul so dangerous?

2. Persecution of the saints

- a) John 16:1-2, Matthew 10:16-22, John 15:18-20 What can we learn from these prophecies of Jesus?
- b) What reminder did the apostle Paul give to Timothy? 2 Timothy 3:12-13
- c) What are some ways faithful followers of Jesus will be persecuted in the last days of earth's history? Revelation 13:16-17, 15
- d) How should we respond when we suffer persecution for Christ's sake? Matthew 5:10-12, 1 Peter 4:12-16
- e) What are your thoughts and feelings about suffering persecution as a follower of Jesus? How is it possible to rejoice while experiencing persecution?

- f) Share some examples of faithful followers of Jesus who rejoiced while experiencing persecution. Acts 5:40-41, Acts 16:22-25, etc.

3. The Beast from the sea behind this persecution

- a) Revelation 13:1-10 Who is the dragon behind this power that speaks blasphemies? (Revelation 12:9)
- b) What key markers in this prophecy help us to identify this power that akes war with the saints?
- c) Why is so painful to admit that the apostate Christian church became an instrument of Satan to persecute faithful followers of Jesus?
- d) What were Reformers like Martin Luther protesting and what was their intention?
- e) Why is it important to remember that this prophecy is speaking about an institution, not individuals?

4. The Beast from the earth

- a) Revelation 13:11-17 How does this second beast differ from the beast from the sea?
- b) What superpower with global authority rose up out of a sparsely populated area of the world?
- c) How is it possible for a nation founded on principles of religious liberty to become a persecuting power?
- d) What signs do you see of impending persecution?
- e) What encouragement can we gain from the story recorded in Daniel 3? See Daniel 3:17.

