1. Persecution of Christians through the centuries
   a) What prophecy of Jesus has been fulfilled down through the centuries of the Christian era? John 15:18-19, 16:1-4
   b) Name some individuals or groups who have been persecuted because of their faith in Jesus.
   c) Identify some powers that have led out in persecution of Christians? (Pagan Rome, papal Rome Muslims, Communists, etc.)
   d) What power exercised religious and political power for an extended period (1260 years from AD 538-AD 1798) in the Christian era and persecuted the saints of the Most High God? Revelation 13:4-8, 12:6,14, Daniel 7:24-25 (the Papacy)
   e) What apparently deadly wound was inflicted on the Papacy at the end of the 1260 years that ended the Papal domination during the Dark Ages? (1798)
   f) When was the deadly wound healed? Revelation 13:3 (Lateran Treaty, June 7, 1929) What were the details of the Lateran Treaty?
   g) How have you seen the Papacy increase its global influence in the last century?

2. Prophecy of end-time apostasy and persecution
   a) 2 Thessalonians 2:3-4,9-12 What prophecy does the apostle Paul give regarding apostasy prior to the return of Jesus?
   b) Revelation 13:11-15 Why will the saints of God refuse to worship the image of the beast?
   c) What Bible stories give us courage when threatened with a death threat if we refuse to bow down to false gods? Daniel 3:16-25, 6:16-23, Acts 12:1-10, etc.

3. The Mark of the Beast
   a) Revelation 14:9-10, 13:16-17 Is the mark of this beast power a literal mark or figurative?
   b) What is the significance of the location of this mark?
   c) What does this beast power of Revelation claim as a mark of its authority?
   d) What are the consequences of refusing to receive this mark of the beast power? Revelation 13:17,15
   e) What earnest appeal is given to saints of God who have any association with the beast and his image? Revelation 18:1-5
   f) Why is the judgment of God poured out on those who worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark on the foreheads or hands?
   g) What events in recent times illustrate the feasibility of enforcing such a global decree?