



50-DAY ADVENTURE SERVICE #3

Service Element #1

Mood Setter

Quiz

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------|
| 1 The first apostle to be martyred | a Paul |
| 2 The first Christian martyr | b James |
| 3 The persecutor who became a martyr | c John |
| 4 The only apostle not martyred | d Stephen |

Answers

- 1 b
- 2 d
- 3 a
- 4 c



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Service Element #2

Call to Worship

The *Te Deum* is an early Christian hymn of praise probably dating back to the 4th century. You're probably familiar with a translation done in the middle 1800s:

*Holy God, we praise Thy Name;
Lord of all, we bow before Thee!
All on earth Thy scepter claim,
All in heaven above adore Thee.*

The third verse is as follows:

*Lo! the apostolic train
Join the sacred Name to hallow;
Prophets swell the loud refrain,
And the white robed martyrs follow;
And from morn to set of sun,
Through the Church the song goes on.*

We are a part of that great worldwide Church that continues to praise the Lord that He is the reigning sovereign whose marvelous rule we appreciate and enjoy. Sing with me hymn number _____.



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Service Element #3

Congregational Worship Hymns

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty
O God, Our Help in Ages Past
Great Is the Lord
Awesome God
Rejoice, the Lord Is King
O Worship the King
Majesty



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Service Element #4

Hymn Introduction

The picture of “the Lamb upon his throne” comes from Revelation chapter five.

That phrase is also found in the first line of a well-known hymn, *Crown Him With Many Crowns*: “The Lamb upon His throne.”

In Revelation five, after the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, they sang this new song:

“You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased men for God from every tribe and language and people and nation. You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and they will reign on the earth.”

The hymnist puts himself in this scene by writing:

*Awake my soul, and sing
Of Him who died for thee,
And hail Him as thy matchless King
Thru all eternity.*

The next verse continues to speak of our Lord suffering death:

*Behold His hands and side—
Rich wounds, yet visible above,
In beauty glorified.*

I ask that you be especially conscious of the words as together we sing this wonderful hymn of praise.



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Service Element #5

A Reading

Before today's sermon I would like to read three paragraphs from *The Day That Changed America* by Bob Fraley. Many in our congregation have already read this book. If you are a visitor, you can get a copy at the Adventure book table located _____.

Both in the past and in the present, Christians have experienced terrible times of suffering for their faith. But for some, at least, there was always the hope of escape to another country. For example, in 1977, Anglican Bishop Festo Kivengere of Uganda was urged by his people to flee the country following the murder of Archbishop Janani Luwum by the forces of dictator Idi Amin. The believers told Festo and his wife, "One bishop's death this weekend is enough for us." Under the cover of night, the two made it on foot across a mountain pass to Rwanda. But in the book of Revelation, Jesus lets us know that a day will come when there will no longer be a place to which His people can flee. That's because the beast will be in authority over "every tribe, people, language and nation."

*Back in 1986, a powerful movie came out called *The Mission* starring Jeremy Irons. He plays a Spanish Jesuit who goes to South America in the early years of colonization to convert the Indians. His loving efforts prove quite successful, and he builds a remarkable mission that greatly enhances the lives of the natives. Robert De Niro also gives a strong performance as a slave-hunter who, surprisingly, is converted and subsequently helps in this ministry. Conflict is introduced when Spain sells the territory to her neighbor Portugal. The question naturally arises as to what will happen to the mission, and should it be defended against the Portuguese aggressors. De Niro's character opts to take up arms. The Jesuit father, just as strong in his own beliefs, says no, and is willing to sacrificially lay down his life if need be. The movie doesn't side with either of the difficult options. It lets the story tell itself. The viewer is left to consider which was the better choice.*

The persecution referred to in Revelation 13 is carried out under the providence of God, and therefore any kind of armed resistance will be out of the question. There is to be no taking up of

weapons and fighting back. That's the reason for the words of Revelation 13:10, which reads: "If anyone is to go into captivity, into captivity he will go. If anyone is to be killed with the sword, with the sword he will be killed."



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Service Element #6

Prayer Before Sermon

Heavenly Father,

Before our pastor preaches, I just wanted to say a few words to You.

Thank You so much for the book of Revelation in Scripture and what we are already learning from it. It truly is remarkable.

Thank You for the revelation in Bob Fraley's book *The Day That Changed America*. What a challenging read.

Thank You also for the sermons we have already heard in this special series. They are more prophetic than they are pastoral. But that's appropriate, and we accept what we are hearing as a word from You.

Help us be diligent in doing the assignments we have been given during this 50-Day Spiritual Adventure.

Now open our hearts to today's message. May we hear it with the same openness we would were Jesus Himself the preacher this morning.

And I make that request in His name.

Amen



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Service Element #7

Graphics By Narrow Gate Media



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Service Element #8

Congregational Response Music

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God
Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah
Must Jesus Bear the Cross Alone?
For All the Saints
Am I a Soldier of the Cross?



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Service Element #9

Responsive Reading

Revelation 20:1-6

Leader: *And I saw an angel coming down out of heaven, having the key to the Abyss and holding in his hand a great chain.*

Congregation: He seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the devil, or Satan, and bound him for a thousand years.

Leader: *He threw him into the Abyss, and locked and sealed it over him, to keep him from deceiving the nations anymore until the thousand years were ended.*

Congregation: After that, he must be set free for a short time.

Leader: *I saw thrones on which were seated those who had been given authority to judge.*

Congregation: And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony for Jesus and because of the word of God.

Leader: *They had not worshiped the beast or his image and had not received his mark on their foreheads or their hands.*

Congregation: They came to life and reigned with Christ a thousand years. (The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were ended.)

Leader: *This is the first resurrection. Blessed and holy are those who have part in the first resurrection.*

Congregation: The second death has no power over them, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with him for a thousand years.



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Service Element #10

Quotation to Show During Offering

Dying prayer of Polycarp, aged Bishop of Smyrna, when burned at the stake about 130 years after Christ:

“Lord God Almighty, Father of Jesus Christ, I bless Thee that Thou didst deem me worthy of this hour that I shall take a part among the martyrs in the cup of Christ to rise again with the Holy Spirit. May I be an acceptable sacrifice. I praise Thee, I bless Thee, I glorify Thee through Jesus Christ.”



50-DAY ADVENTURE SERVICE #3

Service Element #11

Benediction

1 Peter 5:10-11

And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast. To him be the power for ever and ever. Amen.



50-DAY ADVENTURE SERVICE #3

Service Element #12

Book Table

Adventure Journals

The Day That Changed America by Bob Fraley

Salt and Light by Bob Fraley

Cassettes or CDs of the Adventure sermons