

1562 AD – MASSACRE AT VASSY – FRENCH WARS OF RELIGION BEGIN

“They are vanity, and the work of errors: in the time of their punishment they shall perish.” (Jeremiah 10 v 15)

THE MASSACRE AT VASSY

In **1562** the Francis the second **Duke of Guise** on his travels stopped in the town of **Vassy** to attend Mass. He found a large crowd of Huguenots (Calvinist Protestants) attending a religious service in a barn. Some of the Duke’s servants attempted to force their way in but were pushed back. In the ensuing melee a stone was thrown that hit the Duke. In a rage he ordered his troops to set fire to the church killing 60 to 80 parishioners.

Vassy was not the first incident of tension between Catholics and Protestants in the south of France. In **1560** there were iconoclastic riots in **La Rochelle**. More riots there in **1562**.

THE FRENCH WARS OF RELIGION

Events at **Vassy** sparked Huguenot uprisings led by French nobles. The leader of the Huguenots was the **Prince of Conde** - a respected nobleman from the **House of Bourbon** in the south of France. Foreign powers sympathetic to the Huguenots supplied money, troops, and even sent an army to assist the cause at one time.

But the Wars of Religion were also fought in the streets by adherents of the two religions. At times there was horrific mob violence and the killing of thousands of people. Often at a single provocation the city would be in an uproar.

There were intermittent truces and declarations of tolerance. But the violence and the wars continued off and on for thirty-five years between **1562** and **1598**. There was no lasting resolution until the French Revolution cut France’s medieval ties to nobility and clergy.

It is estimated 2 to 4 million people died in the Wars of Religion from **1562** to **1598**. There were no winners. According to the **Edict of Nancy** in **1598**, Protestants were granted civil rights and protection from heresy laws. They could work for the State and bring grievances to the King. The Protestants were granted safe havens in 150 emergency forts maintained at the King’s expense. Protestants fleeing the Inquisition from Catholic lands were granted refuge.

Protestants were not exempt from paying the tithe to the Catholic Church – which remained the established religion of France. Protestants were required to respect Catholic holy days.

The **Edict of Nancy** was revoked in **1685** by **Louis XIV**. This drove many Huguenots to emigrate and caused hostility with neighboring countries in the Protestant north of Europe.

PROPHECY OF JEREMIAH 10 V 15

“They are vanity, and the work of errors: in the time of their punishment they shall perish.”

(Jeremiah **10 v 15**)

The vanity of all vanities is to kill other people because they don't agree with your view of the world. Such a logic would destroy the entire world in a short time if it prevailed because even down to the individual we all have different views of the world.

Here is the arrogance of religion – the invention of man – which seeks by any means whatsoever to add one tiny bit to God's revelation in the Scriptures – and then elevates the doctrine of man to equal authority with Scripture – the error of all errors.

Such errors – such vanity – is destined to lead to destruction. Witness the Wars of Religion.

Both Catholics and Protestants possessed the Scriptures. They both could have and should have known the will of God in the matter of how to peaceably deal with those who disagree with you. Shame! Shame!

SPIRITUAL NUMBER ANALYSIS

For a mind that has wisdom please read on. See truth from another perspective.

PART ONE

Chapter **10** of Jeremiah is the **79th** chapter of The Prophets.

The spiritual number **79** means 'Martyrs'.

The spiritual number **10** means 'Testimony'

There were lots of martyrs for their religion in the Wars of Religion. Thousands of innocent people killed. Would that we would learn to discern the madness which brought this evil!

PART TWO

Jeremiah **10 v 15** is the **19,217th** verse in the whole Bible starting at Gen **1 v 1**.

The number **19,217 = 11 x 1747 [272nd prime]**

The spiritual meaning of **11** is 'Mystery' or 'Darkness'

The spiritual meaning of **272** is 'King Lives in Luxury'

The spiritual meaning of **1747** is 'Fight The Beast: Deny The Cross'

Christians are not supposed to fight authorities in the land – even cruel and repressive authorities. Christ did not take up arms for his cause. Christians are called to suffer under persecution without fighting back. God demonstrated the power of the Cross by raising Christ from the dead. Our battle is in the spiritual realm not the physical realm. We preach faith in Christ – that is our duty. God will take care of the rest.

PART THREE

Jeremiah **10 v 15** is the **1,562nd** verse of The Prophets starting at Isaiah **1 v 1**.

The number **1,562 = 11 x 242**

The spiritual meaning of **11** is 'Darkness'

The spiritual meaning of **242** is 'Rash Decision'.

The spiritual number **1,562** means 'Love Perishes: Hate Reigns'

The massacre at **Vassy** exhibits the entire evil of the Wars of Religion in miniature. First, the ones who claimed they had the truth – the Calvinist Protestants – denied the truth when they barred the officials of the Duke from the building – which was their right as lords of the land. Second, they took up arms against the Duke and threw a stone attempting to injure the Duke. Third, the Duke did not withdraw or exercise patience or wisdom in dealing with this crisis but announced a punishment that was not fitting for the crime – the immolation of innocents inside the building. All parties were guilty of making a 'Rash Decision'. Indeed – their disobedience sparked war across the whole land – 'Darkness' – the reign of hate – not love – for thirty-five years.