

The great conflict of Revelation intensifies as the end of the world draws near. It comes into very sharp focus in chapters 12-14. Before we study these chapters verse-by-verse we will examine the issues involved in the final desperate and savage attacks of Apollyon the Destroyer, or Satan.

THE DESTROYER ATTACKS JESUS CHRIST AND HIS PEOPLE



Q1 Who has been the main target of Satan's deadly attacks? Revelation 12:1-5

A

Satan attacked Jesus as soon as He was born into this world. However, Jesus Christ was victorious and Satan was "hurled down." (Revelation 12:10-12.)



Q2 When Jesus victoriously ascended to heaven WHO did Satan then angrily attack? For HOW LONG was the initial attack to last?

A 1. Satan attacked:
Revelation 11:2,3

Revelation 12:5,6

2. Satan's initial attack was to last for:
Revelation 11:2,3

or
Revelation 12:6,14

The holy city, the two witnesses and the woman represent those who follow Jesus Christ and preach the Word of God. (See Jeremiah 6:2; 14:17; Ephesians 5:25-27, 32.) The 42 months, 1,260 days or time, times and half a time is the time of the first tribulation which the Destroyer heaped upon God's people through the long centuries of the Dark Ages.



Q3 What agent does Satan use in his attack upon God's people when they have finished preaching and giving their testimony to the gospel? Revelation 11:7-10

A

Q4 In Revelation 12-14, chapters that parallel Revelation 11:1-14, what agents join the Dragon in attacking the "rest" or "remnant" of God's people in the last days before the return of Jesus? Revelation 12:17; 13:1,11

A 1. The beast out of
2. The beast out of

This is the final period of tribulation before the second coming of Jesus Christ. The conflict described in Revelation 11:7-10 and 12:17 is enlarged on in Revelation chapter 13.

THE DESTROYER'S TWO PRONGED ATTACK



Q5 By what two things are the last of God's people identified? Revelation 12:17

A 1.

A 2.

The scenes of tribulation in Revelation are not given to discourage God's people. They portray the reality of the Destroyer Satan's malice. However, the promise of Jesus Christ is: "Be faithful even to the point of death, and I will give you the crown of life... He who overcomes will not be hurt at all by the second death." Revelation 2:10,11.

1. The Destroyer attacks the testimony of Jesus



Q6 **What is the testimony of Jesus?** Revelation 1:1,2. Compare Revelation 22:16.

A

The testimony of Jesus is the *WORD OF GOD* given to John and other prophets. "The testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy." Revelation 19:10. God reveals His plans "to His servants the prophets." Amos 3:7. (Also see Romans 1:1-5; 2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:20,21.) To reject the message of the Word of God is to reject a message from Jesus Christ.



Q7 **What are we promised if we read and faithfully follow the message of the Word of God?** Revelation 1:3

A

Q8 **However, where was John because of the Word of God and the testimony of Jesus?** Revelation 1:9

A



Q9 **What has been, and what will be, the fate of some of those who have been faithful to the Word of God?** Revelation 6:9

A

The destroyer Satan hates the Word of God and the prophets of that Word. He hates the people who listen to, obey and bear testimony to the Word of God.



Q10 **What name is given to the beast that comes out of the earth, to perform amazing miracles, to delude people into following the destroyer and the beast?** Compare Revelation 13:11-17; 16:13,14; 19:20

A

SATAN HAS HIS COUNTERFEIT FOR THE TESTIMONY OF JESUS OR THE WORD OF GOD. Satan employs "false Christs and false prophets" (Matthew 24:24) and "the false prophet." (Revelation 19:20. Compare Matthew 24:4,5,11,23,24.) Jesus Christ said that they "will deceive many... even the elect - if that were possible." Matthew 24:5,24. They endeavour to establish their authority with deceptive miracles. (See 2 Thessalonians 2:7-12; Revelation 13:11-14.) They are prepared to work from within religions and from within the church. (See Acts 20:29-31; 2 Corinthians 11:13-15; 2 Thessalonians 2:7-12; 1 John 4:1-3; 2:18,19; Revelation 13:11.) They promote Satan's lie that God's Word cannot be trusted. His lie that the dead are not dead will be advanced to distract people from the Word of God. (See Genesis 3:4,5.)



Q11 **What will be the fate of those who masquerade as teachers and prophets, but who promote the lies of Satan?** Revelation 21:8; 22:15 (Compare Deuteronomy 18:10-12.)

A

God's Word is the source of truth. We are to test all according "To the law and to the testimony. If they do not speak according to this word, they have no light of dawn." Isaiah 8:19,20.

2. The Destroyer attacks the Commandments of God

Satan hates God's commandments for they reveal God's character. God's true people are always referred to as commandment keepers. John wrote, "This is how we know that we love the children of God: by loving God and carrying out his commands. This is love for God: to obey his commands." 1 John 5:2,3. (Compare 1 John 4:8.) Satan attacks those who obey God's commandments.

The ten commandments also reveal sin. "Everyone who sins breaks the law; in fact, sin is lawlessness." 1 John 3:4. (Compare Romans 4:15; 7:7; James 2:12.) The suggestion that it doesn't really matter if we disregard one of the ten is one of Satan's lies, (James 2:10,11) as is the idea that they were only for the Jews.



Q12 **What sins does the destroyer Satan inspire the beast to commit?**

A 1. Revelation 11:7; 13:7

2. Revelation 13:5,6

Q13 **Satan attacks the authority and sovereignty of God. What is the reaction of people when, in the final desperate struggle, the destroyer dragon endows the**

beast with his power, throne and authority? Revelation 12:17; 13:1-4,8

A



Q14 **Through the influence of the beast out of the earth what does the destroyer endeavour to force every person to do?** Revelation 13:12,15

A

Here is a blatant attack upon the ten commandments of God. The key issue in the conflict of the last days is worship. The conflict is over *WHO* we worship, *HOW* we worship, our *APPROACH* to worship and *WHEN* we worship. The first four of the ten commandments address these very issues of worship. The first command tells us *WHO* to worship. The second command tells us *HOW* to worship. The third command tells us what our attitude to God should be as we *APPROACH* Him in worship. The fourth commandment reveals the *TIME* for worship. In the conflict of Revelation 12-14, God and His ten commandments are on one side while the destroyer Satan and his counterfeit commandments are on the other side. Satan and his agents are promoters of lawlessness.



Q15 **What is Satan's agent, in this attack, also called?** 2 Thessalonians 2:3,8 (Read 2 Thessalonians 2:1-12.)

A

SATAN HAS HIS COUNTERFEIT FOR THE TEN COMMANDMENTS OF GOD: Satan hates the commandments of God and those people who follow Jesus Christ and are faithful to the ten commandments. It has been his purpose to take the place of God and to challenge His authority. (See Isaiah 14:12-14.) Satan has dared to attack

each of the ten commandments that concern our worship of God.

- His agents challenge the first commandment concerning *WHO TO WORSHIP*, and demand worship. (See 2 Thessalonians 2:4; Revelation 13:4,8,12,15.)
- He has dared to remove the second commandment involving directions on *HOW TO WORSHIP*. Sadly, the ten commandments that many learn have this commandment removed entirely.
- The third commandment concerning our *APPROACH TO WORSHIP* is blasphemously disregarded. (See 2 Thessalonians 2:4; Revelation 13:5,6.)
- And, the fourth commandment, which concerns *TIME TO WORSHIP*, has been changed. Because the second commandment has been left out, the fourth of the Bible becomes the third in the list of commandments that many learn. It has also been shortened and, in some lists, it has been changed to read, "Remember to keep holy the Lord's Day."

Satan has created confusion over the eternal nature of the ten commandments. Men and women have dared to change God's "times and laws." Daniel 7:25. In the prophecy of Daniel, a clear warning was given that Satan's religious agents "will speak against the Most High, and oppress his saints and try to change the set times and laws." Daniel 7:25 NIV. Tragically, he has been able to do this within the church. He has challenged the fourth commandment about the Sabbath for it centres upon the worship of the Creator and Saviour. (See Exodus 20:8-11; Deuteronomy 5:12-15; Hebrews 4:4-11.) The fourth commandment is unique in that it reveals the name of the lawgiver, "the *LORD* your God;" His title as Creator, "the *LORD* made;" and his sovereign territory, "the heavens and the earth." (Exodus 20:8-11.)

SATAN'S ATTACK UPON THE FOURTH COMMANDMENT: Satan's attack upon the fourth commandment has been so successful that many have no idea which day is the holy Sabbath of the fourth commandment. (Exodus 20:8-11.) Consider these questions:

1 According to the Bible, *WHICH IS THE SEVENTH DAY SABBATH?*

In Genesis 2:2 we are told that God "rested" on the seventh day. He "blessed the seventh day and made it holy." Genesis 2:3. According to the Bible there has only ever been one weekly holy day, and that is the seventh day. No other day has

been blessed and made holy by God. It is obviously not good enough to say that any day will do when God commands us to "Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy." Exodus 20:8.

The New Testament clearly demonstrates which day is the seventh day Sabbath. In the record of Christ's death and burial Luke writes, "It was Preparation Day, and the Sabbath was about to begin. The women who had come with Jesus from Galilee followed Joseph and saw the tomb and how his body was laid in it. But they rested on the Sabbath in obedience to the commandment. On the first day of the week, very early in the morning, the women took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb..." Luke 23:54-24:1. In the New English Bible these verses read, "It was Friday, and the Sabbath was about to begin... On the Sabbath they rested in obedience to the commandment. But on the Sunday morning very early they came to the tomb bringing the spices they had prepared." Luke 23:54-24:1. From these verses it is apparent that the seventh day Sabbath is Saturday.

2 According to the Bible, *WHAT IS THE PLACE OF SUNDAY IN THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH?*

Many assume that the Old Testament commanded the observance of the seventh day of the week, or Saturday, as the Sabbath, and that Jesus Christ and His followers changed the worship day for Christians to the first day of the week or Sunday. This, it is assumed, is the reason why Jews keep Saturday and most Christians keep Sunday.

However, many Christians are finding, as they read their Bibles, that it is not as simple as this. Many are finding that the New Testament Christians were all Sabbath keepers and that no command or even suggestion was made for Christians to change to the first day of the week. The first day of the week, or Sunday, is mentioned eight times in the New Testament and in those verses there is not the slightest suggestion that Sunday was to be thought of as the holy Sabbath. (See Matthew 28:1; Mark 16:1,2,9; Luke 24:1; John 20:1,19; Acts 20:7; 1 Corinthians 16:2.) There is not a Bible verse to show that the Sabbath was changed to the first day of the week. There is no Bible verse to support Sunday keeping. It is not based on a command from God or any Bible teaching. Sunday keeping was never given to honour the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Baptism is the memorial of the resurrection. (See Romans

6:3,4; Colossians 2:12.)

The truth is: Satan has attacked the fourth commandment for it relates to our worship of God. He hates the fourth commandment for it identifies God as the Creator and Sovereign of the universe.

In the final conflict described in Revelation God's people choose to respond to heaven's gospel call to honour Jesus Christ as Creator and Saviour. (Revelation 14:6,7.) "This calls for patient endurance on the part of the saints who obey God's commandments and remain faithful to Jesus." Revelation 14:12.

THE DESTRUCTION OF THE DESTROYER



Q16 **The seventh trumpet announces the setting up of God's kingdom of glory at the second coming of Jesus. (Revelation 11:15-19.) That will be the time "for destroying those who destroy." (Revelation 11:18.) From where will judgements upon the destroyer Satan and the wicked come?** Revelation 11:19

A



Q17 **What did John see within God's temple?** Revelation 11:19

A

The *ARK OF HIS COVENANT* is the ark of the ten commandments. (See Exodus 34:28.) The ark represented the throne of God. (See Leviticus 16:2; Isaiah 6:1-4.)



Q18 **What is heaven's open temple also called?** Revelation 15:5

A

The *TABERNACLE OF TESTIMONY* is the tabernacle of the ten commandments. (See Exodus 31:18; 25:16; 32:15,16; Acts 7:44.) Revelation indicates that the heavenly temple centres upon the ten commandments. The ark of the Testimony or the ten commandments is the throne of God. The holy law of the ten commandments is the basis of His authority and sovereignty. It is His character and His name. (See Revelation 21:22.) Judgement comes from the temple of the ten commandments.



Q19 **What is the fate of those who accept Satan's counterfeit commandments?** Revelation 19:19-21; 21:6-8; 22:14,15

A

my

response...

God has given His Word, the *BIBLE*, to us so that we will know His will and be protected from Satan's lies and attacks. He has given His *TEN COMMANDMENTS* to us as directions on how to worship and live.



If we have our faith in Jesus Christ as our Saviour, for what two characteristics will Satan hate us and our neighbours and friends know us? Revelation 12:17



1. We will obey



2. We will hold to



Have you faced pressure because you follow the *WORD OF GOD*?



What opportunities have you had to explain the freedom that comes from obeying all of the *TEN COMMANDMENTS*?

