

# FINAL EMPIRE



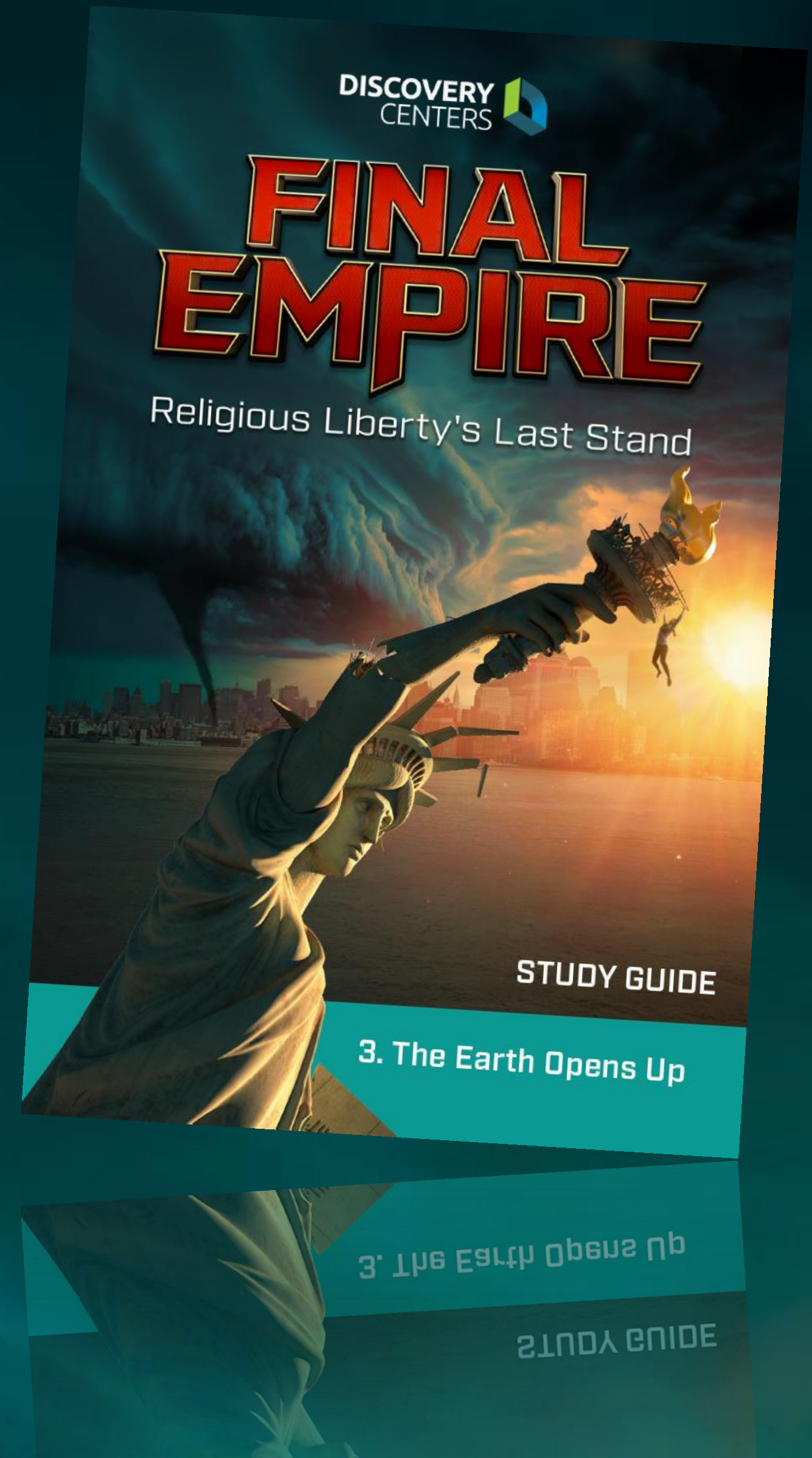
Religious Liberty's  
Last Stand

WILL AMERICA COLLAPSE?

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## Session 3

# THE EARTH OPENS UP



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## QUESTION 1

When the first-century religious authorities in Jerusalem were deciding how to handle the emergence of a new sect of believers in their midst—the first Christians—what was the sage advice given by the great scholar Gamaliel?

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**ACTS 5:33-39**

When they heard this, they were furious and plotted to kill them. Then one in the council stood up, a Pharisee named Gamaliel, a teacher of the law held in respect by all the people, and commanded them to put the apostles outside for a little while.

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**ACTS 5:33-39**

And he said to them: “Men of Israel, take heed to yourselves what you intend to do regarding these men.

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**ACTS 5:33-39**

A number of men, about four hundred, joined him. He was slain, and all who obeyed him were scattered and came to nothing.”

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**ACTS 5:33-39**

After this man, Judas of Galilee rose up in the days of the census, and drew away many people after him. He also perished, and all who obeyed him were dispersed.

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**ACTS 5:33-39**

And now I say to you, keep away from these men and let them alone; for if this plan or this work is of men, it will come to nothing; but if it is of God, you cannot overthrow it—lest you even be found to fight against God.



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## QUESTION 2

The Fifth Monarchists were a seventeenth-century English group that believed there would be no more massive empires like Babylon, Persia, Greece, and Rome that were expressly predicted and permitted by God.

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## QUESTION 2

Can you guess, by their name,  
what prophecy in the Bible might  
have inspired that belief?

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**DANIEL 2:44**

And in the days of these kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed; and the kingdom shall not be left to other people; it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever.

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## QUESTION 3A

God had foreseen His people's weakness and knew that they would eventually succumb to the temptation to self-govern and ask for a king. As is usual with God, He allowed them to have what they wanted—

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## QUESTION 3A

but at the same time, out of compassion and to preserve His people, He provided safeguards against outright tyranny. What were some of those safeguards?

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## DEUTERONOMY 17:14-20

When you come to the land which the Lord your God is giving you, and possess it and dwell in it, and say, “I will set a king over me like all the nations that are around me,”

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## DEUTERONOMY 17:14-20

you shall surely set a king over  
you whom the Lord your God  
chooses; one from among your  
brethren you shall set as king over  
you; you may not set a foreigner over  
you, who is not your brother.

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## DEUTERONOMY 17:14-20

But he shall not multiply horses for himself, nor cause the people to return to Egypt to multiply horses, for the Lord has said to you, ‘You shall not return that way again.’



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## DEUTERONOMY 17:14-20

Neither shall he multiply wives for himself, lest his heart turn away; nor shall he greatly multiply silver and gold for himself.

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## DEUTERONOMY 17:14-20

Also it shall be, when he sits on the throne of his kingdom, that he shall write for himself a copy of this law in a book, from the one before the priests, the Levites.

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## DEUTERONOMY 17:14-20

And it shall be with him, and he shall read it all the days of his life, that he may learn to fear the Lord his God and be careful to observe all the words of this law and these statutes,

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## DEUTERONOMY 17:14-20

that his heart may not be lifted above his brethren, that he may not turn aside from the commandment to the right hand or to the left, and that he may prolong his days in his kingdom, he and his children in the midst of Israel.

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## QUESTION 3B

Discussion: What elements of the American Constitution, and the original structure of the American republic, can you see reflected in this passage?

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## QUESTION 4

All through the darkest years of a corrupted Western Christianity, there were voices suggesting that Bible prophecy had predicted a concentration of kingly power in the official structure of the church. During the Reformation period, those voices grew louder.

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## QUESTION 4

Many identified the little horn of Daniel 7 as the “little kingdom” among the kingdoms of Europe that would be the source of the problem.

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## QUESTION 4A

What do horns represent in  
Bible prophecy?



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**DANIEL 7:24**

The ten horns are ten kings who shall arise from this kingdom. And another shall rise after them; he shall be different from the first ones, and shall subdue three kings.

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## QUESTION 4B

The little horn comes up among the kingdoms that arose in the former Roman Empire, but it is different from the others (verse 24). What are some of the characteristics that set it apart?

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**DANIEL 7:25**

He shall speak pompous words against the Most High, shall persecute the saints of the Most High, and shall intend to change times and law. Then the saints shall be given into his hand for a time and times and half a time.

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## QUESTION 5

Because of the striking similarities between the animals of Daniel 7, which represent Gentile kingdoms, and the strange-looking beast that comes out of the sea in Revelation 13,

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## QUESTION 5

Christians over the centuries have recognized that Revelation 13 is showing the cumulative end result of all those worldly kingdoms. The animal depicted in Revelation 13 proves to be describing the same thing as the little horn of Daniel 7;

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## QUESTION 5

both are the end product of long years of human kingdoms. What evidence do you see that these are talking about the same thing?

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## REVELATION 13:1-3

Then I stood on the sand of the sea.  
And I saw a beast rising up out of the  
sea, having seven heads and ten horns,  
and on his horns ten crowns, and on his  
heads a blasphemous name.

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## REVELATION 13:1-3

Now the beast which I saw was like a leopard, his feet were like the feet of a bear, and his mouth like the mouth of a lion. The dragon gave him his power, his throne, and great authority.



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## REVELATION 13:1-3

And I saw one of his heads as if it had been mortally wounded, and his deadly wound was healed. And all the world marveled and followed the beast.

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## QUESTION 6A

What does the dragon represent?

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## REVELATION 12:9

So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

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## QUESTION 6B

What does a woman represent  
in Bible prophecy?

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## REVELATION 19:7-9

Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready.

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## REVELATION 19:7-9

And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints.

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## REVELATION 19:7-9

Then he said to me,  
“Write: ‘Blessed are those who are  
called to the marriage supper of the  
Lamb!’ ” And he said to me, “These  
are the true sayings of God.”

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## EPHESIANS 5:25-27

Husbands, love your wives, just as  
Christ also loved the church  
and gave Himself for her, that He  
might sanctify and cleanse her with  
the washing of water by the word,



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## EPHESIANS 5:25-27

that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.

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## QUESTION 7

The persecution would eventually get so bad that God would have to intervene. What does the Bible say would happen to alleviate the situation?

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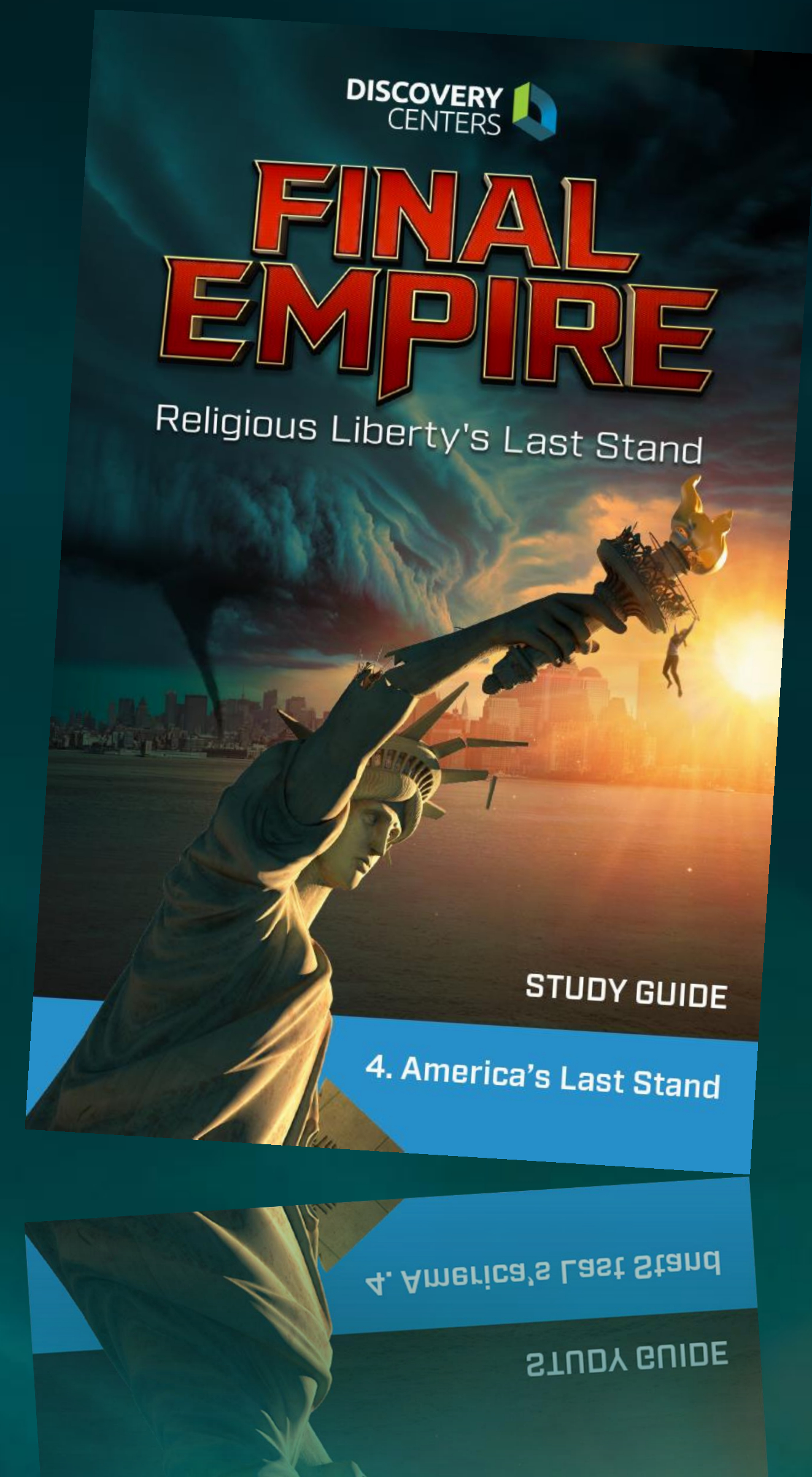
**REVELATION 12:16**

But the earth helped the woman, and  
the earth opened its mouth and  
swallowed up the flood which the  
dragon had spewed out of his mouth.

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Next: Session 4

AMERICA'S  
LAST STAND



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