

# Deal Pentecostal Church Sermon Outlines 2023

## Daily Prayer for 2023

Father, may we clearly know Your will and achieve the height and depth of spiritual wisdom and understanding. May our lives be a credit to You, Lord; and what's more, may we continue to delight You by doing every good work and growing in the true knowledge that comes from being close to You. Strengthen us with Your infinite power, according to Your glorious might, so that we will have everything we need to hold on and endure hardship patiently and joyfully. Thank You, Father, that You have made us eligible to receive our portion of the inheritance given to all those set apart by the light. You have rescued us from dark powers and brought us safely into the kingdom of Your Son, whom You love and in whom we are redeemed and forgiven of our sins through His blood. [*Colossians 1:9-14 The Voice*]

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## January

**Thought for the Month:** If you do not have the fruits, effects, or inseparable properties of faith, you do not have faith. *John Wesley*

**3:16**—*For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.*<sup>Jn.3:16</sup>

**Prayer for Ukraine:** Heavenly Father, destroy the works of the enemies, divide their tongues, frustrate their efforts, and bring their counsels to naught; cause the enemy to fight within their own ranks, weaken their cause, force them to abandon the war and return home in shame, never to return! In Jesus' Name, Amen

**Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> January Ps.1**

**Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> 10.30am Bible Study**

**Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> January 10.30am Ps.2. Shared Lunch**

**A new beginning each new morning.** *The Sovereign LORD has given me an instructed tongue, to know the word that sustains the weary. He wakens me morning by morning, wakens my ear to listen like one being taught.*<sup>Is.50:4</sup>

At the beginning of every year, it is usual to reflect on the year that has just past and anticipate coming year—to remember the highs and lows of the year gone and look forward to the future. But 1<sup>st</sup> January hasn't always been the beginning of the year! At the Exodus, Moses introduced the lunar calendar making the new year around March: *The LORD said to Moses and Aaron in Egypt, 'This month is to be for you the first month, the first month of your year.'*<sup>Ex.12:1-2</sup> When Julius Caesar introduced the solar Calendar in 45BC, he introduced a "leap year" every 4 years but had to add an extra 3 months that year to bring the calendar in line with the seasons! In Anglo-Saxon times, the English new year started on 25<sup>th</sup> December, then in 1087 the Normans, changed the beginning of the to 1<sup>st</sup> January. In 1155, the new year was changed to 25<sup>th</sup> March and 1752 it was moved back to 1<sup>st</sup> January when England adopted the Gregorian Calendar. In order to synchronise the dates with the seasons we had to lose 14 days and so the year 1751 began on 25<sup>th</sup> March and ended on 31<sup>st</sup> December 1751 (making the year 1751 a 9 month year!). The first day of 1752 began on 1<sup>st</sup> January and the Gregorian Calendar was introduced on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 1752 but the next day was Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> September 1752! And because the Government didn't want to lose any revenue from taxes, they kept the same tax year (25<sup>th</sup> March) but added the 10 lost days to make it 5<sup>th</sup> April!

Although dating systems have been changed, the 7 days per week has remained the same (apart from a few failed experiments) since the beginning of time. (In Scripture "7" stands for "complete" or "ending"—there are 7 days of creation and in Revelation the number "7" occurs 54 times.) However, for us Christians, the most important day has changed from the 7<sup>th</sup> day of the week to the 1<sup>st</sup> day of the week—from a rest day to a rejoicing day! God had set the 7<sup>th</sup> day of the week as a day of rest, to give thanks for the past week and to contemplate God's goodness. It was based on the principle that God rested from His creative work on the 7<sup>th</sup> day—and as He pondered His handiwork, He pronounced that it was all very good. *God saw everything he had made. And it was very good. There was evening, and there was morning. It was day six. So the heavens and the earth and everything in them were completed. By the seventh day God had finished the work he had been doing. So on the seventh day he rested from all of his work. God blessed the seventh day and made it holy. He rested on it. After he had created everything, he rested from all of the work he had done.*<sup>Gen.1:31-2:3</sup> *Do all of your work in six days. But the seventh day is a Sabbath in honour of the LORD your God. Do not do any work on that day. The same command applies to your sons and daughters, your male and female servants, and your animals. It also applies to any outsiders who live in your cities. In six days I made the heavens and the earth. I made the oceans and everything in them. But I rested on the seventh day. So I blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.*<sup>Ex.12:9-11</sup> *The people of Israel must keep the Sabbath. They must celebrate it for all time to come. It will be a covenant that lasts forever. It will be the sign of the covenant I have made between me and the people of Israel*

*forever. I made the heavens and the earth in six days. But on the seventh day I did not work. I rested.*<sup>Ex.31:16-17</sup>

But when Jesus was born as Saviour of the world, everything changed! The “Sabbath day” is no longer a special day of the week but the principle of salvation—we must not do any work to attain our salvation: *Suppose Joshua had given them rest. If he had, God would not have spoken later about another day. So there is still a Sabbath rest for God's people. God rested from his work. Those who enjoy God's rest also rest from their work. So let us make every effort to enjoy that rest. Then no one will fall into sin by following the example of those who didn't obey God.*<sup>Heb.4:8-11</sup> Now the most important day of the week is not the last day of the week—the “rest day”—but the 1<sup>st</sup> day of the week—which is the “resurrection day” and a “rejoicing day” because it was the day that Jesus rose from the dead and the day that the Holy Spirit was given. *It was very early in the morning on the first day of the week. The women took the spices they had prepared. Then they went to the tomb. They found the stone rolled away from it. When they entered the tomb, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus.*<sup>Lk.24:1-3</sup> The day of Pentecost came. The believers all gathered in one place. Suddenly a sound came from heaven. It was like a strong wind blowing. It filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw something that looked like tongues of fire. The flames separated and settled on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit. They began to speak in languages they had not known before. The Spirit gave them the ability to do this.<sup>Acts.2:1-4</sup>

Of course, the Holy Spirit had always been on the earth: *In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. The earth didn't have any shape. And it was empty. Darkness was over the surface of the ocean. At that time, the ocean covered the earth. The Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.*<sup>Gen.1:1-2</sup> *I have filled him with the Spirit of God. I have filled him with skill, ability and knowledge in all kinds of crafts. He can make beautiful patterns in gold, silver and bronze. He can cut and set stones. He can work with wood. In fact, he can work in all kinds of crafts.*<sup>Ex.31:3-5</sup> *Then the LORD came down in the cloud. He spoke with Moses. He took some of his Spirit that was on Moses. And he put the Spirit on the 70 elders. When the Spirit came on them, they prophesied. But they didn't do it again.*<sup>Nu.11:25</sup> *God, create a pure heart in me. Give me a new spirit that is faithful to you. Don't send me away from you. Don't take your Holy Spirit away from me. Give me back the joy that comes from being saved by you. Give me a spirit that obeys you. That will keep me going.*<sup>Ps.51:10-12</sup> *The Spirit of the LORD has filled me with power. He helps me do what is fair. He makes me brave. Now I'm prepared to tell Jacob's people what they've done wrong. I'm ready to tell Israel they've sinned.*<sup>Mic.3:8</sup>

The Holy Spirit's work is convert, convict and to change people. *But what I'm about to tell you is true. It is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Friend will not come to help you. But if I go, I will send him to you. When he comes, he will prove that the world's people are guilty. He will prove their guilt concerning sin and godliness and judgment. The world is guilty as far as sin is concerned. That is because people do not believe in me. The world is guilty as far as godliness is concerned. That is because I am going to the Father, where you can't see me anymore. The world is guilty as far as judgment is concerned. That is because the devil, the prince of this world, has already been judged. I have much more to say to you. It is more than you can handle right now. But when the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all truth.*<sup>Jn.16:7-13</sup>

But the Holy Spirit also came to empower people to be Jesus' witnesses: *But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you. Then you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem. You will be my witnesses in all Judea and Samaria. And you will be my witnesses from one end of the earth to the other.*<sup>Acts.1:8</sup> *All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit. They began to speak in languages they had not known before. The Spirit gave them the ability to do this.*<sup>Acts.2:4</sup> The Holy Spirit empowers because He lives within us: *If you love me, you will obey what I command. I will ask the Father. And he will give you another Friend to help you and to be with you forever. The Friend is the Spirit of truth. The world can't accept him. That is because the world does not see him or know him. But you know him. He lives with you, and he will be in you. I will not leave you like children who don't have parents. I will come to you.*<sup>Jn.14:15-18</sup> When the Holy Spirit indwelt Jesus, it was the 1<sup>st</sup> time since Adam sinned, that the Holy Spirit could dwell with a human being! God cannot live with sin and until the sin problem was dealt with the Holy Spirit could only visit

people. But Jesus, although He was truly God, was also truly human—yet without any sin. And because Jesus has taken away our sin, we now have peace with God. Now the Holy Spirit is able to dwell with in us—the experience of Christ has become the experience of Christians.

So what? What difference does this make to us? And how does this help us make a new beginning each morning? Our Church mugs remind us that *The Sovereign LORD has given me an instructed tongue, to know the word that sustains the weary. He wakens me morning by morning, wakens my ear to listen like one being taught.*<sup>Is.50:4</sup> This should encourage us to remember that Christ is with us.

We no longer have to wait for a “*Word from God*” to help us through the day or to be able to encourage someone because God Himself is now dwelling with us—Jesus is the Word of God and He is called Emmanuel! Every day God speaks to us directly in the still small voice of the Holy Spirit—a whisper, a prompting, a nudging. But He always speaks in harmony with the written Word, the Scriptures, and usually directly through the Scriptures—which is why we must make every effort to be Bible literate. The Psalmist understood this: *I seek you with all my heart; do not let me stray from your commands. I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you. Praise be to you, O LORD; teach me your decrees. With my lips I recount all the laws that come from your mouth.*<sup>Ps.119:10-13</sup>

Let’s make it our intention to hide God’s Word in our heart this year so we can achieve the height and depth of spiritual wisdom and understanding. May our lives be a credit to Him and , may we continue to delight Him by doing every good work and growing in the true knowledge that comes from being close to Him.

### Questions

Why don’t Christians keep the 7<sup>th</sup> day of the week as a Sabbath?

What is the importance of the 1<sup>st</sup> day of the week for Christians?

What is the ministry of the Holy Spirit?

In what way is the ministry of the Holy Spirit different today than under the Old Covenant?

How does the Holy Spirit speak to us?

What should we do if we haven’t God speak to us?

**Prayer:** Father, may we clearly know Your will and achieve the height and depth of spiritual wisdom and understanding. May our lives be a credit to You, Lord; and what’s more, may we continue to delight You by doing every good work and growing in the true knowledge that comes from being close to You. Strengthen us with Your infinite power, according to Your glorious might, so that we will have everything we need to hold on and endure hardship patiently and joyfully. Thank You, Father, as You have made us eligible to receive our portion of the inheritance given to all those set apart by the light. You have rescued us from dark powers and brought us safely into the kingdom of Your Son, whom You love and in whom we are redeemed and forgiven of our sins through His blood. [*Colossians 1:9-14 The Voice*]

**Puritan Prayer:** O Lord God, You are our Preserver, Governor, Saviour and coming Judge. Quieten our souls to call upon Your Name. Detach us from the influence of the flesh and the senses. Impress us with the power of faith. Promote in us spirituality of mind that will render our services acceptable to You—and be delightful and profitable to ourselves! Bring us into that state which attracts Your eye and prepare us to receive the proofs of Your love. Show us our danger that we may fly to You for refuge. Make us sensible of our sin’s disease that we may value the good Physician. Placard to us the cross that it may slay the enmity of our hearts. Help

us to be watchful over our ways, jealous over our tempers and diligent over our hearts. When we droop, revive us; when we loiter, quicken us; when we go astray, restore us. Possess us with that faith which is the principle of all vital godliness—that we may be rich in faith, strong in faith, live by faith, walk by faith, experience the joy of faith, hope through faith and do the work of faith. Perceiving nothing in ourselves, may we find our wisdom, righteousness, sanctification and redemption in the Saviour.

## February

**Thought for the Month:** When it seems as if God is far away, remind yourself that He is near. Nearness is not a matter of geography. God is everywhere. Nearness is likeness. The more we become like the Lord, the nearer He is to us. *Warren Wiersbe*

**3:16**—*John answered them all: I baptize you with water. But one more powerful than I will come, the thongs of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.*<sup>Lk. 3:16</sup>

## March

**Thought for the Month:** Though I am always in a haste, I am never in a hurry, because I never undertake more work than I can go through with perfect calmness of spirit. *John Wesley*  
**3:16**—*By faith in the name of Jesus, this man whom you see and know was made strong. It is Jesus' name and the faith that comes through him that has given this complete healing to him, as you can all see.*<sup>Acts.3:16</sup>

**April**

**Thought for the Month:** Jesus Christ did not come into this world to make bad people good; He came into this world to make dead people live. *Lee Strobel*

**3:16**—*Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit lives in you?*<sup>1Cor.3:16</sup>

## May

**Thought for the Month:** A dog barks when his master is attacked. I would be a coward if I saw that God's truth is attacked and yet would remain silent. *John Calvin*

**3:16**—*I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith.*<sup>Eph.3:16</sup>

## June

**Thought for the Month:** Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, for as long as you can! *Wesley*

**3:16**—*Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God.* <sup>Col.3:16</sup>

## July

**Thought for the Month:** No one who really wants to count for God can afford to play at Christianity. If lips and life do not agree, the testimony will not amount to much. Time is given us to use in view of eternity. No one ever lost out by excessive devotion to Christ. Christianity is Christ! *H.A.Ironside 1876-1951*

**3:16**—*Now may the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times and in every way. The Lord be with all of you.* <sup>2Thess. 3:16</sup>

## August

**Thought for the Month:** When a train goes through a tunnel and it gets dark, you don't throw away the ticket and jump off—you sit still and trust the engineer. *Corrie ten Boom*

**3:16**—*Beyond all question, the mystery of godliness is great: He appeared in a body, was vindicated by the Spirit, was seen by angels, was preached among the nations, was believed on in the world, was taken up in glory.* <sup>1Tim.3:16</sup>

## September

**Thought for the Month:** Don't tell God how big your storm is—tell your storm how big your God is.

**3:16**—*All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.* <sup>2Tim.3:16</sup>

## October

**Thought for the Month:** The devil tempts us to bring out the worst in us, but the Father tests us to bring out the best in us. *Warren Wiersbe*

**3:16**—*This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters.* <sup>1Jn.3:16</sup>

## November

**Thought for the Month:** Never make the blunder of trying to forecast the way God is going to answer your prayer. *Oswald Chambers*

**3:16**—*Then those who feared the LORD talked with each other, and the LORD listened and heard. A scroll of remembrance was written in his presence concerning those who feared the LORD and honoured his name.* <sup>Mal. 3:16</sup>

## December

**Thought for the Month:** Contentment isn't measured by what you do or do not have, it is measured by your thankfulness to God despite these variables. There is something disturbingly attractive about the person who is truly content and when this person is content because of Christ their witness shines for miles.

**3:16**—*The LORD will roar from Zion and thunder from Jerusalem; the earth and the heavens will tremble. But the LORD will be a refuge for his people, a stronghold for the people of Israel.*<sup>Joel 3:16</sup>

## Theme for the year

### January

**Thought for the Month:** If you do not have the fruits, effects, or inseparable properties of faith, you do not have faith. John Wesley

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## Bible Time Chart

### Time Chart of OT

|           |   |
|-----------|---|
| 1479B.C.  | Exodus under Thutmose II<br>( <i>Thutmose II is the only Pharaoh's mummy to display cysts, possible evidence of plagues that spread through the Egyptian and Hittite Empires at that time. [Edersheim, A., Old Testament Bible History]</i> ) |
| 1270B.C.  | <i>Another possible date for the Exodus (under Ramesses 2 also called Ramesses the Great)</i>   |
| 1000B.C.  | David   |
| 970B.C.   | Solomon builds the Temple   |
| 722B.C.   | Israel's (Northern Kingdom) Exile 2Kings 17:6   |
| 597/6B.C. | Judah's (Southern Kingdom) 1 <sup>st</sup> Exile 2Kings 24:10-17  |
| 586B.C.   | Judah's (Southern Kingdom) 2 <sup>nd</sup> Exile 2Kings 25:1-21   |
| 537B.C.   | Judah's (Southern Kingdom) Return from Exile  |

### Time Chart of NT

|                                   |  |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| 20/19B.C.                         | <i>Herod's Temple began</i>  |
| 18/17B.C.                         | <i>Herod's Temple in use</i>   |
| c8B.C.                            | Zechariah in the Temple (Lk.1)   |
| 5B.C. April 5 <sup>th</sup>       | Birth of Jesus   |
| 4B.C.                             | <i>Death of Herod the Great</i>  |
| A.D.14 -37                        | <i>Reign of Tiberius Caesar</i>  |
| A.D.29                            | Baptism of Jesus Lk.3:1 15 <sup>th</sup> year of Tiberius reign hence A.D. 29 ** |
| A.D.33 April Wed. 1 <sup>st</sup> | Last Supper (see Colin Humphreys' " <i>The Mystery of the Last Supper</i> ")     |
| A.D.33 April Fri. 3 <sup>rd</sup> | Crucifixion of Jesus   |
| c A.D.35                          | Conversion of Paul <i>Acts 9</i>   |
| <A.D.37                           | <i>Christianity came to Britain. ***</i>   |
| A.D.37-41                         | <i>Reign of Caligula</i>   |
| A.D.41-54                         | <i>Reign of Claudius</i>   |
| c A.D.44                          | <i>Death of Herod Agrippa 1</i>  |
| < A.D.50                          | <b>Letter of James</b>   |
| A.D.48-49                         | Paul's 1 <sup>st</sup> missionary journey  |
| A.D.49/50                         | Jerusalem Conference <i>Acts.15</i>  |
| A.D.50                            | Paul's 2 <sup>nd</sup> missionary journey  |
| A.D.50-52                         | Paul at Corinth  |
| A.D.51                            | <b>1 &amp; 2 Thessalonians</b> from Corinth                                      |
| A.D.52                            | <b>Galatians</b> from Corinth  |
| A.D.54                            | Paul's 3 <sup>rd</sup> missionary journey  |
| A.D.54 -68                        | <i>Reign of Nero</i>   |
| A.D.54-57                         | Paul at Ephesus  |
| A.D.57                            | <b>1Corinthians</b> from Ephesus   |
| A.D.57                            | <b>2Corinthians</b> from Macedonia   |
| A.D.57/58                         | <b>Romans</b> from Corinth   |
| A.D.58                            | Paul's arrest at Jerusalem   |
| A.D.58-60                         | Paul's imprisonment at Caesarea  |
| A.D.60-61                         | Paul winters at Malta  |
| A.D.61                            | Paul arrives at Rome   |
| A.D.61-63                         | Paul's imprisonment at Rome  |
| A.D.62                            | <b>Colossians, Ephesians, Philemon</b> from Rome                                 |

|                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| A.D.63           | <b>Philippians</b> from Rome                |
| A.D.63-65        | Paul's release & further ministry           |
| A.D.63           | <b>1 Timothy &amp; Titus</b>                |
| A.D.63-64        | <b>Hebrews</b> (possibly Barnabas)          |
| <i>A.D.64</i>    | <i>Herod's Temple finished</i>              |
| <A.D.65          | <b>Matthew, Mark, Luke, Acts</b>            |
| <A.D.65          | <b>Revelation****</b>                       |
| A.D.64           | <b>1 &amp; 2 Peter</b> from Rome            |
| A.D.65           | Peter's death in Rome                       |
| A.D.65           | Paul's 2 <sup>nd</sup> imprisonment at Rome |
| A.D.65           | <b>2 Timothy</b> from Rome                  |
| A.D.65           | Paul's death at Rome                        |
| <A.D.65          | <b>Gospel John, 1, 2, &amp; 3 John</b>      |
| A.D.65/66        | <b>Jude</b>                                 |
| <i>A.D.68</i>    | <i>Death of Nero</i>                        |
| <i>A.D.68-69</i> | <i>Reign of Galba</i>                       |
| <i>A.D.69</i>    | <i>Reign of Otho</i>                        |
| <i>A.D.69</i>    | <i>Reign of Vitellius</i>                   |
| <i>A.D.69-79</i> | <i>Reign of Vespasian</i>                   |
| <i>A.D.70</i>    | <i>Destruction of Jerusalem by Titus</i>    |
| <i>A.D.79-81</i> | <i>Reign of Titus</i>                       |
| A.D.98/100       | Death of John                               |
| <i>A.D.81-96</i> | <i>Reign of Domitian</i>                    |

**\*\*** Besides the dating from Tiberius, Daniel had stated that it would be 69 “*weeks*” before Messiah would appear from the decree to rebuild Jerusalem (Daniel 9:26). Accepting that a “*week*” represents seven years and the decree to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem was given around 455B.C. (during the time of Ezra and Nehemiah), a specific period of 483 years (69 x 7) was to elapse before the Messiah would appear, dating Jesus’ Baptism at A.D.29 (*there is no date of 0B.C. or A.D.0*). Also: *They replied, “It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and you are going to raise it in three days?”* <sup>Jn.2:20</sup>

**\*\*\*** Gildas (A.D.516-570) a British Historian, states, *Meanwhile, these islands ... received the beams of light that is, the Holy precepts of Christ, the true Sun at the latter part, as we know, of the reign of Tiberius Caesar* <sup>Roman Emperor A.D. 14-37</sup>

#### **\*\*\*\* Reasons for early date for Revelation:**

##### **External evidence:**

Clement of Alexandria (A.D.150-220) plainly states that it was Nero who banished John to Patmos, not Emperor Domitian: *And to give you confidence, when you have thus truly repented, that there remains for you a trustworthy hope of salvation, hear a story that is no mere story, but a true account of John the apostle that has been handed down and preserved in memory. When after the death of the tyrant (previously identified as Nero) he removed from the island of Patmos to Ephesus, he used to journey by request to the neighbouring districts of the Gentiles, in some places to appoint bishops, in others to regulate whole churches, in others to set among the clergy some one man, it may be, of those indicated by the Spirit.* (“Who is the Rich Man that shall be Saved?”, Section 42)

Cerinthus was a C1<sup>st</sup> author who wrote *The Pseudo-Apocalypse*. He died well before John, i.e.

well before A.D.95, but his Pseudo-Apocalypse contains many references to John's Apocalypse (the Book of Revelation).

### Internal evidence:

**42 months** = the period between A.D.64 and A.D.66 when Nero embarked on the most violent campaign against Christians martyring multitudes.

**666** = six hundred and sixty-six, not six, six, six. It is the numerical value of "*Caesar Nero*"

The "*temple*" in the "*holy city*" is still standing as John writes, though it is being threatened with devastation (Rev.11:1-2). We know as a matter of historical fact that the Jewish temple was destroyed in A.D.70, and has never been rebuilt. (2) The sixth "*king*" is presently ruling from the "*seven mountains*" and will do so until a king comes who will reign a "*short time*" (Rev.17:9-10). The preterist takes this to be a clear enough allusion to Nero Caesar. According to the enumeration found in Josephus' *Antiquities* (18:2:2,6, 10) and Suetonius' *Lives of the Twelve Caesars*, Nero is Rome's sixth emperor, following Julius Caesar, Augustus, Tiberius, Gaius, and Claudius. "...the cryptic number 666 (Rev.13:18) designates Nero. The number involves the use of *gemetria* (assigning numerical values to letters of the alphabet and thus determining the numerical value of words). Nero Caesar written in Hebrew letters has the numerical value of 666. That explanation becomes all the more probable when you realize that in Hebrew, *Nero* can also be spelled *Neron*. With the second "*n*" the numerical value is 666. Without it, 616 (a well-attested reading in some New Testament manuscripts)." J. Stewart Russell, *The Parousia*

"It is with great satisfaction that he finds himself in substantial agreement with the distinguished ecclesiastical historian and theologian, Dr. Dollinger, of Munich, in his interpretation of St. Paul's prediction in 2 Thessalonians. (1) Dr. Dollinger distinctly identifies the "*Man of Sin*" with Nero, a conclusion now so generally accepted by the highest authorities, that it may be regarded as a settled point. (2) He clearly distinguishes between the "*Man of Sin*" and "*the Apostasy*," so frequently confounded by the mass of interpreters. Dollinger shows that the former is a person, the latter a heresy. (3) He recognizes "*the Beast*" of the Apocalypse as the Emperor, and therefore identical with the "*Man of Sin*." (4) The miracles wrought by the "*Second Beast*" (the Beast from the earth) he regards as a representation derived from our Lord's prophecy on the Mount of Olives." (*The Parousia, Afterword*.)

The seven seals are shown to have taken place during the reign of the Emperors Augustus to Vespasian. The seven trumpets during the time when Rome placed 4 battalions at the Euphrates River (Rev.9:14). The seven bowls, when Nero was Emperor (Rev.17:10). But Revelation 20 makes the point that there is a long-time gap between Jerusalem being judged and the events described in verse 9 by its use of the term "*thousand years*". *A. Corbett: Revelation*.

Rome launched its persecution against Christians in A.D.64 under the direction of Caesar Nero. This ended with his death in A.D.68. It had lasted around 1240 days (3½ years). Rome launched its attack against Jerusalem in A.D.66 and this ended when Jerusalem fell under the leadership of Caesar Vespasian in A.D.70. This was a period of 1260 days (3½ years).

## **We expect Christians to take their responsibilities and privileges seriously**

- by taking an active part in the work and worship of the Church according to their ability and circumstances
- by relating into the Church's system of Pastoral care
- by prayerfully contribute to the unity, encouragement and fellowship of the Church
- by showing a Scriptural regard for those in positions of leadership
- by supporting the Church through regular attendance at services of worship, regular prayer and considered giving

We also expect Christians to live by the accepted rules of Christian conduct—which includes being a loyal citizen of our Country: *We render loyalty to Her Majesty's Government as far as conscience and morality permit*; and also a commitment to Christian marriage: *We uphold the Biblical standard of monogamous, heterosexual marriage between a biological man and biological woman as the only acceptable union.*

## **Christian Guidelines**

Make the Master proud of you by being good citizens. Respect the authorities, whatever their level; they are God's emissaries for keeping order. It is God's will that by doing good, you might cure the ignorance of the fools who think you're a danger to society. Exercise your freedom by serving God, not by breaking the rules. Treat everyone you meet with dignity. Love your spiritual family. Revere God. Respect the government.<sup>2Pet.2:13-17[TM]</sup>

## **True repentance which will always include these 5 A's:**

**Acknowledgement** of the wrong.

**Apology** for the wrong.

**Action** of determination to change.

**Appreciation** of God's forgiveness.

**Attitude** of grace, gratitude and gentleness towards God and people.

A “*covenant*” is an agreement between two parties—either individuals or an individual and group, or a monarch and their subjects. The '*Abrahamic Covenant*' was established by Yahweh (YHWH, that is, God) with Abram and involved a covenantal exchange of their names. Thus, Abram's name became Abr'*ah*'am, and God became known as the God of Abraham. Abraham's wife Sarai became known as Sar'*ah*



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