

**Questions
on the Book**

**"THEN IS FINISHED
THE MYSTERY OF GOD"**

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This booklet will facilitate an enjoyable and enriching study of the book entitled "Then Is Finished the Mystery of God." It contains specially prepared questions that have been worked out to enable the student to discern and assimilate the vital material in each paragraph. To specify the paragraph or set of paragraphs under question, the page number thereof is first printed in bold black type. Alongside, by an elevated figure, is given the number of the paragraph on that page.

In personal study of the book, especially when you are preparing to attend and take part in a group book study, first read the paragraph or set of paragraphs as indicated by the numbers set before each question or set of questions. Then read the question or set of questions on such material and seek to answer, thereby to demonstrate whether you have caught and understood the key idea of the material read. For your refreshment of mind by a quick look thereat, you can underline the words or phrases that set out the essential idea. Such underlining will be useful for you in a formal group study. Also, look up and read in the Bible Scripture texts cited but not quoted in the book.

In a group study, whether at home or at the congregation's meeting place, the person presiding will first read aloud the question on each paragraph or set of paragraphs. Then he will grant opportunity for all present to comment and to read aloud the unquoted supporting Scripture texts, until the question has been answered satisfactorily. As a summary the book material under discussion will be read aloud by someone designated. Then the next question or set of questions will be taken up and handled in the same way. This procedure will continue until the time allotted for the group study has been used up. In advance of each successive group study, the one presiding can indicate the reasonable amount of book material to prepare.

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QUESTIONS ON THE BOOK "THEN IS FINISHED THE MYSTERY OF GOD"

CHAPTER 1

The Reporter of Mysteries Sees God in Vision

7¹ Why should we be vitally interested in "the mystery of God"?

7² What vision did the apostle John see, and what was his situation at the time?

8¹ Just how far did the spirit of inspiration lift the apostle, and what especially glorious sight did he behold?

8² As described by the spirit of inspiration, what did John see?

8³ What was the nature of the voice that John heard, and to what did it invite him?

9¹ (a) How was John able to respond to the invitation? (b) As John entered the open door in heaven, of what was he likely reminded?

9² (a) How was God represented in the vision to John? (b) What does this vision reveal as to God's personality?

10¹ What is represented by the rainbow in the vision?

10²; 11¹ (a) What illustration of God's supremacy was next disclosed to John? (b) How do we know that the "twenty-four older persons" were not counselors or advisers to God?

11^{2, 3} By the use of other scriptures, explain who are the twenty-four older ones.

12¹ What is significant about the fact that there were twenty-four older men, and what relation does this fact have to the number 144,000?

12² (a) What must be kept in mind as to the time of fulfillment of this vision of the "twenty-four older persons"? (b) Of what was this feature of John's vision a prophetic preview, and how does the apostle John himself fit in?

13¹ (a) In what way was John's vision of God's throne more awe-inspiring than that of the prophet Ezekiel? (b) What do lightnings and voices and thunders symbolize and betoken?

13² (a) What is portrayed by the fact that there were "seven lamps of fire" burning before the throne? (b) By a comparison with the ancient tent of worship in Israel, what is suggested by the fact that seven lamps were seen in John's vision?

14¹ What further indication is given by the presence of the "glassy sea"?

14² Explain what is symbolized by the crystal-like transparency of the "glassy sea."

14³ Describe the "four living creatures" of the vision, and state what they were doing.

15¹ (a) By a comparison of the Revelation vision with the prophecy of Ezekiel, what do we find are represented by the "four living creatures" of John's vision? (b) Why were there four creatures, each with a different face?

15² (a) What was symbolized by the man's face on the third living creature? Give Scriptural support for your answer. (b) Why can we say that God would have that quality if his cherubs possess it?

16¹ (a) What quality of the lion enables us to understand what is pictured by the first living creature? (b) Did God's love set aside his justice when he ransomed human-kind? Explain.

16² What quality is featured by the living creature "like a young bull"?

17¹ What divine quality is represented by the living creature "like a flying eagle"?

17^{2,3} (a) Describe some of the qualities placed in the eagle by its Creator. (b) How do God's words at Deuteronomy 32:11-13 help us to understand what the living creature like an eagle symbolizes?

18¹ Why is God's wisdom so prominent that it is portrayed by one of the "four living creatures" in John's vision?

18² (a) What is represented by the fact that the "four living creatures" were "full of eyes in front and behind"? (b) Three pairs of wings on each living creature would indicate what ability?

19^{1,2} (a) What is seen in the declaration that the living creatures are making? (b) Of what may we be assured by their declaration, and what should be our attitude as human creatures?

19³; 20¹ In what two ways can it be said that the four creatures were "in the midst of the throne"?

20^{2,3} By comparing certain features in the temple at Jerusalem with John's vision, which included God's throne, show what time is suggested for the fulfillment of the vision.

21¹ (a) What is emphasized by the fact that the vision of the throne is given a temple setting or surrounding? (b) How does the appearance of the "four living creatures" contrast Jehovah with all other gods?

21² What attitude did the highest-ranking ones in the vision have toward Jehovah God?

22¹ (a) What was the attitude of John, one of the "little flock" of Jehovah? (b) In the fulfillment, how and why will the 144,000 "cast their crowns before the throne"?

22^{2,3} (a) In bowing before Jehovah, what do the symbolic "twenty-four older persons" recognize? (b) How do these whom God will use as heavenly rulers over mankind contrast with the kings and rulers of today?

23^{1,2} (a) Have we been dealing with human imaginations in considering this vision, or have we gained something beneficial from it? (b) In view of what we have already learned from the vision, what can we expect by continuing to investigate God's mystery?

CHAPTER 2

The Opener of the Scroll of Mystery

24¹ What things may we expect to learn in connection with the unrolling of the scroll of God's mystery?

24² As John beheld the vision of the heavenly throne, what did he next see?

25¹ (a) Who wrote the scroll that John saw, and what was symbolized by God's holding it in his right hand? (b) Did the seven seals mean that God would never let the mystery be revealed, or what?

25² How did Jehovah test John's interest in the mystery, and how was this fulfilled in modern times?

26^{1,2} How was the one worthy to open the seals identified, at least partially, to the apostle John?

26³ (a) What did Jacob's prophecy show about "the Lion that is of the tribe of Judah" and God's purpose toward him? (b) What does the name Shiloh mean and signify?

27¹ (a) Of what lineage was King David, and when did God make a covenant with him? (b) How would "the Lion that is of the tribe of Judah" also be "the root of David"?

27²; 28¹ (a) What was required of the one who would qualify to open the scroll and its seals? (b) In John's vision, what was the appearance of the worthy one?

28² How was John able to understand fully who was symbolized by the Lamb?

28³ (a) How was the "Lamb of God" slaughtered, and for what purpose? (b) What facts enabled John to see that this one was also the conqueror?

29¹ How did the Lamb come to be the Lion, and what do his seven horns symbolize?

29² What is shown by the Lamb's possession of seven eyes?

30¹ (a) What action did John see the Lamb take? (b) What was indicated by the fact that he was allowed to take the scroll out of God's hand?

30² (a) Describe what Daniel saw in his vision recorded in his prophecy, in chapter 7. (b) When did the fulfillment of this vision take place? (c) What is one point of difference in the two prophecies here being compared?

31¹ (a) Does the vision tell us that God makes the decision as to who is worthy at the time that the Lamb appears to take the scroll? (b) What does the vision disclose that has been of great interest to Christians?

31^{2,3} (a) When does it appear that the breaking of the seven seals takes place? (b) What occurs in the invisible heavens when the Lamb of God prepares to open the seals?

32¹ What are the heavenly cherubs and the twenty-four older persons properly moved to do at this point?

32^{2 and footnote} (a) How does the Greek language in which Revelation was written show that it is the twenty-four older persons who have the harps and the golden bowls, and how does Revelation 14:1-3 support this? (b) What do the golden bowls of incense symbolize?

32³ About whom are the twenty-four older persons singing the new song, and are they giving praise and credit to themselves?

33¹ What expression of appreciation is made by the angels?

33² (a) What kind of reception did Jesus receive when he left his disciples and ascended to heaven after his resurrection? (b) What feature of the vision locates the time of its fulfillment?

34^{1,2} (a) Why should men on earth show the same appreciation for the Lamb as do the angels? (b) What desirable state of affairs does John's vision portray, and when is it to take place?

34³ What marvelous prospect is given by the statement that every creature that is "underneath the earth" will ascribe blessing and honor to Jehovah God and to the Lamb?

35¹ What opportunity is opened up for the resurrected ones, and what if they do not show appreciation for God and his Lamb and ascribe blessing to them?

35^{2,3} (a) Will the universe be cleansed forever of all wickedness? Why do you so answer? (b) What will be the response of the heavenly ones to this expression of Jehovah's universal sovereignty?

35⁴ Should we be swayed by the Lamb's being disapproved by earth's millions, or what should we do?

CHAPTER 3

Breaking Seals of the Mysterious Scroll

37^{1,2} Why was the scroll so important that John wept at the thought that no one could open it?

37³ Why did the things written down by John after the opening of each seal not reveal the full understanding of that portion of the scroll that was thus opened to view?

38^{1,2} How today is "the Lion that is of the tribe of Judah" breaking the seals for us in a supplementary way?

38³ (a) What is meant by the invitation "Come!", and why do we have no excuse to ignore it? (b) Which of the living creatures gave the invitation, and why was it appropriate that this one speak at that time?

39^{1,2} (a) What did John next see? (b) Did this scene foreshadow a Parthian invasion of the Roman Empire, which existed in John's day?

39³ How does Psalm 45 identify the rider on the white horse?

40¹ (a) How does this rider differ in appearance from the rider of the white horse described in Revelation 19:11-16? (b) What is the difference in the missions of these two riders?

40²; **41**¹ What is symbolized by the horse, by its color and by the bow in the hand of its rider?

41² (a) How does Jesus Christ here fulfill Psalm 110:1, 2? (b) What would his arrows symbolize?

41^{3,4} (a) What nation was famous for its expert use of the bow? (b) The rider on the white horse being armed with a bow suggests that he fulfills what prophetic role?

42^{1,2} (a) When does the rider on the white horse begin his ride, and what is represented by the crown given to him? (b) Show Scripturally that this crown had been reserved for him since 607 B.C.E.

43¹ (a) Who was the one having the legal right to the kingship, and why could he not take kingship until 1914 C.E.? (b) How was what took place here the reverse of what occurred in 607 B.C.E.?

43² (a) How was it that Christ "went forth conquering" in 1914 C.E., and how does he "complete his conquest"? (b) What caused the start of World War I?

44¹ (a) Has the rider on the white horse completed his conquest? Why do you so answer? (b) When will the conquest be completed?

44²; **45**¹ How does the Bible show us that the rider of the white horse will indeed complete his conquest, and who will see it?

45² Did the Society's commentary on Revelation entitled "The Finished Mystery" reveal the fulfillment of the vision of the rider and his bow?

45³ When and how was the understanding of the vision revealed to God's people?

CHAPTER 4

The Opening of Seals Two, Three and Four

46¹ What proof do we have that "the Lion that is of the tribe of Judah" has been riding to ultimate conquest since 1914 C.E., and who helps us greatly with further information on the matter?

46² With what question did Jesus' apostles call forth the prophecy of conditions to come after 1914 C.E.?

47¹ Although the apostles did not realize the full coverage of their question, what did Jesus have in mind when answering it?

47² Accordingly, what must we keep in mind when reading Jesus' answer?

48^{1, 2} By comparison of Luke 21:10, 11 with Matthew 24:7, 8, how do we determine that these texts apply to the start of the "time of the end"?

48³ (a) In the apostles' question they had in mind the conclusion of what "system of things"? (b) Did Jesus' answer have an application in the apostles' days?

49¹ (a) Explain how Jesus' words concerning Jerusalem have both a typical and an antitypical fulfillment. (b) What connection does Jesus' prophecy have with Revelation 6:1, 2?

49² When, therefore, do the things taking place after the breaking of the first seal have their fulfillment?

49³ What does John next see?

50¹ Why did not divine power as symbolized by the second living creature prevent what took place at the breaking of the second seal?

50^{2,3} (a) Explain what was symbolized by the fiery-colored horse and the commission given to its rider. (b) How was this prophecy at Revelation 6:3, 4 fulfilled?

51¹ (a) How was a "great sword" indeed employed by the rider on the red horse? (b) What prophecy of Jesus Christ does this parallel?

51² (a) Did the end of World War I on November 11, 1918, restore world peace, or what? (b) How did the rider on the red horse ride again?

51³ (a) Explain the difference in activities of the riders on the white horse and the red horse. (b) Of what was the ride of the second horseman a proof?

52¹ What other proofs are there that Jesus Christ was crowned King in the heavens in 1914?

52² What was revealed at the opening of the third seal?

52³ What is significant in the fact that it was the third living creature who invited John to see what was to take place at the opening of the third seal?

53¹ (a) How is it in accord with historical fact that the rider on the black horse followed the red horse? (b) Did Jesus when on earth also foretell this situation?

53² How do we know that the third horseman, the one on the black horse, represents famine and food shortage?

53³ In addition to describing high prices because of food shortage, in what other way did the vision symbolize famine?

54^{1,2} Explain how the vision foretold that even the rich would be affected by the famine conditions that would follow World War I.

54³ Explain how the famine situation came about even among civilian populations.

55¹ How great and extensive was the famine, according to a British dispatch of March 7, 1919?

55² Of what was this worldwide famine condition a further proof?

55³ What did John behold at the opening of the fourth seal?

56¹ Why was it fitting that the living creature "like a flying eagle" gave the invitation to John at the opening of the fourth seal?

56² The fourth rider, Death, on the pale horse, symbolizes what kind of death?

56³ Who was a close associate of the fourth rider, and what did he do?

57^{1,2} Describe the hope that exists for those who are overtaken by the rider Death and his associate Ha'des.

57^{3,4} (a) How great was the number to be brought down to Ha'des by the fourth horseman, Death? (b) What is meant by the statement: "And authority was given them over the fourth part of the earth"?

58^{1,2} (a) What instruments did the fourth horseman use to bring his victims down to Ha'des? (b) Of what other judgment in the past does this remind us?

58³ In summary, show how much greater the distress and devastation were immediately after the Gentile Times ended than just before they began.

59¹ How did the fourth horseman kill many "by the wild beasts of the earth"?

59²; **60**¹ While the four destructive elements did a terrible work both on ancient Jerusalem and on the world since 1914 C.E., of what did the latter give irrefutable proof?

CHAPTER 5

The Opening of Seals Five and Six

61¹ What does John say took place at the opening of the fifth seal?

61² (a) Are the slaughtered souls under the altar those who met death at the hands of the four horsemen, or what? (b) How do we know that what John saw under the altar was the blood of faithful Christians and not ghostly, shadowy figures or forms?

62^{1, 2} (a) How does God's law given to Noah and to Israel prove that the souls John saw underneath the altar picture the blood of faithful Christians? (b) How did God view the death of these Christians, and who was the one chiefly responsible for shedding their blood?

62³; 63^{1, 2} (a) For what does the blood of these sacrificed Christians cry out, and against whom? (b) What Scriptural example helps us to understand this?

63³ (a) How are we assured that these slaughtered Christian souls will not have cried out in vain? (b) When is God's time for avenging their blood?

64^{1, 2} (a) What mistaken expectation did anointed Christians have regarding World War I? (b) When they searched the Scriptures for an explanation, what did God's holy spirit reveal to them?

64³ (a) Why was considerable time required for the work that was to be done? (b) What things would those doing this work have to undergo?

65¹ (a) What indicates that we are living in the time when the harvest is to take place? (b) What is to be accomplished by this harvest, indicating what about its duration?

65² Still during the conclusion of the system of things, what other separating work is to be done?

66¹ From Jesus' words to the "sheep" and the "goats," what do we see that Jesus' spiritual brothers would experience after 1918 C.E.?

66² (a) Why would the souls under the altar have to "rest" a little while longer? (b) What does the 'resting' refer to?

67¹ (a) What was done for these souls under the altar in 1918 C.E.? (b) What is symbolized by the white robes these receive?

67² (a) After the resurrection of those Christians who had died a sacrificial death, what was to take place with regard to their spiritual brothers yet on earth? (b) Why were more to taste of a sacrificial death with Jesus Christ?

67³; **68**¹ A comparison of the latter part of Revelation 6:11 with Christ's words at Matthew 24:9-14 leads us to what conclusion concerning Christ's footstep followers at this time?

68² (a) Have the historical facts supported this conclusion regarding the persecution of Christians? (b) Till when will God refrain from avenging the blood of his slaves, but, when he does so, to what extent will it be?

69¹ What is disclosed by the breaking of the sixth seal?

69² Describe what John saw when the sixth seal was opened.

69³ Of what kind and of what scope was the great earthquake that John witnessed?

70¹ When men cry heavenward because of the great earthquake and accompanying phenomena, what will be heaven's attitude toward them?

70² What will take place symbolically with regard to the sun, moon and stars for the men of this system of things?

71¹⁻³ (a) Show how the heavenly bodies in outer space have represented powers higher than man and wielding controlling influence over man. (b) In the fulfillment, how does the heaven depart as a scroll that is being rolled up? (c) With what will such heavens be replaced, and will these be rolled up like a scroll and put away?

72¹ In the prophecy's fulfillment, how are every mountain and every island removed from their places?

72² What parallel prophecy do we find at Revelation 16: 18-21?

73¹ (a) As John continues to view the vision, what does it show as to who is affected by this great upheaval?
(b) To what realization will they be forced to come?

73²; 74¹ (a) To preserve their lives, will these men of the world seek refuge in God's kingdom, or what?
(b) Where in history do we find an example of such human behavior?

74² How does the prophet Isaiah describe the actions of men during "the final part of the days"?

75¹ (a) What conditions among the political rulers indicate that "the great day of their wrath" is near at hand?
(b) In the final expression of the wrath of God and his Lamb, what is the question set before those not on the side of God, and what is the answer to the question?

76¹ (a) Since when have Jehovah's witnesses had no cause for weeping as did the apostle John? (b) What has the fulfillment of the things pictured in the opening of the first five seals proved?

76² What is there for us to do as we observe the fulfillment of these prophetic tableaux?

CHAPTER 6

The 144,000 Sealed Ones

77¹ (a) Why did Jesus Christ, after breaking the six seals, not proceed at once to open the seventh seal?
(b) What additional information was to be revealed?

77² What vision and command did John next see and hear?

78¹ By the illuminating power of God's spirit, what storm signal did John see, that no astronaut or weather satellite is able to observe?

78² Who are those holding tight the four winds of the earth, and why are they able to do so?

78³ In what two ways is it appropriate to say that the angels were standing "upon the four corners of the earth"?

79¹ How did Jeremiah similarly illustrate the execution of God's vengeance?

79² (a) When John first saw the four angels, how did the situation appear to him? (b) Likewise, what misunderstanding did the modern-day Christians at first have?

79³ How is it significant that the fifth angel ascended from the sunrising?

80¹ (a) The fact that the angel carried a "seal of the living God" indicates what? (b) What great events were yet to come, and in what order?

80² Why had God not appointed the "four winds of the earth" to start their destructive work in 1918?

81^{1,2} (a) When did the sealing of the "slaves of our God," mentioned by the angel, begin? (b) What is it that does the sealing? Give Scriptural proof.

81³; **82**¹ (a) What is the sealing with God's spirit? (b) What must the Christian do to avoid losing this seal?

82² Show Scripturally what a seal upon a person indicates.

83¹ (a) Was the sealing work completed by 1918 C.E.? (b) How did the things taking place after the breaking of the fifth seal show that there was more sealing work to be done?

83^{2,3} (a) Until what time was the full number of permanently sealed ones kept secret? (b) What is the number, as revealed to John?

84¹ (a) What two patriarchal tribal names were omitted from John's vision? (b) In ancient times, how had the vacancy left by God's special use of the tribe of Levi been filled?

84² (a) In ancient Israel, why was there no tribe named after Joseph? (b) How is Joseph indicated as the first-born in the list at Revelation chapter 7?

85¹ (a) Why was Levi not left out of the list of the twelve tribal names in Revelation chapter 7, as he had been left out in ancient times? (b) Why was Dan's name omitted, and yet how do we know this was not due to any prejudice against that tribe?

85² (a) At the time the apostle John received the vision, how long had it been since the rejection of the nation of natural Israel, and how long had it been since Gentiles had begun to be sealed as chosen ones? (b) Since 36 C.E. has God been dealing with a nation of fleshly Israel, or what?

86^{1,2} (a) Because one is a natural circumcised Jew, does it mean that he is automatically a member of the Israel of God? How did the apostle Paul answer the question? (b) What kind of "Jews" and what kind of circumcision does God now recognize?

87¹ (a) How does God view the natural circumcised Jew who is not a member of the spiritual Israel of God? (b) Who, then, are the 144,000 "out of every tribe of the sons of Israel"?

87^{2,3} (a) How can more information be found about the purpose or place of the 144,000 in God's final arrangement? (b) What is indicated by the fact that the city, "New Jerusalem," is Christ's "bride," and that the gates have the names of the twelve tribes of Israel inscribed on them?

88¹ (a) How is the official position to be held by the 144,000 plainly stated? (b) How do they attain to this royal position, and what do they share as the "bride" of the Lamb?

88² The fact that these 144,000 who will be kings are also 'slaves of God' assures us of what kind of government from the "New Jerusalem"?

89^{1,2} (a) What have we learned from the fact that these sealed ones are called the twelve 'tribes of the sons of Israel'? (b) The fact that the number of them is 144,000 aids us in understanding what? (c) Where else in the Bible and in what setting do we see the number again stated?

90¹ (a) How do we know that it is not upon the earthly Mount Zion in the Middle East that Christ and his 144,000 associates stand? (b) What, then, is the Mount Zion where they are located?

91¹ (a) How does the writer of the book of Hebrews support our conclusion about Mount Zion? (b) As being what does the seal on their foreheads distinguish the 144,000?

91² (a) As to their place in God's purpose, what is indicated by the fact that the 144,000 stand with the Lamb on Mount Zion, the location of heavenly Jerusalem? (b) Why, therefore, was it so important that the sealing of the spiritual Israelites be completed before the four winds of the earth were let loose?

92¹ (a) What is denoted by the division of the 144,000 sealed ones into units of 12,000 members each? (b) While on earth these members of spiritual Israel are divided in what manner?

92² (a) In what way did the disciple James view the Christian congregations of his day in his letter to them? (b) In the vision in Revelation, to whom was John commanded to write distinctive messages, and why should we be interested in these?

CHAPTER 7

Congregations Producing 144,000 Sealed Ones

93¹ (a) Who are happy to hear that the 144,000 sealed slaves of God will rule with Jesus Christ in the heavens? (b) How have these been grouped together, while on earth, and for what purpose?

93^{2,3} In the very first words of the book of Revelation, what does the apostle John show as to God's dealing with and purpose toward his sealed slaves?

94¹ (a) How does John show that the members of the sealed ones are among the seven congregations to whom he writes? (b) Why would the words to these seven congregations be of equal interest and benefit to the remnant of spiritual Israelites on earth today?

94² (a) Where was John at the time of writing the Revelation, and how were the seven congregations located with respect to John's location? (b) Of whom did John have a vision, as indicated by the first words of his account?

95¹ Why did Jesus Christ send this revelation from God, and for whose benefit?

95² In what way did Jesus Christ reveal himself to John in sending his message to the congregations?

95³; 96¹ (a) What command did John receive? (b) Was either Jerusalem or Rome a central place as the source of these authoritative letters, or what?

96² (a) How did John, "by inspiration," come to be "in the Lord's day"? (b) When does that day begin, and how long must it continue?

96³; 97¹ What appearance did the glorified Lord Jesus Christ have in this vision to John?

97² (a) Of what is one reminded by the fact that Jesus Christ appeared to be barefooted in the vision? (b) What was denoted by his white hair and by his golden girdle? (c) Describe his facial expression, his eyes and his voice.

97³ (a) How did the vision affect John? (b) Why were there seven lampstands that John saw?

98¹ How was John, in his deathlike condition, assisted and comforted?

98² Who, in the ultimate sense, is the first and the last, and is Jesus in speaking to John claiming to be that one?

99¹ In connection with what was Jesus Christ the first and the last, as shown by what he underwent?

99² (a) What, then, was meant by Jesus Christ in speaking of himself as "the First and the Last"? (b) Does this mean that there will be no other resurrection from the dead? Explain.

100¹ and footnote What did Jesus mean in saying: "I have the keys of death and of Ha'des"?

100² How does the fact that Jesus is "the First and the Last," and possesses the keys of death and of Ha'des, make fitting his words at John 11:25, 26 and John 6:53-58?

101¹ Why did Jesus have solid basis for giving John the command recorded at Revelation 1:19?

102¹ (a) Of what are the seven "stars" symbolic, and are the "angels" of the seven congregations invisible heavenly ones? Explain. (b) Who, then, are these seven "stars" or seven "angels," and why are they symbolized as stars?

102²; **103**¹ (a) What do the "seven golden lampstands" symbolize? (b) What is the responsibility of the "stars" with respect to the "lampstands"? (c) How do the words of Jesus at Matthew 5:14-16 emphasize this responsibility?

103² How was it that all seven congregations probably received the entire Book of The Revelation?

103³ Was the information contained in the entire Revelation important to all the Christian congregations, and what was very likely done about it?

103⁴ (a) Who especially and immediately need the Revelation? (b) Why do they so urgently need the understanding of its application now and not later?

104^{1,2} (a) The "seven stars" and the "seven lampstands" in the visionary "Lord's day" pictured what? (b) What do the human "angels," compared to "stars," have the responsibility to do? (c) Did the seven congregations in Asia exist in succession, or all at the same time? (d) The conditions described in the letters to those seven Asian congregations would exist when and where in modern times?

CHAPTER 8

To the Angel in Ephesus

105^{1,2} (a) What kind of city was Ephesus, and where was it located? (b) What was the message that the glorified Jesus Christ directed John to write to the overseer there?

105³ Of what did Paul warn the overseers of Ephesus, and what did the Ephesian congregation do when the thing Paul had warned of actually took place?

106¹ When "the Lord's day" came in 1914, was there a situation similar to that in Ephesus, and what did dedicated Bible students do about it?

106² What was the one thing that Jesus Christ had against the congregation in Ephesus?

106³; **107**¹ (a) How is the nation of Israel an example of what took place with the congregation at Ephesus? (b) How does the apostle John describe this love that the Ephesian congregation no longer had?

107^{2, 3} (a) In 1914, how had dedicated Bible students left the love that characterized the Christian congregation in the first century? (b) To what was this condition mainly due? Give examples. (c) When was the beginning made in correcting this error?

107⁴ (a) When was the climax reached in getting back to that first love? (b) How was the title of the official magazine of Jehovah's witnesses altered to conform to this sincere effort to get back to that first love? (c) In doing so were they ignoring Christ, or what?

108¹ (a) What were the "former deeds" to which they returned? (b) What did they come to appreciate as the most important thing, and what did they do about it?

108² (a) How do we know that Christ did not have to carry out his warning by removing the lampstand from among Jehovah's Christian witnesses? (b) On the other hand, what do the facts show as to whether Christendom has carried out her claim to be "the light of the world"?

109¹ What has Christendom done instead of fulfilling Jesus' prophecy at Matthew 24:14, and what, therefore, is her condition today?

110¹ (a) Why cannot the commendatory words of Revelation 2:6 be applied to Christendom? (b) Why is it not strange that at the beginning of "the Lord's day" there was a tendency toward sectarianism among true Bible students?

110² (a) Did the first president of the Watch Tower Bible & Tract Society try to establish a religious sect? (b) After his death in 1916, what effort was made, and what scriptures were mistakenly applied to support that effort?

112¹ How did Jesus Christ view this tendency, and under his guidance what separation took place?

112² In the February 15, 1927, issue of the *Watch Tower* magazine, what argument was presented that weakened any basis for forming a sect around Charles Taze Russell?

112³ How was the wrong idea that Charles T. Russell was "the angel of the church of the Laodiceans" abolished?

113¹ When and how was the true identity of the symbolic 'man clothed with linen and with the writer's ink-horn' set forth?

113^{2, 3} How did the Christian spiritual Israelites further show that they hated sectarianism?

113⁴ What were the closing words of the message to the congregation in ancient Ephesus?

114^{1, 2} (a) Were these final words to the congregation in Ephesus for their benefit only, or what? (b) When Christ says "hear what the spirit says" seven times in all, to what spirit does he have reference?

114³ On the basis of what has been said, to whom does each one of the seven messages apply?

115¹ (a) Who is encouraged to conquer, and with what in view? (b) Who is our chief example of conquering, and what is it in Christians that enables them to conquer?

115² (a) Does "the paradise of God" that Jesus speaks of at Revelation 2:7 refer to the garden of Eden? Why? (b) Does it, then, refer to the earth restored to a paradise during Christ's reign?

116¹ (a) Why was the paradise that the evildoer was promised not the paradise spoken of at Revelation 2:7? (b) What is the difference in the paradise into which the evildoer will come and the "paradise of God" of Revelation 2:7?

116² (a) What is symbolized by the "tree of life, which is in the paradise of God"? (b) What would continually eating of that "tree of life" mean? (c) What reward would this therefore hold forth for the spiritual Israelites who conquer?

CHAPTER 9

To the Angel in Smyrna

117^{1,2} (a) Where was Smyrna, and what things were notable about this city? (b) What was Christ's message to the congregation in Smyrna?

117³ (a) What was the condition of the congregation in Smyrna materially and spiritually? (b) Why is it no cause for reproach for Christians to be materially poor?

118¹ (a) How did the natural Jews in Smyrna prove that they were actually of the "synagogue of Satan"? (b) Who today follow the pattern of those Jews in Smyrna?

119¹ (a) What things had the Smyrna congregation already undergone, and what effect had this doubtless had on their material condition? (b) How were they to suffer yet more, and for what purpose? (c) What is likely the meaning of the "ten days" through which they were to have tribulation?

119² By whom and for what reason were the Christians in Smyrna to be thrown into prison?

120¹ What was a very prominent case of imprisonment of members of the remnant of spiritual Israelites?

120² What was the outcome of this imprisonment and the ban on the book *The Finished Mystery*?

120³ How was Revelation 2:10 fulfilled on the remnant?

121¹ How was the prophecy fulfilled in Germany as early as 1926 and 1927?

121² (a) What did Jehovah's witnesses suffer under Hitler's rulership? (b) What happened to many of these witnesses after Nazi rule had ended?

121³ What took place with Jehovah's witnesses in Britain, and over what primary issue?

122¹ During these times, how did the headquarters of the Watch Tower Society officially react to the persecution?

123¹ How did persecution increase year by year in the United States, and what did it become necessary for the Watch Tower Society to do?

123² Beginning in 1940 and continuing until this day, what issue have Jehovah's witnesses in the United States faced, and with what result?

124^{1, 2} (a) Particularly from 1935, who have suffered persecution alongside the remnant, and how have they endured? (b) How have the remnant felt regarding the suffering of these many members of the "great crowd"?

124³ (a) Even though suffering to the death may be necessary, what will such faithfulness mean for the "great crowd"? (b) To whom, in modern times, does Jesus address the words at Revelation 2:10?

125¹ (a) Although some of the anointed remnant will not suffer a violent death under persecution, what must such ones do? (b) What is meant by "the crown of life," and what is the contest in which they win it?

125² How does Jesus show what kind of life the faithful anointed ones will receive as their reward?

125³ What is the "second death"?

125⁴ What does it mean to be written in the book of life, or, on the other hand, to be hurled into the symbolic lake of fire?

126¹ Show Scripturally who it is who are unable to be "harmed by the second death."

126^{2, 3} (a) What resurrection do the faithful anointed conquerors receive, and why? (b) With what body will these be resurrected, as explained by the apostle Paul?

127¹⁻³ (a) Is one who is a spirit creature immune to the second death? Give an example. (b) What more than resurrection as spirit creatures do the Christian conquerors receive, as shown by the Scriptures?

127⁴ What grand things, then, does Jesus promise to the Christian conquerors?

CHAPTER 10

To the Angel in Pergamum

128¹ (a) Where was Pergamum located? (b) For what things was the city noted?

128^{2, 3} Briefly summarize the message to the congregation in Pergamum.

129¹ At the end of his message to Pergamum, what does Christ promise to the conqueror?

129² As what does the sharp two-edged sword identify the speaker, and for what does he use this sword?

129³ (a) How did Jesus show he understood the situation by what he said concerning Pergamum? (b) What does the "throne of Satan" picture?

129⁴ What is the basis on which Satan made himself a resister of God, and what claim did he make concerning Jehovah as ruler?

130¹ How did Satan especially set up trying conditions for the congregation at Pergamum, and what was his objective?

130² (a) What was really the purpose of setting up the worship of the Roman emperor? (b) Did the Roman emperor demand exclusive worship, or what? (c) How could Pergamum be truly said to be "where the throne of Satan is"?

131¹ (a) Describe how a like test has been imposed upon the remnant of anointed Christians. (b) How have they met this test?

131² Who was Antipas, and how did he die a faithful death?

132¹ (a) How have the anointed remnant served for God's side of the issue since Jesus Christ was enthroned as king? (b) On what occasion was a larger view of the issue opened up to God's people?

132^{2,3} How did the Watch Tower Society's president at that time clearly describe the position of Jehovah's witnesses on the issue?

133¹ How was this position of Jehovah's witnesses made public, and what has been the result of the position they have taken?

133² What did Balaam do toward ancient Israel that foreshadowed Satan's attempt to break the integrity of the Pergamum congregation?

133³ By drawing upon the ancient scene, how do we see that those in the Christian congregation who 'hold fast the teaching of Balaam' cannot be tolerated?

134¹ What plausible-sounding argument did those holding fast the teaching of Balaam likely use to excuse their conduct, but what were they actually doing?

134² What action must the congregation take with regard to such corrupters?

134³ Besides having their morals endangered, what other danger threatened the congregation at Pergamum?

135^{1,2} What should be done if sectarianism is found to exist in the congregation?

135³ What action has Jesus Christ taken with regard to sectarianism since coming to the temple in 1918?

135⁴ What is the judgment pronounced against any who promote sectarianism in God's congregation?

135⁵ What prayer that Jesus Christ made when he was a man on earth does he now bring to reality?

136¹ How does the glorified Lord Jesus encourage the faithful ones in the Pergamum congregation?

136² (a) What was the manna in the wilderness, and how was it provided for the Israelites? (b) How was a sample of the manna kept?

137¹ (a) For how long was the omer of manna "hidden manna" in the history of Israel? (b) Of what does Jesus Christ use the "hidden manna" as a symbol?

137² From the usage of the Greek word translated "pebble" in Revelation 2:17, how do we know what it denotes?

138¹ What is signified by the fact that the white pebble has upon it "a new name written which no one knows except the one receiving it"?

138² How many of such 'white pebbles' are there, and who are those admitted into intimate association with Jesus Christ?

138³ Is the "new name written" a personal, individual name that no others of the 144,000 can know, or what?

139¹ What other statements in the book of Revelation harmonize with Christ's mention of the "new name" at Revelation 2:17?

139² What may the "new name" mean, and of what may we be assured concerning it?

CHAPTER 11

To the Angel in Thyatira

140¹ Where was Thyatira located, and what form of worship was practiced there?

140² What commendatory things did the Lord Jesus Christ have to say to the angel of the congregation in Thyatira?

140³ What condemnatory things did Jesus Christ utter toward the Thyatira congregation?

141¹ What encouragement did Christ give to the Thyatira congregation?

141² (a) How does the Lord Jesus Christ identify himself in this message? (b) How did Christ's appearance here differ from his appearance to John earlier, after his resurrection, and what are symbolized by his fiery eyes and feet "like fine copper"?

141³ (a) Why is Christ's message to the congregation not to be taken indifferently? (b) Even though the congregation may have love, faith, endurance and fine deeds, what may tarnish its standing with Jehovah?

142¹ (a) Why did Jesus call the immoral woman in Thyatira "that woman Jezebel"? (b) What was this woman doing contrary to the interests of God's congregation?

142² (a) Who was the ancient Jezebel, and why was she so odious? (b) Why was her first-century counterpart more hateful?

144¹ While the glorified Jesus Christ was mercifully giving "that woman Jezebel" time to repent, what arguments was she using to promote her wickedness in the congregation?

144² Show whether there has been a counterpart of "that woman Jezebel" in the modern-day congregation of God's people or not.

145¹ (a) What action has Jesus Christ taken toward "that woman Jezebel" in the modern-day congregation? (b) In this connection, what counsel of the apostle Paul has been emphasized?

145² (a) What was the book *Daily Heavenly Manna for the Household of Faith*? (b) Why was the offer of the book's compiler to revise the *Manna* book refused, and what has been published instead down to this time?

146¹ What was the warning that Jesus Christ gave to "that woman Jezebel"?

146² In modern times, how has Christ Jesus seen to it that the women of the Jezebel type have been thrown "into a sickbed," and what will be the culmination of this to them if they do not repent?

147¹ (a) What lies ahead for unrepentant professed Christian men who have relations with immoral women? (b) Will such ones suffer, even if they have been lured into the immorality, if they do not repent?

147² (a) How are "her children" to be killed "with deadly plague"? (b) How may this apply in a figurative sense?

148¹ How do the faithful ones avoid the Jezebel teaching and the "deep things of Satan"?

148²; **149**¹ (a) What is significant about Jesus' statement: "I am not putting upon you any other burden"? (b) How does Christ's counsel harmonize with the letter of the governing body in Jerusalem to Christians in the first century C.E.?

149² (a) How do the clergymen of Christendom adopt the immoral position of "that woman Jezebel"? (b) What is the attitude of the true Christian toward that clergy position?

149³ (a) What reward does the glorified Lord Jesus Christ hold out for those who gain the spiritual victory over the world? (b) How is it possible for them to engage in that conquest ahead?

150¹ (a) With the help of the scripture at Revelation 14:13, explain what takes place toward those of the anointed remnant who die since 1918 C.E. (b) How is it that they rest from their earthly labors but "the things they did go right with them"?

150² (a) What authority has the Son of God received from his Father? (b) How will the fulfillment of Christ's promise at Revelation 2:26, 27 be a reversal of matters for the anointed ones who are resurrected before Armageddon?

151^{1,2} (a) Will the anointed remnant who remain on earth through Armageddon share in breaking the nations to pieces, or what will they be doing? (b) What ancient examples do we have showing what position the anointed remnant will take at that time?

152¹ How will the remnant on earth through Armageddon nevertheless feel that the promise of Revelation 2:27 has been fulfilled toward them?

152^{2,3} (a) How will the remnant who survive on earth until after Armageddon have Jesus' promise at Revelation 2:28 fulfilled toward them? (b) How does the Bible help us to identify the "bright morning star"?

152⁴ (a) How did Satan the Devil, as typified by the king of ancient Babylon, want to fix his throne above the "bright morning star"? (b) Since 1914 C.E., what has actually happened with regard to this ambition of the Devil, and what awaits him and his demons?

153¹ How will the glorified Son of God give to each faithful conqueror of his congregation "the morning star"?

153² Why is it that Jesus says: "Let the one who has an ear hear what the spirit says to the congregations"?

CHAPTER 12

To the Angel in Sardis

154¹ State the location of Sardis and the kind of religion practiced there.

154² Judging by Jesus' words to the congregation at Sardis, what was its condition?

154³ Although the congregation was in a bad spiritual condition, what words of encouragement did Jesus Christ give?

155¹ Why does Jesus Christ identify himself to the congregation in Sardis as the one who "has the seven spirits of God and the seven stars"?

155² What is the symbolic meaning of the "seven eyes" possessed by the symbolic Lamb?

156¹ Why was it that the Sardis congregation and its angellike overseer were in a serious situation?

156² What is the value of a favorable name with God, and when should a Christian make such a name?

156³ What was the thing of main concern as to the aliveness of the members of the Sardis congregation?

156⁴ What were the kind of works possessed by the congregation in Sardis, but what kind did Christ desire that they have?

157¹ (a) What may have been "the things remaining that were ready to die" in the Sardis congregation? (b) According to Jesus' words to the overseer, at Sardis, what did he need to do?

157² What were the things "heard" of which the Sardis congregation was to "continue mindful"?

158¹ What were the things "received" that those in the congregation at Sardis needed to keep urgently in mind?

158² How was the congregation to "repent," and to what would this lead them?

159¹ (a) What, later, would the congregation at Sardis experience that would be more than a warning? (b) By coming at an hour previously unannounced, what would Jesus Christ accomplish toward the congregation?

159² (a) Why was the year 1918 a most pressing time for a warning to come from Jesus Christ to all those who professed to be Christians? (b) How had Christendom proved herself to be dead at the time Christ came to his spiritual temple?

160¹ What was the situation of the anointed remnant of dedicated Christians when Christ appeared at his temple in 1918?

160² (a) At the end of World War I, why was the warning message of Jesus Christ to the Sardis congregation very appropriate for God's anointed remnant? (b) What course of action were they in danger of taking?

161¹ (a) What were some of the things that the remnant had received and heard of which they were to be mindful? (b) Of what were they to repent? Otherwise, what would come upon them?

162¹ How, among the anointed remnant at that time, were there 'a few names that did not defile their outer garments'?

162² What did Jesus mean by his promise that the few undefiled ones would walk with him in white outer garments "because they are worthy"?

163¹ By Jesus' closing words to the "angel" of the Sardis congregation, how did he stress the importance of the "outer garments"?

163² (a) Both in the first century and today, who is "he that conquers"? (b) How can an imperfect Christian live in this world and yet keep his symbolic outer garments clean?

164¹ (a) In what other sense does the expression "he that conquers" apply? (b) How do Jesus' words at Matthew 10:32, 33 emphasize this aspect of conquering?

164² (a) How does one get his name written tentatively in the "book of life"? (b) How is such one assured of having his name kept in that "book of life," and what does it mean if he accomplishes this?

CHAPTER 13

To the Angel in Philadelphia

165¹ (a) Where was the city of Philadelphia, and what are some notable facts about it and the religion practiced there? (b) Did the Jewish population there act in harmony with the meaning of the name "Philadelphia" toward the Christian congregation?

165²; **166**¹ What viewpoint did Christ Jesus express regarding the congregation in Philadelphia?

166² What did Christ promise the conquering one in his final words to the congregation in Philadelphia?

166³ (a) What is significant in the fact that Christ speaks of himself as that one "who is holy, who is true"? (b) Because of his maintaining holiness, what office was he given by his Father?

167^{1, 2} (a) Explain how Christ is the One "who has the key of David." (b) What was the authority placed on one who had the key of the king's household? (c) Did any bishop in Rome or any professed earthly representative of Christ ever have or use the symbolic "key of David"?

168¹ (a) Who was it who set before the Philadelphia congregation "an opened door, which no one can shut"? (b) Who set "an opened door" before the faithful remnant in 1919, and what have the popes of Rome vainly tried to do about it?

168² (a) To what privileges and opportunities did that "opened door" permit entrance by the Philadelphia congregation? (b) What did Christ mean by saying, "You have a little power"?

169¹ At the beginning of the postwar period in 1919, how did the faithful remnant stand as to political power with this world?

169² What was the "little power" that the Philadelphia congregation had, and how did they use it?

170¹ During the period of World War I and right afterward, what did the anointed remnant do so that they had "a little power" as the postwar period proceeded?

170² (a) Particularly with what event was "an opened door" set before the anointed remnant after World War I? (b) What did the remnant do about this opened-up opportunity?

171^{1,2} (a) To whom does the credit go for the opening of a "door" to the apostle Paul and, likewise, in 1919 C.E., to the anointed remnant? (b) How has that "door" proved to be one "which no one can shut"?

172¹ How did the Jewish unbelievers in Philadelphia prove themselves to be the "synagogue of Satan"?

172² (a) How do Jesus' words to the Philadelphia congregation warn natural Jews today to be careful? (b) However, who are the principal ones that show themselves to be the "synagogue of Satan" today?

173¹ In regard to the question as to who are the real Jews "on the inside," what have the religionists of Christendom been forced to see and do?

173²; 174¹ (a) In considering Christ's prophecy to the Philadelphia congregation, along with Isaiah 66:5, those who did obeisance before the feet of the Philadelphia congregation received what blessing? (b) Likewise, what development has taken place with the anointed remnant since 1919 C.E.?

174² (a) Who besides these spiritual brothers join with the remnant in worship of God? (b) Does the fact that these "do obeisance" before the remnant mean that they thereby depart from their worship of Jehovah only, or what?

174³ How have the anointed remnant, since World War I, been able to endure?

175¹ (a) What has the test since 1918 included, and what has been its purpose? (b) Because of the remnant's observance of what command in particular has Christ kept them from this "hour of test"?

175² Even though they have endured so far, why do the faithful anointed remnant need to pay heed to the warning of Christ at Revelation 3:11?

175³ (a) In what way has the anointed remnant observed the "word about my [Christ's] endurance"? (b) In what way must the anointed remnant "keep on holding fast what [they] have"?

176^{1, 2} (a) What would take place if one of the anointed Christians should fail under the earthly test? (b) How does Christ encourage the Kingdom heirs to make sure their title to the heavenly crown?

177¹ (a) What is significant about Christ's use of the expression "my God" four times in this message? (b) Since the temple belongs to God, how can Christ speak of himself as setting up each "pillar in the temple of my God"?

177² What does it mean for a Christian conqueror to be made a pillar in the temple of God?

177³ (a) How do we know that Jesus when on earth knew how to pronounce his Father's name correctly? (b) On what part of the Christian conqueror's body would Jesus write the name "Jehovah," and what would this signify?

178¹ (a) What other honorable name will the Lord Jesus Christ write upon the conqueror? (b) What is the significance and importance of this name?

179¹ What is "that new name of mine" that Jesus writes upon the "one that conquers," and to whom does this "new name" eventually become known?

179² (a) Who is the originator and bestower of the "new name" of Jesus Christ? (b) What does it mean to the 144,000 to have Christ's "new name" written upon them? (c) In what threefold way are they rewarded for being conquerors?

CHAPTER 14

To the Angel in Laodicea

180¹ When was the city of Laodicea founded, and where did it get its name?

180² (a) Where was Laodicea situated, and what was notable about it? (b) There was a congregation in Laodicea as early as what date?

180³; 181^{1, 2} (a) Had the congregation in Laodicea received any apostolic letter during its existence? (b) What does Christ's message to the Laodicean "angel" show as to the condition of the Laodicean congregation?

181³ (a) Compare the material situation of the Laodicean congregation with that at Smyrna. (b) Of what did the Laodicean congregation have need?

182¹ (a) What was the material condition of Christendom following World War I? (b) Because of her professing to belong to Christ, what questions did Christendom face?

183¹ (a) What position did the true anointed remnant face at this time? (b) What did they desire and need?

183² (a) How was some 'shame of nakedness' manifest by Christ's spiritual brothers then? (b) In what way were they to "buy" white outer garments?

184¹ (a) At that time, in 1919 C.E., where did Christ stand relative to the anointed remnant? (b) To what had the remnant had their eyes opened, but why did they nevertheless need to buy "eyesalve" from Christ?

184²; 185¹ (a) How did the remnant "buy" this spiritual eyesalve, and to what did it open their eyes? (b) In what way were they imitating the example and words of their Leader Jesus Christ?

186^{1,2} (a) What is the meaning of the word "Amen"? (b) How do the apostle Paul and Jesus Christ himself show that He is the "Amen" personified?

187¹ Of what does the fact that Jesus Christ is "the Amen" assure us concerning the entire Revelation?

187² How can we prove that Jesus, when he said that he was "the beginning of the creation by God," was not saying he was the 'beginner' or 'originator'?

188¹ (a) How can we prove by other scriptures that Jesus was the original one created by God, and therefore receives life from God? (b) How is the Greek word *arkhé* used in the same sense when Jesus is spoken of as "firstborn of every creature" and the "firstborn from the dead"?

188² (a) By scriptures show who is the Creator. (b) How was the Son of God used by his Father in connection with creation? (c) Why can Jesus Christ be called the oldest of God's creatures?

189¹ (a) In what capacity did Christ speak to the angel of the Laodicean congregation, giving him reproof? (b) When likewise reproved and disciplined by Christ, what action did the remnant take, and why?

189² Why and how could the Lord Jesus Christ speak of himself as standing at the door and knocking?

190¹ (a) How did the anointed remnant respond? (b) What is significant in the fact that Jesus speaks here of the "evening meal"?

190² (a) When Jesus on earth as a man was invited to a meal, what resulted for the others present? (b) How was it like this when Jesus Christ knocked at the door of the remnant?

191¹ What more than just a spiritual feast may Jesus have had in mind when he spoke of taking the evening meal with the anointed ones?

191²; 192¹ (a) What were the things with which the spiritual "evening meal" had to do? (b) How was it not inappropriate, therefore, for Jesus next to mention sitting down with him on his throne? (c) When does he grant to the conquerors to sit with him on his throne?

192^{2,3} In summary, briefly review things that the spirit of God has promised as rewards to the conquerors.

193¹ By way of review, also, state briefly (a) how many will prove worthy as conquerors, (b) what heavenly nation they will form, (c) when the work of sealing these began, and (d) before what time the sealing work must be finished.

193² What things are to take place after the sealing work is completed?

CHAPTER 15

Earthly Survivors of "The Great Tribulation"

194¹ (a) Why has not the earth-wide storm of destructive trouble hit the earth before now? (b) Who besides the remnant of spiritual Israelites have benefited from the holding back of the storm?

194² (a) After observing the sealing work, what did John next see? (b) Did he observe the gathering of the great crowd taking place, or what?

195¹ Does "standing before the throne" mean that the "great crowd" has to be in heaven? Explain.

195² Though on earth, how does the "great crowd" have God's throne and his Lamb in view, and as what do they acknowledge themselves?

195³ (a) What do the members of the "great crowd" do that works toward their being "dressed in white robes"? (b) Wearing these white robes obliges them to do what?

196¹ (a) How does the prophecy show whether this great crowd suffers division because of tribal, national, racial or language differences or not? (b) What is represented by the palm branches in their hands?

197^{1,2} (a) Of what was the apostle John likely reminded by this vision? (b) Why were palm branches suitable for waving before God's throne?

197³ What encouragement can the "great crowd" gain from the exclamation "Amen!" by the heavenly hosts?

198¹ What did the apostle John know about this "great crowd," and what did he not know?

198² What question was John unable to answer, but what answer was given to him?

199¹ Who answered the question for John, and what did this prefigure?

199² When and how was the long-looked-for information concerning the "great crowd" revealed?

200¹ (a) Does the "great crowd" suffer persecution, and is this the "great tribulation" mentioned in the vision? (b) What appears to be the meaning of the expression "the great tribulation" out of which the "great crowd" come?

200² (a) How does Jesus' use of the expression "great tribulation" help us to understand its application? (b) How far-reaching is the "great tribulation" of Revelation 7:14?

201¹ (a) What makes it clear that the "great crowd" does not picture all of mankind who will eventually live in an earthly paradise? (b) "Come out of the great tribulation" means what, and when did the gathering of the "great crowd" begin?

201²; **202**¹ (a) How was it that those making up the "great crowd" did have on soiled garments? (b) In what way is it that the "great crowd" do not wash their robes, and what only could make them clean? (c) When was it made clear what steps a person must take to be in line for life on earth, and what are these steps?

202² Who is it that determines whether the dedicated one will receive the heavenly calling or be assigned to life on earth, and what is the only acceptable dedication?

203¹ and footnote (a) How have the members of the "great crowd" washed their robes and made them white, and how do they keep them white? (b) Do they attend the annual celebration of the Lord's Supper, and do they partake of the emblems? (c) Give a comparison of the number of partakers at the Lord's Evening Meal in 1968 with non-partakers, and in which group do we find members of the "great crowd"?

203² Contrast the members of the "great crowd" with the men of this system of things as to what they trust in for salvation.

204¹ (a) Why is it that the members of the "great crowd" have a standing before God, and what do they recognize? (b) In turn, what assignment does God give to them, and in what capacity do they act in relation to the remnant of spiritual Israelites?

205¹ (a) What service does the "great crowd" perform, and where? (b) Why can we say they are not priests of God?

205² (a) How is it possible for the "great crowd," not being priests, to serve in the temple?

206¹ Why and how does God spread his tent over the "great crowd"?

206^{2, 3} (a) Who is the Shepherd that God sets over the "great crowd," and of what is their gathering a beginning? (b) How do they become one flock with the remnant, and how do their numbers compare?

207¹ In what way is it that they do not hunger or thirst anymore?

207² What is the scorching heat that will not beat down upon them, and why are they protected from it?

207³ (a) How will the "great crowd" be refreshed? (b) What are the symbolic fountains of waters of life?

208¹ Compare the promise to the "great crowd" with that of the prophetic promise to the anointed remnant at Isaiah 49:10.

208² (a) How does God "wipe out every tear from their eyes"? (b) What is the primary thing in which they are interested, and what prospect is set before them?

CHAPTER 16

The Blowing of the First Four Trumpets

209¹ What revelation finished the things to be disclosed by the opening of the sixth seal, and what remained?

209² When was it time to begin holding back the "four winds of the earth," and for what reason?

209³ From what standpoint will we watch to see what occurred when the Lamb broke the seventh seal?

210¹ Why was there silence in heaven for about half an hour?

210² Why was there an especially serious, urgent need for prayer on the part of the remnant at that time?

211¹ How did John forevision what would take place at the time of this season of prayer and afterward?

211² (a) In what capacity did the eighth angel act toward God's holy ones? (b) For what did the remnant pray?

212¹ How did Jesus Christ, when on earth, "start a fire on the earth"?

212² What was the fulfillment of the eighth angel's throwing fire onto the earth?

212³; **213**¹ (a) In what way did "thunders," "voices," "lightnings" and an "earthquake" follow the angel's throwing of fire onto the earth? (b) What did the Sandusky, Ohio, *Star-Journal* have to say about Brother Rutherford's talk at the 1919 Cedar Point, Ohio, convention?

213² What did such declaration start, and is it continuing?

214¹ (a) In ancient Israel, for what purposes were trumpets used? (b) In what way was the anointed remnant involved when "the seven angels" prepared to blow the "seven trumpets"?

214² What did the anointed remnant do that showed that they were indeed taking action in harmony with the heavenly trumpeters?

215¹ What did John see in vision when the first angel blew his trumpet?

215² What was the purpose of the "hail and fire mingled with blood" that was hurled to the earth?

215³ What is represented by "a third," and what is the identity of this "third of the earth" that was "burned up"?

216¹ (a) At the second Cedar Point convention in 1922, what did the president of the Watch Tower Bible & Tract Society declare in his speech on the Bible text, "The kingdom of heaven is at hand"? (b) Two days later, what did the assembled conventioners do?

216² Since the first angel's blowing of his trumpet, what has Christendom experienced?

217¹ What has been the result upon Christendom of the things that followed the first angel's trumpet sound?

217² Because of God's judgment, what is now the appearance of Christendom?

217³ What occurred at the blowing of the second angel's trumpet?

218¹ Describe the symbolic sea upon which the things accompanying the second trumpet had effect.

218² What was hurled into the sea, and what did this action symbolize?

218³ State facts showing that the issue over radical, revolutionary government was indeed thrust upon the people during that time.

219¹ What is represented by the fact that this mountain was "burning with fire"?

219² What effect did the turning of "a third of the sea" into blood have, and how widespread was this effect?

220¹ In what direction have the radical, revolutionary governments pushed their subjects, and, therefore, what

parable of Jesus was appropriate for discussion at the Los Angeles convention in 1923?

221¹ What was the message in the resolution entitled "A Warning," and how was such information made a matter of public warning?

221² (a) Who are largely responsible for the growth and spread of communism? (b) What is the position of such radical elements and their followers in God's sight, and why?

222¹ How did God's people further expose the inability of the "red" government to give life and peace?

222² What did the booklet say about men's attempts at governmental reform?

222³ What was prophetically pictured in the vision by the wrecking of "a third of the boats"?

223¹⁻³ What did the book *Government*, published in 1928, say about governments, especially those of the socialist, communistic type?

223⁴ In the vision, what occurred after the sounding of the third trumpet?

224¹ (a) What was the "great star" that plunged from heaven into the fresh waters? (b) Why was it called "Wormwood"?

224² (a) What, specifically, is symbolized by the "great star," and how has it fallen? (b) What are the symbolic waters into which it fell, and what did it do to them?

225^{1, 2} (a) In 1924, what took place that, like a trumpet blast, exposed the embittering effect of the doctrines of the clergy of Christendom? (b) At this convention in Columbus, Ohio, what things helped to publicize clergy failure?

225³ What effect does the vision show that the falling "star" has upon mankind?

226¹ Describe the extent to which the things disclosed after the third angel's trumpet blast have been proclaimed.

226² What attitude should we have toward the things to be heard yet from the four remaining angelic trumpeters?

227¹ In the vision, what took place after the fourth angel blew his trumpet?

227² What does the darkening of the heavenly bodies mean to earth's inhabitants, but are God's people similarly affected?

227³ What can be said about the spiritual condition of those who are pagans?

227⁴ From Christendom's viewpoint, what spiritual state is she in?

228¹⁻³ (a) Under the guidance of the fourth heavenly angel, what took place in August 1925? (b) How did the resolution adopted at this convention show that there was indeed no light of heaven upon Christendom?

229¹ During and after this convention, how was the public informed of Christendom's darkness?

229² Since 1925, what has been done to inform the people of Christendom's deepening darkness?

230¹ What did John next see that forecast more woes for the earth?

230² (a) Why was an eagle an appropriate one to make the announcement in the vision? (b) What did this eagle represent, and in harmony with what he said, what did the anointed remnant do?

CHAPTER 17

The Blowing of the Fifth and Sixth Trumpets

231^{1,2} At the fifth angel's blowing his trumpet, what did John see?

231^{3,4} Tell what authority was given to the locusts, and describe their appearance.

232¹ Who is the star here seen by the apostle John, and how do we identify him?

232² How did Jesus Christ come to be in possession of the key of the abyss?

232³ (a) What uses does Christ make of the key of the abyss? (b) How will he fulfill his name "Destroyer"?

233¹ (a) Who are the symbolic locusts, and why are they pictured as wearing crowns? (b) How had they been put in a symbolic "pit of the abyss"?

233² What is symbolized by the locusts' long hair, lion-like teeth, and iron breastplates?

234¹ In view of the way the locusts are equipped, how can it be said that they "resembled horses prepared for battle"?

234² Who would "those men" be whom the symbolic locusts were authorized to harm?

234³ In fulfillment, how were such unsealed ones to be 'harmed,' and for how long?

235¹ What took place among God's people immediately after the fifth angel blew his trumpet?

235² How did Jehovah's people give full publicity to the vital message that marked the beginning of the "locust" attack?

236^{1, 2} How did it become manifest that the tormenting of the men without the seal of God was beginning, and why was the symbolic locust plague not completed in that first devastating attack?

237^{1, 2} With what attitude did the symbolic locusts come up out of the "abyss," and what was the significance of the "smoke of a great furnace" from which they came forth?

237³ Besides stating that it darkened the sun and moon, how did John emphasize further the severity of the locust plague?

238¹ Who were not harmed by this first "woe"?

238² What did John see after the sixth angel blew his trumpet?

238³ (a) What is the "voice out of the horns of the golden altar"? (b) What meaning does the word "angels" here take?

239¹ (a) In the Bible, with what is the Euphrates River principally associated? (b) What experience of being bound at the Euphrates and released did God's ancient people have?

239² (a) How were the spiritual remnant "bound" at the Euphrates? (b) When were they released, and in order to be prepared for what?

240¹ Who were to be killed by the symbolic "four angels" who are untied, and how do we know that it was a symbolic killing?

240² Who accompanied the four angels in their attack?

241¹ (a) What was the number of the horsemen seen by John, and how did it compare with world population in 1930? (b) Against whom were the "horses" directed, and where did they begin the attack?

241² What is shown by the fact that the horses had riders and, in the fulfillment, who is giving these symbolic horses intellectual control and guidance?

242¹ What is significant in the fact that of the riders their breastplates come foremost to view in the vision?

242² In what symbolic way do the "four angels" torment and kill a "third of the men"?

243¹ What do the symbolic horses picture, and why?

243² Why was the publicity means used by the anointed remnant well pictured by horses having "heads of lions"?

244¹ In the fulfillment, how is it that the serpentlike tail of the horses is just as destructive as what issues from their mouth?

244² When did these symbolic horses start into action, and was it a prominent start?

245¹⁻³ How did the resolution presented at the 1927 Toronto assembly apply fiery, sulphurous heat to Christendom?

245⁴; **246**¹ How did myriads of symbolic horses come forth at that time, and what action by the Watch Tower Society gave promise of more "horses" to come?

246² Describe how the prophecy concerning the "two myriads of myriads" of such "horses" has been abundantly fulfilled.

247¹ What about the prophecy shows that these myriads of pieces of Bible literature would not be handled and sold through the world's commercial bookstores?

247² (a) In what way have those whom the symbolic horsemen attack been 'killed'? (b) What does the prophecy show would be generally the action of the rest of the people who belong to Babylon the Great?

CHAPTER 18

"There Will Be No Delay Any Longer"

248¹ While the second woe was continuing, what took place in the vision to John?

248^{2,3} Summarize what John had just seen in vision, and state how the scene now changed.

249¹ How do the features noted about this "strong angel" indicate that he represents the glorified Lord Jesus Christ?

249² What is represented by the rainbow "upon his head"?

250¹ How does the fact that this "strong angel" had a face "as the sun" further identify him as Jesus Christ?

250² (a) The angel's feet being "as fiery pillars" would assure what? (b) The angel's right foot being upon the sea and his left foot upon the earth would show what as to his authority?

251¹ Since the "strong angel" is shown as taking over worldwide authority, when does the vision apply?

251² For whose use was the scroll in the strong angel's hand, as indicated by its size?

251³ (a) What is significant about the fact that the angel roared like a lion? (b) What, evidently, were the seven thunders that John heard?

252^{1,2} (a) Why was John commanded not to write at this point? (b) Likewise, what unsatisfactory attempt was made in modern times to publish a correct understanding of the complete book of Revelation?

253¹ In the vision, what oath did the apostle John hear the "strong angel" make?

253² Hearing the angel make this oath, of what other vision was John doubtless reminded?

253³ In the swearing, how did the "strong angel" give the strongest possible assurance of no further delay?

254¹ What is the sense in which the Greek word for "time" is here used?

254² Was the reference to "delay" an answer to the question raised by the souls under the altar, or what?

254³ (a) What is that "sacred secret of God"? (b) What are some of the secret or mysterious features about this "mystery of God"?

255¹ (a) When did the declaration of this mystery of God begin? (b) Why is the information about the sacred secret "good news," and yet connected with the blowing of the second trumpet, which introduces the last of the three woes?

256¹ In what situation was John when he was observing the vision, and how was this similar to a condition of the "faithful and discreet slave" class?

256² How was John assured that his earthly ministry as an apostle was not yet over?

256³ Describe an experience of Ezekiel similar to that of John.

257¹ In what way was the opened book sweet to John's taste but bitter in his belly?

257² Who told John that he must prophesy again, and what was meant by the command?

258¹ (a) How, likewise, was the usefulness of the aged Christian congregation not over in 1918? (b) Why can we not record a complete fulfillment of Revelation without speaking about the remnant? (c) How were the anointed remnant like John when he ate the roll?

CHAPTER 19

Death and Resurrection of the "Two Witnesses"

259¹ Why was the temple that John saw next in the vision not the temple of King Herod at Jerusalem? So what kind of temple was it?

259^{2,3} (a) How did the prophet Ezekiel have a similar experience? (b) In John's vision, what was he invited to do?

260¹ (a) Why was it the sanctuary and the altar that were measured? (b) How was John's measuring fulfilled?

260² Why, in the vision, was the courtyard not measured but "given" to the Gentile nations to trample?

261¹ During what period of history did the forty-two months run, and what length of time do they cover?

261² (a) Since the forty-two months would begin at the same time of the year that the Gentile Times began (as well as the time of the year that they ended), when did the forty-two months begin? (b) Generally, how long is it from the start of the Feast of the Booths to the following Passover? (c) In any case, how long is it from Passover of one year to Passover of the next year?

262¹ (a) Accordingly, how long was it from the Feast of the Booths in 1914 to the Passover of 1918? (b) When did the "forty-two months" period begin, and when did it end?

263¹ (a) How did the nations violate the ending of the Gentile Times in 1914? (b) At that time, what did Jesus Christ do?

263² (a) When did the Gentile Times begin, and when would they come to their end? (b) Three and a half years from the end of the Gentile Times would bring us to about what date?

263³ (a) What position were the anointed remnant fulfilling during World War I? (b) How was Revelation 11: 2 fulfilled toward them?

264¹ How were the anointed remnant serving as Jehovah's witnesses during that World War period?

264² (a) What has been the previous explanation of the prophesying in sackcloth by the "two witnesses"? (b) What may be referred to by the wearing of sackcloth or a mournful appearance on the part of a prophet?

265¹ How did the "two witnesses" prophesy in sackcloth for a thousand two hundred and sixty days?

265² (a) Who were the "two olive trees" referred to in Zechariah's prophecy? (b) How, similarly, were the anointed remnant like the "two lampstands"?

266¹ The anointed remnant are like what ancient Bible prophets, and what does the Revelation say about what they would do?

266² (a) What power did Elijah exercise against those coming out to arrest him? (b) How did the anointed remnant symbolically call down fire from heaven?

267¹ How did the anointed remnant follow the pattern of Elijah in calling for a drought?

267²⁻⁴ How did *The Watch Tower* of October 15, 1914, point out that heaven was shut up as to pouring out blessings and peace upon the nations?

268¹ Why could the anointed remnant not pray with the nations, and, to the nations, how did the remnant appear?

268² (a) What was the first plague brought by Moses upon Egypt? (b) How did the anointed remnant symbolically perform a work like Moses?

268³; **269**¹ After all these blows were struck by the anointed remnant against Christendom, what conclusion was reached by the political system of this world, as described in Revelation 11:7-10?

269² Identify the "wild beast" that took action to stop the work of these "two witnesses"?

269³; **270**¹ (a) Describe the early part of the warfare carried on by the "wild beast" against the "two witnesses." (b) What was the purpose of the publication of the three tracts entitled "Kingdom News" early in 1918?

270² What event marked the end of the "thousand two hundred and sixty days," and what work were the Bible Students advised to do?

270³ How did the war waged by the "wild beast" grow hotter, even reaching up to the headquarters of the Watch Tower Bible & Tract Society?

271¹ (a) How, therefore, was the work of the "two witnesses" "killed"? (b) Even in the midst of World War troubles, how did the enemies of the "two witnesses" feel and act about the 'killing,' as described at Revelation 11:10?

271² (a) In fulfillment of the prophecy, what were the nations trying to do by allowing the corpses of the "two witnesses" to lie publicly exposed for "three and a half days"? (b) What did the enemy show to be their attitude by not laying the two corpses "in a tomb"?

272¹ How does the prophecy, along with related scriptures, show that "the great city" in which the corpses lay was not literal Sodom nor Egypt?

272² Why could unfaithful Jerusalem be called Egypt in a spiritual sense?

273¹ (a) However, why could the prophecy not be referring to earthly Jerusalem? (b) What, then, is "the great city" spoken of in the prophecy?

273² (a) Did the 'killings' mean the destruction of the anointed remnant, or what? (b) What happened to the headquarters offices of the Watch Tower Bible & Tract Society during the time that the "two witnesses" lay dead in "the great city"?

274¹ (a) Did the 'killing' of the "two witnesses" mean total and absolute inactivity on the part of the members thereof? (b) What did *The Watch Tower* as of December 15, 1918, report on their activity?

274² How did the things taking place at the Milwaukee, Wisconsin, convention, August 30 to September 2, 1918, reveal the spirit of God's people in face of the tremendous opposition?

275¹ Since much Christian activity was being carried on, in what sense was it that the "two witnesses" were 'killed'?

275² What publications were taken out of circulation as of September 1, 1918?

275³ Even though activity was carried on, in what way did the symbolic "wild beast" greatly cripple the witnessing work?

276^{1, 2} How did an article in *The Watch Tower* of May 1, 1925, look back on the serious situation of God's people during that period of persecution?

276³; **277**¹ (a) In what way were the expectations of the anointed remnant unfulfilled? (b) What heartening promise for them was contained in the next words of the vision in Revelation?

277² (a) What is the significance of the "three and a half days" that the "two witnesses" lay dead? (b) When did the public humiliation of these "three and a half days" end, and what were two steps taken in this direction?

277³ When and how did "spirit of life from God" enter into the symbolic corpses, and how did they stand "upon their feet"?

278¹ How were the "two witnesses" more greatly strengthened, and what was the effect of this upon their enemies?

278² (a) How did the anointed remnant hear a "loud voice out of heaven say to them: 'Come on up here' "?

(b) What fine new witnessing instrument was introduced at the Cedar Point, Ohio, convention in 1919?

278³; **279**¹ What prayer was expressed concerning the new magazine *The Golden Age*, and what instructions were given regarding its distribution?

279² Was the prayer concerning the new witnessing instrument answered?

279³ (a) Describe how the revived remnant's activities were restored on a full-scale basis. (b) What zeal-inspiring information was contained in the *Watch Tower* magazine in its issue of July 1, 1920?

279⁴ (a) How, symbolically, did the "two witnesses" go "up into heaven in the cloud"? (b) What did they nevertheless need to fear?

280¹ What great upheaval or "earthquake" took place in Christendom at that time?

280² Explain how "a tenth" of the symbolic "city" fell.

281¹ Explain, with the help of other scriptures, how it was that "seven thousand persons were killed by the earthquake."

282^{1, 2} In what way was it that "the rest became frightened and gave glory to the God of heaven"?

CHAPTER 20

The Seventh Angel Blows His Trumpet

283¹⁻³ By way of review, relate what happened after the sixth heavenly angel blew his trumpet.

283⁴; **284**¹ What grand announcement was made after the seventh angel blew his trumpet?

284² (a) In what way and for how long has God allowed his kingship of the world to be interrupted? (b) What took place as regards world kingship in October 1914 C.E.?

284³ What refusals of kingship did Jesus make, and for what reason?

285¹ What promise on oath did the angel make at Revelation 10:7?

285² How was the angel's declaration fulfilled, that the "mystery of God" would be finished at the time the second angel was about to blow his trumpet?

285³ (a) When and how was this royal "mystery of God" finished? (b) Will Jehovah again permit his rule as king over the earth to be interrupted? (c) Does the completion and resurrection of the 144,000 spirit-begotten followers of Christ come before, or after, the enthronement of Jesus Christ?

286¹ What does the future hold as to world dominion?

286^{2,3} (a) How is it that this Messianic kingdom of God is a woe? (b) How did the next thing that the apostle saw in the vision show this to be a fact?

287¹ Who are the ones shown in the vision as thanking Jehovah God for taking over the kingship of the world of mankind, and how is it possible for *all* of these to do this?

287² On the other hand, how did the nations of the world react to this finishing of the "mystery of God"?

288¹ (a) What new aspect does the preaching of the good news of the Kingdom now present, and how do the nations accept it? (b) Why does the wrathfulness and opposition of the nations cause the finished "mystery of God" to bring the greatest of woes toward them?

288² What besides woe for the enemy nations does the finishing of the "mystery of God" usher in?

288³ (a) What period of time elapsed from Jesus' baptism in water to his resurrection from the dead? (b) Only a few days before his resurrection, what did Jesus do? (c) How did Jesus fulfill this ancient pattern in a larger sense? (d) When "the appointed time for the dead to be judged" came, with which dead did Jesus begin judgment?

289¹ (a) Who were the "slaves the prophets" that were to be rewarded? (b) To whom does the happiness spoken of in Revelation 14:13 apply, and why are they "happy"?

290¹ (a) When does the "first resurrection" begin, and when does it end? (b) When are the faithful "slaves" of ancient times before Jesus' resurrection to be brought back, and does this complete Christ's resurrection work?

290² Will smallness or greatness in this world be a determining factor in the judgment of those who are resurrected to earth?

290³ What has man been doing since 1914 toward making this earth a paradise, but what is God's purpose?

291¹ How has the time come for God to reverse matters, and how will he proceed?

291²; **292**¹ (a) When was the time to begin the world-wide publication of these fine things announced in the vision after the seventh angel blew his trumpet? (b) What important occasion marked the beginning of this proclamation?

292²; **293**¹ How were the things said in the "Declaration Against Satan and for Jehovah" in harmony with the announcements (Rev. 11:18) made in the vision when the seventh angel's trumpet sounded?

293² How did the book *Government* emphasize the fact that "the kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ"?

293³ How widely has the proclamation been made down to this day?

294¹ What great stabilizing fact must we always keep in mind?

294² Why was it such a wonderful sight for John to see the "ark of the covenant" in God's heavenly temple sanctuary?

295¹ (a) Describe the ark of the covenant that resided in the tabernacle and later in the temple of Solomon. (b) What would the appearing of God's ark of the covenant in the heavenly temple sanctuary signify, and why?

296¹ What was the temple sanctuary of God that was opened up to John's view?

296² (a) What period of time elapsed from the disappearance of the literal golden ark of the covenant and the time pictured by its being seen in the heavenly sanctuary? (b) How did this chronological prophecy of the Gentile Times magnificently tie in with the announcement of the heavenly voices and the finishing of the mystery of God?

296³ To what only can we attribute the awesome things seen in the vision that have been fulfilled through the faithful anointed remnant?

CHAPTER 21

The Heavenly Birth of God's Messianic Kingdom

297¹ (a) What kind of woman first appears in John's Revelation vision? (b) What are the things leading up to her appearance in the vision?

297² (a) How does the vision of the pregnant woman enable us to know whose wife she is? (b) How has the Creator as her husband provided raiment, adornment and guidance for her?

298¹ What is represented by the twelve stars with which the woman was crowned?

298² (a) Of what is the woman a "sign"? (b) What other prophecy shows that Jehovah has a "wife," and what does Jesus' application of this prophecy reveal?

299¹ (a) What is signified by the fact that the heavenly woman cried out in birth pains? (b) What did this heavenly birth mean for those residing in heaven?

299² In the days of the prophet Samuel, what did the change to a kingdom mean for the twelve tribes of Israel?

299³ The exact year of the expiration of "the appointed times of the nations" being known in heaven, what would be done there as the time grew near, and what decision would have to be made by heaven's inhabitants?

300¹ (a) In what manner would the new administration in heaven be installed? (b) How would the preparation for the birth of the new administration be like a woman undergoing birth pains, for those in the heavens?

300² Who, aside from God's wifely organization, was likewise expecting the birth of a new administration, as shown by what John next saw in the vision?

301¹ Of what is this serpentlike dragon of fiery color a "sign"?

301² What do the "seven heads" of the dragon signify?

302¹ What is symbolized by the dragon's "ten horns"?

302² (a) What is symbolized by the "third of the stars of heaven"? (b) How did the dragon's "tail" hurl them down to the earth?

302³ (a) When did Satan get these angels under his control? (b) What were these angels doing as the Gentile Times drew near to their end in 1914?

303¹ These opposing angels being a "third of the stars of heaven" possibly number how many?

303² What does the vision show as to whether the dragon was able to thwart the divine purpose for the birth?

303³ Why was the dragon eager to "devour" that "son, a male"?

304¹ What does the "son, a male," represent?

304² (a) Since the Messianic kingdom is not something theoretical or abstract, what was required for the birth of the symbolic "son, a male," to take place? (b) What was represented by the 'child's' being caught away to God and to his throne? (c) At what point was finished the "mystery of God"?

304³ What happened to the "woman" after the successful birth?

305^{1,2} According to the vision, what took place in heaven as soon as the king was installed, and how did it affect the heavens and the earth?

305³ How was Michael a personage already known to Israel?

306¹ How did this encounter of Michael with the Devil in 1914 C.E. differ from their confrontation at the time of Moses' death?

306² Identify this Michael, the archangel.

307¹ (a) Why is Michael rightly called "the archangel"? (b) What role does he have in the fulfillment of the prophecy at Genesis 3:15?

307² (a) Compare the meanings of the names Jesus and Michael. (b) What do we know about the war in heaven and its purpose?

307³ (a) What names are given to the great opposer and enemy of God? (b) Compare the success of the Devil in the heavens with that which he achieved on the earth.

308¹ What powerful angels fought on the side of the Devil in the heavenly battle, and with what success?

308² Why could the loud voice in heaven truly say: "Now have come to pass the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ"?

308³ What things are proved by the fact that the Devil and his angels were ousted from heaven immediately after the birth of the 'male child'?

309^{1, 2} Who are the ones whom the Devil accused before God?

309³ What accusation did the Devil bring against them?

309⁴ What would it mean for Christ's spiritual brothers to go into death for their faith, and how would this be a victory for Jehovah God?

310¹ Did the Devil have grounds for bringing a condemnatory accusation against Christians because of being sinners according to the flesh?

310² What other charge did the Devil make, and was it substantiated?

310³ How can it be said that Christians conquered the dragon "because of the word of their witnessing"?

311¹ How far were the Christian "brothers" willing to go in maintaining loyalty to God and his Christ?

312¹ (a) What did the hurling down of Satan and his demons mean for the inhabitants of the earth? (b) What is Satan now determined to do?

312² What does the vision show as to the reaction on the part of the "great dragon" and his angels on being ousted from the heavens?

313¹ In what ways has the Devil, since being ousted from heaven, persecuted the "woman"?

313² After the dragon's ouster, what did the "woman" do?

313³ Prove by Scriptural examples what is symbolized by the "two wings of the great eagle."

314¹ (a) By what time was the ousting of the "great dragon" and his demons accomplished, and what were God's "two witnesses" doing during the World War period? (b) After the release of the remnant in the spring of 1919 C.E., what did they need?

314² (a) According to the pattern of Israel's flight from Egypt, what was the proper time of the year 1919 for the flight of the "woman" to begin? (b) At this time, how did the spiritually strengthening 'feeding' begin?

315 ¹ and footnote What do a comparison of the scriptures at Revelation 12:6 and 14 reveal as to the time the "woman" was in the "wilderness"?

315 ² When, in the Gregorian calendar, would the "thousand two hundred and sixty days" begin, and when would they end?

316 ¹ What events followed soon after the beginning of this feeding period?

316 ² What were some of the truths revealed in the early part of this feeding period?

316 ³ What instrument played an unusually large part in the spiritual feeding program of the "thousand two hundred and sixty days"?

317 ¹ What climaxed this three and a half "times" of special spiritual upbuilding?

317 ² Why was the thing that the "dragon" belched out against the "woman" not the propaganda of the "three unclean inspired expressions that looked like frogs"?

318 ^{1, 2} Describe the symbolic "water like a river" that the "dragon" belched out to cause the "woman" to be "drowned."

318 ^{3, 4} Describe the rising of the symbolic water over various parts of the earth.

319 ¹ Why were these "waters" part of the "woe" to come because of the Devil's being hurled down to the earth? (b) What was the reaction of many people to these "waters"?

319 ² How did the "earth" come to the help of God's "woman," and what was the purpose of the "earth" and the action it took?

320 ¹ Show that the effort of the "dragon" to 'drown' the "woman" was a humiliating failure.

320 ²; **321** ¹ (a) After this signal defeat, what did the Devil next do, and why? (b) What primarily distinguishes the "remaining ones of her seed" on earth today, and what position do they take when God's commandments clash with those of the political rulers?

322 ¹ In what other significant way are the anointed remnant distinguished?

322² What proofs exist that Satan and his demons are waging a losing war?

322³ What does the future hold for Jehovah's witnesses, and for the "dragon" and his demons?

CHAPTER 22

Earthly Foes of "The Mystery of God"

323^{1, 2} (a) What position has Satan the Devil taken ever since the "mystery of God" was introduced in the garden of Eden? (b) Where would this place the ruling elements who tried to prevent the "mystery of God" from being finished and disclosed to others? (c) What did John next behold in the vision?

323³; **324**¹ (a) Did the symbolic "wild beast," which John saw, come into existence in 1914? (b) Why is the "wild beast" brought into the vision at this point? (b) What is the symbolic "sea"?

324² What scriptures identify the "wild beast that ascends out of the abyss" with the "wild beast" that ascends "out of the sea"?

325¹ What does the wild beast's being likened to a leopard with the feet of a bear and the mouth of a lion suggest as to the time of its beginning?

325² Actually, how far back did the "wild beast" exist?

325³ (a) Where do the seven heads of the sea beast find a counterpart, and what does this betoken? (b) What does the sea beast picture?

326¹ Describe the beginning of the symbolic "wild beast" out of the sea.

326² Who gave the sea beast its power, and for what purpose?

326³ (a) How can we explain the fact that the "wild beast" has more horns than heads? (b) What do the horns picture, and how does the beast compare in power and authority with Jesus Christ?

327^{1, 2} How has the "wild beast" had "upon its heads blasphemous names"?

327³ How was the life of the wild beast threatened, and by what?

328¹ Was this "death-stroke" the overthrowing of one world power by another? Explain.

328² Just what does the "death-stroke" picture?

328³; **329**¹ (a) When did Great Britain become the "foremost commercial and colonial power in the world"? (b) Describe how the sixth world power was wounded so that it seemed to be "slaughtered to death." (c) How was it that this "death-stroke" threatened the life of the "wild beast"?

329² How did the 'wild beast's' "death-stroke" get healed?

329³ How was it that "all the earth followed the wild beast with admiration"?

330¹ According to the vision, how did mankind thereby engage in Devil worship?

330² What counter question to the name of Michael did the people raise, and how did they feel about the expiration of the Gentile Times?

330³ Prove by scriptures that worshiping the "wild beast" means also the worshiping of the "dragon," Satan the Devil.

331¹ How does John go on to show that the "wild beast" is against the worship of the true God, Jehovah?

331^{2, 3} (a) Since the "wild beast" had seven mouths, what is meant by the statement that "a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies was given it"? (b) Who directed the mouth of the "wild beast," and when did the blasphemous speaking increase in volume?

332^{1, 2} (a) Identify the forty-two months of authority given to the "wild beast," the period of time in which the holy city was trampled under foot. (b) What three Biblical time periods are therefore identical, and when do they begin and when do they end?

332³ Give an example of blasphemous speech by the "wild beast" out of the sea, and show how this was carried out by action in ancient times and in modern times.

333¹ Against whom has the "wild beast" been hostile, and especially whom?

333² (a) Why does the "wild beast" hate the "holy ones" even though they are "in subjection to the superior authorities"? (b) Why has God allowed the "wild beast" to make war against the "holy ones," and especially since when has this been intensified?

333³ Why did World War I furnish an opportunity for the "wild beast" to wage this warfare, and how successful was it?

334^{1, 2} (a) How did the rest of mankind fare under the paws of the "wild beast"? (b) What choice does everyone have to make, with what result to them?

335¹ How does the vision next show that God's servants would be severely tested?

335^{2, 3} What is meant by the declaration: "If anyone is meant for captivity, he goes away into captivity. If anyone will kill with the sword, he must be killed with the sword"?

336¹ In what way has this situation called for the "endurance and faith of the holy ones"?

336² (a) How was the seventh head of the "wild beast" a sort of mystery head in John's day? (b) Why is this seventh world power portrayed also as having a separate status and entity?

337¹ Besides being a head of the beast, how else is the seventh world power pictured in the vision?

337² (a) Why is the second wild beast not an eighth world power? (b) What is represented by its having "two horns like a lamb"?

337³ What is symbolized by the fact that the two-horned wild beast ascended out of the symbolic "earth"?

337⁴ How had a large part of the earth under the domination of the beast out of the sea become stabilized so that it could be termed the symbolic "earth"?

338^{1, 2} Describe how Great Britain and the United States of America became a dual world power.

338³; **339**¹ How does a 1969 New York *Times* report, datelined "Washington, January 14," point up the fact that Great Britain and the United States constitute a dual world power?

339² How does the two-horned beast exercise "all the authority of the first wild beast in its sight"?

339³ What would worshiping the "first wild beast" include, and what position do Christians take in this matter?

340^{1, 2} (a) Give an ancient example of making "fire come down out of heaven to the earth in the sight of mankind." (b) What was Elijah's purpose in doing this? (c) Show how and for what reason the two-horned beast has made symbolic fire come down out of heaven to the earth.

341¹ In what way did the symbolic two-horned beast appear like a lamb but speak as a dragon?

341² What, evidently, was Satan's purpose in bringing forth this unusually strong dual world power?

CHAPTER 23

"The Image of the Wild Beast"

342^{1, 2} By what instrumentality does the "first wild beast" demand to be idolized, as shown in the Revelation vision?

342³ How does the two-horned earth beast speak just as Satan the Devil does, and why does it succeed in misleading earth's dwellers?

343¹ How can we identify the two-horned earth beast as the "false prophet"?

343² How can we determine when the "false prophet" gave the advice to make "an image to the wild beast"?

343³ Explain what the "image of the wild beast" would have to be, and where it finds its fulfillment today.

344^{1, 2}; **345**^{1, 2} How do the statements of Mr. Lloyd George, former British Prime Minister, lend proof that the two-horned earth beast did tell the people to make the symbolic "image of the [first] wild beast"?

345^{3, 4} (a) How did the other horn of the two-horned beast share in advocating the "image"? (b) What did the Federal Council of Churches of Christ in America do to promote this idolatrous worship? (c) What warning was given by God's representatives?

346¹ When did the League of Nations officially begin, and when was it dissolved?

346² How did the United States lend its power to making and maintaining the "image of the wild beast"?

346³ (a) How is this same "image of the wild beast" described in Revelation chapter 17? (b) How is it "an eighth king," and when was it given breath?

347¹ What was the purpose of giving breath of life to the "image of the [first] wild beast," and how has it acted in harmony with this purpose?

347² (a) What was the claim of the promoters of this "image" as to the necessity of worshiping the "image"? (b) What dramatic act of worshiping the "image" was performed in 1945?

348^{1,2} How was the dire need for the "image" to live and function effectively pointed up recently?

348³ What opinion did Russian Premier Aleksei N. Kosygin express as to the need of the symbolic "image of the wild beast"?

349¹ How does the one worshiping the "image" actually worship the "wild beast" itself?

349² How does the apostle John describe the modern-day effort to make all earth's inhabitants identify themselves as worshipers of the political "wild beast"?

350¹ What is the "mark"?

350^{2,3} (a) What mark do the worshipers of the "image of the wild beast" receive? (b) What is meant to have the mark in one's forehead? (c) What is one revealing about oneself by having the mark "in the right hand"?

351¹ (a) What was meant by the 'killing' that would come if one did not worship the "image of the wild beast"? (b) How would nobody be able to buy or sell except a person having the mark?

351² How is an attempt made to force, not only nations, but also individuals to join in worship of the "image"?

352¹ (a) What is the underlying principle of this compulsory procedure? (b) How does a faithful, genuine Christian respond to such efforts at compulsion?

352²; 353¹ (a) Contrast the view of Jehovah God with that of patriotic-minded people as to the "mark" of the wild beast. (b) How does Jehovah God, in the vision to John, shock the patriotic sensibilities of the idolaters?

353² Show what the number 6, used in this instance, stands for.

353³ What does the repeating of the number three times in the "name of the wild beast" or "the number of the wild beast" show the beast to be?

354¹ (a) Why should all people give attention to God's numbering of the "wild beast"? (b) What do the faithful 144,000 have "written on their foreheads"?

354² What position do the "great crowd" take as to the mark of the "wild beast"?

CHAPTER 24

The Finished "Mystery of God" and You

355¹ What is the "mystery of God," when was it announced and when was it finished?

355² How did Jehovah God finish his "mystery"?

355³ (a) Why is it vital for us to accept the benefits of the finished "mystery of God"? (b) Why is this a time of greater responsibility upon every individual than ever before?

356¹ How has the finished "mystery of God" already performed magnificent exploits?

356²; 357¹ What has God's Messianic King accomplished in the period of time since Satan, in great anger, was hurled down to the earth?

357² (a) Why and how are the remnant and the "great crowd" different from worldly persons? (b) What answer can we give to those who say, in effect, 'You cannot tell me what I must do!'

358¹ In what condition are those who display the "mark of the wild beast" in their "right hand" and upon their "forehead"?

358² What are the worshipers of the "wild beast" experiencing today?

358³ What significant question is brought up for our consideration now as to those people who have the "mark" of the "wild beast"?

359¹ From what sources have the people been affected to their hurt?

359² How does God's Word picture the "inspired expressions" from these sources, and where are they gathering the people?

360^{1, 2} What questions urgently deserve serious answers?

360³ At Har-Magedon, why will there be no religious or spiritual aid to those bearing the "mark" of the "wild beast"?

360⁴; **361**¹ (a) Why is the "dragon" bringing the symbolic wild beast and false prophet into battle array against God's kingdom? (b) On what point should not the worshipers of the political "wild beast" deceive themselves, as further described by the prophecy?

361^{2, 3} (a) Will the "wild beast" and the "false prophet" gradually die out? (b) What about those who support the "wild beast" and the "false prophet"?

361^{4, 5} How will the bodies of those slain at Har-Magedon be disposed of?

362¹ At that time, where will be the supposed honor of worshiping the "wild beast" and its "image"?

362² (a) In their great anger, what are Satan and his demons now counting on? (b) Why will their gloating over the ruin of many at Har-Magedon be short-lived?

363¹ Who is Jehovah's angel that binds the "dragon" and his demons, and why is he the appropriate one to do this?

363² Why will Satan and his demons be released at the end of the thousand years?

363³ At Har-Magedon, what will be cleared out of the way so that mankind can enjoy Edenic pleasure?

364¹ Describe the condition on earth after the old "earth" of wicked human society is wiped out.

364² What tremendous but pleasurable work will be set before Har-Magedon's survivors?

365¹ What joys are ahead for the Har-Magedon survivors in Christ's use of the "keys of death and of Ha'des"?

365² How do you think you will feel in the "new earth" when you see the dead raised to life?

366^{1,2} (a) Before the hour of resurrection arrives, what preparations will the Har-Magedon survivors delight in doing? (b) What does Revelation 20:12 say as to the textbooks of guidance and information to be used then?

367¹ Why can we have perfect confidence that the resurrected dead will receive fair, flawless judgment in the "new earth"?

367² Why will the personnel in that heavenly government inspire full confidence in its subjects?

368¹ Why can we be sure that the Bride class, just like the Bridegroom, will be incorruptible as associate rulers with him?

368² How can we be sure that people on earth will be directed properly in the way toward everlasting life?

368³ Contrast the conditions brought by New Jerusalem's coming down out of heaven with those following the hurling of Satan and his heavens down to the earth.

368⁴ In what way will God then reside with mankind, and what will that mean for them?

369¹ What assurance does Jehovah God himself give that everything on earth will be refreshingly new for redeemed mankind?

369² Of what does the "throne of God and of the Lamb" stand as a symbol, and of what is it the source for mankind's benefit?

370¹ What has been mankind's lot for nearly six thousand years, but in spite of this, what are we able to do today?

370² To what now should we give ear, and what will it do for us?

370³ What invitation is lovingly extended, and in what spirit should we accept it?

371¹ How does John's vision at Revelation 11:15-17 show what action we should take upon hearing the sound of the seventh angel's trumpet and realizing that the "mystery of God" is finished?



