Welcome to Hope Sabbath School—an in-depth interactive study of the Word of God. We are continuing a series of studies on The Cosmic Conflict. Today’s topic: THE IMPENDING CONFLICT.

1. Worthy of worship
   b) Why is the LORD worthy of our worship?
   c) What is Satan’s ultimate desire? Isaiah 14:12-14, Matthew 4:8-9
   d) How did Jesus respond to Satan’s appeal to be worshipped? Matthew 4:10
   e) Why is the Sabbath of the 4th commandment such a central issue in this battle over worship?
   f) Why is the unbiblical teaching of a naturally immortal soul so dangerous?

2. Persecution of the saints
   a) John 16:1-2, Matthew 10:16-22, John 15:18-20 What can we learn from these prophecies of Jesus?
   b) What reminder did the apostle Paul give to Timothy? 2 Timothy 3:12-13
   c) What are some ways faithful followers of Jesus will be persecute in the last days of earth’s history? Revelation 13:16-17, 15
   d) How should we respond when we suffer persecution for Christ’s sake? Matthew 5:10-12, 1 Peter 4:12-16
   e) What are your thoughts and feelings about suffering persecution as a follower of Jesus? How is it possible to rejoice while experiencing persecution?
   f) Share some examples of faithful followers of Jesus who rejoiced while experiencing persecution. Acts 5:40-41, Acts 16:22-25, etc.

3. The Beast from the sea behind this persecution
   a) Revelation 13:1-10 Who is the dragon behind this power that speaks blasphemies? (Revelation 12:9)
   b) What key markers in this prophecy help us to identify this power that makes war with the saints?
   c) Why is so painful to admit that the apostate Christian church became an instrument of Satan to persecute faithful followers of Jesus?
   d) What were Reformers like Martin Luther protesting and what was their intention?
   e) Why it is important to remember that this prophecy is speaking about an institution, not individuals?

4. The Beast from the earth
   a) Revelation 13:11-17 How does this second beast differ from the beast from the sea?
   b) What superpower with global authority rose up out of a sparsely populated area of the world?
   c) How is it possible for a nation founded on principles of religious liberty to become a persecuting power?
   d) What signs do you see of impending persecution?
   e) What encouragement can we gain from the story recorded in Daniel 3? See Daniel 3:17.