

**A
Very
Serious
Problem**



Two Principles

1. Increasing Relevance
2. Divine/Human Cooperation



Increasing Relevance



Increasing Relevance

1. Rom. 15:1-4



Increasing Relevance

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Summary: That which was written in the past, was written so that those living in the present may learn and have hope.



Increasing Relevance

1. Rom. 15:1-4
2. 1 Peter 1:9-12



Increasing Relevance

1. Rom. 15:1-4
2. 1 Peter 1:9-12

“It was revealed to them that they were serving not themselves but you, in the things that have now been announced to you...” ESV



Increasing Relevance

1. Rom. 15:1-4
2. 1 Peter 1:9-12
3. 1 Cor. 10:1-13



Increasing Relevance

1. Rom. 15:1-4
2. 1 Peter 1:9-12
3. 1 Cor. 10:1-13

Summary: The experiences of ancient Israel are most specifically for the benefit of those living at the end of earth's history.




Increasing Relevance

“Each of the ancient prophets spoke less for their own time than for ours, so that their prophesying is in force for us.” 7MR p. 417.




Divine/Human Cooperation




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When God is ready to work in behalf of an individual or group He seldom does so without their direct participation.



Divine/Human Cooperation


Noah and the ark – Gen. 6:17-22



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Lot and Sodom – Gen. 19:12, 13




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Raising of Lazarus – Jn. 11:39

A close-up photograph of golden wheat stalks, with a circular graphic element overlaid on the left side. The background is a soft, warm orange-gold color. The text "Revelation 13" is centered in a bold, black, serif font.

Revelation 13



Revelation 13

1. What is the “Very Serious Problem?”
2. How do the principles of Increasing Relevance and Divine/Human Cooperation apply to the passage.

The Problem





The Problem

“...that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name.”



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“...that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name.”

“...that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed.”



The Problem

“Again and again the Lord has instructed that our people are to take their families away from the cities, into the country, where they can raise their own provisions; for in the future the problem of buying and selling will be a very serious one.” *Country Living*, p. 9.5



The Problem

“Again and again the Lord has instructed that our people are to take their families away from the cities, into the country, where they can raise their own provisions; for in the future the problem of buying and selling will be a very serious one.” *Country Living*, p. 9.5



The Problem

“The Protestant world have set up an idol sabbath in the place where God's Sabbath should be, and they are treading in the footsteps of the Papacy. For this reason I see the necessity of the people of God moving out of the cities into retired country [places,]



The Problem

where they may cultivate the land and raise their own produce. Thus they may bring their children up with simple, healthful habits. I see the necessity of making haste to get all things ready for the crisis.” *Country Living p. 21.1*



The Problem

“I have been troubled over many things in regard to our school... There should be land for cultivation. The time is not far distant when the laws against Sunday labor will be more stringent,



The Problem

and an effort should be made to secure grounds away from the cities, where fruits and vegetables can be raised.”
{FE 322.1}



Increasing Relevance

1. “in the future...”
2. “get all things ready for the crisis”
3. “the time is not far distant”



Increasing Relevance

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Noah in the ark – Gen. 6:17-22




Increasing Relevance


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Noah in the ark – Gen. 6:17-22

Joseph’s famine – Gen. 41:33-36




Divine/Human Cooperation




Divine/Human Cooperation

1. “take their families away from the cities, into the country, where they can raise their own provisions”



Divine/Human Cooperation

2. “out of the cities into retired country [places,] where they may cultivate the land and raise their own produce”



Divine/Human Cooperation

3. “an effort should be made to secure grounds away from the cities, where fruits and vegetables can be raised”



Summary



Summary

1. All inspired writings operate on the basis of increasing relevance. Hence, statements and stories about agriculture and gardening are fundamentally eschatological in nature, not cultural.



Summary

2. The act of salvation is a result of the combined effort of God and man. Thus, those escape the attacks of beastly powers of Rev. 13 will do so on the same basis.



The End