

Treasures of the Sanctuary—Lesson 18—“Who Trampled on Heaven’s Sanctuary?”

OPENING DISCUSSION QUESTIONS/TALK:

1. How would you feel if you spent days upon days and hours upon hours to create a beautiful painting, and then someone came along, poked a bunch of holes in it, and sprinkled some different paints on it? What might you do? What might you say?
2. If your son or daughter was friends with that person, what would you tell your child after this happened?

READING AND STUDY QUESTIONS:

1. What did Jesus say we must live by? (Matthew 4:4)
 - a. How did Jesus know what was right for His life? (Matt. 4:4, 7, 10)
 - b. Shouldn’t the followers of Christ do the same as Jesus has done? Shouldn’t we live by every word of God that was written for us?
2. What does Jesus say about religious men who knowingly follow man-made traditions instead of God’s Holy Commandments? (Mark 7:7-13)
 - a. So, according to Jesus, is it safe for us to follow the traditions of men (or religious leaders) when they are against God’s Commandments? Or, must we follow God’s commands from His word?
3. What little Kingdom did Daniel see that would attack the truth of God’s Sanctuary? (Daniel 7:8,20,21, 23-25)
 - a. This little Kingdom would come to power among the European nations (the Ten horns) (v.8)
 - i. Additionally, he comes to power shortly after they did (v.24)
 - ii. He would also conquer 3 of the early European nations: *They were the Heruli, the Vandals, and the Ostrogoths (that last of these was conquered in 538 AD)*
 - iii. He was a little more proud and outspoken than the other nations of Europe—In fact, this power would exert a controlling influence over the nations of Europe (v.20).
 - b. This power came up from out of the 4th Empire—Rome. It has Roman roots! (v.8)
 - c. He would attack and persecute faithful, Bible-believing Christians who didn’t follow him (v.21)
 - d. He would speak boastful words against the Most High (v.25)
 - e. He would try to “change the set times and Laws” of God (v.25)
 - f. He would have an un-rivaled controlling power for 1260 years during the Dark Ages. (v.25)
 - i. *Note: “a time, times, and half a time” are 3 ½ prophetic years or 42 months or 1260 days (with 30 days in a Bible month). A day in Bible prophecy is symbolic for a literal year (see Ezekiel 4:6; Numbers 14:34)*
 - ii. *This power lasted from 538 AD to 1798 AD when the French General Berthier (under the leadership of Napoleon) took the leader of this nation captive and they lost their power.*

- g. He has the “eyes of a man,” so he is led by human thinking, not God’s. (v.8)
4. You can also read about this same corrupt nation in the book of Revelation (See Revelation 13:4-7)
- People “worship” this power so we can see that it is a religious power and a political one (v.4).
 - It says he spoke “blasphemies” against God (v.5, 6)
 - He blasphemed God’s name and his “dwelling place” or “Tabernacle” as some Bibles clearly say. (this is reference to God’s Sanctuary) (v.6)
 - Study note: How does the Bible define blasphemy? (Luke 5:21; John 10:33)*
 - Who exactly must this power be? _____ *(Please keep in mind this prophecy is not attacking people who are unknowingly involved with this system. It’s revealing a corrupt organization because God loves His people and wants them all to worship Him “in Spirit **and in truth!**” (ref. John 4:23,24)). God does not want us to be deceived!*
5. How does Daniel 8 reveal the work of Rome in its two phases? (Pagan and Papal) (Dan. 8:9-12)
- The little nation of Rome grew into a giant dominating power as it spread out across Europe (v.9). *Note: Rome was the nation to come right after Greece.*
 - Did both Pagan and Papal Rome persecute the “starry host”?
 - What are the “starry host”? (See Genesis 15:5)
 - Did Rome set itself up to be as great as the Prince of the host? (v.11)
 - Who is the Prince? (ref. Isaiah 9:6; Acts 3:15; 5:31)
 - Biblical “**truth was thrown to the ground**” (v.12) as the Roman church made compromises with the Roman state. (Time of Constantine, 4th Century, and onward)
6. How did the Roman power trample on the Sanctuary? How did it “bring the place of His Sanctuary low?”
- The Altar and the Cross:** Rome disrespected the Cross of Jesus by selling indulgences during the Dark Ages. They said you could pay some money and get a free sin. God says otherwise (ref. Heb. 10:26)
 - The Laver:** Rome stopped practicing Bible baptism which requires “much water” (John 3:23) and “repentance” before it is done (Acts 2:38)
 - The Lamp-stand:** Christians are to share the Love of Jesus and to witness to others saying “whoever will, let him take the water of life freely” (Rev. 22:17). Rome said, “Convert or die!” during the Crusades.
 - The table of show bread:** Jesus Christ, his gospel, and the Bible were cast down in the Dark Ages. Masses were taught in Latin, Bibles were not given to the common people. People were taught salvation by works, not faith. The Bible says by faith we are saved (Ephesians 2:8,9).
 - The Altar of Incense and the Priest:** The Bible says we have “one mediator between God and man, the man Christ Jesus” (1 Tim. 2:5). The church said you must have the earthly priests, the Pope, the virgin Mary, and many many Patron saints, plus works to gain favor and forgiveness. We are to confess our sins directly to God, not to men! (ref. Heb. 4:14-16; 1 John 1:9).
 - The oil/Holy Spirit:** Jesus said the Holy Spirit is his representative on earth (John 15:26). Not the Pope.
 - The Holy Law of God:** The Roman church tried to change the 4th Commandment about the 7th day Sabbath. They also dropped the 2nd commandment about idols from their list of commandments. They follow the traditions of men instead of the commands of the Living God!
7. When would the truth of God be victoriously restored to His people? (Dan. 8:13, 14)

HEART QUESTION(S):

1. Do you love Jesus with all of your heart, all of your mind, and all of your soul? _____ Would you like to love Him more like that? _____ Will you choose to follow Him wherever He leads you? _____

NOTES: