

Three Cosmic Messages

The Seal of God and the Mark of the Beast – Part 1

Lesson #11 for June 10, 2023

Scriptures: Revelation 7:2-3; 13:15-17; 14:4,12; Ephesians 2:8-10; Matthew 27:45-50; Luke 5:18-26.

1. There are some very serious warnings given in the book of Revelation for those who will be living in the final days of this world's history. On those who make a conscious decision to be on God's side, He will place on their "foreheads" a seal visible only to angels. At the same time, Satan is determined to place on the foreheads of as many people as he can his invisible mark. However, if he cannot place it on their foreheads, he will place it on their "hands," a sign of being on Satan's side for convenience.

Revelation 7:2-3: ²And I saw another angel coming up from the east **with the seal of the living God**. He called out in a loud voice to the four angels to whom God had given the power to damage the earth and the sea. ³The angel said, "Do not harm the earth, the sea, or the trees, **until we mark the servants of our God with a seal on their foreheads.**"—American Bible Society. (1992). *The Holy Bible: The Good News Translation** (2nd ed., Revelation 7:2-3). New York: American Bible Society [abbreviated as *Good News Bible*].^{††} [Compare Ezekiel 9:1-6.][‡]

2. God's system is built on love. There is never any use of force in God's kingdom. By contrast, we read in Revelation 13, Daniel 7, and 2 Thessalonians 2, about a power that usurps God's authority, commands loyalty, and introduces a counterfeit system of worship. It does this through the use of force, coercion, and at times bribes and rewards—all in order to compel worship. See *Adult Sabbath School Bible Study Guide* for Sabbath Afternoon, June 3.
3. The use of force is Satan's number one weapon. He will use force in any way he can. Notice these very significant words in the first few pages of *The Desire of Ages* concerning the conditions in the world just before Christ the Messiah was born in Bethlehem.

[From the writings of Ellen G. White=EGW:] The earth was dark through misapprehension of God. **That the gloomy shadows might be lightened, that the world might be brought back to God, Satan's deceptive power was to be broken. This could not be done by force. The exercise of force is contrary to the principles of God's government; He desires only the service of love; and love cannot be commanded; it cannot be won by force or authority. Only by love is love awakened. To know God is to love Him; His character must be manifested in contrast to the character of Satan.** This work only one Being in all the universe could do. Only He who knew the height and depth of the love of God could make it known. Upon the world's dark night the Sun of Righteousness must rise, "with healing in His wings." Malachi 4:2.—Ellen G. White, *The Desire of Ages** 22.1.^{††} [See the handout "Love" on Theox.org under General Topics: https://www.theox.org/images/uploads/bbk/KHart_BTGG_PDF_Gnrl_Love_16.pdf] [‡]

4. Our choice is spelled out clearly. We will try to outline the two sides as carefully as possible in this discussion. Will we choose to remain faithful to the side of Jesus Christ? Or, will we choose the easy way and join Satan's side? Notice carefully the words in each of the three angels' messages.

Revelation 14:7: He [the first angel] said in a loud voice, "Honour [sic] God and praise his greatness! For the time has come for him to judge. Worship him who made heaven, earth, sea, and the springs of water!"—*Good News Bible*.*†

Revelation 14:8: A second angel followed the first one, saying, "She has fallen! Great Babylon has fallen! She made all peoples drink her wine—the strong wine of her immoral lust!"—*Good News Bible*.*

5. The third angel warns against worshipping the beast.

Revelation 14:9-10: ⁹Then a third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, "If anyone worships the beast and his image, and **receives his mark on his forehead or on his hand**, ¹⁰he himself shall also drink of the wine of the wrath of God..."—*New King James Version*.*†§

Revelation 14:9-10: ⁹ A third angel followed the first two, saying in a loud voice, "Whoever worships the beast and its image and **receives the mark on their forehead or on their hand** ¹⁰will themselves drink God's wine, the wine of his fury, which he has poured at full strength into the cup of his anger! All who do this will be tormented in fire and sulphur [sic] before the holy angels and the Lamb."—*Good News Bible*.*†‡

6. ***We must remember that in the Bible, "God's wrath" or "anger" is described very clearly; it is not what "anger" or "wrath" means in a modern dictionary. God's wrath is His turning away in loving disappointment from those who do not want Him anyway, thus leaving them to reap the inevitable and awful consequences of their own rebellious choices. God continues to try to woo them back. (Romans 6:23)***
7. One of the clearest examples of *God's wrath* which means His giving up on, or leaving the object of His wrath, was seen at the cross.

Matthew 27:45-50: ⁴⁵ At noon the whole country was covered with darkness, which lasted for three hours. ⁴⁶**At about three o'clock Jesus cried out with a loud shout, "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" which means, "My God, my God, why did you abandon me?"** [That is the result of God's wrath.]

⁴⁷ Some of the people standing there heard him and said, "He is calling for Elijah!" ⁴⁸One of them ran up at once, took a sponge, soaked it in cheap wine, put it on the end of a stick, and tried to make him drink it.

⁴⁹ But the others said, "Wait, let us see if Elijah is coming to save him!"

⁵⁰ Jesus again gave a loud cry and breathed his last.—*Good News Bible*.*†‡

[EGW:] **The wrath of God against sin**, the terrible manifestation of His displeasure because of iniquity, filled the soul of His Son with consternation. All His life Christ had been publishing to a fallen world the good news of the Father's mercy and pardoning love. Salvation for the chief of sinners was His theme. But now with the terrible weight of guilt He bears, **He cannot**

see the Father's reconciling face. The withdrawal of the divine countenance from the Saviour in this hour of supreme anguish pierced His heart with a sorrow that can never be fully understood by man. So great was this agony that His physical pain was hardly felt.

Satan with his fierce temptations wrung the heart of Jesus. **The Saviour could not see through the portals of the tomb.** Hope did not present to Him His coming forth from the grave a conqueror, or tell Him of the Father's acceptance of the sacrifice. **He feared that sin was so offensive to God that Their separation was to be eternal.** Christ felt the anguish which the sinner will feel when mercy shall no longer plead for the guilty race. **It was the sense of sin, bringing the Father's wrath upon Him as man's substitute, that made the cup He drank so bitter, and broke the heart of the Son of God.**—Ellen G. White, *The Desire of Ages** 753.1-2.†‡

[Sin, causing separation from His Father, was so horrifying to Jesus that His physical pain was hardly felt! Do we feel that pain when we choose to sin?]‡

8. **On the cross Jesus was experiencing what sinners will experience in the final judgment at the third coming.** Jesus could not see through the portals of the tomb. He could not see the Father's reconciling face. **He was afraid that their separation was to be eternal.** God will finally leave sinners to reap the consequences of their choices. That will be the truth for those who are finally impenitent. At their own persistent insistence, sinners will eventually be left by God to do and be what they insist on doing, leaving God. **Sinners will then realize the seriousness of being permanently separated from the only source of life: Our Loving Father in heaven.**

Matthew 27:45-46: [Reading again:] ⁴⁵ At noon the whole country was covered with darkness, which lasted for three hours. ⁴⁶**At about three o'clock Jesus cried out with a loud shout, "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" which means, "My God, my God, why did you abandon me?"**—*Good News Bible*.*†‡ [Jesus did NOT say or ask, "Why are You killing Me?" Or, "Why are You torturing Me." Instead, He asked, "Why did you abandon me?"]‡

Romans 6:23: For sin pays its wage—death; but God's free gift is eternal life in union with Christ Jesus our Lord.—*Good News Bible*.*

9. No one is suggesting that remaining faithful to God's side is going to be easy.

Revelation 14:12: This calls for endurance on the part of God's people, those who obey God's commandments and are faithful to Jesus.—*Good News Bible*.*

10. *Gill's Exposition of the Bible* has an interesting paraphrase of **Revelation 14:12.**

[From the Bible study guide=BSG:] "Here are they that **keep the commandments of God, and not the inventions of men, and the traditions of antichrist,** but the ordinances of the Gospel, as they were at first delivered, without any adulteration and corruption; and who kept them because they were enjoined by God, and from a principle of love to him, and with a view to his glory: these are distinguished from the worshippers of the beast, and were preserved throughout the apostasy; these are the

witnesses . . . and the remnant of the woman's seed, with whom the dragon made war by the beast."—*Comments on Revelation 14:12*, biblestudytools.com/commentaries/gills-exposition-of-the-bible/revelation-14-12.html. [the reference is given but no hyperlink is present]—[as quoted in *Adult Teachers Sabbath School Bible Study Guide** 144-145].^{†§}

11. The faithful followers of Jesus will distinguish themselves by their faith *in* Jesus and their faith *from* Jesus.
12. Steadfast endurance is the meaning of the Greek word *hupomone*, and it will be required of God's end-time people. We are born sinful. Our natural tendencies in this sinful world are to do "what comes naturally," and that means to follow the Devil.
13. It requires significant day-by-day effort to change that condition. The good news is that God is present beside us to help us every day.

[EGW:] **It is a law both of the intellectual and the spiritual nature that by beholding we become changed. The mind gradually adapts itself to the subjects upon which it is allowed to dwell. It becomes assimilated to that which it is accustomed to love and reverence.** Man will never rise higher than his standard of purity or goodness or truth. If self is his loftiest ideal, he will never attain to anything more exalted. Rather, he will constantly sink lower and lower. The grace of God alone has power to exalt man. Left to himself, his course must inevitably be downward.—Ellen G. White, *The Great Controversy** 555.1.^{†‡}

14. The troubles and trials we face each day may seem like small matters; but, we need to remember what Jesus Himself said.

Luke 16:10: "Whoever is faithful in small matters will be faithful in large ones; whoever is dishonest in small matters will be dishonest in large ones."—*Good News Bible*.*

15. The core message of the struggle in the great controversy over God's character and government was spelled out by Jesus in those final hours of His life on this earth.
16. What example did Jesus leave us? While there on the cross when everything seemed to be turning against Him, we read:

[EGW:] Amid the awful darkness, apparently forsaken of God, Christ had drained the last dregs in the cup of human woe. **In those dreadful hours He had relied upon the evidence of His Father's acceptance heretofore given Him. [See Luke 6:12.] He was acquainted with the character of His Father; He understood His justice, His mercy, and His great love. By faith He rested in Him whom it had ever been His joy to obey. And as in submission He committed Himself to God, the sense of the loss of His Father's favor was withdrawn. By faith, Christ was victor.**—Ellen G. White, *The Great Controversy** 756.3.^{†‡} [Nothing that Satan could do or say could shake Jesus's deeply rooted trust in His Father!][‡]

17. Satan was in a desperate situation. When Jesus came and was born as a baby Boy in Bethlehem, Satan was determined to prevent Him from carrying out God's rescue of the human race one way or another. The Devil had three plans in mind:

- 1) Satan assured his associates that every person who had ever lived on this earth had sinned, and he **would get Jesus to sin**. But, throughout His life including in the wilderness, Satan and his team failed to get Jesus to sin.
 - 2) Jesus had lived through many years of His life and even through times of great opposition from people who claimed to be faithful followers of God. In the closing days and months of the life of Jesus, Satan was determined to make things as difficult for Jesus as he possibly could. It was Satan's hope that Jesus would give up on His "salvation trip" to save humanity and would just go back to heaven. **In Satan's plan, Jesus would not need to sin; He would just need to leave humanity.**
 - 3) When Jesus was finally dead and buried in the tomb, Satan recognized he had one more possible way to succeed in the great controversy. **He must keep Jesus dead in that tomb.** Of course, he failed on resurrection Sunday. The angel Gabriel and one associate came down from heaven with God's glory, rolled back the stone, and called Jesus. Then, Jesus came forth from the tomb in the power that was within Himself. Satan and every one of his evil angels were trying to keep that grave closed! (See John 10:17,18; 2:19; and *The Desire of Ages* 785.2.)
18. So, how are we going to develop that kind of faith. It will not come as a result of one great, massive decision made at the last minute. The time for preparation is now. **Every little trial we face gives us a chance to choose God's side or Satan's side**—the loving way or the selfish way. Romans 1:16-17 and Galatians 3:11 teach us that it is only by a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, which we call *faith*, that we will manage to succeed in this conflict.
19. But, it is not going to be easy! Revelation 13 makes it clear that we will face religious intolerance, economic boycott, persecution, and, finally, a death decree. Satan will work through religio-political powers on this earth, even performing miracles to convince the world to follow him.
20. Who are the beasts? And what do the beasts represent?

[BSG:] The clues to identifying **the beast power from the sea** of Revelation 13 are extremely specific. In this ... study, we will discuss three of these significant identifying marks of the beast from the sea. The first clue we find concerns the origin of its power. "The dragon gave him [the beast from the sea] his power, his throne, and great authority" (*Rev. 13:2, NKJV*). Who is this dragon that gives the beast from the sea of Revelation 13 its power, throne, and authority?—*Adult Teachers Sabbath School Bible Study Guide** 146.†§

Revelation 13:3-4,7-8: ³One of the heads of the beast seemed to have been fatally wounded, but the wound had healed. The **whole earth** was amazed and followed the beast. ⁴**Everyone worshipped the dragon because he had given his authority to the beast. They worshipped the beast also, saying, "Who is like the beast? Who can fight against it?"**...

⁷**It was allowed to fight against God's people and to defeat them, and it was given authority over every tribe, nation, language, and race.** ⁸**All**

people living on earth will worship it, except those whose names were written before the creation of the world in the book of the living which belongs to the Lamb that was killed.—*Good News Bible*.*†

Revelation 13:13-14: ¹³This **second beast** performed great miracles; it made fire come down out of heaven to earth in the sight of everyone. ¹⁴And **it deceived all the people living on earth by means of the miracles which it was allowed to perform in the presence of the first beast.** The beast told them to build an image in honour [*sic*] of the beast that had been wounded by the sword and yet lived.—*Good News Bible*.*††

21. Let us explore in more detail how to identify these beasts spoken of in Revelation 13.

[BSG:] **The first beast of Revelation 13 receives his power, seat, and great authority from the dragon. Revelation 12:9 and Revelation 20:2 identify the dragon as Satan. Satan is a cunning foe and works through earthly powers. Revelation 12:3–5 says this “dragon”—the devil [*sic*—attempted to destroy the “male Child” as soon as He was born. This “male Child” was later “caught up to God and His throne” (NKJV). This, of course, refers to Christ.** Desiring to destroy the Christ child, Satan worked through Herod the Great and imperial Rome [to try to kill Jesus soon after He was born]. At the end of Jesus’ life, a Roman governor, Pilate, condemned Christ to die, a Roman executioner nailed Him to the cruel cross, a Roman soldier pierced Him with a spear, and Roman soldiers guarded His tomb. According to Revelation 13:2, the dragon, Satan, working through pagan Rome, would give the seat of its government to this emerging beast power.—*Adult Sabbath School Bible Study Guide** for Wednesday, June 7.*†§

22. Notice carefully that the **dragon—otherwise called the Devil, or Satan,** or God’s opponent—is identified in Revelation 12 as a **huge red dragon** with seven heads and ten horns. This dragon was primarily responsible for one-third of the angels being cast out of heaven. (Revelation 12:7-9)

[*SDA Bible Commentary*.:] **Though primarily representing Satan, the dragon, in a secondary sense, represents the Roman Empire. . . . The power succeeding the Roman Empire, which received from the dragon “his power, and his seat, and great authority,” is clearly papal Rome.** “Out of the ruins of political Rome, arose the great moral Empire in the ‘giant form’ of the Roman Church.” (A. C. Flick, *The Rise of the Mediaeval Church* [1900], p. 150).—Article on Revelation 13.2. In F.D. Nichol (Ed.), *The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, vol. 7, 817.6. [1957].*†§

[BSG:] **The beast of Revelation is an apostate religious power that rises out of pagan Rome** and grows to become a worldwide system of worship. According to Revelation 13:5, it is a blasphemous power. In the New Testament, blasphemy is equated with assuming the privileges and prerogatives of God as an equal.—*Adult Sabbath School Bible Study Guide** for Thursday, June 8.*†

23. What will it take for us to stand firm through all of that? John 16:2; Matthew 10:22; and 1 Peter 4:12 make it very clear that we will face all kinds of problems, including friends who will turn against us. Everyone will hate us because of our Christian beliefs.
24. There will be no middle ground in this conflict. We will be 100% on the side of Jesus or 100% on the side of Satan. So, what do we know about this apostate religious power?
25. Try to imagine what it will be like when it is against the law to buy or sell without the Devil's permission or the permission of his surrogates! And at the same time, a decree goes out that everyone who refuses to follow the Devil should be killed.
26. Another identifying mark of the false beast is that he claims to mediate between God and man, and to forgive sin.

[BSG:] Meanwhile, **1 Timothy 2:5 teaches that there is one Mediator between God and man, the man Jesus Christ. In contrast, the Roman Church teaches that the priest is the mediator between God and sinful humanity.** But because the priest himself is a sinful human being, he cannot be our mediator because he also needs a mediator. **Blasphemy also is defined as the claim of any human to be God or to stand in the place of God.** Here are just two statements from the Roman Church's authoritative sources:

"The pope is of so great dignity and so exalted that he is not a mere man. . . . He is as it were GOD on earth."—Lucius Ferraris, "Papa," article 2 in his *Prompta Bibliotheca* (1763), vol. 6, pp. 25–29.

Pope Leo XIII boasted: "We [the popes] hold upon this earth the place of God Almighty."—*The Great Encyclical Letters of Pope Leo XIII* (New York: Benziger, 1903), p. 193.—*Adult Sabbath School Bible Study Guide** for Thursday, June 8.^{†‡Ω§}

[BSG (with some repeat of the above):] "The Pope is . . . the vicar of God. . . . Hence the Pope is crowned with a triple crown, as King of Heaven and of earth and of the lower regions. . . . **The Pope is as it were God on earth,** . . . chief King of kings . . . to whom has been entrusted by the omnipotent God directions . . . of the heavenly kingdom."—Lucius Ferraris, "Papa," article 2 in his *Prompta Bibliotheca* ["Handy Library"] (Venice, Italy: Gaspar Storti, 1772), vol. 6, pp. 26–29. Latin. Reprinted (Rome: Press of the Propaganda, 1899).—[as quoted in *Adult Teachers Sabbath School Bible Study Guide** 148].^{†‡Ω§}

27. What does the Bible say about whether a human can take God's place?
1 Timothy 2:5: For there is one God, and there is one who brings God and human beings together, the man Christ Jesus.—*Good News Bible*.^{*†}
28. Romans 13:3-4 tell us that this dragon-power demands worship.
29. There is a third clue which Revelation 13 gives in identifying the beast from the sea: *blasphemy*. (Revelation 13:5-6)
30. What is blasphemy? Luke 5:18-26 and John 10:33 make it clear that blasphemy occurs when someone who is not God claims the powers and abilities of God. Jesus, of course, who was God could do those things.

31. **Blasphemy is present when any being who is not God claims to have the power of God; that is the power which the Roman Catholic Church claims the pope has.**

Revelation 13:5-6: ⁵ The beast was allowed to make proud claims which were insulting to God, and it was permitted to have authority for 42 months. ⁶It began to curse God, his name, the place where he lives, and all those who live in heaven.—*Good News Bible*.*

John 10:33: They replied, “**We do not want to stone you [Jesus] because of any good deeds, but because of your blasphemy! You are only a man, but you are trying to make yourself God!**”—*Good News Bible*.*††

Luke 5:21: The teachers of the Law and the Pharisees began to say to themselves, “Who is this man who speaks such blasphemy! **God is the only one who can forgive sins!**”—*Good News Bible*.*†

32. We may recognize that the Roman Catholic Church has done a lot of good down through the generations through its schools, hospitals, and humanitarian services. However, among our questions are: Are they guilty of blasphemy? Or, are they faithful to God?

[BSG:] These claims become even more relevant when we understand that **the prefix *anti-*, as in *antichrist*, doesn't always mean “against” but also can mean “in the place of.”** Hence **antichrist also means “in place of Christ.”** Talk about blasphemy!—*Adult Sabbath School Bible Study Guide** for Thursday, June 8.†‡§

[EGW:] **From the very beginning of the great controversy in heaven it has been Satan's purpose to overthrow the law of God.** It was to accomplish this that he entered upon his rebellion against the Creator, and though he was cast out of heaven he has continued the same warfare upon the earth. To deceive men, and thus lead them to transgress God's law, is the object which he has steadfastly pursued. Whether this be accomplished by casting aside the law altogether, or by rejecting one of its precepts, the result will be ultimately the same. He that offends “in one point,” manifests contempt for the whole law; his influence and example are on the side of transgression; he becomes “guilty of all.” James 2:10.

In seeking to cast contempt upon the divine statutes, Satan has perverted the doctrines of the Bible, and errors have thus become incorporated into the faith of thousands who profess to believe the Scriptures. **The last great conflict between truth and error is but the final struggle of the long-standing controversy concerning the law of God. Upon this battle we are now entering—a battle between the laws of men and the precepts of Jehovah, between the religion of the Bible and the religion of fable and tradition.**—Ellen G. White, *The Great Controversy** 582.1-2.††

33. As we know, Jesus repeatedly identified Himself in the New Testament as the *Lord of the Sabbath*. (Matthew 12:8; Mark 2:27-28; Luke 6:5) In the book of Revelation, worship is based on God's creative ability and the fact that we know that we are all children of God. The fact that He created us makes Him worthy of our worship.

[BSG:] The **Sabbath** is an eternal reminder of our identity. It reminds us of who we are as human beings. It places worth on every human being. **It**

constantly reinforces the idea that we are created beings and that our Creator is worthy of our allegiance and worship. This is the reason why the devil [*sic*] hates the Sabbath so much. It is the golden link that unites us with our Creator, and this is why it will play such a crucial role in the final crisis at the end.—*Adult Sabbath School Bible Study Guide** for Friday, June 9.^{†‡}

34. **Many even of those who claim to be faithful, Bible-believing Christians doubt the existence of a literal Satan.** How should we respond to such people? Read Zechariah 3:1-5; Revelation 12-14; Isaiah 14; and Ezekiel 28.

[BSG:] Revelation is a book of contrasts. This ... study discusses the seal of God and the mark of the beast. Throughout the centuries, the Sabbath has been a special sign of allegiance to God. **The Sabbath has revealed that God is worthy of worship as the Creator of the universe. The mark of the beast also revolves around worship. Satan has introduced a counterfeit sabbath, the first day of the week, as a symbol of his authority. The final conflict between Christ and Satan focuses on who is worthy to rule the universe. Because Jesus is the Giver of life, He is worthy to be worshiped. Satan understands this truth as one of the dominant issues in the great controversy between good and evil [or, even more, over the character and government of God]. For this reason, Satan attacks the Sabbath, the symbol of God's creative authority.**—*Adult Teachers Sabbath School Bible Study Guide** 145.^{†‡}

35. Using the book of Revelation and other passages in Scripture, could you give a clear picture of who this beast is that rises out of the sea (the “sea beast”)? This beast tries to claim for itself the authority to act in the place of God. Instead, he gets his authority from the dragon, who is Satan himself. Historically, this human organization arose out of the ruins of the Roman Empire.

36. What do we know about how the Roman power opposed Christ from His very birth? (See *Adult Teachers Sabbath School Bible Study Guide* 147.) (See also Item #21 above.)

- 1) Herod the Great placed on the Jewish throne by Roman power tried to have Jesus killed soon after His birth. (Matthew 2:13-18)
- 2) A Roman governor, Pilate, condemned Christ to die. (Matthew 27:2,17-26)
- 3) A Roman executioner nailed Him to the cross. (Matthew 27:27,35)
- 4) A Roman soldier pierced His side with a spear. (John 19:34)
- 5) A Roman seal was affixed to His tomb. (Matthew 27:66)
- 6) A Roman squad of soldiers guarded His tomb. (Matthew 27:62-65)

37. When the Roman emperor, Constantine, decided to move the capital of the Roman Empire to Byzantium which later was named after him as Constantinople, he left a power vacuum in the city of Rome.

[BSG:] “By retiring to the East, he [Constantine] left the field clear for the Bishops of Rome.” “The Papacy is but ‘the ghost’ of the deceased Roman Empire, sitting crowned upon the ‘grave thereof.’ ”—Arthur P. Stanley,

Lectures on the History of the Eastern Church (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1862), p. 305.—[as quoted in *Adult Teachers Sabbath School Bible Study Guide** 147].^{‡Ω}

38. So, we see that **this beast power from the sea is not a person; it is a false religious organization.**
39. If we are going to survive through the final days of this world's history, we must (See *Adult Teachers Sabbath School Bible Study Guide* 147.):
- 1) **Be alert** to what is happening in our world.
 - 2) **Be prepared.** We must get prepared now.
 - 3) **Be active.** We need to be witnesses to the truth about God.
40. Remember what Jesus told His disciples just before His ascension.
- Acts 1:8:** "But when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, you will be filled with power, and you will be witnesses for me in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."—*Good News Bible*.*
41. Are we prepared to do these things? Are we preparing on a day-by-day basis?

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