HISTORY REPEATED

In the fifteenth century the Piedmont valleys, high in the Alps of northern Italy, were home to the Waldenses, a people determined to stay faithful to their understanding of the Bible. As the result of their steadfast loyalty to Christ, they were fiercely persecuted. In A.D. 1488 the Waldenses in the Valley of Loyse were brutally murdered by the Roman Church for their faith.

Another wave of persecution against the Waldenses came in the seventeenth century, when the duke of Savoy sent an army of 8,000 into their territory and demanded that the local populace quarter his troops in their homes. The people did as he requested, but the command was a strategy to give the soldiers easy access to their victims. On April 24, 1655, at 4:00 a.m., a signal was given for the massacre to begin. This time the death toll was more than 4,000.

History, unfortunately, is often repeated. The mark of the beast prophecy is about the final link in an evil chain of religious persecution that goes back through the ages. Like the persecutions of the past, it is designed to force everyone to conform to a certain set of beliefs and system of worship. As always, however, God will have a people group who refuse to submit.
Write out Revelation 14:9–11 from the translation of your choice. You may also rewrite the passage in your own words, or outline or mind-map it.
Go back to your scribed text and study the passage.

Circle repeated words/ phrases/ideas

Underline words/phrases that are important and have meaning to you

Draw Arrows to connect words/ phrases to other associated or related words/phrases

What special insights do your marks seem overall to point to?

Memorize your favorite verse. Write it out multiple times to help with memorization.

Pause and think how amazing biblical prophecy is and how it reveals to us God’s knowledge of future events. What should this teach us about why we can trust the Lord’s promises, even the ones we don’t yet see fulfilled?

Read more at www.inversebible.org/3am12-3
After looking at your scribed and annotated text, what special insights do your marks seem to point to overall?

What questions emerge after studying this passage? What parts are difficult?

What other principles and conclusions do you find?

In what ways has humanity always been divided along the lines of being on either God’s side or on Satan’s? Why can there be no middle ground?

Read more at www.inversebible.org/3am12-4
What relationship do the following verses have with Satan’s final deceptions?

Revelation 12:6, 14
Daniel 7:25
2 Thessalonians 2:3, 4
Deuteronomy 6:8; 11:18
1 Corinthians 10:11–13

What other narratives come to mind in connection with Revelation 14:9–11?

Review your memorized verse from Revelation 14:9–11
What conditions can you see currently developing that could potentially lead to the restrictions of our religious liberty? What obstacles remain, as well?

How do you see Jesus differently after this week’s study?

How do you see Jesus differently or see Him again?

Prayer Response:

Meditate on Matthew 19:16–22 again and look for where Jesus is.

Read more at www.inversebible.org/3am12-6
Review the memory verse. How does it apply to your life this week?

After this week’s study of the passage, what are your personal takeaways?

What are the takeaways for the organizations, circles, and communities that you are a part of?

Read more inSight from the Spirit of Prophecy at www.inversebible.org/3am12-7
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Share insights from this week’s memory verse and Bible study as well as any discoveries, observations, and questions with your Sabbath School class (or Bible study group). Consider these discussion questions with the rest of the group.

In what ways has Satan’s end-time strategy been clarified for you? In what ways has Christ’s plan and assurance of salvation been clarified for you?

What lessons can we take away from what has been written in Ezekiel 20:1–20?

When it comes to biblical prophecy, why must we be careful not to get into fanaticism, date setting, or speculating beyond what inspiration has revealed to us?

What have been the results when the expected events have not unfolded when and how people have said they would happen (e.g., the Great Disappointment)?

How do we respond to those who say our scenario about the mark of the beast and persecution cannot happen because it just doesn’t seem possible given the current state of the world?

What are some examples of how quickly you have seen great changes come to the world?