THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION

 Though the United States is now known for the religious freedom it promises all citizens, the early colonies made no such guarantees. Most of the first thirteen colonies in America had their own state religions. Massachusetts, Connecticut, and New Hampshire were Puritan, for example, and New York, Maryland, and the two Carolinas were Anglican. Many of the colonies required public officials to take a religious test before taking up office, and Delaware’s Constitution in 1776 obliged them to take this oath: “I do profess faith in God the Father, and in Jesus Christ His only Son, and in the Holy Ghost, One God, blessed for evermore; and I do acknowledge the holy scriptures of the Old Testament and New Testament to be given by divine inspiration.”

 Just like the European governments that they had fled from, they had established new state governments that again relied heavily on their respective churches. However, when the colonies realized that a revolution against England would only succeed if they united, they decided to follow Rhode Island’s pattern of not having a federally supported church rather than choosing a favored state-church.

 In His wisdom, God at times raised up new nations with new forms of government to provide refuge to oppressed believers. Prophecy has long foretold that God always has a plan to deliver His persecuted church. This week’s lesson will study some of those prophecies, which also reveal the limits God placed on persecution—lines He would not allow persecution to cross.
Write out Daniel 7 from the translation of your choice. If you’re pressed for time, write out verses 23–28. You may also rewrite the passage in your own words, or outline or mind-map the passage.
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 in the primary passage. Write it out multiple times to help with memorization.

What are the identifying features of the little horn power?

What difference should it make in our lives that God knew all along that the persecution was coming?
What does it mean in light of the persecution yet to come?

Read more at www.inversebible.org/RL09-3
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?

Why do you think God gave the prophecies of the little horn and the 1,260 years of persecution?

How do you think this generation can better maximize all the blessings God has given us?

Read more at www.inversebible.org/RL09-4
What relationship do the following verses have with Daniel 7?

2 Thessalonians 2:1–12
Revelation 7:13–17
Revelation 12:13—13:10
Revelation 17:1–6
Mark 13:9–13
Romans 5:1–5
Romans 8:31–39

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

Review your memorized verse from Daniel 7.
What other biblical promises can we take hope in when persecution comes?

How do you see Jesus differently or see Him again?

What is He saying to you personally through the text of the week?

Prayer Response:

Meditate on the primary passage 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/RL09-7
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.

If read as a chapter of prophecies and promises, what encourages you in Daniel 7?

How can those who enjoy peace and safety better use our privileges to their maximum potential? What would that look like in everyday life?

How can we better help those living in places of persecution?

What biblical promises do you find the most meaningful when suffering hardships?

Think about the close connection that those who suffer persecution will have with Jesus in heaven (Rev. 7:13–17). What will that be like?

Have you ever witnessed how opposition against God’s work makes His success more glorious and stunning?

How should those who enjoy peace and safety now spiritually prepare for tougher times?