THE BEGINNING OF THE END

The American Civil War was a fierce battle of ideologies. The North’s opposition to slavery clashed with the South’s determination to preserve its plantation-dependent economy, which ignited a brutal conflict in 1861 that raged for four years. Each side was fortified by their deep-seated beliefs, making the war not only a physical confrontation but also a battle for America’s foundational ideologies. The turning point in this bloody conflict was the Battle of Gettysburg in 1863. This battle marked the beginning of the end for the South and led to their eventual surrender to the North in 1865.

As time on this earth draws to a close, biblical prophecy depicts an ever-increasing polarization between the two forces in the great controversy. The two fundamentally opposed belief systems are gearing up to clash in the final showdown. One side adheres to the principle of selflessness—God’s way of ensuring freedom and love—while the other observes an ideology centered on self and resulting in bondage to sin. All people will soon have to choose a side. At the very end, Satan will employ every tactic possible to deceive humanity one last time, directing them to persecute God’s faithful few. This is the pivotal turning point, the beginning of the end. During that time, when it seems that Satan is about to take control of the entire planet, God will turn the tide. A last warning and invitation will go out to people across the earth as Babylon falls and the faithful share the gospel with renewed power. It will be a victorious but difficult time for God’s people.
Write out Revelation 13, 14 from the translation of your choice. If you’re pressed for time, write out Revelation 14:6–12. You may also rewrite the passage in your own words, or outline or mind-map the chapter.
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.

How can we move from knowing just facts about God, the Bible, and prophecy, to also knowing Jesus as a personal Savior and Friend?

How do you see the spirit of force increasing in the world today?

Read more at www.inversebible.org/GC12-3
After looking at your scribed and annotated text, what special insights do your marks overall seem to point to?

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

What other principles and conclusions do you find?

How well do you understand the three angels’ messages and how to share them through your words and actions?

Read more at
www.inversebible.org/GC12-4
What relationship do the following verses have with Revelation 13, 14?

Revelation 18:1–4
Daniel 7:8, 20, 24, 25
Revelation 7:1–4
Matthew 24:24
2 Thessalonians 2:3–10
2 Timothy 3:1–9
Zechariah 10:1
Isaiah 60:1–3

What other verses come to mind in connection with the primary passage?

Review your memorized verse from Revelation 13, 14.
What does following the Lamb wherever He goes look like today?

How do you see Jesus differently or see Him again?

What is He saying to you personally through this week’s passage?

Prayer Response:

Meditate on Revelation 13, 14 again and look for where Jesus is.
Review the memory verse. How does it apply to your life this week?

After this week’s study of the passage, what are some personal applications you are convicted of in your life?

What are some practical applications you must make in your school, family, workplace, and church life?

Read more inSight from the Spirit of Prophecy at www.inversebible.org/GC12-7
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.

Why is keeping the Sabbath versus Sunday about so much more than just a day?

How should we prepare for when the mark of the beast will be enforced?

Why should we not wait until the latter rain falls to engage in evangelism?

How can we learn faithfulness today, especially in the small things?

Have you seen church and state mingling in recent years?

How can we guard against feeling spiritually superior to those who keep Sunday instead of Sabbath?

What’s the Holy Spirit’s role in character transformation and evangelism?

What are some ways the importance of a healthy relationship with Jesus be better integrated into our evangelistic preaching on prophecies?

How does the final contest reveal some of the core issues of the great controversy?