In 1886, the Seventh-day Adventist Church launched a periodical called the *American Sentinel* (replaced by *Liberty* magazine in 1906) to counter the growing influence of the National Reform Association, which had been lobbying for an amendment to the U.S. Constitution that would establish Christianity as the national religion. The proposed amendment read, “We the people of the United States, humbly acknowledging Almighty God as the source of all authority and power in civil government, the Lord Jesus Christ as the Governor among the nations, and His revealed will as of supreme authority, in order to constitute a Christian government,... do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.”

The editors of the *American Sentinel* were relentless in their efforts to oppose and defeat the National Reform Association’s goal to nationalize Christianity. Despite those efforts, however, an article from Ellen White published in 1889 reveals that the church showed a concerning lack of interest in the issue: “There have been surprising indifference and inactivity in this time of peril. Truth, present truth, is what the people need; and if the startling significance of the movements now in progress in regard to the religious amendments had been realized by our brethren in every church... they would not now be in such stupor and deathlike slumber” (*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 5 [1889], 718). This chapter will explore the prophetic symbols that emphasize how important it is for us today to continue advocating for the separation of church and state.
Write out Revelation 13 from the translation of your choice. If you’re pressed for time, write out verses 11–15. 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. Write it out multiple times to help with memorization.

How does the beast from the earth in Revelation 13:11–18 lead the world into false worship?

When studying the Bible for ourselves and listening to teachers how can we guard against forming false interpretations?

Read more at www.inversebible.org/RL11-3
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?

How can we know whether a spiritual revival is true or false?

Read more at www.inversebible.org/RL11-4
What relationship do the following verses have with Revelation 13?

Revelation 16:13, 14
Revelation 19:20
1 John 4:1
Matthew 24:24
Daniel 3
1 Kings 18
Acts 2:1–4
Leviticus 10:1–11

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

Review your memorized verse from Revelation 13.
Meditate on the primary passage again and look for where Jesus is.

How can we have our name written in the Lamb’s Book of Life?

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:

Read more at www.inversebible.org/RL11-6
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/RL11-7
inQuire

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.

Where is Jesus in Revelation 13?

Why should young people care about the prophecies in Daniel and Revelation? Are they relevant to our daily lives?

In what ways has the church suffered from secular tyranny in this world? Religious?

How does the earth beast (Rev. 13:11–18) convince the world to follow its religious agenda?

If the beast powers will perform miracles too, how can we tell which are of God and which aren’t?

How does the image of the beast prophecy change the way you see current and future events?