

# **SACRED TIME FOR THE END OF TIME**

**SABBATH CONCERNS INFILTRATE  
APOCALYPTIC PROPHECY**



**Franklin S. Fowler, Jr.**



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**These conclusions are always subject to progressive understanding.**

## OBSERVATIONS THAT HAVE BEEN MADE REGARDING THE SABBATH AT THE END OF TIME.

“God’s memorial, the seventh-day **Sabbath**, the **sign** of His work in creating the world, has been **displaced** by the man of sin. **God’s people** have a **special work** to do in **repairing the breach** that has been made in His law; and the nearer we approach the end, the more **urgent** this work becomes. **All who love God will show that they bear His sign** by keeping His commandments. They are the restorers of paths to dwell in.” – *6T*, p. 265 (emphasis added).

“Satan is stealing a march upon us. **The law of God**, through the agency of Satan, **is to be made void**. In our land of boasted freedom, **religious liberty will come to an end**. The contest will be decided **over the Sabbath question**, which **will agitate the whole world**.” – *Ev*, p. 236 (emphasis added).

“Wonderful events are soon to open before the world. The end of all things is at hand. The **time of trouble is about to come** upon the people of God. **Then** it is that the decree will go forth **forbidding** those who keep the Sabbath of the Lord to buy or sell, and **threatening** them with **punishment**, and **even death, if they do not observe** the first day of the week as the Sabbath.” – *HS*, p. 156 (1886) (emphasis added).

ARE THESE STATEMENTS BIBLICAL?

IF SO, WHERE IS THE PROOF?

ARE END-TIME EVENTS SABBATH ORIENTED?

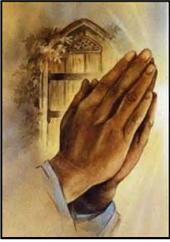
THIS STUDY BRIEFLY EXPLORES THE BIBLICAL SABBATH AS IT RELATES TO THE  
VERY END OF TIME.

The work of Sabbath reform to be accomplished in the last days is foretold in the prophecy of Isaiah: "Thus saith the Lord, Keep ye judgment, and do justice: for My salvation is near to come, and My righteousness to be revealed. Blessed is the man that doeth this, and the son of man that layeth hold on it; that keepeth the Sabbath from polluting it, and keepeth his hand from doing any evil." "The sons of the stranger, that join themselves to the Lord, to serve Him, and to love the name of the Lord, to be His servants, everyone that keepeth the Sabbath from polluting it, and taketh hold of My covenant; even them will I bring to My holy mountain, and make them joyful in My house of prayer." Isaiah 56:1-2, 6-7.

"The prophet thus points out the ordinance which has been forsaken: 'Thou shalt raise up the foundations of many generations; and thou shalt be called, The repairer of the breach, The restorer of paths to dwell in. If thou turn away thy foot from the Sabbath, from doing thy pleasure on My holy day; and call the Sabbath a delight, the holy of the Lord, honorable; and shalt honor Him, not doing thine own ways, nor finding thine own pleasure, nor speaking thine own words: then shalt thou delight thyself in the Lord.' Verses 12-14. This prophecy also applies in our time. The breach was made in the law of God when the Sabbath was changed by the Roman power. But the time has come for that divine institution to be restored. The breach is to be repaired and the foundation of many generations to be raised up." – *GC*, pp. 452-453.

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## SABBATH TYPOLOGY AND THE COVENANT THEOLOGY

### Introduction

At the end of the creation week God made *time* holy:

- It wasn't a material *thing* that was sanctified – it was a *period of time*.
- But man was to deal with the *things* of his life differently on that day.
- That was later brought sharply to man's attention through the manna miracles (Exodus 16). A double portion fell on the sixth day – none on the seventh day.
  - God had a part – honored man's needs
  - Man had a part – honor God's time

God's holiness is uniquely experienced in segments of *worship* time, especially through the Sabbath, which became divinely mandated.

- It is not only a *day* – another in a series
- It is a *holy day* (Exodus 20:11) – *qadash* (Heb.) – hallowed, sanctified.
- Just like God is holy (Leviticus 19:2; cf. I Peter 1:15), the Sabbath is holy.

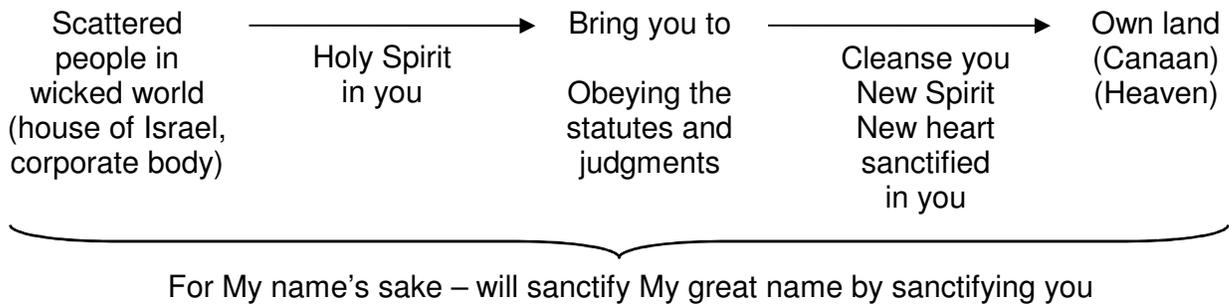
When sin intruded earth's space:

- The Sabbath became a great metaphor:
  - In prophecy – timing messages for redemptive events related to a “seventh”
  - For promise – that deliverance and restoration would come, expounded in Deuteronomy 5:12-15, related to the Sabbath commandment
  - A day of advent hope, when God is most clearly seen as a personal Savior – related to worship
- It would serve as the ultimate symbol, sign or mark of a Covenant relationship.

*“... the seventh is the sabbath of rest, holy to the LORD: whosoever doeth any work in the sabbath day, he shall surely be put to death. Wherefore the children of Israel shall keep the sabbath, to observe the sabbath throughout their generations, for a perpetual covenant”* (Exodus 31:15b-16).

## The Covenant Purpose?

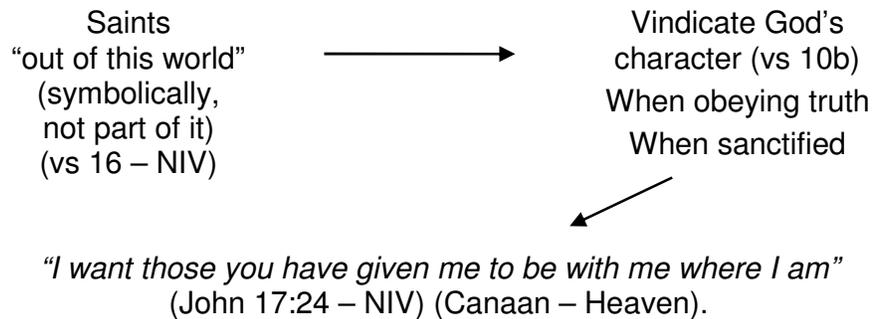
- “Therefore say unto the house of Israel, Thus saith the Lord GOD; I do not this for your sakes, O house of Israel, but for mine holy name’s sake, which ye have profaned among the heathen, whither ye went. And I will **sanctify my great name**, which was profaned among the heathen, which ye have profaned in the midst of them; and the heathen shall know that I am the LORD, saith the Lord GOD, **when I shall be sanctified in you before their eyes**” [Ezekiel 36:22-23 (emphasis added)].
- To vindicate the character of God through our lives!
  - That is the “higher purpose” for the restoration of man.
  - Restored man reveals His character.
- “For I will take you from among the heathen, and gather you out of all countries, and **will bring you into your own land**. Then will I **sprinkle clean water upon you**, and ye shall be clean: from all your filthiness, and from all your idols, **will I cleanse you**. A **new heart also will I give you**, and a new spirit will I **put within you**: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh. And I will **put my spirit within you**, and **cause you to walk in my statutes**, and **ye shall keep my judgments, and do them**. And ye shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers; and ye shall be my people, and I will be your God” [Ezekiel 36:24-28 (emphasis added)].



- When Jesus was here, He sought to bring glory to God:
  - “I have brought you glory on earth by completing the work you gave me to do” (John 17:5 – NIV; 17:4 – KJV).
- He then described saints *who have fulfilled the covenant promise* (17:8) and *glorified Jesus* (vs 10b) – “I am glorified in them.”
  - “I have revealed you to those whom you gave me out of this world” (vs 6).
  - “You gave them to me and they have obeyed your word” (vs 7).
  - “Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth” (vs 17).

*“I have made you known to them and will continue to make you known”* (vs 26).

What is Jesus saying here in light of the covenant message outlined in Ezekiel?



Sin brought a new dimension to the Sabbath and the Sabbath to the restoration covenants:

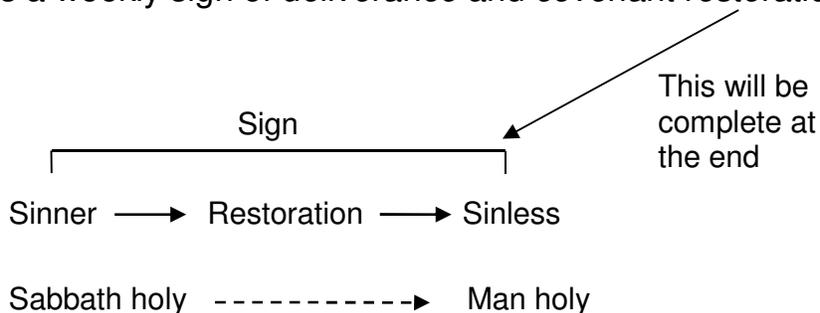
- *“Speak thou also unto the children of Israel, saying, Verily my sabbaths ye shall keep: for it is a **sign** between me and you **throughout your generations**; that ye may know that I am the LORD that doth sanctify you... Wherefore the children of Israel shall keep the sabbath, to observe the sabbath throughout their generations, for a **perpetual covenant**”* [Exodus 31:13, 16 (emphasis added)].
- ***This elevates the Sabbath to the level of a “covenant sign.”***
- It is the “appointed sacrament of God’s covenant of grace with His chosen people.”<sup>1</sup>
- *“It is a sign between me and the children of Israel **for ever**: for in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, and on the seventh day he rested, and was refreshed”* [Exodus 31:12 (emphasis added)].

This was *embellished* through an **expanded message** in the Sabbath commandment of the Decalogue:

- *“And remember that thou wast a servant in the land of Egypt, and that the LORD thy God **brought thee out** thence through a mighty hand and by a stretched out arm: therefore the LORD thy **God commanded thee to keep the sabbath day**”*  
[Deuteronomy 5:15 (emphasis added)].

<sup>1</sup> LaRondelle, Hans; *Our Creator Redeemer – An Introduction to Biblical Covenant Theology* (Andrews University Press, Berrien Springs, MI), p. 10.

The Sabbath is a weekly sign of *deliverance* and *covenant restoration*



### The Significance of the Covenant

Different from a legal secular covenant between two parties:

- God’s covenant is very personal.
- There were stipulations of obedience (Exodus 24:7-8, Deuteronomy 27:1).
- And God made unusual promises:
  - “*You shall be to me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation*” (Exodus 19:5-6; cf. Deuteronomy 14:1-2).
  - Prophetic fulfillment: Revelation 1:6, I Peter 2:9-10

The Sabbath and Covenant conceptualize “togetherness,” predicting “sanctified in you,” “Christ in you.”

- “*You shall be my own possession*” (Exodus 19:5).
- Being together but always “free”
- To enter into “*God’s rest*” (Hebrews 4:4-6) – resting with Him

The communication directly with God in Eden was lost through sin:

- The human race was cut off from intercourse with God. They might look at a paradise lost but could see no means of entering it and holding communion with heaven as before. *The sin of Adam cut off all intercourse between heaven and earth.* Up to the moment of man’s transgression of God’s law there had been free communion between earth and heaven. They were connected by a path which Deity could traverse. But the transgression of God’s law broke up this path and man was separated from God.<sup>2</sup> Jacob’s ladder illustrates that change (Genesis 28:12).
- The Sabbath “togetherness” anticipates that to be restored.
- It begins in the heart – then, soon, physically with Jesus.

<sup>2</sup> Adapted: *Manuscript Releases*, vol. 19, p. 352 (emphasis added).

- Might we imagine the wonders of that deliverance and restoration as did expositor White: “Faithfully did he repent of his sin and trust in the merits of the promised Saviour, and he died in the hope of a resurrection. The Son of God redeemed man’s failure and fall; and now, through the work of the atonement, Adam is reinstated in his first dominion. Transported with joy, he beholds the trees that were once his delight – the very trees whose fruit he himself had gathered in the days of his innocence and joy. He sees the vines that his own hands have trained, the very flowers that he once loved to care for. His mind grasps the reality of the scene; he comprehends that this is indeed Eden restored, more lovely now than when he was banished from it. The Saviour leads him to the tree of life and plucks the glorious fruit and bids him eat. He looks about him and beholds a multitude of his family redeemed, standing in the Paradise of God. Then he casts his glittering crown at the feet of Jesus and, falling upon His breast, embraces the Redeemer. He touches the golden harp, and the vaults of heaven echo the triumphant song, ‘Worthy, worthy, worthy is the Lamb that was slain, and lives again!’ The family of Adam takes up the strain and cast their crowns at the Saviour’s feet as they bow before Him in adoration.”<sup>3</sup>

The Sabbath is so unique:

- It is the first sign God gave to reveal His desire to fellowship with His creatures.
- It is the first redemptive sign given that that fellowship will be restored by recalling the deliverance from Egypt.

When Eden was lost *“the Lord God sent him forth **from the garden**”* (Genesis 3:23 – emphasis added):

- Loneliness – separation
- BUT – the Sabbath went with Adam and Eve.
- It survived the flood, Babylon and the Cross.
- *“Pray ye that your flight be not ... on the Sabbath day”* (Matthew 24:20) – the tribulation flight.

Since the Sabbath is redemptive, it delivers and is restorative, it must involve **all** mankind.

- **Jews** (Isaiah 58:13-14)
- **Foreigners** (Isaiah 56:6-7, 2, 4): *“Also the sons of the stranger, that join themselves to the LORD, to serve him, and to love the name of the LORD, to be his servants, every one that keepeth the sabbath from polluting it, and*

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<sup>3</sup> Adapted: 4SP 465-466; cf. Deuteronomy 5:12-15.

*taketh hold of my covenant; Even them will I bring to my holy mountain, and make them joyful in my house of prayer: their burnt offerings and their sacrifices shall be accepted upon mine altar; for mine house shall be called an house of prayer for **all people**' ... Blessed is the man that doeth this, and the son of man that layeth hold on it; that keepeth the sabbath from polluting it, and keepeth his hand from doing any evil.... For thus saith the LORD unto the eunuchs that keep my sabbaths, and choose the things that please me, and take hold of **my covenant**."*

## Why God Chose the Sabbath as His Covenant Symbol<sup>4</sup>

### Reason One – Ownership

- The Sabbath celebrates God as the Creator.
- He is the only legitimate owner of man.
- In the Sabbatical year and Jubilee year Israelites relinquished debt, land, bondservants – in recognition of God's ownership.

Thus – the Sabbath is a perfect symbol.

- Symbolic of relinquishing all feelings or tendencies of self-sufficiency.
- Ownership implies boundaries.
- It's God's symbol of His earthly kingdom – ownership of all – by:
- Our not trespassing on His "**property of time**."

*If we accept God's "property" claim on the Sabbath, one can easily accept His claim over the world and man.*

- A covenant with God then is reasonable and logical.

### Reason Two – Holiness

- Since the Sabbath is holy (Exodus 16:22-23; 31:14; Isaiah 58:13) and
- The covenant plan is to make man holy (I Peter 2:9; cf. Deuteronomy 7:6)
- It's the perfect symbol of what God will do.
- Sabbath a sign that "*I the Lord sanctify you*" (Exodus 31:13, Ezekiel 20:12)
- That is God's covenant mission:
  - It is God's sign of restoration.
  - It is His mark.

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<sup>4</sup> Bacchiocchi, Samuele; *Divine Rest for Human Restlessness* (The Pontifical Gregoria University Press, Rome, 1977), pp. 112-130.

### Reason Three – Purity of Time

- Time is not a material substance – it is precise.
- Everywhere, to everyone, all have an equal amount.
- It never gets “old” – like an item.
- Therefore:
  - God uses the Sabbath (seventh day) to represent special man/God experiences.
  - In prophecy it is used as a symbol for something sacred that happens on the “sevenths.”

### Reason Four – Distinguishes God’s People

- Sabbath breaking is seen by God as “rebellion” or “apostasy” (Ezekiel 20:13, 21; Nehemiah 13:18; Jeremiah 17:23).
- Those who keep the Sabbath are “peculiar” – set apart as His (I Peter 2:9).

Jesus gave Himself to (Titus 2:14; cf. Exodus 19:5-6):

- Redeem us from iniquity
- Purify unto Himself a sanctified people, called “peculiar”

“Sign” of that purification – “peculiar” people – Sabbath keeping

- You shall keep – you shall know
- It is the sign of sanctification
- The Sabbath is holy

God has other ways of expressing this:

- Elect race (Isaiah 43:20)
- “Blood related” through new birth (I Peter 1:23)
- Royal priesthood (I Peter 1:23; Exodus 19:6; Revelation 1:6, 5:10)
- Priesthood (I Peter 1:23; Exodus 19:6; Revelation 1:6, 5:10)
- Belong to God (Malachi 3:17; Isaiah 43:21)

Historically, the Gentile world viewed the Jews, from the inter-testament times through the first few centuries after Christ, very negatively.

- Hatred against their Sabbath – what they were “peculiarly” known for – became a way to hurt the Jews
- Persecution surrounded the seventh day – “time.”<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>5</sup> Cassius, Dio; *Historia*, 69:13, 79-80, quoted in Bacchiocchi, *op.cit.*

Within the Decalogue – the fourth commandment is the only one dealing with time.

- Early writers noted the encouragement of Sunday worship and vilification of Saturday worship:
  - Justin Martyr – Rome (100 A.D.)
  - Ignatius – Asia Minor (~110 A.D.)
  - Barnabas – Alexandria (~135 A.D.)

The one thing that distinguished the Jews was the Sabbath.

### **Reason Five – Spiritual**

- Jesus told the Samaritan woman “*God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth*” (John 4:24).
- He neutralized the importance of a “place.”
- But emphasized the **experience** – which was revealed to Ezekiel as part of the covenant restoration.

Like God, time cannot be defined or controlled.

- Man relates to time but can’t control it – mystery
- Man relates to God but can’t control Him – mystery
- The Sabbath is God’s time when He rested.
- It is so beautiful: We can rest in Him (Hebrews 4:10).

### **Reason Six – Availability**

- God’s setting aside one whole day in His decreed weekly cycle represents His availability.
- It is a symbol of His sanctifying presence (Exodus 31:13, Ezekiel 20:12) – a symbol of the covenant fullness.
- He asks that man be available to keep the time holy for a sanctifying experience.

### **Reason Seven – Redemption**

- The Sabbath is a day of rest.
- It symbolizes restoration – deliverance – rest from the past.

### **Salvation and the Sabbath**

Hebrews introduces an interesting concept (Hebrews 3:7-11).

- Quoting Psalm 95 but attributing the message to the “Holy Ghost” (3:7):

- Today hear His voice
- Harden not your hearts
- As your fathers did in the wilderness for 40 years
- Then God – in his wrath (3:11) said regarding ancient Israel:
  - *“They shall not enter into my rest.”*

“Rest” (*katepausen*) represents there the “promised land.”

- The fulfillment of life’s journey is “the promised land.”
- Symbolically:
  - Leaving Egypt (sinful world)
  - Wilderness journey (preparation for Heaven)
  - Canaan (Heaven – eternal kingdom) – eternal rest
- Rebellion of God’s people was a barrier to “eternity” – that rest.

They died in the wilderness, never seeing or entering Canaan (Joshua 5:4).

- Canaan **rest** became symbolic of salvation.

**Just as Israel was about to enter Canaan, Moses gave a great summation of God’s statutes, laws and ways in the book of Deuteronomy:**

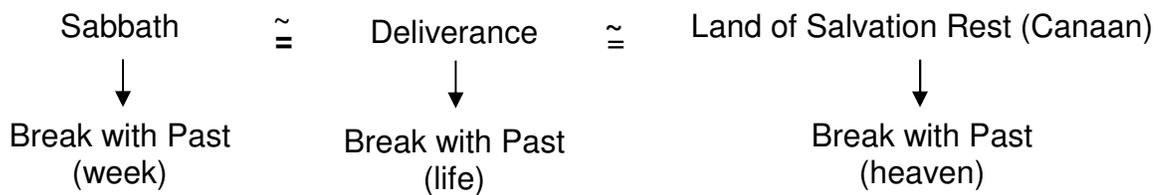
- Note, again, how He attached the Sabbath to the deliverance or salvation setting:

*“But the seventh day is the sabbath of the LORD thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, nor thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thine ox, nor thine ass, nor any of thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates; that thy manservant and thy maidservant may rest as well as thou. And **remember that thou wast a servant in the land of Egypt, and that the LORD thy God brought thee out thence through a mighty hand and by a stretched out arm: therefore the LORD thy God commanded thee to keep the sabbath day**” [Deuteronomy 5:14-15 (emphasis added)].*

- The Sabbath rest became a symbol for deliverance **and** “promised land rest” or salvation:

*“For ye are not as yet **come to the rest and to the inheritance**, which the LORD your God giveth you. But when ye go over Jordan, and dwell in the land which the LORD your God giveth you to inherit, and when **he giveth you rest** from all your enemies round about, so that ye dwell in safety; Then there shall be a place which the LORD your God shall choose to cause his name to dwell there; thither shall ye bring all that I command you; your burnt offerings,*

*and your sacrifices, your tithes, and the heave offering of your hand, and all your choice vows which ye vow unto the LORD*” [Deuteronomy 12:9-11 (emphasis added)].



Did that concept change with the Cross?

- Paul notes (after stating, *“harden not your hearts”*) (Hebrews 3:8, 15):
  - Let us fear coming short of entering His rest (Canaan – eternal life – Hebrews 4:1).
  - The gospel tells how (4:2).
    - Believe and you will enter that rest (4:3).
- Now note how the Sabbath is folded into this just as with Moses’ message:
  - God rested on the Sabbath or seventh day (4:4). *Katepauasis* is used here for “rest.” Paul is really saying that God’s creation was now the “promised land” to Him.
  - If man wants to enter into that land of rest (4:5), it’s possible.
  - From belief of the “gospel” message (4:6; cf. vs 11)
  - Even David, when in that promised land was promised that rest (4:7). (Thus, it refers to heaven and eternal life.)
- Now the “key” obligation to make all this happen:
  - *“There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God”* (4:9).
  - That root word has now changed and is *Sabbatismos*.
  - The Sabbath remains as the great symbol of the final deliverance of those who are Canaan-rest bound.
  - It is identified with the “people of God.”
  - *“Let us labor therefore to enter into that rest [the great principle of **salvation rest** (katapausis)], lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief”* (4:11).

**The Sabbath today represents, therefore, three things!**

- Honoring the God of creation and His *rest* – cease work – allegiance to His authority

- Honoring deliverance from bondage – salvation – confidence in His covenant promises
- Honoring the land of rest – our eternal home – preparing through loyalty to His law

*“And it shall come to pass in the day that the LORD shall give thee rest from thy sorrow, and from thy fear, and from the hard bondage wherein thou wast made to serve.... That thou shalt take up this proverb against the king of Babylon [Satan]”* (Isaiah 14:3, 4a).

- Then follows an anthem and this verse:
- *“The whole earth is at rest, and is quiet: they break forth into singing”* (Isaiah 14:7).
- Then the anthem includes praise at Satan’s final fall.

The “rest” and “peace” is where God and His people rest together (II Chronicles 6:41; I Chronicles 23:25; Psalm 132:8, 13-14; Isaiah 66:1).

- This was not fulfilled in ancient Israel.
- It **became** a hope at the end of time (Collective messages in: Isaiah 56:4-7, 58:13-14, 66:22-24).

After the fall, the Sabbath rest came to be understood in the Old Testament and Jewish literature as:<sup>6</sup>

- The consummation of God’s purpose in creation.
- It symbolized the national aspiration for peace and rest in Canaan.

**Did Christ fulfill/was He the full expression of the eschatological expectations of the Sabbath? Is He now our “rest,” as so much of the Christian world thinks?**

### **Observation One – the personal examples**

**Christ** habitually kept the Sabbath (Luke 4:16) – *“as His custom was.”*

**Paul** habitually kept the Sabbath (Acts 17:2) – *“as His manner was”* (after the Cross).

**Luke** identifies in a special way with the Sabbath:

- He mentions it 21 times.
- He notes that Christ’s burial took place on “the day of preparation and the Sabbath was beginning” (23:54).

<sup>6</sup> Bacchiocchi, *op cit.*, pp. 112-130.

- The women “*rested on the Sabbath in obedience to the commandment*” (23:56b – NIV).

**Christ** declared Himself as the Messianic fulfillment of the Jubilee (Luke 4:18-21):

- A Sabbath year (Isaiah 61:1-3; cf. Isaiah 58:6)
- He was the fulfillment of the Sabbatical promise of deliverance.
- These Sabbath years were regarded as “*Sabbaths unto the Lord*” (Leviticus 25:4, II Chronicles 36:21).
- The Sabbath remains a reminder of that liberation (Hebrews 4:9)!

**Observation Two – The redemptive meaning of the Sabbath was explained by Christ through Sabbath healing.**

- Demon possessed man – *delivered* (Luke 4:31-37, Mark 1:21-28)
- Healing Peter’s mother-in-law – *restored* (Luke 4:38-39, Mark 1:29-31)
- Crippled woman – *made free* (Luke 13:10-17)
- Paralytic – *made whole* (John 5:1-18)
- Blind man – *made to see* (John 9:1-41)

Challenged Pharisees: Don’t you untie the ox (Luke 13:15) – and free an animal in a hole?

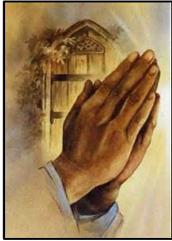
- The Sabbath pointed forward to the eschatological expectation of liberation.<sup>7</sup>

Christ linked the Sabbath to the cosmos (nothing to something – Genesis 2:2-3, Exodus 20:11). Christ linked the Sabbath to restoration (sinful to perfect) (Deuteronomy 5:15).

- The challenge: “*Strive to enter that rest*” (Hebrews 4:11) – symbolized by the Canaan rest. Verse 9 says, “the Sabbath” (*Sabbatismos*) – is your reminder (perpetual sign of the covenant).
- Christ rested in the tomb on Sabbath (Luke 23:54-56) as a symbol of the ultimate rest that will come to those who rely on His redemptive blood – He died that we might live.
- The ultimate redemptive rest will be a millennial Sabbath.<sup>8</sup>

<sup>7</sup> Riesenfeld, Harold; *Gospel Tradition* (Fortress – 1970), p. 118, 1970.

<sup>8</sup> Barnabas 15:4-5.



## HOW SATAN SUCCEEDED IN CHANGING GOD'S WORSHIP DAY

### Introduction

The letters to the seven churches of Revelation give stunning advice for individuals and churches as to how to be ready to meet their Maker. The instructive messages of Revelation 10 and 11 qualify their students to be God's last evangelists. The three angels' messages of Revelation 14 are warnings that must intercept wicked humanity in a last call to repent.

- The Bible says that this last appeal will not be comprehended; the light which will lighten the earth with the gospel will be **called a false light**, by those who refuse to walk in its advancing glory.<sup>1</sup>
- The kings and inhabitants of the world will instead drink from a golden cup filled with abominations which God calls filthiness of wine of fornication (Revelation 17:2, 4).

Lucifer, the leader of the rebellion in heaven, became Satan. He was cast to earth.

- *"Therefore I will cast thee as profane out of the mountain of God: and I will destroy thee, O covering cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire"* (Ezekiel 28:16b; cf. 11-19).



*"And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, **which deceiveth the whole world**: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him"* (Revelation 12:9).

- Ever since, he has led out to coerce and deceive mankind.

In the end-time prophecy Olivet discourse, Jesus *"answered and said unto them, **Take heed that no man deceive you**"* (Matthew 24:4). That warning means that it was possible to be misled.

Paul, in adjusting the thinking of the Thessalonians said: *"Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto him, That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand. **Let no man deceive you by any means**"* (II Thessalonians 2:1-3a).

<sup>1</sup> Cf. *The Review and Herald*, May 27, 1890 (emphasis added).

Satan is the master deceiver, and his confederates in evil have brought falsehood into the mind of man.

Is it any wonder that Paul said:

*“We wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. Wherefore take unto you the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day”* (Ephesians 6:12).

Christ is coming soon. Satan knows that time is short and that he has but a little while longer in which to work.

- He will not rest at ease, as many professed Christians are doing, but will continue to work with frenzied intensity.
- *“Woe to the earth and the sea because the devil has come down to you! He is filled with terrible anger, for he knows that he only has a little time!”* (Revelation 12:12 – NET).

Our challenge: How to detect the counterfeit and religious deception.

- Know what is truth – to be able to explain why it is fraudulent.
- Regarding Satan’s “mark,” let’s first review the “true mark,” the “true sign” of God, alluded to in chapter 1.

### **God’s Distinguishing Mark or Sign**

God gave the Sabbath to man as a monument to His everlasting partnership with him and a reminder of His power and authority.

- **After** sin came in, the purpose of that sacred day expanded.
- It became God’s special sign or mark as a reminder of **His covenant restoration in promise** (Exodus 31:16-17, Deuteronomy 5:15) and to remember that:
  - He is **the** God who would sanctify them (Exodus 31:13).
  - He is man’s Deliverer and Redeemer (Deuteronomy 5:12-15).
  - He is the Creator (Exodus 20:9-11).

The Sabbath, post-sin, was, therefore, **strengthened** as a day to honor **God’s authority** as:

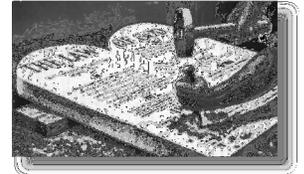
- A distinguishing “sign” for His people – a “peculiar people”

- “And the LORD hath avouched thee this day to be his **peculiar people**, as he hath promised thee, and that thou shouldest keep **all his commandments**” (Deuteronomy 26:18).
- “But ye are a **chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people**; that ye should show forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light” (I Peter 2:9).

The basis of God’s covenant with man (for Israelite and Gentile) is loyalty to the Sabbath (Isaiah 56:3-7). That is why God’s people are *different* – “peculiar.”

- “Also the sons of the stranger, that join themselves to the LORD, to serve him, and to love the name of the LORD, to be his servants, every one that **keepeth the sabbath** from polluting it, and **taketh hold of my covenant**” (Isaiah 56:6).
- What covenant?
  - Promise by God to identify and restore a **special people** – to be like Him – **the 144,000**
  - Will bring them to my “holy mountain” – Zion – heaven (Revelation 14:1-5)
- Here, the Sabbath, God’s covenant (Exodus 34:28), is associated with eternal rewards.

### What supreme issue might Satan defy as his unique “mark” of authority?



Nothing is more unique for Satan to attack than the fourth commandment – the Sabbath! It has been God’s set-aside mark!

- If he could wipe out its importance (!) –
- His authority would be accepted over God’s. He would have a stunning counterfeit!
  - The principle of **minimizing God’s directives** is what he worked at in heaven.
  - That approach also worked in the Garden of Eden and led to Eve’s fall.

***A false Sabbath would attack God’s authority, His covenant promises and His law.***

- If he could set up a false Sabbath, **he would be** the one really being honored. ***Even though Christendom claimed loyalty to Jesus.***
- Then he would truly “exalt his throne above the stars of God” and “be **like** [not actually] the Most High” (Isaiah 14:13-14).

Satan deceives his own heart in this, however.

- If I can masquerade as God
- I will **feel** like God
- Because people will bow down and worship me – i.e., via one of my institutions

If he then can get “leaders” to **force the world** to honor him in this way – he will declare his mission accomplished. Remember that “golden cup”!

- God’s distinguishing sign or mark is the Sabbath.
- Satan’s distinguishing sign is the false Sabbath. Stay tuned!

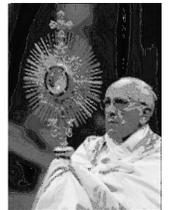
### **Satan’s plan is formulated. This is how Satan has nearly succeeded!**

The first allusion to false corporate worship in history and the Bible – amazing as it may seem – was to celestial objects, especially the sun.

- They were untouchable.
- They were mysterious.
- They moved and announced themselves every day.
- The sun was bright.
- It gave warmth, crops, cheerfulness.
- It never argued or fought.
- It went across the sky silently.
- It was an ideal god – it was one of peace.
- It was good to everyone.

In archeological digs, sun worship was the earliest form of idolatry.

- Ancients worshiped the sun even without a statue or idol (Job 31:26-27).
- Ra – sun god of Egyptians
- Apollo – sun god of Grecians
- Baal – sun god of Phoenicians
- Molech – sun god of Ammonites
- Shamash – sun god of Babylonians
- Mithra – sun god of the Persians, Indians and, later, the Romans



Something very tragic occurred to God’s intense work to have a holy people – a peculiar people – who would be corporately His own:

- The people of the Sabbath – the chosen Hebrews –
- Adopted those pagan practices (Leviticus 26:30, Isaiah 17:8, Jeremiah 19:5). Thus, began the 490 years of Jewish apostasy (which later led to 490 years of probation – Daniel 9:24).

King Manasseh (Jerusalem/Judah) worshiped the sun (II Kings 21:3, 5) – 685 B.C.

- Burning incense on altars to the sun was done on the rooftops of houses (Zephaniah 1:5).
- Josiah (good king) removed symbols of sun worship (II Kings 23:5, 11-12).
- Ezekiel describes an end-time abomination of worshiping the sun (Ezekiel 8:15-16).

Daniel was given a unique prophecy regarding the antichrist.

- He would “*think to change times and laws*” (Daniel 7:25).
- Expositors almost universally agree that that meant God’s *holy days* would be changed or dishonored (through the Aramaic expressions).
- We will shortly show that it relates to worship on sun-day.

### The Roman Empire (~100 B.C.–476 A.D.) and Sun Worship

Rome soon became the world empire (firmly by 27 B.C. with Julius Caesar). Satan then made inroads into Rome.

“Among the Romans the Sun was early worshiped as Sol, later as Apollo, and lastly as Mithras, the Invincible Sun. Here is how poetic fancy pictured the glory of King Sol in the age when Christ was born.

“Roman Sun worship received special impetus when it came into contact with Mithraism. Mithra (or Mithras) figured in ancient Iranian religious beliefs as an angel of light or a genius which attended the Sun.”<sup>2</sup>



“In time this fine distinction between Mithra and the Sun disappeared to the extent that for the people in general they were one and the same god.”<sup>3</sup>

- Roman soldiers had distinct sun worshiping rites that they were required to engage in on the first day of each week.
- It was unique that Jesus arose resurrection morning **before** the earthly sun rose to announce that the true Sun of Righteousness is the God of all gods.
- Those Roman soldiers saw a sun/son like they never had or would ever witness again.

As Christianity grew and sought to infiltrate the world:

- One unique gift was retained from Jewish worship – the Sabbath.

<sup>2</sup> The New Schaff-Herzog Encyclopedia of Religious Knowledge, Vol. 7, pp. 419-420, art. “Mithra, Mithraism.”

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.4angelspublications.com/Books/SiRP/CHAPTER%2010.pdf>

- Thus – God’s Sabbath **and** Satan’s sun day were in competition!

### **Satan’s Tactics Take on a New Dimension**

The Jews rebelled against God, against His Sabbaths and finally against the Messiah.

- In Matthew 21:43, Jesus declared the kingdom of God would be taken from them.
- In Matthew 23:38, He stated after His most severe censure of Jewish leaders, “your house is left unto you desolate.”

***Satan triumphed – another God-experiment “failed!” At least it appeared that way. Satan was now going to push his growing success to the maximum.***

The Jews had rebelled against God – ***then they began a rebellion against Rome!***

- The first was between 66 and 70 A.D. – with destruction of the temple and much of Jerusalem. Over a million Jews died, tens of thousands were taken prisoner.
- The second was between 132 and 135 A.D. in the Bar Kokhba Revolt. Tens of thousands were taken as slaves.

As the Babylonian Empire was used by God to punish the Jews, God now uses the Roman Empire to finalize the “desolation” curse (Matthew 24:15) (the first “abomination of desolation”).

***What did the Roman Empire specifically turn their attention against? Here it is!***

- 70 A.D. – it was against the *people* and their *assets*.
- 135 A.D. – it was against the *people* and their peculiar *worship day*. The *pivotal* “Jewish practice” was the Sabbath. Remember “the peculiar people.”

It was to have been a sign of holiness, uniqueness, introducing the true God by their practices. It was to have been God’s mark – distinguishing His people.

- ~135 A.D. the “Epistle of Barnabas” repudiated Judaism as the true religion.<sup>4</sup>
  - Anti-Semitism was now in writing.
  - Sun-day (first day of the week) was called the “Lord’s Day” for the first time in writing. Why?
- Mithra, the Roman sun god, was called “Lord.” The first day of the week became sun-day/Mithra’s day, thus, the “Lord’s Day.”

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<sup>4</sup> The Epistle of Barnabas, 100 A.D., Ante-Nicene Fathers, vol. 1, p. 147.

Apostasy now began to penetrate the early Christian church.

### **Satan's Success Begins to Mount**

- Early in the first century the sun-god Mithra, of Indian and Persian origin, had penetrated Europe (except Britain).
- By the second and third centuries it was the largest pagan cult in the Roman Empire.

The emperor Aurelian (270 - 275 A. D.), whose mother was a priestess of the Sun, was especially devoted to Sun worship.”

From this time until the reign of Constantine I (306-337 A. D.) the cult of the ***Invincible Sun*** was the supreme and official religion of the Roman Empire.

Mithraism taught:

- Sun worship (*Sol Invictus* – the invincible sun)
- Immortality of the soul
- Hell for all sinners – which led to the concept of purgatory
- Out of this the “Christian Church” of Rome developed this symbol with the sun around it, then added a cross.
- “IHS” stood for three Egyptian gods: Isis, Horus and Seb. The bishops of Rome changed the meaning to Jesus Hominum Salvator (Jesus the savior of men).



By 250 A.D.:

- Roman Emperor Valerian established a college to train “sun priests” in Rome.
- His coins bore a picture of the sun with the legend: “The sun-god of Imperial Rome”
- December 25 was set aside as a festival to honor Mithra’s birthday.

Temples to Mithra began to spring up everywhere.

- 270-275 A.D. Emperor Aurelian built a large ***sun temple*** in Rome.
- Its priests were called ***pontiffs***.
- ***Women*** helpers were retained who would later be called ***nuns*** in the Roman apostate church.<sup>5</sup>

<sup>5</sup> Flavius Vopiscus, *The Deified Aurelian*, chap. 35, in Loeb Classical Library, *Scriptores Historiae Augustae*, Vol. 3, pp. 263, 265; H. Mattingly and E. A. Sydenham, *Roman Imperial Coinage*, Vol. 5, part 1, pp. 264, 312; S. W. Stevenson, C. R. Smith, and F. W. Madden, *A Dictionary of Roman Coins*, p. 753, art. “Sol”; *The Cambridge Ancient History*, Vol. 12, pp. 193, 309, 719. In *The Cambridge Ancient History*, Vol. 5 of Plates, pp. 238, 231, there is shown a photographic reproduction of coins minted by the emperor Aurelian. The Latin inscription on the coins clearly shows the titles *Sol Dominus Imperii Romani and Soli Invicto*.

The sunbursts began to be depicted in art as coming out of Roman emperors' heads.

- Later, it became the halo around saints, babies and religious leaders.
- Allegedly, they would later represent Christ as the Sun of Righteousness. BUT – really, **they honored all the sun cults.**

### **The Apostate Christian Church Begins to Emerge**

In 313 A.D. Constantine brought all Christian persecution to a halt – Edict of Milan.



In 316 A.D. the bishop of Rome, **Sylvester I**, gave an ecclesiastical command (Catholics claim he was one of their popes):

- The “rest” of the seventh-day Sabbath should be **transferred** to “the Lord’s Day.”
- “Every Sabbath [seventh day] on account of the burial [of Jesus] is to be regarded in execration [denunciation] of the Jews ... In fact it is not proper to observe, because of Jewish customs, the consumption of food and the ceremonies of the Jews.”<sup>6</sup>
  - This was the first Sunday law. (Recall Daniel 7:25 predicted this.)
  - It was ecclesiastical. Important!
  - Sylvester I was a contemporary of the Roman Emperor Constantine.
  - This is the “pope” that historians refer to when writing of the Catholic Church changing the Sabbath.

Sylvester I

***Though the Catholic Church was not formalized until later, they claim Sylvester I as the “pope” who made this change.***

Sylvester I influenced Constantine to issue *Dies Solis* on March 7, 321 A.D.:

“On the venerable Day of the Sun let the magistrates and people residing in cities rest, and let all workshops be closed. In the country, however, persons engaged in agriculture may freely and lawfully continue their pursuits; because it often happens that another day is not so suitable for grain-sowing or for vine-planting; lest by neglecting the proper moment for such operations the bounty of heaven should be lost.”<sup>7</sup>

- Constantine sent an order to all soldiers, ordering that they honor the sun on the first day of the week.

<sup>6</sup> “Pope” Sylvester, 314-335 C.E., “*Adversus Graecorum*,” S.R.E. Humbert, PL 143, p. 936.

<sup>7</sup> *Codex Justinianus*, lib. 3, tit. 12, 3; trans. in Philip Schaff, *History of the Christian Church*, Vol. 3 (5th ed.; New York: Scribner, 1902), p. 380, note 1.

- They had to recite a prayer (which he gave) at sunrise – and –
- Worship Mithra – the sun god.
- Many point to Constantine as the first emperor to enforce a sun day law.
  - BUT – it was in support of apostate Christianity
  - **AND** – Mithraism!

***Sylvester I, in his bitter anti-Semitism, wrote:***

“Sunday is to be observed joyfully by the Christians on account of the resurrection, then every Sabbath on account of the burial is to be regarded in execration [loathing or cursing] of the Jews.”<sup>8</sup>

- This is where the claim that the Sabbath was changed to honor ***Christ's resurrection***.
- There is no Biblical authority for this! But, again, it fulfills prophecy.

Eusebius Pamphili, bishop of Caesarea, Palestine (265-340 A.D.), wrote:

- “‘All things’ he says, ‘whatever that it was duty [commanded by God] to do on the Sabbath, these we have transferred to the Lord’s day.’”<sup>9</sup>
- But the Sunday argument, groundless as it was, served to embolden men in trampling upon the Sabbath of the Lord. All who desired to be honored by the world accepted the popular festival.
- The ecclesiastical influence of worshiping on the first day of the week had now moved from Rome and was moving throughout the Empire!

It was in this setting that Satan was ready to formalize his rebellion within the Christian church. The Sabbath issue was the ***first*** to be addressed.

Constantine, calling himself Pontifex Maximus (initially in reference to Mithraism), now uses this power and authority over all Christianity and calls a church counsel:



The Council of Nicaea (325 A.D.), in which Constantine was the chairman!

- This formulated the Nicene Creed
- Used by many churches today with various modifications

**Important:** There are two parallel religions in the Roman Empire:

- Paganism and Christianity

<sup>8</sup> Quoted by Cardinal S.R.E. Humbert, *Adversus Graecorum calumnias* 6, PL 143, 937 1054 AD.

<sup>9</sup> Eusebius' *Commentary on the Psalms* (Psalm 92, *A Psalm or Song for the Sabbath-day*), in Migne's *Patrologia Graeca*, Vol. XXIII, col. 1171 & 1172, and Bernard de Montfaucon's *Collectio Nova Patrum Et Scriptorum Graecorum* (2 vols., folio, Paris, 1706).

- Constantine is in support of both.
- A local spin-off council occurred in 364 A.D. – the Laodicean Council.
- Significant decisions for the whole church were made there.

Maintaining order among Roman bishops, clerics and laypeople, it (canons 3–5, 11–13, 21–27, 40–44, 56–57):

1. Enforced modest behavior of clerics and laypeople (4, 27, 30, 36, 53–55)
2. Regulated the approach to heretics (Protestants) (canons 6–10, 31–34, 37), Jews (canons 16, 37–38) and pagans (canon 39)
3. Outlawed the keeping of the Jewish Sabbath (Saturday) and encouraged rest on the Lord’s Day (Sunday) (canon 29)
4. Outlined liturgical practices (canons 14–20, 21–23, 25, 28, 58–59)
5. Created restrictions during Lent (canons 45, 49–52)
6. Specified a Biblical canon (canons 59–60) – the Book of Revelation was omitted with the first five books of the Hebrew Bible.<sup>10</sup>

### The “Sabbath” – “Sunday” Issue:

“Christians should not Judaize and should not be idle on the Sabbath, but should work on that day; they should, however, particularly reverence the Lord’s day and, if possible, not work on it, because they were Christians” – (Canon 29), Council of Laodicea – 364 A.D.

### **Satan’s Next Step: Make the Bishops of Rome Power Hungry**

Rome, the center of the Empire, was beckoning to ***control all religions everywhere!***

- BUT – they had competitors in Alexandria, Egypt and –
- In Constantinople (where Constantine had moved the capital of the Roman Empire)
- In these places also were ***power-hungry religious men.***

Satan wanted that power centralized!

- It wouldn’t really fully happen until Pope Gregory the Great – the first “real” pope around 600 A.D.
- ***But a major step occurred in 380 A.D. This is stunning!***

Emperor Flavius Theodosius I came to the Roman throne (379-395).




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<sup>10</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Council\\_of\\_Laodicea](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Council_of_Laodicea)

- He reunited the eastern and western portions of the Empire.
- Centralizing power in a fractured empire was begun.

Theodosius I called another church council – the ***Council of Constantinople*** (381 A.D.).

- ***This became perhaps the most important church/state meeting ever for Satan’s strategy.***
- He defined how the church leadership would work.

### **Ecclesiastically:**

- The Nicene trinitarianism was reinforced.
- The “mysteries” of the third member of the Godhead were “defined.”
- Sunday worship was now given force in the Christian world.

In Codex Theodosianus 11.7.13, he decreed the *mandatory observance* of the first day of the week as the Lord’s Day for Christianity.

“Let the course of all law suits and all business cease on Sunday, which our fathers have rightly called the Lord’s day, and let no one try to collect either a public or a private debt; and let there be no hearing of disputes by any judges either those required to serve by law or those voluntarily chosen by disputants. And he is to be held not only infamous but sacrilegious who has turned away from the service and observance of holy religion on that day.”<sup>11</sup>

“On the following occasions all amusements of the theaters and the circuses shall be denied throughout all cities to the people thereof, and the minds of Christians and of the faithful shall be wholly occupied in the worship of God: namely, on the Lord’s day, which is the first day of the whole week, on the Natal Day and Epiphany of Christ, and on the day of Easter and of Pentecost, as long as the vestments that imitate the light of the celestial font attest to the new light of holy baptism; at the time also when the commemoration of the Apostolic Passion, the teacher of all Christianity, is duly celebrated by everyone.”<sup>12,13</sup>

### **Secularly and ecclesiastically, something else vital happened:**

- ***Paganism was outlawed.*** *Why is this different from Constantine’s law and even more important?*
  - Overnight “Christians” began to be militant, hate-filled and destructive.
  - The spirit of apostate Christianity began to show its ***real*** character!

<sup>11</sup> [http://community-2.webtv.net/Tales\\_of\\_the\\_Western\\_World/](http://community-2.webtv.net/Tales_of_the_Western_World/)

<sup>12</sup> <http://biblelight.net/sylvester-1.htm>

<sup>13</sup> Law of Theodosius II, Feb. 1, 425, in *Theodosian Code* 15.5.5 (Princeton University Press, Princeton, NJ; 1952).

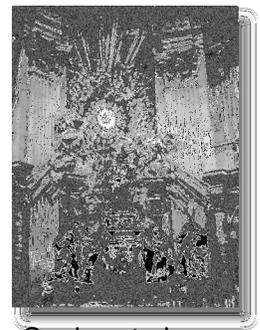
- Pagan priests were murdered.
- Pagan temples were either destroyed or confiscated for “Christian” use.
- Libraries of incredible historical value were burned.
- The Library of Alexandria was destroyed. Historically, a tragedy of unequalled importance.
  - Hypatia, one of the greatest female philosophers, mathematicians and astronomers was murdered and cut into pieces.
  - “Christian” priests carried these body pieces to cities around the Empire to show what happens against any leader that is anti-Christian – anti-apostate Christianity, that is!

### **Can you see what Satan has accomplished?**

1. First, he brought sin into the world.
2. Then he successfully enticed the world to worship the light of the sun.
3. He got the chosen Hebrew nation to reject the true light – Jesus Christ.
4. He tainted the new Christian religion towards false worship.
5. Sun-day was shared by:
  - a. Pagans
  - b. Christians
6. Paganism was outlawed – the last competition for the apostate Christian church is gone.
7. Satan now has his church (portrayed in Revelation 17 in scarlet/purple/jewels) deceive the world.

What would the Christian church do with all the pagan worshipers, undoubtedly tens of thousands of sun/icon/idol worshipers?

- Valerian had already made Mithra’s birthday, December 25, a public holiday. Let’s make that the date of Christ’s birth.
- Adopt the imagery of the female god Isis, feeding her son Horus, as Mary the mother of Jesus, feeding her son.
- Make the spring equinox the passion week and then Easter:
  - Honoring the rising sun in the east
  - Make the sun a central icon of the Christian faith:
    - Call it Jesus, “*sun of righteousness*” (Malachi 4:2).



Sunburst above St. Peter's chair

### **The Roman Catholic Church was born!**

### **The Dark Ages saw persecution – much of it was Sabbath-related.**

The time of tribulation ahead of us will again see persecution – much of it will be Sabbath-related (Daniel 11:31, 12:7-12).

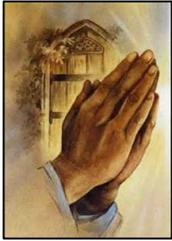
- Prophecy is loaded with information that the Sabbath issue will be pivotal at the end – with persecution from the apostate Christian church – Babylon.
- It will **herald Satan's last** moves to establish his authority – it will also announce God's last moves in redemptive history.
- **Ezekiel** introduces end-time Sabbath issues to us – then **Daniel** (Jesus told his disciples and us: If you want to know the rest of the end-time story, go to Daniel where it talks about the **abomination** that leads to **desolation** – the desecration of the Sabbath).

God wants us to see the “sun” of righteousness and everything He stands for.

Satan wants us to see the sun of this world and the liturgy of man.

Lucifer – the “*light bearer*” – became Satan – the bearer of a *false light*.

(See Appendix I for man's false light.)



## THAT APPOINTMENT WITH GOD (REVIEW)

### Introduction

God introduced many time clocks during the creation week.

- On the fourth day – the sun and moon were to be the basis for signs, seasons, days and years (Genesis 1:14).
- What that meant to a perfect world is unclear.
  - Why would life need signs?
  - What kinds of seasons existed?
  - Were the days 24-hours long?
  - Did the earth circle the sun at a different speed than today?

Though God’s foreknowledge anticipated sin, there is nothing to suggest that the creation of this earth was modified to prepare for its intrusion.

- The seventh day was not created but appointed.
- *“Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. And on the seventh day God ended his work which he had made; and he rested on the seventh day from all his work which he had made. And God blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it: because that in it he had rested from all his work which God created and made”* (Genesis 2:1-3).

Several unique principles were established in this last day of the creation week.

1. The “seventh” was the last period before a “first” began a new cycle.
2. It was set apart from the six work days that preceded it.
3. It was a day of rest (*shabath*) to honor God because He rested and was the Creator.
4. Man and God could uniquely share this time together.
5. God honored this intangible “time” by:
  - Blessing it – it was to benefit man
  - Sanctifying it – it was holy and wholly for Him

The word “rested” implies “an end has come” – something ceased – a **transition** is being made in activity or purpose.

- No residual work remained.

- When man rests on the seventh day – all residual work is completed or set aside.

In the Decalogue:

- More space is given to the fourth commandment than any other directive (Exodus 20:8-11, Deuteronomy 5:12-15).
  - Time (six days): Common, secular
  - Time (seventh day): Unique, holy
- *Not only is His sovereignty over creation remembered, His sovereignty over time is to be acknowledged.*

Once sin came into the world – the Sabbath took on new meaning. BUT:

- There is no record of the Sabbath rest during a 2500-year period – until the Jewish exodus.
- Neither is there a record of the Decalogue – BUT:
  - The Bible notes: *“And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually”* (Genesis 6:5).
  - *“Wickedness”* and evil relate to behavior contrary to God’s wishes – *there was a known divine standard.*
  - It later says: *“and Noah walked with God”* (Genesis 6:9).
- This reveals that parameters on behavior were known. God’s will for man had been established.

***The Sabbath acted as a check on man’s unbridled selfish behavior.***

- It was to stop “man”-related activity
  - To then participate in God-accepted activity
  - This check on man was unique and required to maintain loyalty to God.
- } Vital concept

“Every man in God’s world is under the laws of His government. God has placed the Sabbath in the bosom of the Decalogue, and has made it the criterion of obedience. Through it we may learn of His power, as displayed in His works and His Word. But today the world is following the example of those that lived before the flood. Now, as then, men choose to follow their own inclinations, rather than to obey the commandments of God. The inhabitants of the antediluvian world glorified themselves instead of commemorating the glorious works of creation. They did not obey the law of God; they did not honor the Sabbath. Had they done this, they would have recog-

nized their duty to their Creator. This was the original and supreme object of the command, 'Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy.'"<sup>1</sup>

### **The Re-introduction of the Sabbath Rest**

Why did God wait till He had a chosen people before making explicit the meaning of the Sabbath?

- That is not clear. It was undoubtedly repeated again and again by those ancient patriarchs. But we have precious little record regarding their lives. Paul notes in Hebrews 11:5 that Enoch "pleased God."
- When the Sabbath was re-explained and set in stone, it was with the admonition to  
*"Remember the Sabbath"* related to the creation.
- The link with its original purpose was confirmed and validated.

"The Sabbath was likely kept by Adam in his innocence in holy Eden; by Adam, fallen yet repentant, when he was driven from his happy estate. It was kept undoubtedly by all the patriarchs, from Abel to righteous Noah, to Abraham, to Jacob. When the chosen people were in bondage in Egypt, many, in the midst of prevailing idolatry, lost their knowledge of God's law; but when the Lord delivered Israel, He proclaimed His law in awful grandeur to the assembled multitude, that they might know His will and fear and obey Him forever."<sup>2</sup>

When did God first reconfirm that creative link?

- Between the Red Sea and Mt. Sinai He provided manna to a complaining multitude (Exodus 16:18-26) – even before Sinai!
- It reminded Israel of His creative power.
- It reminded them also of that sacred seventh obligation.

The Israelites came to the wilderness of Sin two months after leaving Egypt, and two weeks before arriving at Mount Sinai, where God formally gave them the Ten Commandments in stone. Notice, His instruction concerning the Sabbath *predates* the giving of the law.

Here God reveals to them, miraculously, which day is the Sabbath and whether it made any difference if they kept it:

- Then the Lord said to Moses, "*Behold, I will rain bread from heaven for you. And the people shall go out and gather a certain quota every day, [why?] that I may test them, whether they will walk in My law or not.*" (Exodus 16:4)

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<sup>1</sup> Adapted, *The Signs of the Times*, March 31, 1898.

<sup>2</sup> Adapted, *The Great Controversy*, p. 453.

- God's law is in full force and effect. God is testing them to see if they will obey one of its critical points.

Notice what happens. Some try to save a supply of manna over until the next morning, contrary to God's command. *"It bred worms and stank"* (verse 20).

- On the sixth day, they gather a double portion of manna, and Moses explained why: *"Tomorrow is a Sabbath rest, a holy Sabbath to the Lord"* (verse 23). On the sixth day, then, they gather a supply of food for the Sabbath as well.
- Miraculously, it does not breed worms or decay, as on all the other days (verse 24)! By this sign, God identifies which day is the Sabbath.
- Then Moses said: *"Today is a Sabbath to the Lord; today you will not find it in the field. Six days you shall gather it, but on the seventh day, which is the Sabbath, there will be none"* (verses 25-26).
- *"Some of the people went out on the seventh day to gather, but they found none."* They thought that the day they observed, or if they kept it at all, made no difference.

The Israelites were told: *"For the Lord has given you the Sabbath."* Exodus 16:29:

### **Egypt became a symbol for wickedness – a symbol for this earth.**

- Deliverance from Egypt was celebrated by the Passover. It represents our anticipated deliverance from the bondage of sin.
- Then God added a wonderful new reason to keep the Sabbath.
- *"And remember that thou wast a servant in the land of Egypt, and that the LORD thy God brought thee out thence through a mighty hand and by a stretched out arm: therefore the LORD thy God commanded thee to keep the sabbath day"* (Deuteronomy 5:15).
  - It not only honored the creation – past
  - But now was to honor the recreation – future
  - ***Man's deliverance was now tied to the Sabbath.*** A literal application for Israel becomes a metaphor for the final deliverance from planet earth!

The Sabbath is a prophecy of what man might become through Jesus Christ.

- Thus, it became a unique identifier of loyalty to Him.
- *"Speak thou also unto the children of Israel, saying, Verily my sabbaths ye shall keep: for it is a sign between me and you throughout your generations; that ye may know that I am the LORD that doth sanctify you.... Wherefore the children of Israel shall keep the sabbath, to observe the sabbath throughout their generations, for a perpetual covenant. It is a sign between me and the children of Israel for ever: for in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, and on the seventh day he rested, and was refreshed"* (Exodus 31:13, 16-17).

In the Sabbath, God is seen as a liberator, an emancipator.

- Thus, it is a sign of the covenant.
- It unites God's law with His grace that cleanses.
- God was enthroned between the cherubim (Psalms 80:1, 99:1).
  - When blood was sprinkled on the mercy seat seven times on Atonement Day (Leviticus 16:15-16)
  - It brought cleansing:
    - God
    - Blood
    - Law } Suddenly came together
- Christ provides yet today the link between God's standard and His throne.
- *"And Moses took the blood, and sprinkled it on the people, and said, Behold the blood of the covenant, which the LORD hath made with you concerning all these words"* (Exodus 24:8; cf. Hebrews 9:19).
- The Sabbath brings honor to that covenant restoration theme.



## SABBATICAL YEAR – *SHEMITA*

### Introduction

When sin intruded the ranks of humanity, using those celestial time clocks from the sun, moon and stars, God developed many new worship calendars. They were designed to uniquely focus on God **and** His plan to redeem man!

- One of the first was the establishment of a *seven-month* sacred year (Abib through Tishri) (Exodus 12 and 13 and Leviticus 23).
- Special feasts were assigned to those periods:
  1. Spring:
    - Passover
    - Unleavened Bread
  2. Summer:
    - Feast of Weeks – later called Pentecost
  3. Fall:
    - Trumpets
    - Atonement
    - Tabernacles
- These became *sacred times* to deepen their devotion to God, broaden their understanding of the anticipated Messianic sacrifice and strengthen their faith.

### New Sabbaths were Given to Israel

The march from Egypt to Canaan was to have been fairly brief (a few months).

- At Sinai the structure of the Theocracy was established.
- Camp order and worship rites were all implemented.
- Then, 40 years of wandering because of rebellion (Numbers 32:13, Hebrews 3:17).

A special plan for a **Sabbatical year** called in Hebrew the ***Shemita*** was formulated.

- This was **only** to be observed **after** they entered the Promise Land.
- It would be a celebration **in Canaan** of land rest.
- Every seventh year was to be a Sabbath “unto the Lord” (Leviticus 25:1-7).

From a *wandering people* to the *nation of Israel*, it afforded God the chance for His people to recognize special principles of His kingdom.

- Citizenry of the earthly Canaan would represent
  - Citizenry of the heavenly Canaan
- Only through a sacred seventh year could God fully reveal the holiness of that final deliverance (anticipated in Daniel 12:1).

God didn't stop with this special year, however.

- When seven *Shemitas* were completed (49 years), the next year would also be a Sabbath, called the *Yovel*.
- The *Yovel* was noted as a Jubilee Year – a Sabbath of Sabbaths.

When ten of these 49 Jubilee cycles were complete, there were 490 years, which show up later in God's restoration plan (Daniel 9:24-27).

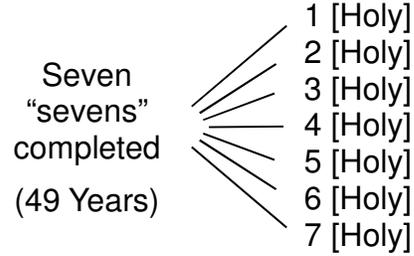
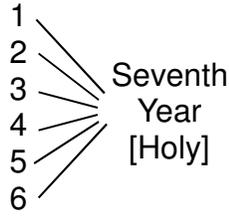
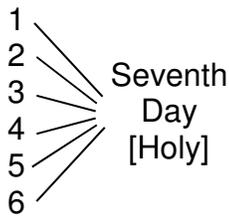
### **Why did God need more Sabbaths?**

Why did He permit a pagan king to destroy Jerusalem, kill thousands and take the inhabitants of Judah captive over a lack of the *Shemita* observance? (II Chronicles 36:20-21). For Israel these became a special time to rivet home the sacredness of "seven."

How are we today to review this unique history and learn that same lesson?

- There is something vital we must discover.
- There must be something from that Jewish Sabbath year that is meaningful to us!

Let's get started: First, there is this pattern – they **are** God's redemptive forward-moving clocks:



**Sabbath**  
Symbolic of  
Deliverance  
(Deut. 5:15)

**Shemita**  
Symbolic of  
Anticipated  
Restoration  
Lev. 25:4)

**Jubilee**  
Symbolic of  
Completed  
Restoration  
(Dan. 19:24-27) (Rev. 21:1:  
*“And I saw a new heaven and a new  
earth: for the first heaven and the  
first earth were passed away; and  
there was no more sea.”*)

**Seven** is the number of holiness.

**Ten** is the number of completion – no more is required.

- How does this process fit into God’s scheme of redemption?
- Why were each of these steps dovetailed into the other?
- Were the *Shemita* clocks to go on indefinitely?
- Were the Jubilees to recycle without a **predicted** end?

**These Questions Must be Answered**

Let’s begin with the story of the Babylonian captivity. In Nebuchadnezzar’s first year of reign, Jeremiah prophesied devastation because Judah had:

- *“Not harkened, nor inclined your ear to hear”* (Jeremiah 25:4, 8).
- And did not turn *“from his evil way, and from the evil of your doings, and dwell in the land”* (Jeremiah 25:5).

God would use Nebuchadnezzar as His “servant” (Jeremiah 25:9).

- And *“this whole land shall be a desolation.”*
- They will serve this Babylonian king **70 years** (25:11).
- Deliverance would come at the end of the 70 years (29:13).

Over what was God angry with His people?

- It related to improper land use (Jeremiah 25:5).

- It related to idolatry (Jeremiah 25:6).
- The great records, called the Chronicles, **refine** our understanding.

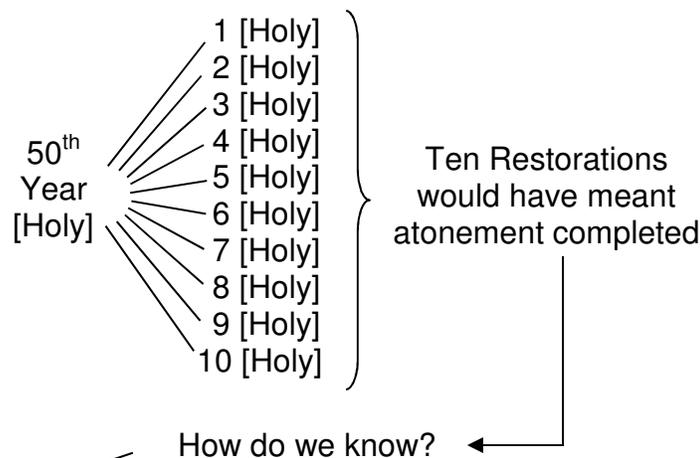
*“And them that had escaped from the sword carried he away to Babylon; where they were servants to him and his sons until the reign of the kingdom of Persia: To fulfil the word of the LORD by the mouth of Jeremiah, **until the land had enjoyed her sabbaths**: for as long as she lay desolate she kept sabbath, to fulfil threescore and ten years”* (II Chronicles 36:20-21).

Idolatry transferred allegiance to other gods – that, in turn, led them away from the *Shemita* or Sabbatical Year.

- This was symbolically expressed *“so the land could enjoy her Sabbaths.”*
- *Something urgently important is being conveyed.*

Seventy years in Babylonian captivity under heathen kings:

- One year for each *Shemita* missed.
- How many years is that? 490 years.
- That is **ten Jubilees**.



Daniel 9 tells us:

- Daniel’s people, representing all of God’s people – spiritual Israel (12:1)<sup>1</sup>
- Are given a final chance of 490 years, 70 *Shemitas*, 10 Jubilees.

Around 100 B.C. the Dead Sea Scrolls of 11Q13 were written. Here is the document from column 2 of that find:

<sup>1</sup> Keil, C. F.; Delitzsch, F.; *Commentary on the Old Testament* (Henderson Publishers, Massachusetts), vol. 9, pp. 718-719.



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## DEAD SEA SCROLLS TEXTS<sup>2</sup>

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### The Coming of Melchizedek – 11Q13 – Col. 2

(...) And concerning what Scripture says, *“In this year of **Jubilee** you shall return, everyone of you, to your property”* (Lev. 25;13) And what is also written; *“And this is the manner of the remission; every creditor shall remit the claim that is held against a neighbor, not exacting it of a neighbor who is a member of the community, because God’s remission has been proclaimed”* (Deut.15;2) the interpretation is that it applies to the Last Days and concerns the captives, just as Isaiah said: *“To proclaim the Jubilee to the captives”* (Isa. 61:1) (...) just as (...) and from the inheritance of Melchizedek, for (... Melchizedek), who will return them to what is rightfully theirs. He will proclaim to them the Jubilee, thereby releasing them from the debt of all their sins. He shall proclaim this decree in the first week of the jubilee period that follows nine jubilee periods.

***Then the “Day of Atonement” shall follow after the tenth jubilee period***, when he shall atone for all the Sons of Light, and the people who are predestined to Melchizedek. (...) upon them (...) For ***this is the time decreed for the “Year of Melchizedek’s favor,”*** and by his might he will judge God’s holy ones and so ***establish a righteous kingdom***, as it is written about him in the Songs of David; *“A godlike being has taken his place in the council of God; in the midst of divine beings he holds judgment.”*

(Ps. 82:1). Scripture also says about him; *“Over it take your seat in the highest heaven; A divine being will judge the peoples”* (Ps. 7:7-8) Concerning what scripture says; *“How long will you judge unjustly, and show partiality with the wicked? Selah”* (Ps. 82:2), the interpretation applies to Belial and the spirits predestined to him, because all of them have rebelled, turning from God’s precepts and so becoming utterly wicked. ***Therefore Melchizedek will thoroughly prosecute the vengeance required by God’s statutes.*** Also, he will deliver all ***the captives from the power of Belial***, and from the power of all the spirits destined to him. Allied with him will be all the *“righteous divine beings”* (Isa. 61:3).

(The ...) is that whi(ch ...all) the divine beings. The visitation is the Day of Salvation that He has decreed through Isaiah the prophet concerning all the captives, inasmuch as Scripture says, *“How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the mes-*

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<sup>2</sup> <http://www.webcom.com/gnosis/library/commelc.htm>

*messenger who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation, who says to Zion "Your divine being reigns."* (Isa. 52:7). This scripture's interpretation: *"the mountains"* are the prophets, they who were sent to proclaim God's truth and to prophesy to all Israel. **"The messengers" is the Anointed** of the spirit, of whom Daniel spoke; **"After the sixty-two weeks, an Anointed shall be cut off"** (Dan. 9:26) The *"messenger who brings good news, who announces Salvation"* is the one of whom it is written; *"to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor, the day of the vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn"* (Isa. 61:2).

This scripture's interpretation: he is to instruct them about all the periods of history for eternity (... and in the statutes) of the truth. (...) (... dominion) that passes from Belial and returns to the Sons of Light (...) (...) by the judgment of God, just as it is written concerning him; *"who says to Zion "Your divine being reigns"* (Isa. 52:7) *"Zion"* is the congregation of all the sons of righteousness, who uphold the covenant and turn from walking in the way of the people. *"Your divine being"* is Melchizedek, who will deliver them from the power of Belial. Concerning what scripture says, *"Then you shall have the trumpet sounded loud; in the seventh month ..."* (Lev. 25:9).

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What does this tell us? This group of conservative Jewish people (we assume the Essenes) concluded that the time periods of Daniel 9 are relative to:

1. The last days
2. When Melchizedek returns
3. A Jubilee will be proclaimed (that follow nine others).
4. Judgment of the wicked and Belial (Satan) then occurs.
5. Associated with Melchizedek at that time will be righteous "divine" beings.
6. All this will be announced by an anointed messenger after 62 weeks.
7. This messenger and prophecy concerns periods of history related to the first Advent but culminates at the end of all things.
8. Then the trumpet will sound in the seventh month.

Most scholars view this document as referring to the **very end of time** when the Daniel 9 timing prophecies finally come to an end.

- This is not dispensationalism.
- It is textual exegesis of the expressions and references used.
  - Intriguingly, a book with earmarks of spiritualism, called the Uranta Book, agrees with this also.
  - Also, Satan knows when his time is short.

The 490-year prophecy appears to have a final application at the very end when a tenth Jubilee occurs.

- “*Whatever is to come has been already, and God summons each event back in its turn*” (Ecclesiastes 3:15 – NEB).
- This would fit the tarrying time concept when a waiting period ends at the time Jesus announces “time will no longer be delayed” [Revelation 10:6b (“delayed” missing in KJV); cf. Habakkuk 2:2-3].
- He makes this announcement in the context of Sabbath language. It is as though He is announcing, “Let’s move forward to the final *Shemita* Sabbath and the last *Yovel* Sabbath so long awaited.”
- What follows in this Revelation 10 message when time will no longer be delayed?
- Two three-and-a-half-year prophecies related to the time of trouble (Revelation 11:2-3), representing *two events* during a *single time period*.
- That period, contextually, is the final time remaining on the clock (the last year being a *Shemita*) – then Jesus returns (Revelation 11:12).

Thus, the *Shemita* Sabbath would bring a time that the ***land begins to rest*** – or in the very end ***becomes desolate***. This would coincide with the first four Trumpets and the sixth Seal. Planet earth will come to its final rest.

- The weight of evidence suggests that from Trumpet one into Jacob’s Trouble and deliverance is one year.
- A *shemita* remaining from Daniel 9!!!

The *Yovel* Sabbath would be the time when complete liberty of God’s people becomes a final reality.

- It would be the ultimate time when God’s corporate body is complete and holy.
- Let’s explore this issue deeper.

### **Salvic Meaning of the Land Rest**

The ***first key*** to how the Sabbath year and Jubilee were to be ***unique periods*** came from ***three*** guidelines related to their observance (Leviticus 25:1-7; Exodus 23:10-11; Deuteronomy 15:1-6, 31:10-13).

1. God ***must have*** a special people or “host” to make it effective.
2. God’s people must be ***in*** the Promised Land – or associated with a land at rest.
3. The Sabbath relates to “*land use*” directives.

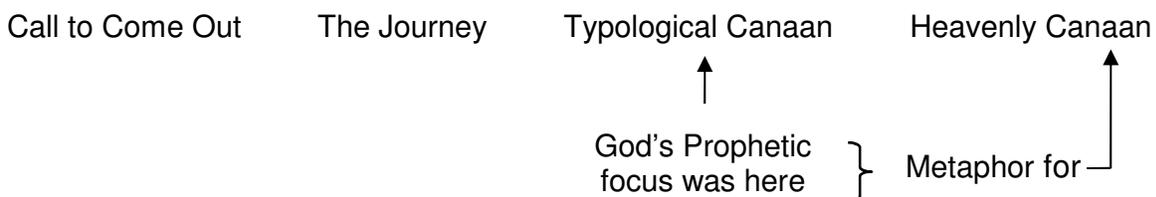
Repeatedly, **God's Shemita** instruction uses the Sabbath as a metaphor tied to land directives: *"shall the **land** keep a Sabbath," "a Sabbath of rest to the **land**," "the Sabbath of the **land** shall be meat for you."*

- The Executive Committee of the Jewish encyclopedia noted: "The septennate or seventh year and the laws regarding the Jubilee were so important, like the Decalogue, they were ascribed to the legislation of Mount Sinai."<sup>3</sup>
- Those Sabbaths would not, however, be observed for 40 years (a full generation) – because of a deficiency of the three points noted above.

We get an introductory meaning to these Sabbaths by looking at Abraham:

- He was chosen to "leave" Ur and "journey" to Canaan, the Promised Land.
- *"Get thee out of thy country ... **unto a land**"* (Genesis 12:1).

Paul later said: *"By faith Abraham, when called to go **to a place** he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going. By faith he made his home in the **promised land** like a stranger in a foreign country; he lived in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. **For he was looking forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God**"* (Hebrews 11:7-10 – NIV).



Jacob, after his ladder dream between earthly Canaan and heavenly Canaan, said:

- *"Surely the LORD is in **this place**; and I knew it not. And he was afraid, and said, How dreadful is this place! this is none other but the house of God, and **this is the gate of heaven**"* (Genesis 28:16-17).
- Canaan was more than a geographic promise – it was to be the "gate to heaven" where eternal promise awaited.

The "land" became a prophetic reminder of the covenant promise:

- When Israel would arrive at their "inheritance" – Canaan
- A new and deeper significance was to come to the "land of promise," which was begun with Abraham.
- God wanted **special time** in that land when, in the "Land of Promise," they:

<sup>3</sup> jewishencyclopedia.com – "Shemita."

- Would not have any work or secular activity
- Would get as close to the typology of heaven as possible!

Thus – through the *Shemita* land Sabbath and the *Yovel* Sabbath.

- Israel had 40 years to prepare for that wonderful time and experience.
- When they arrived, God stipulated that (Leviticus 25:1-7):
  1. During the seventh year, the land was to rest.
  2. No crops could be planted – no harvest made.
  3. Permanent vines (i.e., grapes) and trees (i.e., olive) were to remain unpruned and
  4. All the people – everyone – could glean from the fields, vines and trees.
  5. The land became, in essence, a borderless place.
  6. All Israeli debts were to be forgiven (Deuteronomy 15:1).
  7. At *Yovel* slaves were released and purchased land was returned to original tribal owner/families. It became a “little heaven.”

God miraculously provided excess crops on the sixth (man’s day), so the seventh (God’s day) and at *Yovel* (God’s super Sabbath), the eighth, there would be enough food for all.

- The people were reminded that the land was really His.
- They saw the provisions He provided miraculously.
- Property and plants were accessible to everyone.

Suddenly, everyone was equal, at peace and free.

In the great prayer of Christ, recorded in John 17, He asked regarding His people (He is now one with them):

- That they might be one (vss 20-23)
- That they might be gifted to enter the heavenly Canaan (vs 24) (they were figuratively no longer in the world – vs 11).

The *Shemita* and *Yovel*:

1. Tested man’s dependence on God
2. Put a check on his aggressiveness to attain and achieve
3. Revealed the importance of how sacred God’s laws are
4. Added a new dimension to the Sabbath
5. Became a metaphor of the heavenly Canaan
6. Represented the ultimate bonding with heaven and each other

## Conditional Promise and Loss

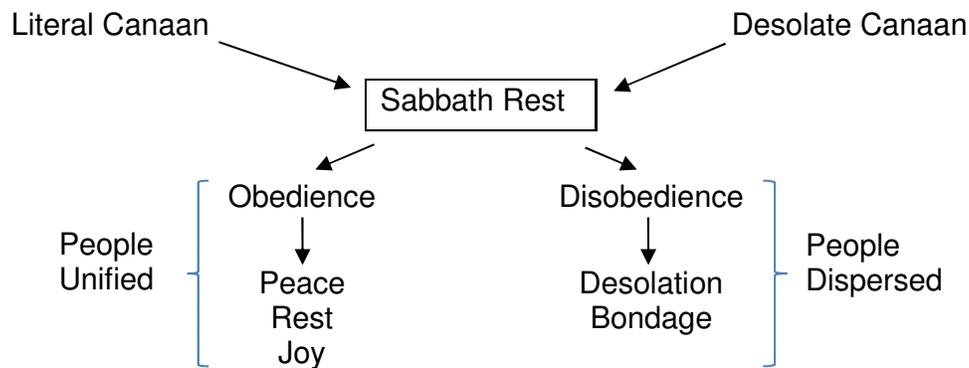
The *Shemita* Sabbath and *Yovel* sacredness were so important and such holy events that God warned:

- The people would be destroyed
- And the land made desolate
- **If** – they dishonored those “sacred seven” commands (Deuteronomy 28:63-67)
  - “*I will make your cities waste*” (Leviticus 26:31, 33)
  - “*Bring your sanctuaries into desolation*” (Leviticus 26:31)
  - “*Bring your land into desolation*” (Leviticus 26:32-33)

God had painfully and prophetically warned through Jeremiah that this would occur (25:11).

- As long as it lay desolate, the land would rest and enjoy her Sabbaths (Leviticus 26:34-35).
- It would be like heaven without people!

Land rest [*eres – Shabbath (Shabbat)*] is a metaphor for all Sabbath rest.

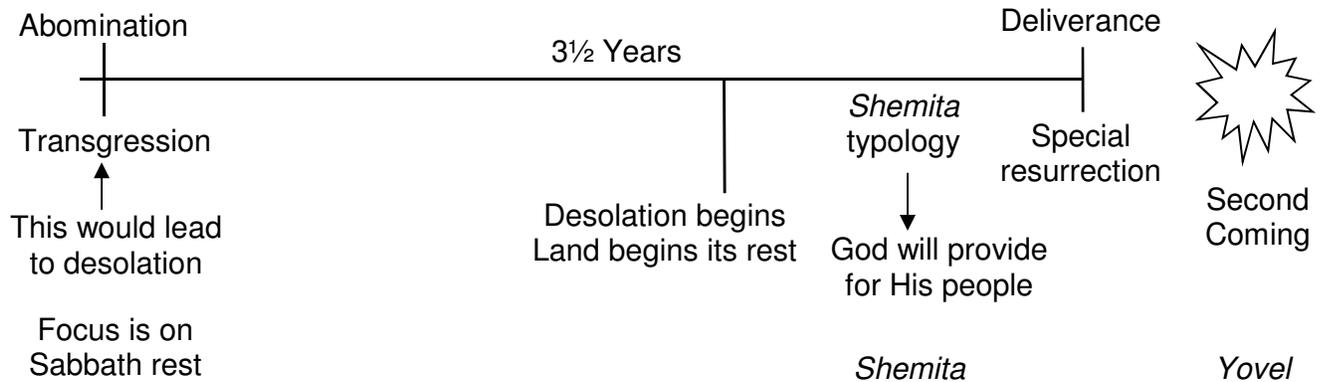


Daniel talks of a sin (transgression) that leads to desolation and an abomination that leads to desolation.

- Both represent mockery of the seventh-day Sabbath at the end of time.
- What happened to Judah over the sabbatical year is symbolic for what will occur to those dishonoring God and never enter into the eternal rest.

**A special three-and-a-half-year period** lies ahead to bring honor back to that Sabbath, put away sin and reconcile all issues related to iniquity.

- It's during that 42 months that the *Shemita* will once again have significance – this time with special prophetic meaning.
- It is right after that *Shemita* that the *Yovel* will have its final significance.



From historical records we know that the Roman insignia was an eagle (just like the apostate northern tribe of Dan) – AND had a man's head below it.



**Eagle – Apostasy (something that desecrates)**

**Man (a single person heads the “armies” – must be the antichrist)**

- From these gospel prophecies and history, we can conclude:
  1. The abomination will originate in Rome.
  2. It represents a power that wants to be like God (from the north).
  3. Symbolic of apostasy and rebellion like Dan
  4. Demands loyalty through civil power
  5. A man will be head of a world power.
  6. There will be a reprieve for the remnant to “come out” – flee.
  7. The remnant will know about it before it happens – understand prophecy.
  8. The remnant will have special protection during the last push of the Loud Cry (last gospel message to the world) during the fifth Trumpet period.



## THE ABOMINATION THAT GOD WARNS WILL LEAD TO DESOLATION

### Introduction

It may be one of the most frightening threats in the Bible when God calls man's behavior an "abomination!"

Two key Hebrew words for "abomination":

- *Shiqquwts* (*shiqqus*) – one Hebrew word
  - It is frequently used, especially by Daniel, and always refers to idolatrous practices which God hates (Daniel 12:11, 11:31; Jeremiah 16:18; Ezekiel 5:11, 7:20; II Chronicles 15:8)
  - God's reaction is a judgment response, and He considers the idolater also detestable (Hosea 9:10).
  - God wants his people to recognize the *extreme seriousness* of displaying loyalty to "powers" besides Himself.
  - God wants His people to view sin from His perspective (Deuteronomy 7:6).
- *Towebash* (*toeba*) – This is another Hebrew word that is more generic.
  - It refers also to God's detestable reaction to physical, ritual or ethical issues.
  - Homosexuality (Leviticus 18:22-30, 20:12), eating unclean animals (Deuteronomy 14:3-8), human sacrifices (Deuteronomy 12:31) or dishonesty in business practices (Deuteronomy 25:13-16)
  - Even prayer is an abomination if offered without any intent to obey Him (Proverbs 28:9).
  - Solomon lists seven things that God hates (Proverbs 6:16-19).
  - Ezekiel lists many end-time abominations – especially in chapter 8.

In each case the God of the whole universe (the Creator) is looking at the person or his behavior with **abhorrence**. They have lost their loyalty to the **point** of defiance.

- Can you imagine being abhorred or detested by God?
- It is as though the words sin, transgression and iniquity are not strong enough.
- God wants us to sense one step further – exactly how **He feels!**

There are stunning places where God uses these words that are like bolts of warning to us.

- One is where they are tied to an *end-time prophecy* – it is an alarm that must be urgently understood.
- That is where this chapter begins.

### **Christ Reacts to Religious Leaders and then Warns All Others**

It wasn't long until Jesus would face the Cross.

- His words and actions grew bolder.
- Then He confronts the "*scribes and Pharisees*" with seven woes (Matthew 23:13-29):
  - Seven is the number of perfection – divine completion.
  - These woes represent God's perfect denouncement against abominable things or behavior.
  - It symbolizes God's final wrath against the lost.
  - Those "scribes and Pharisees" no longer had any hope.

"Woe" (*ouai* – Gr.) (*lowy* – Heb.) – has broad use in the Bible.

- It expresses grief (Proverbs 23:29), pain (Jeremiah 10:19) and utter denunciation and judgment (Matthew 23).
  - The outcome of Christ's pronouncement was destruction of Jerusalem (Matthew 23:37, Luke 21:20).
  - And destruction of the temple (Matthew 24:1).
- } Future desolation of the world

Utter desolation (Matthew 23:38, Luke 21:20b) comes from woes.

Abominable Behavior ( <i>sin against God</i> ) Competition with loyalty to God	Judicial Sentence ( <i>woe</i> ) Judgment to come	Punishment ( <i>desolation</i> ) The last three Trumpets are preceded by woe warnings Desolation is coming
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In this farewell denunciation, Jesus was in the temple for the last time.<sup>1</sup>

- He stood calm before them with the dignity of a king.
- His warnings had been previously given carefully and faithfully; yet, they despised His teaching and wanted His blood.
- This final act had a special purpose. He must speak more plainly to those Jewish leaders.

<sup>1</sup>Adapted, *The Desire of Ages*, pp. 610-620.

- The priesthood had become corrupt.
- They revered the past and tradition.
- They perverted the Scriptures.

These leaders were about “to fill to overflowing their cup of iniquity” in killing Christ!

- The leaders were silenced.
- As Jesus left the temple, Christ must have experienced a separation struggle. It would be the last time a divine presence would be in a Jewish temple.

In the lamentation of Christ the very heart of God is pouring itself forth. It is the mysterious farewell of the long-suffering love of the Deity that mankind will never fully understand.

It is shortly after this setting that the end-time abominations are presented!

- Matthew 24, Mark 13 and Luke 21 open up vital apocalyptic issues to God’s people.
- Two ends of time are unfolded:
  1. To the Jewish people and the destruction of Jerusalem from Roman hatred.
  2. To the remnant of God’s people when they will be hated by another Roman power.

In the middle of this profound discourse to the disciples, Jesus describes a **sign** that is the cue for God’s people to “**flee.**”

- An **abomination** will come and try to surround God’s people and His church
- When this is **seen by those who know its meaning**
- Jesus said, “Flee” – get out of the apostate city – out of where you reside.

***To the Jewish people, that represented the Roman armies surrounding Jerusalem with their pagan standards.***

- Josephus, the great Jewish historian, tells us that the Romans burned the temple and offered sacrifices to their *ensigns* placed by the eastern gate when they proclaimed Titus as Emperor.<sup>2</sup>
- The Roman army is further called the *abomination* on account of the images of the *emperor* and the *eagle*, carried in front of the legions, and regarded by the Romans with divine honors.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> *Robertson’s New Testament Word Picture* on Matthew 24:15 (Power Bible CD, Online Publishing, Inc., Chicago, IL); bible@mail.com.

<sup>3</sup> *Albert Barns New Testament Commentary* on Matthew 24:15 (Power Bible CD, Online Publishing, Inc., Chicago, IL); bible@mail.com.

But Jesus had far more that He wanted us to understand.

- He said that **this** abomination was spoken of by the prophet Daniel (Matthew 24:15).
- That is where **the final end-time application details** are found.
- He also used the word “when” you see – this is a timing message – the “sign” will be observed.

Thus, one would find:

1. When physical Jerusalem would fall – there would be a warning (which was three and a half years per history).
2. When spiritual Babylon would fall – there would be a warning that is predicted to be three and a half years (timing from Daniel and Revelation).

The abomination (*bdelugma* – Gr.) would stand or occupy a spot in the holy place where it shouldn't be (Mark 13:14, Matthew 24:15).

- “When” you see – it will be very apparent.
- “When” you are aware that something detestable to God:
  - Takes its place where it shouldn't be in the church
  - Armies or enemies will encompass Jerusalem or God's people – legal power comes to enforce
  - You will know that a time of supreme danger has arrived

It is time for you to act.

- The Holy Place represents the precincts of God's church or His people corporately.
- Something detestable will come in.
- Jesus didn't say in the gospels what it really was.
- He only said, “It is found in the writings of Daniel the prophet”!

### **Daniel Continues Jesus' Information Line**

To understand Christ's apocalyptic concerns of the abomination in Daniel, it is helpful to begin with the final judgment scene – **desolation**.

- “Desolation” (*shamen* – somen) means *everything is destroyed*, there is nothing left.
- Three times Daniel uses this term in chapters 8–12.

Death and desolation occur because of some “terrible wrong.”

- How does this desolation fit into the last days?
- *“Behold, the day of the LORD cometh, cruel both with wrath and fierce anger, to lay the land desolate: and he shall destroy the sinners thereof out of it”* (Isaiah 13:9).
- *“And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name”* (Revelation 14:11).

*“The workers of iniquity with their wicked works will be consumed. Calamities on every hand, earthquake and fire and flood, the weapons of judgment in the hand of God, point to the more terrible destruction yet in the future, which the Word of God predicts will soon desolate the earth.”<sup>4</sup>* (Revelation 6 – sixth seal)

- “The desolate earth will be the home of Satan with his evil angels for a thousand years” (Revelation 20:1-2).

The curse of desolation is emptiness, nothing to relate to, loss of all.

- ***Our deep concern, then, is: What sin, what behavior brings on God’s desolating wrath?***

The first time Daniel addresses *Shamen* is when quoting Gabriel as he questions Jesus (8:13).

- He is asking ***when*** the little horn or antichrist will act out the things described.
- In his questions he refers to a transgression of that little horn that leads to desolation. *That’s where our clue lies!*

Before God uses the word “abomination” (His personal reaction) that leads to desolation:

- God – through Gabriel – wants us to know what ***sin*** (transgression) is related to the desolation; then later, His reaction – He calls it an “abomination.”
- God has listed many sins that will bar the human soul from His kingdom (cf. Romans 1:21-32, I Corinthians 6:9-10, II Timothy 3:2-6, Ephesians 5:3-5, Matthew 23).

But ***this*** sin that Gabriel refers to is extremely unique, enlightening and stunning!

- There is ***ONE*** sin that will be ***pivotal*** and ***lead to desolation***.
- It is usually interpreted as “transgression” or “rebellion.” In Hebrew, the word is ***pasha***.

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<sup>4</sup> Adapted, *The Review and Herald*, January 11, 1912.

Lots of work has been done by many scholars on this word.<sup>5</sup>

- It is a word that designates:
  1. Rejection of God's authority
  2. Rejection of God's covenant
  3. Rejection of God's law
- It is a unique word that is called a collective expression or summation of a fractured relationship with God.
- To some it pits man's character against God's character (Exodus 34:7, Numbers 14:18, Joshua 24:19, I Kings 8:50, Proverbs 19:11, Micah 7:18).
- It is thought to be the worst word for "sin" in the Hebrew Bible.

What single act could man commit that would defy His authority, reject His covenant and undermine His law?

Let's cautiously analyze this:

- *"Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work: But the seventh day is the sabbath of the LORD thy God: ... in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea ... and blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it"* (Exodus 20:8-11, Deuteronomy 5:12-14, 31:17).
- God's authority is based upon His creatorship, honored in the Sabbath.
- *"And remember that thou wast a servant in the land of Egypt, and that the LORD thy God brought thee out thence ... therefore the LORD thy God commanded thee to keep the sabbath day"* (Deuteronomy 5:15) (Sabbath deliverance or covenant reminder).
- The Sabbath is a reminder of deliverance. It is a deliverance message.
- *"Speak thou also unto the children of Israel, saying, Verily my sabbaths ye shall keep: for it is a sign between me and you throughout your generations; that ye may know that I am the LORD that doth sanctify you. Ye shall keep the sabbath therefore; for it is holy unto you: every one that defileth it shall surely be put to death: for whosoever doeth any work therein, that soul shall be cut off from among his people"* (Exodus 31:13-14).
- God's covenant is centered in the Sabbath. It is the promise of full restoration back to a character like God's (holiness – sanctification).

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<sup>5</sup> Harris, R. Laird; *Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament*, vol II, p. 1846a.

- In fact, we could paraphrase these thoughts and say, “God’s covenant sign or mark is His Sabbath.”

These admonitions relate to God’s eternal law, which contains that Sabbath “sign ... forever” (Exodus 31:17).

In Daniel 8, 11 and 12, the antichrist is shown to rebel against the Sabbath – the “transgression” (*be•pesha*) that God calls the “abomination.”

Notice a very interesting *sequence* in the flow of determination messages in Daniel 8–12 regarding this:

<b><u>Transgression (<i>pesha</i>)</u></b>	<b><u>God’s Wrath</u></b>	<b><u>Abomination</u></b>
Gabriel’s key issue when questioning Christ (Daniel 8:13)	Inserted in a timing message related to the transgression (Daniel 8:19)	God’s descriptive feeling over the transgression that leads to desolation (Daniel 11:31, 12:11)

Christ’s counsel in Matthew 24:15 to go to Daniel for the abomination information must encompass chapters 8–12. They represent a unique Hebrew unit of end-time information.

### **The Desolation Message Expands**

The next thought comes from Daniel’s prayer, “*O my God, incline thine ear and hear; open thine eyes, and behold our desolations*” (Daniel 9:18).

- Within that prayer, he noted that the people were desolate.
- And the city was desolate.
- He wanted them restored. Why? Because:
- “*Thy city and thy people are called by thy name.*”
- When His name is tarnished, there is only one end that must come – desolation. When there is restoration, as per Daniel’s prayer, His name is magnified.

Then Gabriel notes (in the prayer response to Daniel on God’s behalf):

- That God’s response to continued resistance will be more desolation (9:26).
- At the consummation at the very end, because these abominations will be spread everywhere, God will make everything desolate (9:27).

God is hinting in Daniel’s prophecies that “I simply can’t have the Sabbath (*ha•tamid*) tampered with.”

Interesting:

- **God's throne** relates to the **north**.

*"Beautiful for situation, the joy of the whole earth, is mount Zion, on the **sides of the north**, the city of the Great King" (Psalm 48:2).*

*"How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the **sides of the north**: I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High" (Isaiah 14:12-14).*

- The little horn (end-time antichrist), that sets up the abomination, comes out of the north where he has been deceptively trying to be like God.

*"And out of one of them came forth a little horn, which waxed exceeding great, toward the south, and toward the east, and toward the pleasant land (Daniel 8:9).*

Apostasy (abominations) leads to displacement of God from His rightful place.

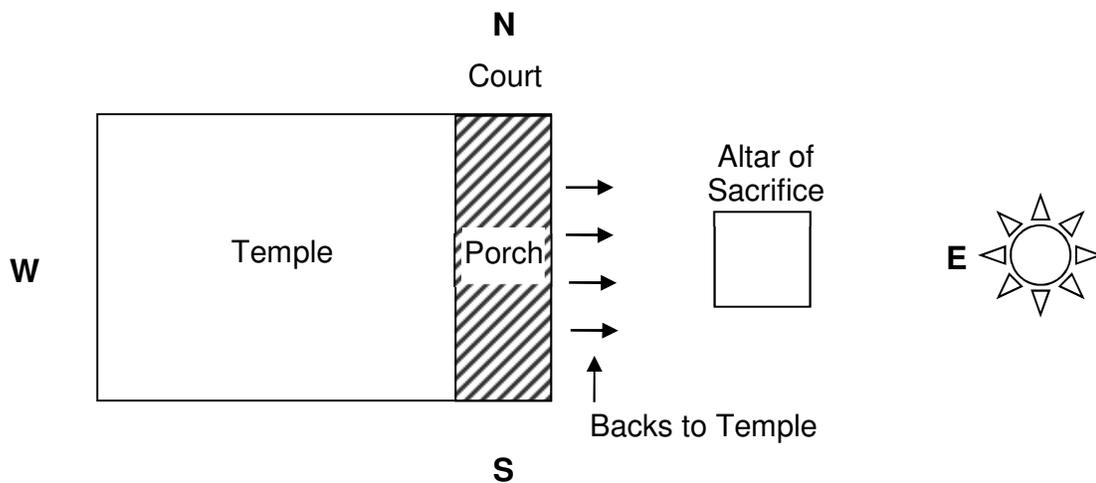
- It stands where it ought not be (Mark 13:14).
- A false leader against truth is set up as if he represented God or His will.
- That is why Daniel heard in the little horn prophecy that *"by reason of the transgression [peshah] truth was cast down"* (Daniel 8:12).

Ezekiel 8 adds additional rich insight into the God reaction to sin. *"Abomination"* there is the word *towebah*.

- Ezekiel entered a vision experience (8:1-4) and is brought to Jerusalem – symbolic for the center of God's people.
1. He "landed" so he could view the north gate of the inner court of the temple where God's glory was supposed to be:
    - Blocking its entrance was a seated idol.
    - God called it *"jealousy"* to make known that He is a jealous God (His reaction).
    - Trying to be like God in the north gate is a *"detestable idol."*
    - God's entrance to the "temple" area was blocked. God called it an *"abomination."*
    - God gave Ezekiel an *eschatological* idiom (*"look up"* and see this idol).
  2. Then Ezekiel is taken to enlarge a hole in the temple where he was to then pass into its precincts. That represented how hard it was to see the deception

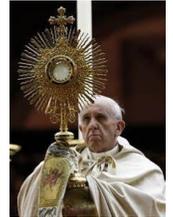
within the church. Seventy church leaders are worshipping idols and images of creatures.

- They were doing this in the dark so God wouldn't see them.
  - Seventy recalls the number of leaders Moses used to guide the affairs of the people (Exodus 24:1, Numbers 11:16, 24-25).
    - They represent the full complement of church leaders in the world church.
  - Jaazaniel was at the center of the seventy, representing a secular/religious leader.
  - He is tied to a church and state.
    - His name means "Yahweh listens" – pretending to represent God.
    - He symbolizes the antichrist, the last papal head, right at the end.
  - Those leaders are worshipping "images" around the room.
3. In the next abomination he is shown women near the north gate, facing God's house (temple):
- Crying over the god Tammuz.
  - This pagan god was related to the cycle of life.
  - The Hebrew expression "the Tammuz," as recorded here, is a chant.
  - Tammuz is dead (dies once per year), and they are crying to him. They are praying to the dead that he might live once again.



4. In the final abomination (which God calls the worst), Ezekiel sees 25 men worshipping the sun.

- The east is the direction that Jesus – the Deliverer – will come to recover the redeemed.
- God forbade solar or astral cults or worship (Deuteronomy 4:19, 17:2-5).
- These men turned their backs on all that God’s church and His presence symbolized.
  - They worshiped the sun, symbolizing a god who was mysterious and extraterrestrial.
  - The adoption of the sun in much of Catholic imagery is an abomination.
- This is epitomized by a huge sunburst above the “chair of Peter.”
- Allegedly, the father of the Christian Catholic Church in St. Peter’s Basilica.



### **Additional Abomination Clues**

“God is infinitely holy, and he hates every species of iniquity. He is great in power, and he will punish the mightiest with the most depraved. He first gives to transgressors oft-repeated warnings. If the heart is hardened, if it refuses to heed the warnings given, and to accept the means of salvation, God will make men feel that as he has exalted and favored them, so he has to do with their casting down. When God has forsaken those whom he has highly favored, no earthly power can avail. God is long-suffering, not willing that any should perish; but his forbearance has a limit, and when the boundary is passed, there is no second probation. His wrath will go forth, and he will destroy without remedy.”<sup>6</sup>

Chapter 8 of Ezekiel represents a special new apocalyptic bulletin. The Sabbath has already been a focal issue to the Jews with God reacting to its desecration.

The next chapter, Ezekiel 9, discusses the sealing and mortal judgment against rebellion in the house of God.

- On the eve of God’s judgment against His rebellious people
- He notes in sequence those four detestable issues:
  1. Things that take the place of God
  2. Church leaders with image worship and a leader from a church and state entity
  3. Speaking to the dead – gods/saints
  4. Sun/celestial worship

<sup>6</sup> White, Ellen G.; *The Youth Instructor*, March 28, 1905.

## The Harlot/Beast Clue to the Abomination

The harlot riding a beast in Revelation 17 has a golden cup in her hand.

- The allusion of purity and righteousness comes from that gold metallic imagery.
- But it is all a veneer by the antichrist – harlot.
- The angel said that it was full of abominations (vs 4).
- The harlot is an apostate church with evil (abominations) that she illicitly shares (called fornication) with the world. What abominations? It appears, collectively, that they are those of Daniel 8–12 and Ezekiel 8. The Sabbath concern is highlighted.

This woman and the beast are part of the false trinity, depicted in Revelation 16:13, 14 and 19 as three unclean spirits going out to deceive the nations.

- The harlot is drunk with the blood of saints.
  - That is described further on in the prophecy of Revelation 13.
  - The end-time blood of the saints relate directly to the apostate “mark of the beast” (Sunday worship).
  - It’s over the Sabbath issue, as we will dramatically see, when discussing “666.”
- The beast is even being worshiped by the world (Revelation 13:4).

## The King of the North Clue

In Daniel 8 we saw a little horn.

- Daniel 11 is a review chapter.
- The antichrist powers are first described as a “vile person”
- Then as “king of the north”
- He hates God’s covenant (11:30), which includes the Sabbath.
- He pollutes the sanctuary (church).
- Then he places or decrees the abomination that leads to desolation (11:31).
- Stunning! He not only pollutes the church but makes laws to enforce it.
- The papacy will be involved with a false worship day that ties to the end.

Do we have any clue that the Roman Catholic Church wants this?

On July 5, 1998, the late Pope John Paul II wrote an *apostolic letter*, *Dies Domini*, of 50 plus pages. These are a few quotations:

“66. *In this matter, my predecessor Pope Leo XIII in his Encyclical Rerum Novarum spoke of Sunday rest as a worker’s right which the State must guarantee.” (110)*

“67. Therefore, also in the particular circumstances of our own time, ***Christians will naturally strive to ensure that civil legislation respects their duty to keep Sunday holy.***”

“47. Even if in the earliest times it was not judged necessary to be prescriptive, the Church has not ceased to confirm this obligation of conscience, which rises from the inner need felt so strongly by the Christians of the first centuries. It was only later, faced with the half-heartedness of negligence of some, that ***the Church had to make explicit the duty to attend Sunday Mass: more often than not, this was done in the form of exhortation, but at times the Church had to resort to specific canonical precepts.***”

“The present Code reiterates this, saying that ‘on Sundays and other holy days of obligation the faithful are bound to attend Mass.’ (82) ***This legislation has normally been understood as entailing a grave obligation: this is the teaching of the Catechism of the Catholic Church, (83) and it is easy to understand why if we keep in mind how vital Sunday is for the Christian life.***”

“48. Bishops must ensure that Christians appreciate Sunday.”

How does that happen? By using the power of civil law/decrees and ecclesiastical law (canon law) – just as the Bible predicts.

### **Length of the Persecuting Abomination Clue**

From the onset of the command to take away the daily and set up the abomination, a 1290-day (literal) period will follow (Daniel 12:11).

- This coincides with Revelation 11:2, “and the holy city shall they tread underfoot forty and two months.”
- The difference between the 1260 and 1290:
  - 1260 is the length of persecution (Daniel 12:6).
  - The “1290” is the time of the initial laws; then enforcement with persecution coming shortly thereafter.
  - The full length of time of the Sunday issues is 1335 days (Daniel 12:11).

The abomination that God declares comes from the sin of setting up and worshiping on a false Sabbath is followed by persecution for God’s loyalists.

- God said that that would lead to ruin and desolation. Thus we know now that all this ***is*** very end-time.

What about the apostates’ relationship to the Sabbath? That will be our next study.



## SABBATH AND THE ANTICHRIST

### Introduction

At the very end God's people will be subjected to persecution and martyrdom. This time of tribulation is portrayed through various Biblical expressions:

- *"Cast down some of the host ... and stamped upon them"* (Daniel 8:10).
- *"They shall fall by the sword, and by flames, by captivity, and by spoil, many days"*  
(Daniel 11:33).
- *"Tread under foot"* (Revelation 11:2)
- *"Went to make war with the remnant"* (Revelation 12:17)
- *"Should be killed"* (Revelation 13:15)
- *"No man might buy or sell"* (Revelation 13:17)

Since Sabbath issues play a prominent role in end-time events, could this holy day be one of the reasons God's people are harmed?

***"Conscientious obedience to the word of God"*** will be treated as rebellion.

Blinded by

Satan, the parent will exercise harshness and severity toward the believing child; the master or mistress will oppress the commandment-keeping servant. Affection will be alienated; children will be disinherited and driven from home. The words of Paul will be literally fulfilled: 'All that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.' 2 Timothy 3:12. ***As the defenders of truth refuse to honor the Sunday-sabbath***, some of them will be thrust into prison, some will be exiled, some will be treated as slaves. To human wisdom all this now seems impossible; but as the restraining Spirit of God shall be withdrawn from men, and they shall be under the control of Satan, who hates the divine precepts, there will be strange developments. The heart can be very cruel when God's fear and love are removed."<sup>1</sup>

Let's explore how these developments will unfold.

### The Abomination of Desolation

In the previous chapter, *"The Abomination that God Warns will Lead to Desolation"*:

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<sup>1</sup> Adapted, *The Great Controversy*, pp. 607-608 (emphasis added).

- We saw Christ’s imperative that we understand the tie between His end-time discourse (Matthew 24:15, Mark 13:14, Luke 21:20) and Daniel’s record of the “**abomination.**”
- It became clear that the end-time “*abomination*” was a **pivotal word**, representing rebellion against the Sabbath.
- This was defined as resistance against God’s:
  - Authority
  - Covenant
  - Law
 } Expressed through the Hebrew word “*pesha*” – *transgression*

Those three issues are embodied in the Sabbath commandment (Exodus 20:8-11, Deuteronomy 5:12-15). Therefore, *if* there is a challenge to the Sabbath at the end – and we now know that will occur:

- There must be opposition to **each** of those items
- Someone (some movement – some power) must emerge who:
  - Questions or tries to displace God’s authority
  - Resists the restoration message of the covenant
  - Undermines the importance of His law

We have referred to several Biblical labels regarding the *person* or *apostate body* that will lead in this rebellion:

- Little horn
- Vile person
- King of the north
- Babylon
- Man of sin
- Beast
- Harlot

Collectively, they refer to the “antichrist” – one in competition with Jesus – and his supporters.

- Persecution of those resisting him is often in the prophetic context of the Sabbath – that is, the setting up of the “*abomination*” (false sabbath) and the removal of the “*daily*” (true Sabbath).
- Evaluating the nature of the antichrist’s end-time work will help us see what confronts God’s loyalists to the Sabbath.

### **The Antichrist is Anti-Sabbath**

The word antichrist is used only five times in the Bible.

- These are all in I and II John:
  - “Little children, it is the last time: and as ye have heard that **antichrist** shall come, even now are there many **antichrists**; whereby we know that it is the last time.... Who is a liar but he that denieth that Jesus is the Christ? He is **antichrist**, that denieth the Father and the Son” (I John 2:18, 22).
  - “And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of **antichrist**, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world” (I John 4:3).
  - “For many deceivers are entered into the world, who confess not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an **antichrist**” (II John 7).

At first glance it appears that the “*antichrist*” would be easy to define.

- Denies Jesus as Christ
- Denies the Father and Son
- Denies that Jesus Christ came in the flesh

But John adds a crucial caveat: The antichrists are “*deceivers*” (II John 7), “*liars*” (I John 2:22), “*seducers*” (I John 2:26).

- That means that the denial of Jesus and the Father is **undercover**.
- It is not overt but **covert**.
- It is done under **pretext**.
- John also said, “***they went out from us***” (they had been Christian).

From what we have observed previously, anyone who denies the Father or the Son challenges God’s authority, undermines the covenant, demeans His law. He is an abominator – which ties to the antichrist.

### Who or what is the antichrist?

“Wycliffe, Tyndale, Luther, Calvin, Cranmer; in the seventeenth century, Bunyan, the translators of the King James Bible and the men who published the Westminster and Baptist Confessions of Faith; Sir Isaac Newton, John Wesley, Whitfield, Jonathan Edwards; and more recently Spurgeon, Bishop J. C. Ryle and Dr. Martyn Lloyd-Jones; these men among countless others, ***all saw the office of the Papacy as the antichrist***.... The Reformers and their heirs were great scholars and knew the Word of God and the Holy Spirit as a living teacher.”<sup>2</sup>

### The Sabbath recognizes God as the Creator and Owner of the Earth.

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<sup>2</sup> de Semlyen, Michael; *All Roads Lead to Rome* (Dorchester House Publications, 1991), pp. 205-206 (emphasis added).

- Deuteronomy 10:14 – “Behold, the heaven and the heaven of heavens is the LORD’S thy God, the earth also, with all that therein is” (**pre-Cross** – cf. Exodus 9:29, Psalm 24:1).
- I Corinthians 10:26 – “For the earth is the Lord’s, and the fulness thereof” (**post-Cross**).
- We are to even derive insights into God’s character through His creation (Romans 1:20). They belong to Him.

Yet – on October 8, 2000, Pope John Paul II consecrated the world to “Mary Most Holy.”<sup>3</sup>

- Pope Pius XII wrote an encyclical to Mary (“*To the Queen of Heaven*”).
  - He is the one who formalized Mary as a mediator along with Christ.
  - He asked her to reign over the church, men’s minds, streets, cities, villages, valleys, mountains, air, land and sea.
  - Blasphemy! What else could it be called?

Jesus said that the **Holy Spirit** would be **His representative** on this earth (John 15:26). **He is the true vicar.**

- Yet, the pope claims that he is the vicar or representative of Jesus.<sup>4</sup>
- This claim by a man – the pope – *denies that Jesus came in the flesh* by rejecting the need for a *divine* representative, which Christ said was necessary after He left!

The Sabbath is the *day* to “remember” **the** Creator. The Spirit is assigned to “bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you” (John 14:26) – including God’s creatorship. The Father sends the Holy Spirit in Christ’s name (John 14:26).

- Claiming to be the “Vicar of Christ,” the pope is, in turn, denying the Father’s role in sending the Spirit, Christ’s representative.
- This claim mocks the Trinity of the universe.
- “Those who become confused in their understanding of the Word, who fail to see the meaning of antichrist, will surely place themselves on the side of antichrist. There is no time now for us to assimilate with the world. Daniel is standing in his lot and in his place. The prophecies of Daniel and of John are to be understood.”<sup>5</sup>

<sup>3</sup> *L’Osservatore Romano Weekly edition in English*, 11 Oct. 2000 (emphasis added).

<sup>4</sup> Denzinger, Henry; “Unam Sactum,” Nov. 18, 1302, *The Source of Catholic Dogma*, Tr. by Roy. J. Deferrari, 30<sup>th</sup> ed. Of *Enchiridion Symbolorum*, rev. by Karl Rahner, S. J. (St. Louis, MO: B. Herder Book Co., 1957) #694. See also *Catechism of the Catholic Church* (San Francisco: Ignatius Press, 1994) #882 & #936.

<sup>5</sup> White, *7SDABC*, p. 949.

Paul beautifully shares with us that we must believe on ***the Lord Jesus Christ*** from whom we receive the ***“abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness”*** (Romans 5:17) – a free gift to all men (vs 18).

- Yet, the Church of Rome claims that “the fullness of grace and truth [of the Lord Jesus Christ] is alone entrusted to the Catholic Church.”<sup>6</sup>
- Grace is the conduit through which deliverance of man comes. It is the assurance of man’s complete restoration.
- The seventh-day Sabbath is the special day in which man is to remember their deliverance from Egypt (symbolically, from wickedness) (Deuteronomy 5:15).
  - *“Egypt”* = symbolically, wicked world
  - *“Deliverance”* = prophetically from Babylon also (from darkness – no truth)
- Yet, the bishop of Rome (“Pope” Sylvester I) was instrumental in formalizing Sunday as the worship day.

Scripture says that on the Day of Pentecost Peter was *“filled with the Holy Ghost”* (Acts 4:8).

- Under that divine influence, he said: *“Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is **none other name** under heaven given among men, **whereby we must be saved**”* (Acts 4:12).
- Referring to the ***“name of Jesus Christ”*** (4:11)
- Yet: “The Church [Roman Catholic] affirms that for believers the sacraments of the New Covenant are necessary for salvation.”<sup>7</sup> Then in deceptive language, says: “‘Sacramental grace’ [like the eucharist] is the grace of the Holy Spirit, given by Christ and proper to each sacrament.”<sup>8</sup>
  - What is gripped in the priest’s or pope’s hand is a “thing,” an “idol,” that Rome claims is indispensable for salvation.
  - Mocking God’s throne is the claim that the Spirit brings grace through an idol.
- Yet – the papacy states that those sacraments, necessary for salvation, are “declared” and “defined” and “proclaimed” to “every creature” to be:
  - Subject to the authority of the Roman Pontiff<sup>9</sup>

Prompted by a question from Jesus, Peter testified:

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<sup>6</sup> Dominus Iesus, Section 16  
[http://www.vatican.va/roman\\_curia/congregations/cfaith/documents/rd\\_con\\_cfaith\\_doc\\_20000806\\_dominus-iesus\\_en.html](http://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/congregations/cfaith/documents/rd_con_cfaith_doc_20000806_dominus-iesus_en.html)

<sup>7</sup> *Catechism*, #1129.

<sup>8</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>9</sup> Denzinger, *Op. cit.*, #469.

- **“Thou art that Christ, the Son of the Living God” (John 6:69).**
- **“Thou art the Christ” (Mark 8:29).**
- Jesus, in one of His most profound self-declarations, said: **“Before Abraham was, I AM” (John 8:58).**
- This means that He was:
  - Self-existent<sup>10</sup>
  - Eternal<sup>11</sup>
  - The Word, one with God (John 1, 10:30)
  - The Creator

In an “Apostolic Exhortation” (1996), Pope John Paul II was referred to as holding this position by implication:

- “The Lord Pope”
- “Sweet Christ on Earth”<sup>12</sup>

Denying the brotherhood of every person, Pope Leo XIII (in an encyclical letter dated June 20, 1894) stated: “We hold upon this earth the place of God Almighty.”

A Catholic newspaper, *The Catholic National*, similarly stated in July 1895: “The Pope is not only the representative of Jesus Christ but he is Jesus Christ himself hidden under the veil of flesh.”

- Jesus said, “One is your Master, *even* Christ; and all ye are brethren” (Matthew 23:8).

The next logical step in apostasy would be the assumption of authority to change Biblical laws: **“And he shall speak great words against the most High ... and *think to change times and laws*” (Daniel 7:25).**

1. “Perhaps the boldest thing, the most revolutionary change the Church ever did, happened in the first century. The holy day, the Sabbath, was changed from Saturday to Sunday. ‘The Day of the Lord’ (*dies domini*) was chosen, not from any direction noted in the Scriptures, but from the Church’s sense of its own power.... People who think that the Scriptures should be the sole authority, should logically ... keep Saturday holy.”<sup>13</sup>
2. “We Catholics do not accept the Bible [God’s Holy Word] as the only rule of faith. Besides the Bible we have the living Church [man’s institution], the au-

<sup>10</sup> White, *The Desire of Ages*, p. 470.

<sup>11</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 469.

<sup>12</sup> [http://www.vatican.va/holy\\_father/john\\_paul\\_ii/apost\\_exhortations/documents/hf\\_ip-ii\\_exh\\_25031996\\_vita-consecrata\\_en.html](http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/john_paul_ii/apost_exhortations/documents/hf_ip-ii_exh_25031996_vita-consecrata_en.html) [item #46]

<sup>13</sup> *Saint Catherine Catholic Church Sentinel*, May 21, 1995.

thority of the Church, as a rule to guide us. We say this Church, instituted by Christ to teach and guide man through life, has the right to change the ceremonial laws of the Old Testament; and hence, we accept her change of the Sabbath to Sunday. [Note: The seventh-day Sabbath was never a ceremonial law.]

“We frankly say, ‘Yes, the Church made this change, made this law, as she made many other laws, for instance the Friday abstinence, the un-married priesthood, the laws concerning mixed marriages, the regulations of Catholic marriages, and a thousand other laws.’”<sup>14</sup>

3. While still void of its church/state structure (1923), this declaration came from the Vatican:

“Now in the matter of Sabbath observance the Protestant rule of Faith is utterly unable to explain the substitution of the Christian Sunday for the Jewish Saturday. It has been changed. The Bible still teaches that the Sabbath or Saturday should be kept holy. There is no authority in the New Testament for the substitution of Sunday for Saturday. Surely it is an important matter. It stands there in the Bible as one of the Ten Commandments of God. There is no authority in the Bible for abrogating this Commandment, or for transferring its observance to another day of the week.

“For Catholics it is not the slightest difficulty. ‘All power is given Me in heaven and on earth; as the Father sent Me so I also send you,’ said our Divine Lord in giving His tremendous commission to His Apostles. ‘He that heareth you heareth Me.’ We have in the authoritative voice of the Church the voice of Christ Himself. ***The Church is above the Bible; and this transference of Sabbath observance from Saturday to Sunday is proof positive of that fact.*** Deny the authority of the Church and you have no adequate or reasonable explanation or justification for the substitution of Sunday for Saturday in the Third - Protestant Fourth – Commandment of God. As the Rev. Mr. Smith rightly points out: ‘The Jewish Sabbath is not Sunday, the Lord’s Day. Christians are all wrong in speaking of the Sabbath as Sunday.’ The Christians who so speak are ‘Bible Christians,’ those who make the Bible the sole rule of Faith; and the Bible is silent on Sunday observance, it speaks only of Sabbath observance.”<sup>15</sup>

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<sup>14</sup> Tramer, Peter; editor of *The Catholic Extension Magazine*, replying to a question addressed to Pope Pius XI, May 22, 1934.

<sup>15</sup> This “article was published in the Saturday, September 1st, 1923 edition of *The Catholic Record* of London, Ontario, Canada, Volume XLV, #2342 and appeared on page 4. As the author of the article was not indicated, it is assumed to have been written by one of the editors. The boldfacing of the one sentence above was my own emphasis, and not that of the author. A facsimile of that portion of the article. The following information appeared on the same page as the article: *The Catholic Record* (Publisher & Proprietor, Thomas Coffey, LL. D. Editors - Rev. James T. Foley, D. D. and Thomas Coffey, LL. D. Associate Editor - H. F. Mackintosh. Manager - Robert M. Burns.

The Lord said to Moses (His words): “*Verily my sabbaths ye shall keep: for it is a sign between me and you throughout your generations; that ye may know that I am the LORD that doth sanctify [prepare one for cleansing and salvation] you*” (Exodus 31:13).

“Christ is the only true standard of character, and he who sets himself up as a standard for others is putting himself in the place of Christ. And since the Father ‘hath committed all judgment unto the Son’ whoever presumes to judge the motives of others is again usurping the prerogative of the Son of God. These would-be judges and critics are placing themselves on the side of antichrist, ‘who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.’”<sup>16</sup>

## **Power Over All**

In the Danielic text of changing times and laws is another little phrase: “*they shall be given unto his hand.*”

- This refers to the power the antichrist exerts against God and His saints and over the state.
- “This dictator will impose a new legal system on all his subjects, doubtless based on totalitarian principles in which the service of the government or the state will be substituted for the absolute standards of God’s moral law. All dissent or opposition to the decisions and policies of the little horn will be adjudged treasonable and punishable by death.”<sup>17</sup>

In 1866 a papal apologist, Louis Veuillot, wrote *The Liberal Illusion*.

- This portrayed the Catholic Church’s role in the world as having **total authority** over all.
- It was written when it was becoming clear that the papacy might lose all its land (“papal states”) to the new government of Italy.
- It claimed that Pope Pius IX had:
  - Power over all churches
  - Power over all governments

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The Catholic Record has been approved and recommended by Archbishops Falconio and Sbaretti, late Apostolic Delegates to Canada, the Archbishops of Toronto, Kingston, Ottawa, and St. Boniface, the Bishops of London, Hamilton, Peterborough and Odgensburg, N. Y., and the clergy throughout the Dominion.” <http://www.aloha.net/~mikesch/c-record.htm> (emphasis added).

<sup>16</sup> White, *Lift Him Up*, p. 335.

<sup>17</sup> Gaebelien, Frank E.; *The Expositor’s Bible Commentary*, vol. 12 (Zondervan Publishing House, Grand Rapids, MI), 1984, vol. 7, p. 94.

- It was preparatory to the first Vatican Council of December 8, 1869 (which did occur).
- The land *was* removed in 1870. The church was then left without a state.
  - Yet, at that counsel the ecclesiastical body affirmed the infallibility of the pope – and:
  - The Roman Catholic Church would not support religious liberty as defined by most countries.

The powerful arrogant work of Veillot was almost lost sight of:

- Because the papal state was “*wounded to death*” (1870) (Revelation 13:14) – but it was “*healed.*”
- *Then* that work, by the same title, was resurrected *deceptively* by a conservative Catholic press in 2005.

The pre-publishing documents for *The Liberal Illusion* (to then be published by the *Angelus Press*) were proofed (“revised”) by Bishop Richard Williamson.

- Williamson is seen by many as a radical individual and writer but ***strongly*** allied with the Vatican’s agenda and the then Pope Benedict XVI.

Louis Veillot’s work is now republished as the *The Liberal Illusion* (Feb. 1, 2006; Angelus Press) (sold by many book stores, including Amazon.com). An excerpt by Williamson:

- “Christian society, under normal circumstances, maintains itself and extends its domain by means of two forces that ought to be distinct but not separate, united but not confused, subordinated one to the other, and not equal. The one is the head, the other the arm; the first is the Pontiff’s supreme and final word, the second is the secular power.”<sup>18</sup> (The latter to enforce Rome’s wishes.)

What does that mean?

- The Vatican is against human rationality, individual ***property rights, natural rights***, the protection of ***civil liberties, constitutional limitations*** of government, ***free markets***, and ***individual freedom***.

Remember the dragon (Satan, devil, serpent – Revelation 12:9) gave the antichrist (beast) its power (Revelation 13:4).

- How does this power want to exercise its control over society (the world)?

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<sup>18</sup> *The Liberal Illusion*, p. 78.

- “When the time comes, for truth to prevail and for the social edifice to be rebuilt according to the eternal rules, whether it be tomorrow or centuries from now, Catholics will organize all things as they would for themselves ... They will set up the laws of life... They will **impose religious observance of Sunday** on behalf of society as a whole and for its good.”<sup>19</sup>
- We recall what expositor White said: “The law of God, through the agency of Satan, is to be made void. In our land of boasted freedom, **religious liberty will come to an end**. The contest will be decided over the Sabbath question, which will agitate the whole world.”<sup>20</sup>

The papacy steps up its Sunday agitation:

- On November 27, 2006, Pope Benedict XVI wrote a letter to Cardinal Francis Arinz.
- He was the Prefect (head) of the Congregation (department of the Holy See) for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments.

“With the event of the Resurrection, creation and redemption reach their fulfillment.

“From the very outset, this has been a stable element in the perception of the mystery of Sunday: ‘The Word,’ Origen affirms, ‘has moved the feast of the Sabbath to the day on which the light was produced and has given us as an image of true repose, Sunday, the day of salvation, the first day of the light in which the Savior of the world, after completing all his work with men and after conquering death, crossed the threshold of Heaven, surpassing the creation of the six days and receiving the blessed Sabbath and rest in God’ (*Comment on Psalm 91*). Inspired by knowledge of this, St. Ignatius of Antioch asserted: ‘We are no longer keeping the Sabbath, but the Lord’s Day’ (*Ad Magn.* 9, 1).

“The Second Vatican Council, after pointing out the origin of Sunday, continued: ‘On this day Christ’s faithful are bound to come together into one place.

“Sunday was not chosen by the Christian community but by the Apostles, and indeed by Christ himself, who on that day, ‘the first day of the week,’ rose and appeared to the disciples (cf. Mt 28:1; Mk 16:9; Lk 24:1; Jn 20:1, 19; Acts 20:7; I Cor 16:2), and appeared to them again ‘eight days later’ (Jn 20:26).

“May the ‘Day of the Lord’ that could well be called ‘the lord of days’ regain all its importance and be perceived and lived to the full in the celebration of the Eucharist, from which the Christian community grows authentically and on which it depends (cf. *Presbyterorum Ordinis*, no. 6).”<sup>21</sup>

<sup>19</sup> *Ibid.*, pp. 92-93 (emphasis added).

<sup>20</sup> White, Ellen G.; *Evangelism*, p. 236 (emphasis added).

<sup>21</sup> www.zenit.org, 1/9/07.

How does Sunday, the “Lord’s Day,” regain its importance?

- Pope John Paul II – Benedict’s predecessor, outlined how in 1998.
- #66 ... In this matter, my predecessor Pope Leo XIII in his *Encyclical Rerum Novarum* spoke of Sunday rest as a worker’s right which the State must guarantee.  
#67 ... Therefore, also in the particular circumstances of our own time, Christians will naturally strive to ensure that **civil legislation** respects their duty to keep Sunday holy.  
Source: Apostolic Letter, *Dies Domini*, 31 May, 1998.

### Will this occur?

The false Sabbath, the first day of the week, will be accepted, and the rulers will unite with the *man of sin* (the antichrist) to restore his lost ascendancy (will become a world power). Laws enforcing the observance of Sunday as the Sabbath, will bring about a national apostasy from the principles of republicanism upon which the government has been founded. The religion of the Papacy will be accepted by the rulers, and the law of God will be made void.<sup>22</sup>

Will this be the catalyst to bring persecution to God’s people?

- Persecution outlined:

Dan. 7:25b	“Think to change times and laws.”
8:10	“And it waxed great, even to the host of heaven; and it cast down some of the host and of the stars to the ground, and stamped upon them.”
8:24b	“he shall destroy wonderfully, and shall prosper, and practice, and shall destroy the mighty and the holy people.”
11:33b	“Yet they shall fall by the sword, and by flame, by captivity, and by spoil, many days.”
12:7b	“And when he shall have accomplished to scatter the power of the holy people, all these things shall be finished.”
Matt. 24:9	“Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted, and shall kill you: and ye shall be hated of all nations for my name’s sake.”
Rev. 6:9	“And when he had opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain for the word of God, and for the testimony which they held.”
11:2b	“And the holy city shall they tread under foot forty and two months.”

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<sup>22</sup> Adapted, *Manuscript Releases*, vol. 7, p. 192.

- 12:17a      *“And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed.”*
- 13:7a      *“And it was given unto him to make war with the saints, and to overcome them.”*
- 17:6a      *“And I saw the woman drunken with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus.”*

- Cause of Persecution:

- Rev. 13:15      *“As many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed.”*
- 13:17      *“And 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.”*

“When our nation, in its legislative councils, shall enact laws to bind the consciences of men in regard to their religious privileges, enforcing Sunday observance, and bringing oppressive power to bear against those who keep the seventh-day Sabbath, the law of God will, to all intents and purposes, be made void in our land, and national apostasy will be followed by national ruin.”<sup>23</sup>

### **Injunction: Understand the Antichrist or the “Man of Sin”**

In Jesus’ apocalyptic prophecy to the disciples He unveiled a warning before His event-driven prophecy.

- *“Take heed that no man deceive you”* (Matthew 24:4).
- Paul gave a prophetic discourse to the Thessalonica church: *“Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition”* (II Thessalonians 2:3).
- Notice: Before *“that day”* (the *“coming of our Lord Jesus Christ”* – vs 1) arrives – two things are to occur in **sequence**:
  - Falling away *“first”*
  - *“Man of sin”* or antichrist is revealed

Falling away – apostasy (*apostasia*):

- Denotes complete apostasy from God and His Torah (His law) (Jewish expression in Paul’s day) of the Christian world.<sup>24</sup>
- In I Timothy 4:1 Paul implies that that apostasy means capitulation to false beliefs of heretics.

<sup>23</sup> White, *Last Day Events*, p. 133.

<sup>24</sup> Kittle, Gerhard; *Theological Dictionary of the New Testament*, vol. 1, pp. 513-514.

- Apostasy can only occur in God’s church – ***those who profess to know Jesus.***
  - Because there is a “falling away from” –
  - What specific belief does this apostasy refer to?
  - Revelation 13 denotes a mark (insignia) of this “apostasy” or “deception” with a number related to the name.
  - The next chapter will show that it is the false day of worship.

What is God’s mark?

- The Sabbath is the *sign* of God’s power to restore, **and** that He is “*the Lord your God*” (Exodus 31:13, 17; Ezekiel 20:12, 20).
- Could apostasy against the Sabbath be a sign of the power of the “*man of sin,*” who calls himself God?
- God is identified as the God of the Sabbath (those who disobey receive punishment) (Ezekiel 20:21) – AND – the sovereign Creator through the Sabbath.

That Hebrew word *peshah* (rebellion against God’s authority, law and covenant) describes the sin of the little horn – the antichrist (Daniel 8:12-13).

Are there deeper insights for us to grasp?

- Tactics of the papacy were made public in 1935.
- Shortly after its church/state tie was reestablished at the 1929 Lateran Treaty, one of Pope Pius XI’s advisors said this:

“Her [Roman Catholic Church’s] strength has grown apace under the remarkably able leadership of the present Pope, Pius XI.... ***For him our country is a battlefield*** on which is being waged the greatest struggle of the Church’s history. The conquest of America is the supreme objective at which he aims.” (p. 3) “Pius is well aware that the Catholic Church can never hope again to dominate the civilized world until America kneels, beaten and penitent, at her feet.... (p. 4)

“Officially the Catholic Church sees America in the direst straits in the matter of morals and religion, and sees Catholicism as the only possible way of salvation for the nation.” (p. 7) “It feels assured that it will outlive opposition and will succeed in the end. What are ten or twenty years in the life of the Catholic Church? What is a century for that matter? But confidence in the inevitability of victory does not damp its present ardor for immediate action. Thanks to the present disintegration of American life the hour for action has struck. There is today a Catholic camp where banners float and bugles blare. The great campaign has begun. (p. 8)

“That the Catholic Church is deadly in earnest in campaigning to ‘save America from herself’ cannot be doubted. It is fully in accord with her traditions and her psychology. In whatever country she may be, the moment she feels herself strong enough to dominate thought, conduct and government, she makes the attempt to do so.... (p. 8)

**“Does the Church intend, should the power be hers, to change and modify the Constitution?”** Does she mean to discard the American principle of the separation of Church and State? In fine, does she aim at being *the established church* of the United States? One cannot doubt, in view of the present Pope’s teaching, which indeed is simply the reiteration of age-old Catholic doctrine, that ***the answers should all be in the affirmative.***” (p. 13) “Rome stoops low to conquer in so far as she seeks to win a way into public esteem by ***the false pretense of Interdenominationalism.***.... (p. 125)

“The movement recognizes and *respects* differences of creed and church but urges a co-operative action for fundamental moral values *upon which all are agreed*... (p. 114 – emphasis added)

- “Were Rome to fail to dominate American thought and American lives, her civilization, her moral code, all her glorious incredible dogmas would perish from the earth. Should Rome triumph, she will ascend to a higher state than ever she has enjoyed heretofore. Therefore she must win – if it be given her to win what, as she claims, God has promised – what her Prophets have foretold. Then will the vast West be hers wherein to set up anew her earthly kingdom. And in the fight, as she has ever fought when battles were most desperate in the past, Rome will use steel, and gold, and silvery lie. Rome will stoop to conquer.” (p. 265-267).<sup>25</sup>

This is a stunning admission of her intent, fulfillment of prophecy and who she really is – a deceptive power of Satan – the “*man of sin*” – **the** antichrist (II Thessalonians 2:3).

The antichrist exalts himself “*above all that is called God, or that is worshiped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God*” (II Thessalonians 2:4: “*Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.*”)

- “*Temple*” (*naos*) refers mainly to the church (I Corinthians 1:2).
- “*Sits*” in prophecy means taking one’s place as authority to judge or control that church.
- The Christian world is taken over.

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<sup>25</sup> Barrett, E. Boyd (former Jesuit); *Rome Stoops to Conquer*, Julian Messner, Inc., New York (1935) (emphasis added).

Instead of all eyes being directed to Jesus – head of the church (Ephesians 5:23):

- This “*man of sin*” tries to “*shew himself to be God.*”
- This fulfills over and over the blasphemous prophecies of the little horn (Daniel 7 and 8), king of the north (Daniel 11), beast (Revelation 13) and the harlot (Revelation 17).

“When the land which the Lord provided as an asylum for His people, that they might worship Him according to the dictates of their own consciences, the land over which for long years the shield of Omnipotence has been spread, the land which God has favored by making it the depository of the pure religion of Christ – when that land shall, through its legislators, abjure the principles of Protestantism, and give countenance to Romish apostasy in tampering with God’s law – it is then that the final work of the man of sin will be revealed. Protestants will throw their whole influence and strength on the side of the Papacy; by a national act enforcing the false sabbath, they will give life and vigor to the corrupt faith of Rome, reviving her tyranny and oppression of conscience. Then it will be time for God to work in mighty power for the vindication of His truth.”<sup>26</sup>

### **Summary of Antichrist and the Sabbath**

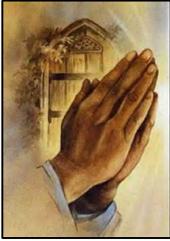
1. The papacy clearly fits the characteristics of the end of time apostate power – the antichrist.
2. It has a focused interest in seeing Sunday legislation and enforcement through civil power.
  - That actively surfaced under Pope John Paul II.
  - It continued with Pope Benedict XVI.
  - Now it is of increasing interest to Pope Francis.
3. A sin described in Daniel’s end-time prophecies relates to rebellion against the Sabbath by the little horn (one of the terms for the antichrist).
4. Later, it is called an abomination (God’s word for that sin).
5. The king of the north – another name for the antichrist – is against God’s covenant.
6. God’s sign or mark of sanctification (fulfillment of the everlasting covenant) is the Sabbath.
7. The antichrist sign or mark relates to his name and his number.

The antichrist champions changing the Sabbath to Sunday.

We will now focus on what that name and number are in prophecy.

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<sup>26</sup> White, *Maranatha*, p. 179.



## MAN'S NUMBER – 666

### Introduction

Christians like to speculate on Biblical numbers. They are objective, can be manipulated, are tied to time or symbols and provide an endless source of fascination.

- Numbers **are** important to prophecy, especially in:
  - Biblical clocks
  - Symbolic coded numbers
- For centuries the meaning of the “mark of the beast” and its 666 number has been part of that excitement.
- Since the apocalyptic end of time is associated with this –
- Its study is important.

*“He also caused everyone (small and great, rich and poor, free and slave) to obtain a mark on their right hand or on their forehead. Thus no one was allowed to buy or sell things unless he had the mark of the beast – that is, his name or his number. This calls for wisdom: Let the one who has insight calculate the beast’s number, for it is man’s number [or number of man], and his number is 666” (Revelation 13:16-18 – NET).*

- 666 is a coded number.
- If we can crack that code, we will know something very important about the beast.

### The Bible and “Mystical Symbols”

“As we near the close of this world’s history, the *prophecies* relating to the last days especially **demand our study**. The **last book** of the New Testament is *full of truth* that we need to understand. Satan has blinded the minds of many, so that they have been glad of any excuse for not making the Revelation their study.

“The book of **Revelation**, in connection with the book of **Daniel**, **demands close study**. Let every God-fearing teacher consider how most clearly to comprehend and present the Gospel that our Saviour came in person to make known to His servant John,—‘The revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto Him, to show unto His servants things which must shortly come to pass.’ **None should become discouraged** in their study of Revelation because of its **apparently mystical symbols**. ‘If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and

upbraideth not.’ ‘Blessed is he that *readeth*, and they that *hear the words* of this prophecy, and *keep those things* which are written therein; for the time is at hand.’ ***We are to proclaim to the world the great and solemn truths contained in the book of Revelation.*** Into the very designs and principles of the church of God these truths are to enter. There should be a closer and more diligent study of this book, a more earnest presentation of the truths it contains, truths which concern all who are living in these last days. ***All who are preparing to meet their Lord should make this book the subject of earnest study and prayer.*** It is just what its name signifies, –a revelation of ***the most important events*** that ***are to take place*** in the ***last days*** of this earth’s history [future to 1906]. John, because of his faithful trust in the word of God, and the testimony of Christ, was banished to the Isle of Patmos. But his banishment did not separate him from Christ. The Lord visited His faithful servant in his banishment, and gave him instruction regarding what was to come upon the world.”<sup>1</sup>

### **Background Analysis of Key Verses**

Let’s look closely at what those Revelation 13 verses say (note that there are two beasts):

#### **King James Version:**

- **Verse 16:** “*He* [earth beast] *causeth* [decrees/laws] *all* [everyone] *to receive* [must have] *the mark* [special symbol or representation of the sea beast] *in their right hands or in their foreheads*” (see body areas below):
  - “*Causeth*” (*poiei*) – means ***forced***. The earth beast (United States – see Appendix III) compels or forces the mark of the sea beast (papacy) on everyone.
    - That means a decree or law is in place – it is its kingdom-wide enforcement (“*them that dwell on the earth*” – vs 14).
  - Where is this mark to be located? (vs 16b)
    - Forehead (mind–heart) – fully accepting, believing or adhering to the meaning of the mark
    - Hand (lip service) (*right* hand is place of honor or authority) – not fully accepting cognitively, but by their actions it appears that they do
- **Verse 17:** Without the mark – one can’t buy or sell (once again, a law is apparent to enforce this decree by the earth beast) (paraphrased).

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<sup>1</sup> *The Signs of the Times* (Pacific Press Publishing Association), July 4, 1906 (emphasis added).

KJV – unless they:

- Have the mark of the beast **or**
  - Name of the beast (blasphemy) –  
or, as we will see shortly, the
  - Number “of his name”  
(mistranslated – addressed below)
- } These are all related

Other Translations Convey Additional Thoughts

- *“And 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. Here is wisdom. Let him that hath understanding count the number of the beast: for it is the number of a man; and his number is Six hundred threescore and six”* (Revelation 13:17-18 – NET).
- The “*mark*” appears to be the key issue – the sign – or the insignia of belonging.
- It is described like this (and this is important):
  - The beast name *is not* separate from the mark – thus, mark ■ name (Revelation 13:17).
  - The beast number *is not* the number of his name (as per the KJV) – it is the number of humanity or mankind – thus, 666 ■ mark of humanity.
  - There is another dimension given to this in the next verse.
- **Verse 18:** Wisdom is to understand and have the ability to count (calculate or derive the meaning) the number of the beast: God calls those wise who grasp the meaning of that number.
  - The number of mankind – 666

Our first clue of a “mark” related to the beast is in verse 1.

- *“And upon his heads is the **name** of blasphemy.”*
  - What is blasphemy? Defiance of God or something He cherishes.
  - Is the mark the same as this blasphemy mark?

When God says, Here is “*wisdom*,” in a prophetic setting, whether in the Old Testament or the New, it usually relates to a prophecy timed when Jesus is about to come (Daniel 11:33, 12:10; Mark 13:14, Revelation 17:9).

1. This means – with proper study and prayer – we will have wisdom and won’t be deceived – we can understand.
2. *“If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him”* (James 1:5).

- Thus, this mark, name or number
- Relates to the very end of time – more specifically, relates to the time just preceding the “*eighth*” of Revelation 17
- 666 relates, in some way, to blasphemy [upon his heads is the **name** “*blasphemy*” – Revelation 13:1 (emphasis added)].

How do we know which beast this is – sea or earth?

- **Revelation 15:2** refers to the saints who had victory over:
  1. The beast
  2. His image – referring to the **sea beast’s** image (13:15)
  3. Or his mark
  4. The number of his name (meaning the number representing his name – the number representing “*blasphemy*”)
- **Revelation 20:4** refers to the martyred saints in heaven who had not worshiped:
  1. The beast
  2. His image } Once again, tied to the **sea beast** (13:15)
 Nor received:
  3. The mark on their foreheads or hand

To discover what this mark and number mean, let’s first look at a tradition.

### The Pope and His Tiara/Crown

Many Protestants were historically introduced to the *Roman numeral numbering* of the pope’s Latin name *Vicarius Filii Dei*, The Vicar of the Son of God, as the name of that beast (showing he was the 666 symbol):

- In 1884, Uriah Smith, in his book *The United States in Light of Prophecy*, made it a key issue.
- That identity has remained and is often used even in evangelistic campaigns.

How did that happen and what really do the mark, number and name mean?

John wrote this prophecy approximately 90 A.D.

- The central power of the popes wasn’t really established until 607 A.D. by Pope Boniface III.
- It was then that the pope established himself as the “Universal Bishop.”

The name *Vicarius Filii Dei* didn't come into the Catholic Church until later by forged documents called the *Donation of Constantine* (8th century).

- A Vatican Librarian named Lorenzo Valla proved it false in 1440.
- Though the Catholic Church didn't admit its falsehood until 1592.
- The name, however, stuck and remains.
- Even Pope John Paul II used it ("Crossing the Threshold of Hope").

Knowing now that this title:

- Has become an official papal name
- It could be, if we assume the letters equal numbers, the "*number of a man.*"
- 666 would fit the Roman numeral values of the letters of that title.
- It could be that of the pope.
- At least Uriah Smith accepted that interpretation.

There are important questions, however, that we must address relative to this oft quoted position:

- Did God want us to use a forged name?
- Is counting with Roman numerals what God had in mind, using a Latin name for a Greek Biblical text?

Why were the giants of the Reformation absolutely convinced that the beast was the papacy and the antichrist – but **NONE** of them identified 666 with "*Vicarius Filii Dei*?"

Where this numerical concept came from:

- The first time 666 was applied to this papal title was in 1612 when Andrew Helwig (1572–1643) wrote a book called (in English) *The Roman Antichrist*. Helwig was a professor of classic Greek literature. He reviewed over 50 names until he came up with *Vicarius Filii Dei* to fit the number.
- Many Protestants in the early 1800s felt 666 represented the number of Protestant sects influenced by Roman Catholicism. In 1860 a Protestant scholar, J. N. Andrews, confirmed this.
- When Uriah Smith made the Helwig connection, he had little evidence to justify his claim other than what Helwig's conclusions were.

### **False Numbering System**

In the Old Testament, ***Jerusalem*** symbolized God's people – a beautiful metaphor.

- It was a city personified – BUT –
- It apostatized.

Jesus said, “*O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not! Behold, your house is left unto you desolate*” (Matthew 23:37-38).

- Jerusalem was destroyed.
- That’s why there is a New Jerusalem also personified as a bride in Revelation.

The New Testament **apostate** Christian Church has a different name. It is called **Babylon**. That is even prophesied in the Old Testament in Isaiah 13-14, 21, 39; Jeremiah 20-22, 25, 29, 43, 50–51 and Daniel 8.

- Babylon is a great symbol for evil and rebellion against God and represents all those who claim to be God’s people but refuse to obey.

**Ancient Babylon** developed a whole numbering system based on **sixes**.

- Counting units were 6 and 60.
- This system was adopted by the whole world – and in some areas it continues.
  - 360° to a circle
  - Areas, angles and division of time all came from Babylon.
- Nebuchadnezzar’s image (Daniel 3:1) was 60 cubits high and 6 cubits wide and 6 cubits deep (assumed).
- Thus, 666 could easily be associated with the Babylonian numbering system – **and** – symbolic of apostasy.

Over time God associated false idolatrous worship with Babylon.

- What are we told in the second angel’s message?
  - Babylon is fallen, come out of her my people (Revelation 14:8).
- What is the message of the fourth angel (Revelation 18:1-4)?
  - The same, plus Babylon has become the habitation of devils, foul spirits, cage of every unclean and hateful bird.
- Is there another imagery of Babylon?
  - Harlot and mother of harlots (Revelation 17:5). She calls herself a queen (Revelation 18:7).
  - Babylon is the Mother of abominations on earth.

**When we see the number “six,” it might mean:**

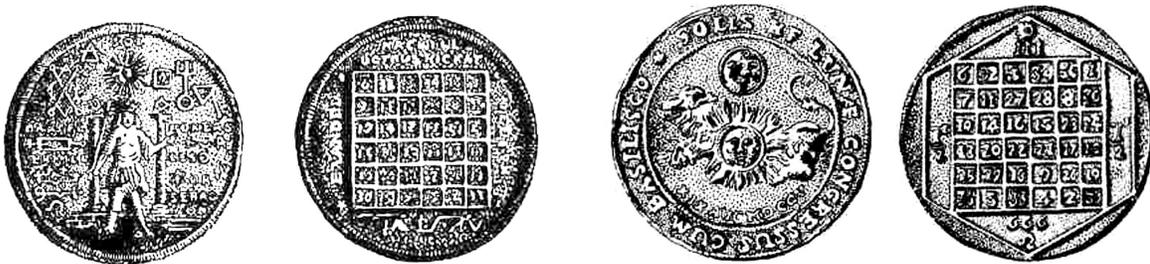
- Simply, the basic number of Babylonian numbers
- Last day of creation week
- Preparation day for the Sabbath
- Or could the number six be related to Babylon – apostasy – abominations – blasphemy?

**The Bible relates Babylon to:**

- A house of devils, false spirits and vultures ready to devour (unclean and hateful birds – Revelation 18)
- Prostituting truth with falsehood, an abomination to God (Revelation 17).
- Being a deceiver
- One of her names being “Blasphemy,” just like the sea beast heads (Revelation 13:1).

**Reinforcing the Concept of Babylon – 666:**

- Pagan Babylonian priests numbered 36 constellations.
- They devised an amulet of 36 little squares, six on each side. These were numbered 1–36. The priests wore them.
- The way it was devised, adding the numbers horizontally or vertically it always equaled 666.
- The amulet was called “intelligence of the sun” – a god they worshiped.
- On the opposite side of the metal amulet was a picture of the sun.



6	32	3	34	35	1
7	11	27	28	8	30
19	14	16	15	23	24
18	20	22	21	17	13
25	29	10	9	26	12
36	5	33	4	2	31

**Table 1**  
As on the amulets above

1	32	34	3	35	6
30	8	27	28	11	7
20	24	15	16	13	23
19	17	21	22	18	14
10	26	12	9	29	25
31	4	2	33	5	36

**Table 2**  
Another similar arrangement

Later, the Greeks did exactly the same thing, honoring the sky with the sun centrally imprinted on the coin.

- Significant? Absolutely!

666 is a number associated with pagan sun worship that originated as part of the “*mysteries of Babylon.*”

- Peter noted: “*The church that is at Babylon, elected together with you, saluteth you; and so doth Marcus my son*” (1 Peter 5:13).
- Was he referring to ancient Babylon?
- No. For the Christians of his day (to protect them from persecution), Babylon was a veiled name for Rome. Babylon referred to Rome.

Babylon, 666, Rome, human worship day, seventh-day being blocked, beast, can't buy or sell, death, mark of the beast, blasphemy – all are associated with attempts to discredit God's day of rest.

- **666 is one of the prophecies that the Sabbath would be an issue at the end of time!**
- The false trinity (dragon, sea beast, earth beast) will not promote “7” – staying shy of it in the number “6.”

### **Key that Helps Us to Understand 666**

Here in Revelation 13, in the *context* of a terrible, murderous end-time beast, six is appealed to. Is this to be associated with a Sabbath preparation day? Might this be a celebration of the day on which man was created? Hardly!

- It relates directly to Babylon – an apostate power persecuting God's people.
- This 666 is associated with persecution, evil, murder, withholding food (buying/selling).
- It relates to something **bad**.

What about the complex number of three sixes – 666?

- Are there three entities that make up Babylon? (Revelation 16:19)
- Satan has had repeated failures (Revelation 12).
  - He lost the war in heaven.
  - He couldn't kill the baby Jesus.
  - Then his activities were restricted to this world at the Cross.
- Now at the end of time, in his last desperation, he allies himself with:
  - A sea beast – the papacy

- A land beast – apostate Protestantism
- Spiritualism – his end-time tool (referred to simply as the “dragon”).
- Together, these three make up Babylon.
- It is a “false trinity” – a common term used by scholars. Note: When Babylon falls, it is split into three parts (Revelation 16:19).

Each of the agents in this false trinity, as part of Babylon, are represented by one “6” of the basic numbers of 666 – it is a “bad” number – an apostate number – a Babylon number.

- 666 = Dragon                      Sea Beast                      Earth Beast  
    Satan                                      Papacy                                      Apostate Protestantism

But you protest, “The Bible says that number is the number of *a man!*” Again:

- That’s not what the Bible says – the KJV is in error.
- It states in the Greek that “it is man’s number” or “it is the number of man.” “His number is 666” (NIV – NET).
- Literally: “for it is a number of humanity” or “as humans have.”
- It’s a number of fallen humanity.

“It is the number of human kind” – this comes from an ancient description called “Apollonius’ Canon” (NET – comment on 13:18).<sup>2</sup>

- The Greek word *Anthropou*, grammatically, is “human kind.”

In Revelation 13:18 John uses *Anthropou* to refer to “human kind.” The antichrist beast is in view here as the best representative of **humanity without Christ – he is blasphemous.**

- Perfection is represented by the number seven.<sup>3</sup>
- Six is less than perfection.
  - Triple six intensifies imperfection.
  - It represents the ultimate in apostasy.

The beast epitomizes imperfection.

- Yet, he tries to mimic God by permitting the world to worship him.
- To be identified with someone’s name is to be identified with his character (Revelation 2:17).

<sup>2</sup> NET translation: [dev.bible.org/drupal/node/27](http://dev.bible.org/drupal/node/27).

<sup>3</sup> Beale, G. K.; *The New International Greek Testament Commentary; The Book of Revelation* (William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, Grand Rapids, Michigan – 1999), pp. 723-725.

What is man's number then? Man's number is six.

- When numbers are used in Revelation, what do they represent?
  - Symbolic messages
  - Literal time periods
- Nowhere are we invited to or given permission to:
  - Choose a language (Latin, Italian, Greek, Spanish, etc.) to:
  - Calculate a number from his name
- When John uses the word "**number**" it is figurative (5:11; 7:4, 9; 9:16; 20:8).

Helwig went through myriads of names of the popes before he found *Vicarius Filii Dei*.

- What about all the others? – It's like putting quarters in a slot machine. You keep trying until you win. The Bible was not written that way!

It is interesting to point out in Revelation that in the:

- Sixth Seal
  - Sixth Trumpet
  - Sixth Vial
- } There is some form of destructive judgment against the wicked – against **Babylon**

In prophecy six represents something bad, something rebellious.

### The Sabbath Issue

G. K. Beale, Professor of New Testament and Director of the Th. M. Program in Biblical Theology, Gordon–Conwell Theological Seminary, S. Hamilton, Mass., speaking of 666, *said this*:

“Humanity was created on the sixth day. But without the seventh day of rest Adam and Eve would have been imperfect and incomplete. The triple six emphasizes that the beast and his followers fall short of God's creative purpose for humanity.”<sup>4</sup>

- What does six fall short of?
- A seventh rest!

God is inviting us to grasp the spiritual significance of this number!

- At the very end of time

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<sup>4</sup> Beale, *op. cit.*, pp. 724-725.

- The dragon with spiritualism, the papacy and apostate Protestantism will put up a barrier to the *seventh rest*.
- It is called, here in Revelation 13, “blasphemy,” “the mark of the beast,” a human number.

With this richer understanding of 666, we can suddenly see what the name, the mark and the human number all mean.

- There is a barrier to the seventh-day Sabbath rest.
- Honor is given instead to man’s day or a human day.
- At the end of time there will be problems for God’s people over “man’s day” versus the Sabbath:
  - Can’t buy or sell
  - Might even be killed
  - All over a human number that relates in some way to Babylon and sun worship.

It’s all about resisting the Sabbath rest!

- Leviticus 25 describes the seventh year as a Sabbath year.
- Israel didn’t keep that Sabbath.
- God sent them to *Babylon* because they didn’t enter the Sabbath rest (II Chronicles 35:21).

***By not keeping the Sabbath, God’s people went to Babylon. At the end, God’s people are called out of Babylon where the Sabbath is not kept.***

Sabbath issues are now becoming clearer to us in the prophetic Word, which a decade ago we just didn’t see.

### **Significance of Seven**

We understand that the seventh day of the creation week was set apart, hallowed, sanctified and immortalized as a rest from the work days of 1–6 (Genesis 2:3-4).

- What we don’t ponder enough is the amazing significance of the seventh.
- A month, year, seasons and a day are based upon lunar and sun cycles.

The week of seven days was a decreed period of time – God invented it!

- Creation 7<sup>th</sup> = holiness, ***rest***
- At the 7<sup>th</sup> Trumpet the angel sounded – it is ***finished*** (10:7)
- At the 7<sup>th</sup> Vial the angel pours out wrath – it is ***done*** (16:17)

- God decreed that seven Sabbaths was a **complete** period (Leviticus 23:15) – and then came the restoration.

The way God designed the physics of music:

- Seven notes is a complete musical scale.
- All other pitches and harmonics are a variation of this.

There were seven Jewish feasts, seven churches, seven candlesticks, blood was sprinkled on the mercy seat seven times.

“Seven” is mentioned 735 times in the Bible.

The saints will spend their first period of time with Jesus during the seventh millennium.

When light is split in a prism it is broken into seven colors.

There are seven major crystal systems in the physical world.

Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy – the seventh-day is the Sabbath of the Lord thy God (Exodus 20:9-11):

- *Qodesh* – Hebrew word for “*holy*”
- Something to do with being like God.

### **Sunday Interest Increasing**

You may be thinking, That’s all far into the future!

- In 1985 a new Catholic Catechism stated:  
*“The civil authorities [government] should be urged to cooperate with the church in maintaining and strengthening this **public worship of God** [referring to Sunday], and to support with their own authority the regulations set down by the church’s pastors.”* The next paragraph added, “For it is only in this that *the faithful will understand why it is Sunday and not the Sabbath day that we now keep holy.*”<sup>5</sup>
- In 1998 the late Pope John Paul II wrote an encyclical on Sabbath–Sunday worship called *Dies Domini*.

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<sup>5</sup> *The Roman Catechism* (1985) (emphasis added).

“66. ‘In this matter, my predecessor Pope Leo XIII in his Encyclical *Rerum Novarum* spoke of Sunday rest as a worker’s right which the State must guarantee.’ (110)

“67. ‘Therefore, also in the particular circumstances of our own time, **Christians will naturally strive to ensure that civil legislation respects their duty to keep Sunday holy.**’

“47. ‘Even if in the earliest times it was not judged necessary to be prescriptive, the Church has not ceased to confirm this obligation of conscience, which rises from the inner need felt so strongly by the Christians of the first centuries. It was only later, faced with the half-heartedness or negligence of some, that **the Church had to make explicit the duty to attend Sunday Mass: more often than not, this was done in the form of exhortation, but at times the Church had to resort to specific canonical precepts.**’

“‘The present Code reiterates this, saying that ‘on Sundays and other holy days of obligation the faithful are bound to attend Mass.’ (82) **This legislation has normally been understood as entailing a grave obligation: this is the teaching of the Catechism of the Catholic Church, (83) and it is easy to understand why if we keep in mind how vital Sunday is for the Christian life.’”**

- Within a month of his inauguration Pope Benedict XVI gave a homily called “We Cannot Live Without Sunday” (May 23, 2005).

- Expository thoughts:

“History will be repeated. False religion will be exalted. The first day of the week, a common working day, possessing no sanctity whatever, **will be set up** as was the image at Babylon. All nations and tongues and peoples will be commanded to worship this spurious sabbath.... The **decree enforcing the worship** of this day is **to go forth to all the world.**”<sup>6</sup>

“The time will come when men will not only forbid Sunday work, but they will try to force men to labor on the Sabbath. And men will be asked to renounce the Sabbath and to subscribe to Sunday observance or forfeit their freedom and their lives.”<sup>7</sup>

## **Summary**

In the Bible the longest time clock is millennium based. The seventh millennium since man’s fall will be spent in heaven. Revelation 20 talks of this period.

- The woman clothed in white (Revelation 12), God’s purified church

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<sup>6</sup> White, *SDABC*, vol. 7, p. 976 (1897) (emphasis added).

<sup>7</sup> Adapted, *The Review and Herald*, April 6, 1911.

- Will keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus (Revelation 12:17; 14:12).
- That means that the “remnant of her seed” – those finally left when He comes who will be saved – are “seventh” people.

When God said “Remember the Sabbath day” (Exodus 20:8):

- He also said six days shalt thou labor (Exodus 20:9).
- Six was man’s number – the seventh was the Lord’s.
- God invented/introduced this day for our holiness.

In the great Sabbatical Year commemoration God said:

- Six years thou shalt sow thy field, prune and gather fruit (Leviticus 25:3).
- But then he said: “... *in the seventh year shall be a Sabbath of rest unto the land, a Sabbath for the Lord*” (Leviticus 25:4).”
- Six was man’s number – the seventh was the Lord’s.

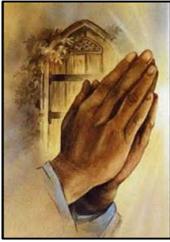
While we are in heaven – the seventh millennium – the **land**, this **earth**, will rest.

The number 666 – man’s number times three.

- Three entities stuck on six
- Three entities that never move to the Lord’s rest in a seventh

The image of the beast will be formed before probation closes; for it is to be the great end-time test for the people of God, **by which their eternal destiny will be decided**. At the end there will be two classes:

1. Those who bow to the number of man – his mark
2. Those who bow to the very name of Jesus – honoring Him by keeping the Sabbath – His mark (Exodus 31:13)



## “BEINGS OF LIGHT” AND THE SABBATH

### (DEEPER ISSUES FROM CHAPTER 1)

#### Introduction

As sun worship riveted its loyalties into the hearts of the Roman Empire:

- The Sun of Righteousness (Malachi 4:2) came to a dying world **to bring light**.
- A devout man from Jerusalem named Simeon, when seeing baby Jesus, prophesied of Him as “*a light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel*” (Luke 2:32).

Lucifer had desired to exalt his throne above the *celestial objects* (Isaiah 14:13-14).

- Jesus chose to become a member of *earth’s family* (Philippians 2:6-7; Hebrews 2:17), *served by celestial objects to bring it light*.
- He said to His disciples when viewing the dazzling rays of the sun on the white marble and gold of the temple, “***I am the light of the world***” (John 8:2, 9:5).

God’s glory was subdued, and His majesty veiled that:

- Man might look and live
- He might draw near to the needs of humanity
- He might sympathize with us – as a “***light that shineth in a dark place***” (II Peter 1:19)

“*The word became flesh, and tabernacled among us (and **we beheld His glory, the glory of the only begotten from the Father), full of grace and truth***” (John 1:14).

- Jesus stepped even lower than Satan.
  - He became the earth’s created.
  - He became a victim.
  - He was beaten, bruised for us (Isaiah 53:5).
  - To bring us *light* and *glory* from the Father
- } That is the  
“Mystery of Godliness”

“By His life and His death, Christ has achieved even more than recovery from the ruin wrought through sin. It was Satan’s purpose to bring about an eternal separation between God and man; but in Christ we become more closely united to God than if we had never fallen. In taking our nature, the Saviour has bound Himself to

humanity by a tie that is never to be broken. Through the eternal ages He is linked with us. 'God so loved the world, that He gave His only-begotten Son.' John 3:16. He gave Him not only to bear our sins, and to die as our sacrifice; He gave Him to the fallen race. To assure us of His immutable counsel of peace, God gave His only-begotten Son to become one of the human family, forever to retain His human nature. This is the pledge that God will fulfill His word. 'Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon His shoulder.' God has adopted human nature in the person of His Son, and has carried the same into the highest heaven. It is the 'Son of man' who shares the throne of the universe. It is the 'Son of man' whose name shall be called, 'Wonderful, Counselor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.' Isa. 9:6. The I AM is the Daysman between God and humanity, laying His hand upon both. He who is 'holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners,' is not ashamed to call us brethren. Heb. 7:26; 2:11. In Christ the family of earth and the family of heaven are bound together. Christ glorified is our brother. Heaven is enshrined in humanity, and humanity is enfolded in the bosom of Infinite Love."<sup>1</sup>

The "light of the world," our brother, represents God's light and glory.

### **Satan – Angel of Light**

Before the last period of probation, called the "appointed time" (Habakkuk 2:2-3, Daniel 8:19; cf. 19MR282):

- Satan will once again be permitted to appear as an angel of *light*.  
*"And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light"* (II Corinthians 11:14).
- This is stunning!
- Satan was the "*light-bearer*" of God's glory before the fall – the meaning of "Lucifer."<sup>2</sup>
- The Bible called his appearance "*brightness*" (Ezekiel 28:13-15, 17-19).

The work of Satan has been described as deceptive:

- "*That old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, **which deceiveth the whole world***" (Revelation 12:9).
- "*Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and the sea! For the devil is come down unto you having great wrath*" (12:10).
- The collective meaning of deception is "*darkness.*" – "*Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light and light for darkness*" (Isaiah 5:20).

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<sup>1</sup> White, *The Desire of Ages*, p. 25.

<sup>2</sup> White, *Christian Education*, p. 72.

***The former light-bearer became a bearer of darkness. At the end, he will appear as an angel of light – but represent darkness.***

The answer for the darkness of deception is Jesus.

- “The people that walked in darkness have seen a **great light**: they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the **light shined**” (Isaiah 9:2).
- “For, behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people: but the LORD shall arise upon thee, and **his glory shall be seen upon thee**” (Isaiah 60:2).

Because of what Satan represents, one of the last signs to envelop the earth before Jesus returns is:

- The sun – that celestial body that has been the symbol for God – “*Sun of righteousness*” –
- Will be turned to darkness (Joel 2:31) – light will have been turned out on the world immediately before Jesus returns (Matthew 24:29).

Immediately before that time God’s character will be fully manifest through His people – and the universe will witness a full display of Satan’s character (fifth and sixth trumpets).

- BUT first, that old devil will appear as an “*angel of light.*”
- The first key manifestation of Satan is deception:
  - Appearing like God,
  - He will exhibit signs and wonders until the close of probation; that he may point to them as evidence that he is an angel of light and not darkness.

Satan appeared as an angel of light, a supernatural being, to Jesus in the wilderness!<sup>3</sup> At the end he appears in some grand way to the whole world as an angel of light. Then a stunning thought is formulated:

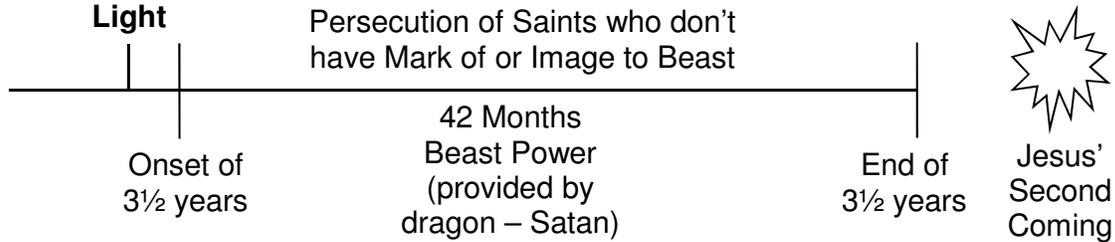
- This angel of “*light*” authoritatively presents a basis for change:<sup>4</sup>
  - Of the law
  - Of the Sabbath } Since they are pivotal issues in prophecy
- That ushers in the three and a half years (appointed time) of the Daniel 12 and Revelation 13 prophecies.

<sup>3</sup> White, *The Story of Jesus*, p. 45.

<sup>4</sup> Adapted, *Manuscript Releases*, vol. 19, p. 282.

Jesus had warned: “*The ruler of this world is coming*” (John 14:30). That is a bold warning! – “**Satan comes.**”

- Satan comes as Angel of **Light**



- Is this Biblical?

### **Satan's Sea Beast – the Antichrist Adopted “Light” as a Principal Symbol**

Cardinal J. H. Newman (1801–1890) was a brilliant thinker, and in his classic work, *The Development of the Christian Religion* (1920 ed., p. 373), he noted (speaking of the early Christian church):

“In order to recommend the new religion to the heathen: The ...[Catholic Church used] temples, and these dedicated to particular saints, and ornamented on occasions with branches of trees; incense, lamps, and candles; holy water; asylums [hermitages, monasteries and convents]; [pagan] holy-days, processions, sacerdotal vestments, the tonsure, the ring in marriage, turning to the East, images, ... and the Kyrie Eleison.” (“the Lord have mercy” – Greek – part of a liturgical cry).



Out of these pagan traditions came the sunburst and halo.

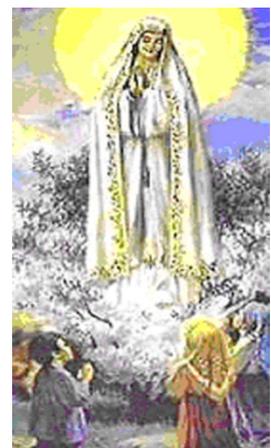


Halo of the sun on Mary's head  
Virgin of the



Pope Innocent XII  
(1698)

A circle of light is *symbolic* of holiness. Even on coins, the attempt is made to portray emperors, popes and saints as sacred – perfect.



Our Lady of Fatima  
Halo of the Sun

All these were reminiscent of the Egyptian goddess Isis holding the infant Horus – which would become Mary and the infant Jesus.



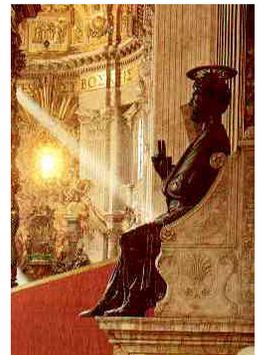
The goddess Isis of Egypt with the sun disk above her head, with the infant Horus  
The British Museum

Allegedly, a statue of Peter enthroned in St. Peter's Basilica:

- Sun wheel above his head
- Baal sun symbols on the wall pattern

Many historians state that this was originally a statue of Jupiter in the pagan Roman Pantheon (now owned by the Vatican).

- It was removed to St. Peter's Basilica and renamed "Peter."



Chariot wheels represented the sun that moves across the sky.

*"And he took away the horses that the kings of Judah had given to the sun, at the entering in of the house of the LORD, by the chamberlain, which was in the suburbs, and burned the chariots of the sun with fire" (following apostasy of Israel) (II Kings 23:11).*



From the book:  
*The New Illustrated Great Controversy*



The plaza in front of St. Peter's Basilica represents the sun wheel (plus many sexual symbols with the dome being the top of the uterus).

Coin celebrating the pontificate of Pope John Paul II



In a pagan temple of the Canaanite city of Hatzor is this incense offering table with a Baal – sun worship symbol.



Around the obelisk in front of St. Peter's Basilica is that symbol as well as on the gold and crimson stole used by many popes.



The images of Baal are mentioned in the Bible and specifically abhorred.

- Idolatrous worship related to the sun and weather:

*“And he wrought evil in the sight of the LORD; but not like his father, and like his mother: for he put away the image of Baal that his father had made”* (II Kings 3:2).

*“And they brought forth the images out of the house of Baal, and burned them”* (II Kings 10:26).

*“And they brake down the image of Baal, and brake down the house of Baal, and made it a draught house unto this day”* (II Kings 10:27).

*“For he took away the altars of the strange gods, and the high places, and brake down the images, and cut down the groves”* (II Chronicles 14:3).

*“And they brake down the altars of Baalim in his presence; and the images, that were on high above them, he cut down; and the groves, and the carved images, and the molten images, he brake in pieces, and made dust of them, and strowed it upon the graves of them that had sacrificed unto them”* (II Chronicles 34:4).

The Egyptian obelisk was worshiped as the “dwelling place” of the sun god.

- It symbolized the “finger of the sun.”<sup>5</sup>
- Pope Sixtus V (1585–1590) had obelisks erected all over Rome as a Counter-Reformation gesture.
- Thus, an anti-Reformation Roman Catholic act was to honor the sun.

Two ancient Hebrew words, *mat stseba*, mean stationary column, pillar, image, idol:

*“Thou shalt not bow down to their gods, nor serve them, nor do after their works: but thou shalt utterly overthrow them, and quite break down their images”* (Exodus 23:24).

*“But ye shall destroy their altars, break their images, and cut down their groves”* (Exodus 34:13).

*“Ye shall make you no idols nor graven image, neither rear you up a standing image, neither shall ye set up any image of stone in your land, to bow down unto it: for I am the LORD your God”* (Leviticus 26:1).

In the year 2000 Pope John Paul II dressed in scarlet to celebrate Palm Sunday in St. Peter’s Square.

- With a “grove” of potted palms and ancient olive trees placed around the solar obelisk.
- In the center of the pagan solar wheel (Baal and the Star of Ishtar).



CTV



*“Thou shalt not plant thee a grove of any trees near unto the altar of the LORD thy God, which thou shalt make thee. Neither shalt thou set thee up any image; which the Lord thy God hateth”* (Deuteronomy 16:21-22).

The Biblical counsel is specific:

<sup>5</sup> Kircher, Athanasius; *Obeliscus Pamphilius*, 1650.

*“Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth” (Exodus 20:4).*

*“Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me” (Exodus 20:5).*

*“If there be found among you, within any of thy gates which the LORD thy God giveth thee, man or woman, that hath wrought wickedness in the sight of the LORD thy God, in transgressing his covenant, And hath gone and served other gods, and worshipped them, either the sun, or moon, or any of the host of heaven, which I have not commanded; ... Then shalt thou bring forth that man or that woman, which have committed that wicked thing, unto thy gates, even that man or that woman, and shalt stone them with stones, till they die” (Deuteronomy 17:2-3,5).*

*“At that time, saith the LORD, they shall bring out the bones of the kings of Judah, and the bones of his princes, and the bones of the priests, and the bones of the prophets, and the bones of the inhabitants of Jerusalem, out of their graves” (Jeremiah 8:1).*

*“And they shall spread them before the sun, and the moon, and all the host of heaven, whom they have loved, and whom they have served, and after whom they have walked, and whom they have sought, and whom they have worshipped: they shall not be gathered, nor be buried; they shall be for dung upon the face of the earth” (Jeremiah 8:2).*

In the Catholic Mass a Monstrance is often used to hold the wafer of bread – allegedly becoming the actual body of Christ when eaten.



Pope John Paul II with Monstrance  
from the *Be Not Afraid* series of videos

Though bowing to images of things “above” is Biblically prohibited, Catholic art depicts such.



Our Lady of Fatima  
Halo of the Sun

This is the biggest Monstrance in the world (Cathedral of Toledo, Spain).

- Took 100 years to make
- 40 pounds of gold
- 400 pounds of silver
- 12 feet tall



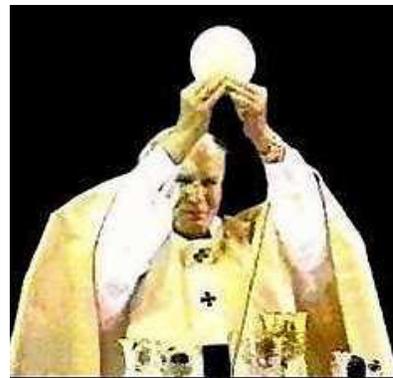
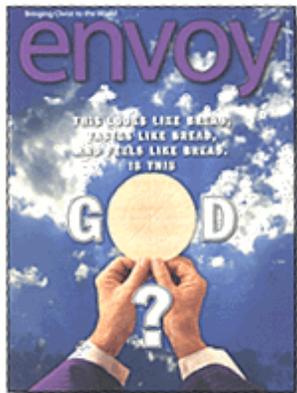
From the video *666 and the Mark* by James Arrabito



In excavations of the ancient Canaanite city of Hatzor, this relief stone was found.

Photo by Richard Lannoy

Envoy magazine, Jan/Feb, 2000, a Catholic publication: Wafer is bright yellow like the sun against the sky.



From the *Be Not Afraid* series of videos

Do the Roman Catholic Church and its worshipers really worship those symbols/idols?

- A canon of the Counsel of Trent (10/11/1551):

Chapter V – THE WORSHIP AND VENERATION TO BE SHOWN TO THIS MOST HOLY SACRAMENT

There is, therefore, no room for doubt that all the faithful of Christ may, in accordance with a custom always received in the Catholic Church, give to this most holy sacrament in veneration the worship of *latria* (Latin word meaning worship due to God alone), which is due to the true God.<sup>6</sup>

*“And the woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet colour, and decked with gold and precious stones and pearls, having a golden cup in her hand full of abominations and filthiness of her fornication”* (Revelation 17:4).

*“For all nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, and the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth are waxed rich through the abundance of her delicacies”* (Revelation 18:3).



The cup of wine of the apostate woman (church) represents spiritual and doctrinal fornication, a mixing of truth and error, Christianity and paganism, which she gives to the world (making the nations drink).

*“And upon her forehead was a name written, MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH”* (Revelation 17:5).

- Yet, she represents those deceptive doctrines as “light.” Interesting, isn’t it!

From the Feast of Lights, candles, to the flaming heart, the appeal is to light, the sun.

- Allegedly, the “sun of righteousness” – but veneration of icons reveal that it is idolatry!

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<sup>6</sup> *The Canons and Decrees of the Council of Trent*, Translated and introduced by Rev. H. J. Schroeder, O.P., Published by Tan Books and Publishers, Inc., Rockford Illinois, p. 76.

Satan bore God's glory – "light bearer"



Satan cast to earth – now gives deceptive light by pretending to enlighten

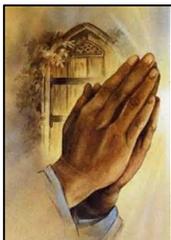


Icons of light worship (sun, fire) – then

The day of the sun (Sunday) becomes legal and a spiritual issue

Destroyed by fire

*"To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is **no light in them**" (Isaiah 8:20).*



## THE ANTICHRIST ATTACKS THE SABBATH (THE “DAILY”)

### Introduction – Brief Protestant History

During the era of the Reformation, the word “*daily*” was understood to be the “daily sacrifices,” which was observed twice per day in the Jewish economy.

- As a consequence, it was interpreted to symbolizes the:
  - True gospel<sup>1,2</sup>
  - True worship<sup>3,4</sup>
  - Divine worship<sup>5</sup>
  - Worship of God<sup>6</sup>

The concept of *paganism* for the “daily” came during the Millerite Advent Movement by William Miller in the first half of the 1800s.<sup>7</sup>

After the great disappointment of 1844 when thousands thought that Jesus was going to come:

- O.R.L. Crosier, at the encouragement of expositor E. G. White,<sup>8</sup> took a position that the cleansing of the sanctuary related to Christ’s work in heaven (Daniel 8:14).<sup>9</sup>
- The concept of Christ’s priestly ministry in heaven was suggested to be represented by the “*daily*.”
  - Many reinterpreted the “*daily*” as then representing ***Christ’s heavenly ministry*** after that.

<sup>1</sup> Conradus, Alphonsus; “Daily Sacrifice of True Gospel Worship, *Commentary on the Revelation* (Basle, 1550), p. 451.

<sup>2</sup> Armsdorf, Nicholas; “Daily Sacrifice Is Preaching of True Godpel,” *Five Prominent Signs of the Coming of the Judgment Day* (Jena, 1554), unpagged.

<sup>3</sup> Parker, Thos.; “Papacy Casts Down True Worship (Daily Sacrifice),” *Visions and Prophecies of Daniel Expounded* (London, 1646), pp. 45, 133.

<sup>4</sup> Fletcher, John W.; “Daily Sacrifice – Abolished or Disfigured Worship,” “A Letter Upon the Prophecies,” in 1755 in *Posthumous Pieces*, 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. (London, 1800), p. 372.

<sup>5</sup> Wood, Hans, “Dan. 12:10 – Daily Sacrifice is Divine Worship.” *Revelation of St. John* (London, 1787), p. 476.

<sup>6</sup> Mason, Arch; “Daily Sacrifice (Dan. 8) – Worship of God in the Church,” *Two Essays on Daniel’s Prophetic Number of 2300 Days* (Newburg, 1820), pp. 1-6.

<sup>7</sup> White, *The Signs of the Times*, November 16, 1842, p. 66.

<sup>8</sup> White, *A Word to the Little Flock*, May 1, 1846, p. 12.

<sup>9</sup> Crosier, O.R.L.; *The Day-Star* (Extra), February 7, 1846.

- A David Arnold formalized that position in 1849,<sup>10</sup> and it was adapted as a “new view” by many Protestant believers.

The following year (1850), White wrote (later published in a book, *Early Writings*): “Then I saw in relation to the ‘daily’ (Dan. 8:12) that the word ‘sacrifice’ was supplied by man’s wisdom, and does not belong to the text.”<sup>11</sup>

What is important and clarifying are comments she later expressed: “I have words to speak to my brethren east and west, north and south. I request that my writings shall not be used as the leading argument to settle questions over which there is now so much controversy. I entreat of Elders H, I, J, and others of our leading brethren, that they make no reference to my writings to sustain their views of ‘the daily.’ ... I now ask that my ministering brethren shall not make use of my writings in their arguments regarding this question [‘the daily’]; **for I have had no instruction on the point under discussion.**”<sup>12</sup>

Then she added: “I see no need for the controversy. Regarding this matter under present conditions, silence is eloquence.”<sup>13</sup>

That should have brought the issue to an abrupt and curious end. But, there was another challenge:

- In May of that same year (1910) White wrote a very interesting letter to Pastor and Mrs. S. N. Haskell (who had been advocating the old *paganism* view).
- Leader A. G. Daniells was raising concern that some of the conflicting Scriptural interpretations needed to be reviewed.
  - White was burdened that this urgently needed to be addressed:
 

“I have been waiting for the time when there should be an investigation of the doctrines that Brother Daniells and others have been advocating. When is this to be?”

“If Elder Daniells thinks that some of the interpretations of Scripture that have been held in the past are not correct, our brethren should listen to his reasons, and give candid consideration to his views. All should examine closely their own standing, and by a thorough knowledge of the principles of our faith, be prepared to vindicate the truth.

“We must not be inconsistent in this matter. God requires clean hearts, pure minds, and an intelligent belief in the truth. ‘Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.’ At present there is not

<sup>10</sup> White, *Present Truth*, December, 1849, p. 45.

<sup>11</sup> White, *Early Writings*, p. 74.

<sup>12</sup> White, *Manuscript 11*, 1910; *Selected Messages*, bk 1, p. 164 (1910) (emphasis added).

<sup>13</sup> *Ibid.*

that unity that should exist among our brethren, and the Lord says, 'Come together.' This should be done as soon as possible, for we have no time to lose.

"Is not the present a favorable time for you and others of our ministering brethren in this conference to meet with Elder Daniells for a thorough examination of the points of faith regarding which there are different views? [Isaiah 11:1-16; 12:1-6, quoted.]"—Letter 50, 1910.<sup>14</sup>

As Protestantism was struggling with dispensationalism, the secret rapture, futurism and Pentecostalism, a small group was challenged by the word "*daily*." It was tied to that "abomination." It needed clarification. With this as a background, we explore more deeply the issue of the "*daily*."

### **"The Daily"**

The word "*daily*" in Hebrew is *tamid* and is used five times by Daniel.

- It is always preceded by "*ha*," meaning "the."
- Thus, it acts as a noun.
- Daniel is the **only** place in the Bible where it is a noun.

In that context – it refers to something very specific – "**the daily**."

- In spite of this, most translators have added the word "*sacrifice*" after the word "*daily*."
- That turns it into an adjective.
- This comes from Jewish bias, relating it to the morning and evening "*daily sacrifices*" (Exodus 29:42; Numbers 28:6-10, 15, 23; Ezekiel 3:5; Nehemiah 10:34).

Old manuscripts of the Septuagint Bible, dating between the third and first centuries B.C. have the word "sacrifice" added.

- The *Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia* is a German translation from the Hebrew Masoretic text as originally preserved in the Leningrad Codex.
- It does not have the word "sacrifice" in it. BUT – in the English translation, it is added!
- White, to make sure we didn't err in our study of the "daily," wrote, as we saw, that the word "*sacrifice*" was added.<sup>15</sup>

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<sup>14</sup> White, *Manuscript Releases*, vol. 20, p. 223.

<sup>15</sup> White, *Early Writings*, p. 74.

*Tamid* conveys the concept of “never stopping.” In its adjective or adverb form, it is translated in the Old Testament as:

- Continually (53 times)
- Continual (26 times)
- Daily (7 times)
- Always (6 times)
- Ever (3 times)
- Perpetual (2 times)
- Continual employment (once)
- Evermore (once)
- Never (once)

Translators have tried to use those references to derive the “best” expression or meaning.

- BUT – it is a noun in Daniel. That exegetic work is therefore flawed.
  - “The” never stopping
  - “The” perpetual
  - “The” everlasting
- } Is conveying a very distinct message

Contextually, it does not refer to an eternal divine being or His ministry, identified as the “Prince” or “Prince of princes,” as so many Protestants teach.

- Daniel clearly shows *ha•tamid* to be the object of hostile or hateful action.
- That alone suggests that it must be sacred. The antichrist is *anti-tamid!*
- Satan’s host is trying to remove it.
- It is something he hates.

### **The Timing of that Hostility**

The word “*daily*” is used in Daniel 8–12, associated with the phrase “***time of the end.***”

- Daniel misunderstood the 2300 years (8:14), thinking it was additional years of Jewish oppression.
- Jesus asked Gabriel to make him understand (8:16).

Gabriel started by saying: “I will make thee know what shall be in the last end” (8:19).

- “*Last end*” is from a Hebrew word, *acharyth*.
- It means contextually *prophetic future* – “last days,” related to Christ’s Second Coming.

Gabriel had already told him *“at the time of the end shall be the vision”* (8:17).

- The vision included *“the daily.”*
- At the time of the end (*eth qets*) is when *“the daily”* issue rises.
- *“Time”* (*eth*) when God acts, time when all “ends” come together.
- *“End”* (*qets*) final end of what is described.

Gabriel then gets more specific.

- He said that the *“time of the end”* was at the *“appointed time.”*
- There is a specific time or period that God has set aside for the ram, he-goat and little horn vision (Daniel 8) for the *“time of the end.”*
- White fully understood this when she said:

*“To the **period** just prior to the appearing of the Son of man, the prophecies of Scripture point, and here their warnings and threatenings pre-eminently apply”* (specific time).<sup>16</sup>

Then noted is that the periods of Daniel go right up to the consummation.

The word used for *appointed time* in Daniel 8:19 is *moed*.

- This is used in many ways in Hebrew.
- It relates most often to:
  - A sacred assembly
  - A **sacred time** that God has set apart

### ***When does God have a sacred assembly?***

- When the 144,000 are identified
  - Revelation 7 introduces them
- } These are God’s final witnesses

### ***When does He have this sacred appointed time?***

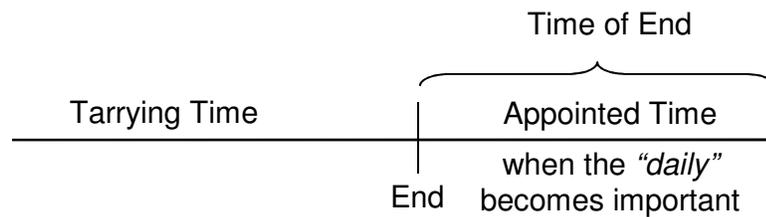
- Prophetically, when the work is being finished by His two witnesses (Revelation 11:3) – 1260-day period.
- When they *“prophesy again before many peoples, and nations, and tongues, and kings”* (Revelation 10:11).

It is interesting:

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<sup>16</sup> White, *The Review and Herald*, September 25, 1883 (emphasis added).

- Habakkuk 2:2-3 said that the **appointed time**, at the end, follows a tarrying time.



- The "appointed time" is a **predetermined time**.
- Hebrews 10:36-37: *"For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise. For yet a little while, and he that shall come will come, and will not tarry."*
  - The appointed time (three and a half years) is shortly followed by the coming of Jesus.

The word *moed* in prophecy is a sacred period of time **when** the plan of redemption is coming to an end. It is called an "appointed time." *Shabbat* is the word for the sacred time of the seventh-day Sabbath.

### "Ha•tamid" in Daniel

It is helpful to begin at the end of Daniel and work back to chapter 8.

- Chapter 12 adds specific time periods that the prophecies of chapters 8–11 will operate within.
- Daniel 12:11: *"And from the time that the daily [ha•tamid] sacrifice [added] shall be taken away, and the abomination that maketh desolate set up, there shall be a thousand two hundred and ninety days."*

This verse is very important because it notes that two things begin ("from the time" – *ume et*) a 1290-day period (literal days because of a number with the word "day" – *yowm*).

1. Daily – "shall be taken away" (*hussar ha•tamid*) – "was removed" or "turned aside from"
  - a. Whatever the "daily" is, it is put out of sight as the abomination is set up (a law) (the implication in the text). It is rejected to establish what God despises.
  - b. *Hussar* is in the Hophal tense and means it is *causative passive*.
  - c. As God repeatedly asked his people to "put away" false gods (II Chronicles 5:16, II Kings 18:4; II Chronicles 30:14), the king of the north or little horn causes the daily to be removed.

2. Abomination “*that maketh desolate*” (the key phrase Jesus addressed in Matthew 24:15) is “*set up*” or “*placed*” (*welat-et shiqquwts*).
  - a. Instantly, we see the “daily” is in competition with the “abomination” or contrasted with it.
  - b. It is the immediate cause for the daily being removed.

Since we have seen that the abomination is a false sabbath, we can question: What is the opposite of a false sabbath?

- It must be the true Sabbath.

In Daniel 11 we find the same contrast: “*And arms shall stand on his part, and they shall pollute the sanctuary of strength, and **shall take away** the daily sacrifice, **and they shall place** the abomination that maketh desolate*” (Daniel 11:31).

- Here, the Hebrew expression appears even stronger that *the daily* is actively *abolished*.
- In order to open the way for the false sabbath to be set up.

Ever since Sylvester I’s ecclesiastical decree (316 A.D.), making the honor of Sunday “sacred”:

- The daily or true Sabbath has been abolished, taken away or removed from the majority of the Christian world.
- The day was “*transferred*” (but here in Daniel it relates to some special legal action that occurs at the time of the end).

The first references to the daily occur in Daniel 8.

*“Yea, he magnified himself even to the prince of the host, and by him the daily [ha•tamid] sacrifice [added] was **taken away**, and the place of his sanctuary was cast down. And an host was given him **against** the daily [ha•tamid] sacrifice [added] by reason of transgression [related to the abomination], and it cast down the truth to the ground; and it practiced, and prospered. Then I heard one saint speaking, and another saint said unto that certain saint which spake, How long shall be the vision concerning the daily [ha•tamid] sacrifice [added], and the transgression [related to the abomination] of desolation, to give both the sanctuary and the host to be trodden under foot?”* (Daniel 8:11-13).

Here, there are three *ha•tamid* messages.

1. “*Taken away*” is from the Hebrew word *huras*.<sup>17</sup>

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<sup>17</sup> <http://dafyomi.shemayisrael.co.il/taanis/backgrnd/tn-in-028.htm>

- The scribes, when they felt a mistake existed, never changed the original text but made notes in the margins.
  - These were called Kethiv readings.
  - They felt that the verb tense should be here Hiphil and not Hophal (“abolished”).
    - This would mean that the daily was lifted up from its place.
    - Something everlasting is lifted out of its proper place.
2. The little horn was given a host; a large number of people followed this antichrist power.
- Was against “*the everlasting*”
  - The word for “*host*” is *saba*, which refers to a warring body.
  - These are warring against the Sabbath.
  - That host was obtained by the little horn by reason of “transgression.”
  - Transgression is *pesha*. It is a stern word revealing rebellion against:
    - God’s authority – Creator (Exodus 20:11)
    - God’s covenant – Restoration/Deliverance (Deuteronomy 5:15)
    - God’s law – in Ten Commandments (Exodus 20:3-33, Deuteronomy 5:7-21)
  - These are centered in the Sabbath commandment of the Decalogue.
3. Finally, Gabriel questions when the little horn hostility would occur.
- He takes special note of the events described in the vision.
  - The daily, the transgression of desolation (now we know that rebellion against the Sabbath will be the desolating cause), which leads to the sanctuary (God’s dwelling place) and the host (His people) to be suppressed or persecuted.

### The “Perpetual” Sabbath

*Ha•tamid* reflects an **issue** that is ceaseless – “it is always there.”

- If the Sabbath is *perpetual*
- Does it relate to the *everlasting* covenant?

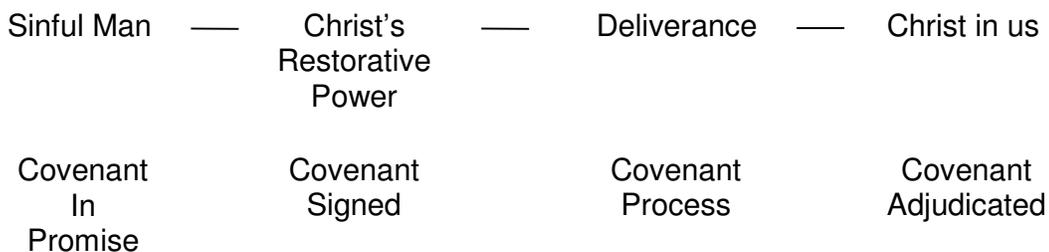
What is the climax of God’s covenant?

- “*For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people*” (Hebrew 8:10; cf. 10:16).
- This is a quote from Jeremiah 31:33.
- **When** this happens, God said:

- I will be to them a God
- They shall be to me a people
- Paul clarifies this message
- **When** God dwells in us – His temple (II Corinthians 6:16)
  - I will be their God
  - They shall be my people
  - That is the new covenant transition from the ancient tabernacles meeting place where God said, *“I will dwell among the children of Israel”* (Exodus 29:45)
  - *“And will be their God”* (Exodus 29:45)
  - *“And they shall know that I am the Lord their God; that brought them forth out of the land of Egypt”* (Exodus 29:46).

The end of God’s covenant promises is restoration of heart and mind – then we are His.

- **Then** we are given the family names of heaven.
- *“I will write upon him the name of my God”* (Revelation 3:12).
- Mind and heart = moral nature (Colossians 1:27).
- Before Moses climbed Mt. Nebo he wrote Deuteronomy, which reviewed the great statutes and laws of God.
  - When writing the Decalogue he added a key Sabbath concept.
  - *“And remember that thou wast a servant in the land of Egypt, and that the LORD thy God brought thee out thence through a mighty hand and by a stretched out arm: therefore the LORD thy God commanded thee to keep the sabbath day”* (Deuteronomy 5:15; cf. Exodus 6:7).
  - That deliverance message is the everlasting covenant, symbolized through the “rest” of the Sabbath.



- *“Wherefore the children of Israel shall keep the sabbath, to observe the sabbath throughout their generations, for a perpetual covenant”* (Exodus 31:16).

When Christ is in us, we are what?

- Sanctified
- Made holy
- The Sabbath is a time to remember the sanctification, the ultimate restoration to holiness (Exodus 31:13).
- Daniel 8:14 – after 2300 evening and morning *holiness is adjudicated*.

### Deeper Issue!

- Appointment of the Sabbath
  - Was blessed
  - Was sanctified
 } Set aside as holy time
- Man sinned – evil
  - The Sabbath additionally needed to be kept holy because:
  - It became a sign of deliverance from “Egypt” (world – sin, wickedness)
- It therefore became God’s “sign” to man forever that:

In Daniel 11, right after it talks about the daily being removed and the abomination “placed” (a law) (11:31), it says: “*And such as do wickedly against the covenant*” (11:32).

- The *vile person*, later called the “*king of the north*” – the antichrist (11:40, 36):
  - “*His heart shall be against the holy covenant*” (11:28)
  - Shall “*have indignation against the holy covenant*” (11:30)
  - Part of the work of the antichrist is to destroy the hope of restoration symbolized by the Sabbath.

Thus, “*the tamid*” translated “*daily*” is God’s true Sabbath, never to be terminated, forever to be honored as “holiness epitomized.”

# APPENDIXES

## APPENDIX I

# PAGAN SUN WORSHIP AND CATHOLICISM

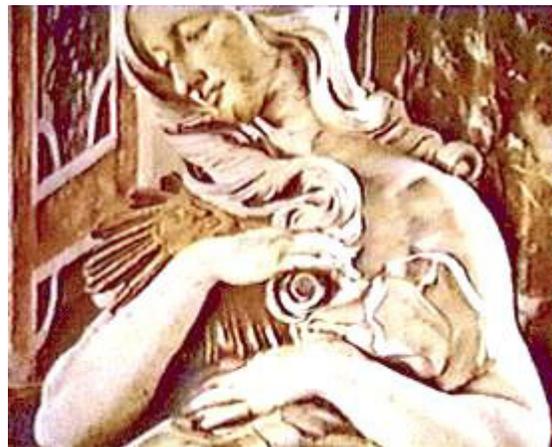
## *LA VERITA* – THE TRUTH

(Adapted from [www.biblelight.com](http://www.biblelight.com))

In the Vatican's St. Peter's basilica in Rome, there is a rather remarkable sculpture that probably goes mostly unnoticed by those who visit there. It is a part of a sculpture group by Gian Lorenzo Bernini decorating the tomb of Pope Alexander VII. At the four corners surrounding the kneeling Pope, are the four virtues, Charity, Prudence, Justice and Truth. Charity is on the front left side and "La Verita", which means "The Truth" is on the right front side of the overview below.



Photo by Scala/Art Resource, New York



Above scene from the video "Israel of the Alps"  
1993 LLT Productions

The first thing you might notice is that "Truth" stands with her foot on a globe of the earth, symbolizing her power over the globe. Then looking closer you will see that she clutches in her arms the sun, symbolizing Truth's love for the light rather than darkness, and that the Truth will be revealed by loyalty to the sun.

## Scripture Testifies That Stars Depicted Pagan Gods

Amos 5:26: *“But ye have borne the tabernacle of your Moloch and Chiun your images, the star of your god, which ye made to yourselves.”*

Acts 7:43: *“Yea, ye took up the tabernacle of Moloch, and the star of your god Remphan, figures which ye made to worship them: and I will carry you away beyond Babylon.”*

### The Stones Give Their Testimony

On the right is an artifact unearthed in the holy of holies of the pagan temple in the Canaanite city of Hazor / Hatzor, in northern Israel, that dates to 1400 years before the time of Christ. It is described as follows: “a basalt offering table, pillar-shaped, with a carved symbol of the ... god Baal on its side. That symbol was a circle with a cross in the center.” It represented the sun that takes away storms.



Source: University of Illinois, Religious Studies, Hazor

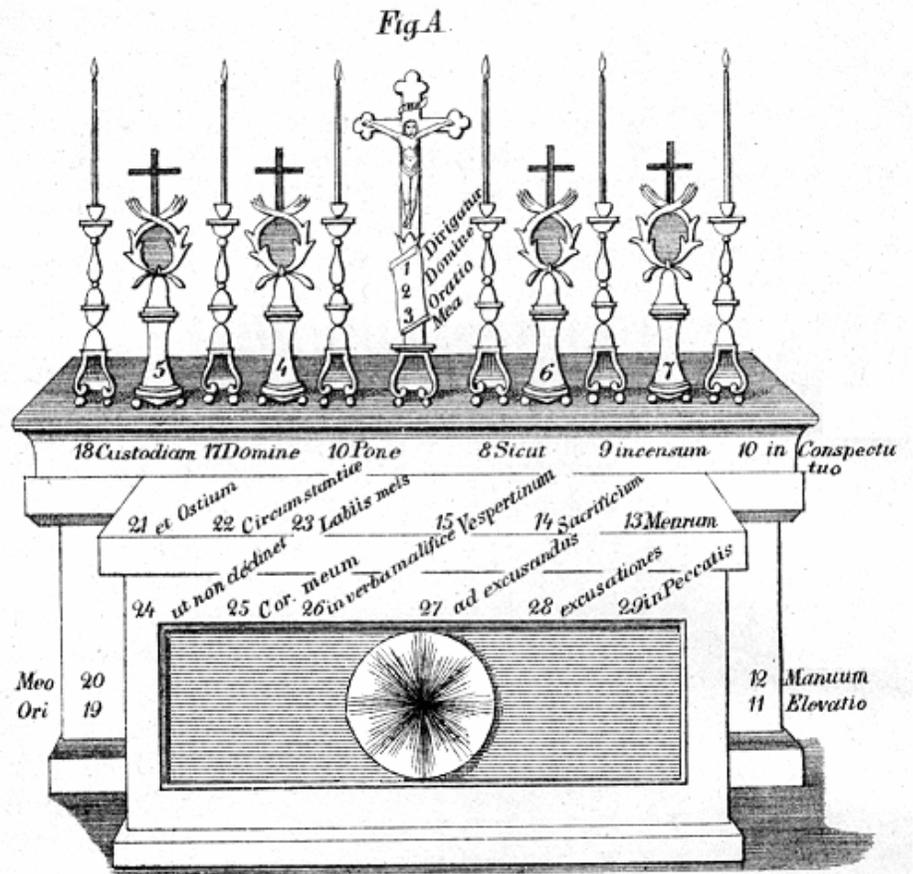


The restoration of the Sun-god's image and temple  
The British Museum

Above is a tablet from the early 9th century B.C. which depicts the Babylonian sun-god Shammash, also called Baal. Seated on the right, holding emblems of his authority (a staff and ring), the king with three attendants on the left is depicted. In the center, on an altar, is a large 4-point sun image, with additional small wavy rays between the points. In Hebrew, the word for sun is shemesh.

Altar diagram from *Ceremonial for the use of the Catholic Churches in the United States of America*, Ninth Edition, revised by Rev. W. Carroll Milholland, S.S., published by H. L. Kilner & Co., 1926.

The above diagram of the Catholic altar shows the same general Babylonian sun symbol. In the photo below, behind Pope John Paul II, on the front of the altar of St. Peter's Basilica, you see a tapestry with a sunburst design nearly identical to the pagan sun-god symbol of Baal / Shamash. This tapestry is called the *altar frontal*, *antependium* (antependium), or *pallium altaris*.



Christmas Eve Mass at the Vatican 1996, NBC News.



Symbol for Baal



Pope John Paul II celebrates Pentecost, June 3rd 2001

Detail of a Photo "L'Osservatore Romano" Photographic Service



The Pope conducting Midnight Mass on the steps of St. Peter's Basilica on Christmas Eve of 2000

NBC News



Symbol of Babylonian sun-god Shamash

Next page, top left, is a picture from the coronation of Pope Pius XI in 1922. On the tapestry hung from the balcony, there are three symbols of Baal / Shamash evident. On the right is Pope John XXIII waving to the crowd in St. Peter's square from above another similar banner, after an Urbi Et Orbi speech.

Below it on the left is a similar photo of John Paul II, making his first public appearance as Pope, in 1978. Then to the right is a photo from early in the papacy of John Paul II, and the symbol of Baal / Shamash appears on the front of his fish head shaped mitre. Note also the small black cross on his shoulder (compare graphic on following page), on what is called a *Pallium*:



1922 by Underwood

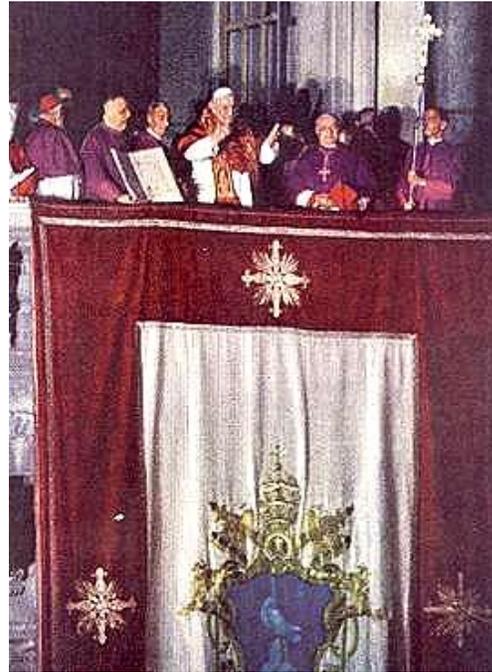


Photo by Dmitri Kessel



Photo by Fabian / Sygma



“The modern pallium is a circular band about two inches wide, worn about the neck, breast, and shoulders, and having two pendants, one hanging down in front and one behind.... The ornamentation of the pallium consists of six small black crosses – one each on the breast and back, one on each shoulder, and one on each pendant.” – [www.newadvent.org/cathen/11427a.htm](http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/11427a.htm)

On the top of the next page on the left is a Neo-Assyrian standing stone (stele/stela) dating from about 824-811 B.C., which depicts King Shamshi-Adad V. In particular, note the necklace the King is wearing. On it is what is called a Cross Pattée or Cross Formée. Twenty-eight hundred years ago that shape was symbolic of pagan sun worship.



Stela of Shamshi-Adad V

The British Museum



John Paul II wearing the Pallium

Today the Pope wears a similar symbol around his neck, on the Pallium, which the Pope also confers on selected bishops as an ornamental token of his favor, and it is also worn by arch-bishops and patriarchs as a symbol of their authority as a metropolitan, derived from unity with the Pope. Note also, that beneath the Pope's Pallium there is an "x" / diagonal cross, which mimics the diagonal bands below the Cross Pattée worn by the pagan king. The Pope also has a ring and staff of authority, remarkably similar to the depiction of the sun god Shamash on the Babylonian tablet shown previously.



Stele of King Ashur-nasir-pal II

The British Museum



John XXIII Pontifex Maximus

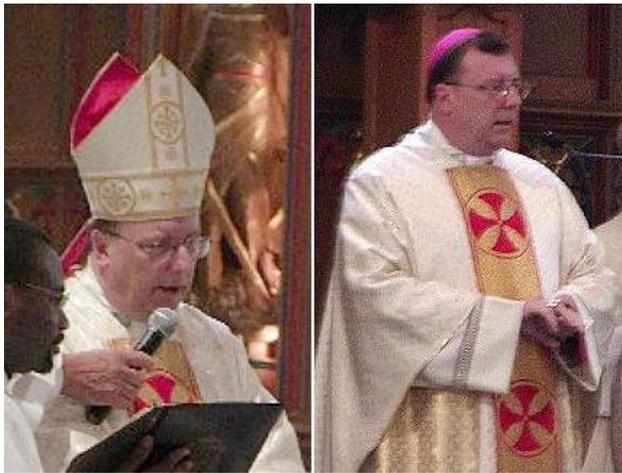
Photo by Felici, Roma

Note the lower hand of King Ashur-nasir-pal II in the above stele. On the wrist is the sunburst symbol. On the right, the pagan sunburst is on the glove of Pope John XXIII.

The depictions of the pagan kings on the ancient standing stones on the previous page show a strip of cloth (lappet) hanging from the rear of the headgear. These lappets are also present on the papal *mitre* and *tiara*, shown at the right and below, and partially visible in the photos of popes on the previous page.



Immagini del Concilio: Citta del Vaticano  
1966  
Press Office of the Ecumenical Council



The symbols of Baal and Shamash worn by a Catholic Bishop.

Photos from the  
*Archdiocese of Toronto* website



On the left is a medallion from the Vatican pavilion of the 1988 World Expo, which depicts a *Monstrance*, used to display a consecrated host. It bears a remarkable similarity to the symbol of Baal / Shamash.  
*The Monstrance*

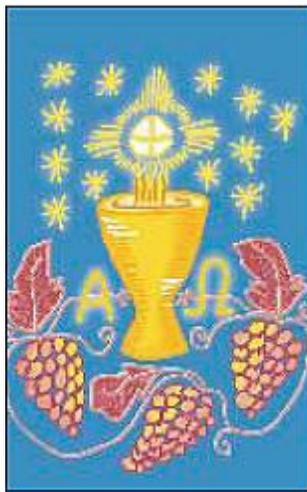




At left are two examples of *ciborium*, in which are kept the Eucharistic wafer hosts of the Catholic Mass. The one on the left uses the Cross Pattée as a handle on top, and the other uses the four-point cross within a circle, the ancient symbols of Shamash and Baal.



On the left is a Vatican 100 Lire gold coin. Note the symbol of Baal, found in Hazor, behind the head of the figure supposed to be that of Christ.



The symbol of Baal used in artwork representing the Year of the Eucharist that appeared on the cover of the November 10, 2004 edition of *L'Osservatore Romano*.

Now on the right you see the sunburst image on the underside of the canopy of Bernini's Baldacchino, the large canopy-like monument in St. Peter's Cathedral, directly over the main altar of St. Peter's, and the alleged tomb of St. Peter. The dove in front of the sunburst is supposed to be symbolic of the Holy Spirit. Note the shape of the sun rays. They are essentially identical to that of the pagan sun symbol worn by Assyrian kings over 800 years before the time of Christ.



From Christmas Eve Mass at St. Peter's

The Babylonian Sun god Shamash is also represented by a *winged solar disk*.  
*Stela from the Temple of Marduk in Babylon*



The Baldacchino

From a photo by Scala/Art Resource, New York

Bernini also put pagan sun images on the top of each of the columns of his Baldacchino, which stands above the altar of St. Peter's. (The sun image and 3 bumblebees are symbolic of the Barberini family and Pope Urban VIII).



This is essentially the same image as found in Bernini's La Verita and Baldacchino, but this is the face of the pagan Greek sun god Apollo, on the temple of Apollo, in the *Pergamon museum* in Berlin!

Picture of the sun god Apollo

From the book *The New Illustrated Great Controversy*  
 LLT Productions

**Catholicism has clearly adopted the sun symbolism of the ancient pagans!**

## APPENDIX II

# STATEMENTS BY THE CATHOLIC CHURCH ABOUT CHANGING ONE OF GOD'S LAWS

"Most Christians assume that Sunday is the biblically approved day of worship. The Catholic Church protests that it transferred Christian worship from the biblical Sabbath (Saturday) to Sunday, and that to try to argue that the change was made in the Bible is both dishonest and a denial of Catholic authority. If Protestantism wants to base its teachings only on the Bible, it should worship on Saturday." Rome's Challenge  
[www.immaculateheart.com/maryonline](http://www.immaculateheart.com/maryonline) Dec 2003

"Is not every Christian obliged to sanctify Sunday and to abstain on that day from unnecessary servile work? Is not the observance of this law among the most prominent of our sacred duties? But you may read the Bible from Genesis to Revelation, and you will not find a single line authorizing the sanctification of Sunday. The Scriptures enforce the religious observance of Saturday, a day which we never sanctify." James Cardinal Gibbons, *The Faith of Our Fathers* (1917 edition), p. 72-73 (16th Edition, p 111; 88th Edition, p. 89).

"For example, nowhere in the Bible do we find that Christ or the Apostles ordered that the Sabbath be changed from Saturday to Sunday. We have the commandment of God given to Moses to keep holy the Sabbath day, that is the 7th day of the week, Saturday. Today most Christians keep Sunday because it has been revealed to us by the [Roman Catholic] church outside the Bible." *Catholic Virginian*, October 3, 1947, p. 9, article "To Tell You the Truth."

### Who Made Sunday Holy?

"Written by the finger of God on two tables of stone, this Divine code (ten commandments) was received from the Almighty by Moses amid the thunders of Mount Sinai...Christ resumed these Commandments in the double precept of charity--love of God and of the neighbour; He proclaimed them as binding under the New Law in Matthew 19 and in the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5)...The (Catholic) Church, on the other hand, after changing the day of rest from the Jewish Sabbath, or seventh day of the week, to the first, made the Third Commandment refer to Sunday as the day to be kept holy as the Lord's Day...He (God) claims one day out of the seven as a memorial to Himself, and this must be kept holy..." *The Catholic Encyclopaedia*, vol. 4, "The Ten Commandments", 1908 edition by Robert Appleton Company; and 1999 Online edition by Kevin Knight, Imprimatur, John M. Farley, Archbishop of New York.

"Question: How prove you that the church had power to command feasts and holydays?

"Answer: By the very act of changing the Sabbath into Sunday, which Protestants allow of and therefore they fondly contradict themselves by keeping Sunday strictly, and breaking most other feasts commanded by the same church.

"Question: Have you any other way of proving that the church has power to institute festivals of precept?

“Answer: Had she not such power, she could not a done that in which all modern religion-ists agree with her; -she could not have substituted the observance of Sunday the first day of the week, for the observance of Saturday the seventh day of the week, a change for which there is no Scriptural authority.” Stephen Keenan, *A Doctrinal Catechism On the Obedience Due to the Church*, 3rd edition, Chapter 2, p. 174 (Imprimatur, John Cardinal McCloskey, Archbishop of New York).

“Perhaps the boldest thing, the most revolutionary change the Church ever did, happened in the first century. The holy day, the Sabbath, was changed from Saturday to Sunday. ‘The day of the Lord’ was chosen, not from any direction noted in the Scriptures, but from the (Catholic) Church’s sense of its own power...People who think that the Scriptures should be the sole authority, should logically become 7th Day Adventists, and keep Saturday holy.” *St. Catherine Church Sentinel*, Algonac, Michigan, May 21, 1995.

“Nowhere in the Bible is it stated that worship should be changed from Saturday to Sunday...Now the Church...instituted, by God’s authority, Sunday as the day of worship. This same Church, by the same divine authority, taught the doctrine of Purgatory long before the Bible was made. We have, therefore, the same authority for Purgatory as we have for Sunday.” Martin J. Scott, *Things Catholics Are Asked About*, 1927 edition, p. 136.

“Question: Which is the Sabbath day?

“Answer: Saturday is the Sabbath day.

“Question: Why do we observe Sunday instead of Saturday?

“Answer: We observe Sunday instead of Saturday because the Catholic Church, in the Council of Laodicea (A.D. 364), transferred the solemnity from Saturday to Sunday.” Peter Geiermann, C.S.S.R., *The Convert’s Catechism of Catholic Doctrine*, p. 50, 3rd edition, 1957.

“Is Saturday the seventh day according to the Bible and the Ten Commandments? I answer yes. Is Sunday the first day of the week and did the Church change the seventh day - Saturday - for Sunday, the first day? I answer yes. Did Christ change the day? I answer *no!*” “Faithfully yours, J. Card. Gibbons.” James Cardinal Gibbons, Archbishop of Baltimore, Md. (1877-1921), in a signed letter.

“Question: How prove you that the Church hath power to command feasts and holy days?

“Answer: By the very act of changing Sabbath into Sunday which Protestants allow of; and therefore they fondly contradict themselves, by keeping Sunday strictly, and breaking most other feasts commanded by the same Church.

“Question: How prove you that?

“Answer: Because by keeping Sunday, they acknowledge the Church’s power to ordain feasts, and to command them under sin: and by not keeping the rest by her commanded, they again deny, in fact, the same power.” An Abridgment of the Christian Doctrine, composed by Henry Tuberville, p. 58.

“Some theologians have held that God likewise directly determined the Sunday as the day of worship in the New Law that He Himself has explicitly substituted the Sunday for the Sabbath. But this theory is now entirely abandoned. It is now commonly held that God simply gave His Church the power to set aside whatever day or days she would deem suitable as Holy Days. The (Roman Catholic) Church chose Sunday, the first day of the week,

and in the course of time added other days as holy days.” John Laux, *A Course in Religion for Catholic High Schools and Academies*, 1936 edition, vol. 1, p. 51.

“Question: What warrant have you for keeping Sunday preferably to the ancient sabbath which was Saturday?

“Answer: We have for it the authority of the Catholic church and apostolic tradition.

“Question: Does the Scripture anywhere command the Sunday to be kept for the Sabbath?

“Answer: The Scripture commands us to hear the church (St.Matt.18:17; St. Luke 10:16), and to hold fast the traditions of the apostles. 2 Thess. 2:15. But the Scripture does not in particular mention this change of the Sabbath.

“St John speaks of the Lord’s day (Rev 1:10) but he does not tell us what day of the week that was, much less does he tell us what day was to take the place of the Sabbath ordained in the commandments. St.Luke speaks of the disciples meeting together to break bread on the first day of the week. Acts 20:7. And St. Paul (1 Cor.16:2) orders that on the first day of the week the Corinthians should lay in store what they designated to bestow in charity on the faithful in Judea: but neither the one or the other tells us that this first day of the week was to be henceforth a day of worship, and the Christian Sabbath; so that truly the best authority we have for this ancient custom is the testimony of the church. And therefore those who pretend to be such religious observers of Sunday, whilst they take no notice of other festivals ordained by the same church authority, show that they act more by humor, than by religion; since Sundays and holidays all stand upon the same foundation, namely the ordinance of the (Roman Catholic) church.” Catholic Christian Instructed, 17th edition, p. 272-273.

“Protestantism, in discarding the authority of the (Roman Catholic) Church, has no good reasons for its Sunday theory, and ought logically to keep Saturday as the Sabbath.” John Gilmary Shea, *American Catholic Quarterly Review*, January 1883.

“The Catholic church for over one thousand years before the existence of a Protestant, by virtue of her divine mission, changed the day from Saturday to Sunday...The Protestant World at its birth found the Christian Sabbath too strongly entrenched to run counter to its existence; it was therefore placed under the necessity of acquiescing in the arrangement, thus implying the (Catholic) Church’s right to change the day, for over three hundred years. The Christian Sabbath is therefore *to this day*, the acknowledged offspring of the Catholic Church as spouse of the Holy Ghost, without a word of remonstrance from the Protestant World.” James Cardinal Gibbons in the *Catholic Mirror*, September 23, 1883.

### **Whose Day of Worship is Sunday?**

“They [the Protestants] deem it their duty to keep the Sunday holy. Why? Because the Catholic Church tells them to do so. They have no other reason...The observance of Sunday thus comes to be an ecclesiastical law entirely distinct from the divine law of Sabbath observance...The author of the Sunday law...is the Catholic Church.” *Ecclesiastical Review*, February 1914.

“The Sunday...is purely a creation of the Catholic Church.” *American Catholic Quarterly Review*, January 1883.

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## FATHER ENRIGHT AGAIN

He Continues His Offer of \$1,000 for a Sunday Text.

THE *Industrial American*, published at Harlan, Iowa, in its issue of Dec. 19, 1889, contains a notice of a sermon in the Catholic church of that place on Sunday, Dec. 15. After stating that his remarks on Sunday observance created something of a sensation, it presents what was said on that subject, from which we make the following extract. A Catholic on such a subject does not speak at random. What he says is the voice of the Catholic Church, and Protestants have to meet it. Will they pay heed to it? He said:—

Take, for instance, the day we celebrate—Sunday. What right have the Protestant churches to observe that day?—None whatever. You say it is to obey the commandment, “Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy.” But Sunday is not the Sabbath according to the Bible and the record of time. Every one knows that Sunday is the first day of the week, while Saturday is the seventh day and the Sabbath, the day consecrated as a day of rest. It is so recognized in all civilized nations. I have repeatedly offered \$1,000 to any one who will furnish any proof from the Bible that Sunday is the day we are bound to keep, and no one has called for the money. If any person in this town will show me any scripture for it, I will to-morrow evening publicly acknowledge it, and thank him for it. It was the Holy Catholic Church that changed the day of rest from Saturday to Sunday, the first day of the week. And it not only compelled all to keep Sunday, but at the Council of Laodicea, A. D. 364, anathematized those who kept the Sabbath, and urged all persons to labor on the seventh day under penalty of anathema.

Which church does the whole civilized world obey? Protestants call it every horrible name they can think of,—antichrist, the scarlet-colored beast, Babylon, etc., and at the same time profess great reverence for the Bible; and yet by their solemn act of keeping Sunday, they acknowledge the power of the Catholic Church. The Bible says: “Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy,” but the Catholic Church says no, keep the first day of the week; and the whole world bows in obedience.

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manded by the Bible, but the first day. Which we know is to be kept holy, only from the tradition and teaching of the Catholic church.” Henry Gibson, *Catechism Made Easy*, #2, 9th edition, vol. 1, p. 341-342.

“It was the Catholic church which...has transferred this rest to Sunday in remembrance of the resurrection of our Lord. Therefore the observance of Sunday by the Protestants is an

“Sunday...is the law of the Catholic Church alone...” *American Sentinel (Catholic)*, June 1893.

“Sunday is a Catholic institution and its claim to observance can be defended only on Catholic principles...From beginning to end of Scripture there is not a single passage that warrants the transfer of weekly public worship from the last day of the week to the first.” *Catholic Press*, Sydney, Australia, August 1900.

“It is well to remind the Presbyterians, Baptists, Methodists, and all other Christians, that the Bible does not support them anywhere in their observance of Sunday. Sunday is an institution of the Roman Catholic Church, and those who observe the day observe a commandment of the Catholic Church.” Priest Brady, in an address reported in *The News*, Elizabeth, New Jersey, March 18, 1903.

Who Do We Reverence and Pay Homage to by Keeping Sunday Holy?

“From this we may understand how great is the authority of the church in interpreting or explaining to us the commandments of God - an authority which is acknowledged by the universal practice of the whole Christian world, even of those sects which profess to take the holy Scriptures as their sole rule of faith, since they observe as the day of rest not the seventh day of the week de-

homage they pay, in spite of themselves, to the authority of the (Catholic) church.” Monsignor Louis Segur, *Plain Talk About the Protestantism of Today*, p. 213.

“Sunday is our mark or authority...the church is above the Bible, and this transference of Sabbath observance is proof of that fact.” *Catholic Record of London, Ontario*, September 1, 1923.

“Of course the Catholic Church claims that the change (Saturday Sabbath to Sunday) was her act...And the act is a mark of her ecclesiastical authority in religious things.” H.F. Thomas, Chancellor of Cardinal Gibbons.

“I have repeatedly offered \$1,000 to anyone who can prove to me from the Bible alone that I am bound to keep Sunday holy. There is no such law in the Bible. It is a law of the holy Catholic Church alone. The Bible says, ‘Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy.’ The Catholic Church says: ‘No. By my divine power I abolish the Sabbath day and command you to keep holy the first day of the week.’ And lo! The entire civilized world bows down in a reverent obedience to the command of the holy Catholic Church.” father T. Enright, C.S.S.R. of the Redemptoral College, Kansas City, in a lecture at Hartford, Kansas, February 18, 1884, printed in *History of the Sabbath*, p. 802.

“Protestants...accept Sunday rather than Saturday as the day for public worship after the Catholic Church made the change...But the Protestant mind does not seem to realize that...In observing the Sunday, they are accepting the authority of the spokesman for the church, the Pope.” *Our Sunday Visitor*, February 15, 1950.

### **Conclusion and the Challenge.**

“The (Roman Catholic) Church changed the observance of the Sabbath to Sunday by right of the divine, infallible authority given to her by her founder, Jesus Christ. The Protestant claiming the Bible to be the only guide of faith, has no warrant for observing Sunday.” *The Catholic Universe Bulletin*, August 14, 1942, p. 4.

“Sunday is founded, not of scripture, but on tradition, and is distinctly a Catholic institution. As there is no scripture for the transfer of the day of rest from the last to the first day of the week, Protestants ought to keep their Sabbath on Saturday and thus leave Catholics in full possession of Sunday.” *Catholic Record*, September 17, 1893.

“Regarding the change from the observance of the Jewish Sabbath to the Christian Sunday, I wish to draw your attention to the facts:

“1) That Protestants, who accept the Bible as the only rule of faith and religion, should by all means go back to the observance of the Sabbath. The fact that they do not, but on the contrary observe the Sunday, stultifies them in the eyes of every thinking man.

“2) We Catholics do not accept the Bible as the only rule of faith. Besides the Bible we have the living Church, the authority of the Church, as a rule to guide us. We say, this Church, instituted by Christ to teach and guide man through life, has the right to change the ceremonial laws of the Old Testament and hence, we accept her change of the Sabbath to Sunday. We frankly say, yes, the Church made this change, made this law, as she made

many other laws, for instance, the Friday abstinence, the unmarried priesthood, the laws concerning mixed marriages, the regulation of Catholic marriages and a thousand other laws...

“It is always somewhat laughable to see the Protestant churches, in pulpit and legislation, demand the observance of Sunday, of which there is nothing in their Bible.” Peter R. Kraemer, *Catholic Church Extension Magazine, USA* (1975), Chicago, Illinois, “Under the blessing of the Pope Pius XI”

“I am going to propose a very plain and serious question to those who follow ‘the Bible and the Bible only’ to give their most earnest attention. It is this: Why don’t you keep holy the Sabbath day?...

“The command of the Almighty God stands clearly written in the Bible in these words: ‘Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labor, and do all thy work; but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord thy God; in it thou shalt not do any work.’ Exodus 20:8-10...

“You will answer me, perhaps, that you do keep the Sabbath; for that you abstain from all worldly business and diligently go to church, and say your prayers, and read your Bible at home every Sunday of your lives...

“But Sunday is not the Sabbath day. Sunday is the first day of the week: the Sabbath day is the seventh day of the week. Almighty God did not give a commandment that men should keep holy one day in seven; but He named His own day, and said distinctly: ‘Thou shalt keep holy the seventh day’; and He assigned a reason for choosing this day rather than any other – a reason which belongs only to the seventh day of the week, and cannot be applied to the rest. He says, ‘For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea and all that in them is, and rested on the seventh day: wherefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it’, Exodus 20:11, Genesis 2:1-3. Almighty God ordered that all men should rest from their labor on the seventh day, because He too had rested on that day: He did not rest on Sunday, but on Saturday. On Sunday, which is the first day of the week, He began the work of creation; He did not finish it. It was on Saturday that He ‘ended His work which he had made: and God blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it: because that in it He had rested from all His work which God created and made.’ Genesis 2:2-3...

“Nothing can be more plain and easy to understand than all this; there is nobody who attempts to deny it. It is acknowledged by everybody that the day which Almighty God appointed to be kept holy was Saturday, not Sunday. Why do you then keep holy the Sunday and not Saturday?

“You will tell me that Saturday was the Jewish Sabbath, but that the Christian Sabbath has been changed to Sunday. Changed! But by whom? Who has the authority to change an express commandment of Almighty God? When God has spoken and said, ‘Thou shalt keep holy the seventh day’, who shall dare to say, ‘Nay, thou mayest work and do all manner of worldly business on the seventh day: but thou shalt keep holy the first day in its stead?’ This is a most important question, which I know not how you answer...

“You are a Protestant, and you profess to go by the Bible and the Bible only; and yet, in so important a manner as the observance of one day in seven as the holy day, you go against the plain letter of the Bible, and put another day in the place of that day which the Bible has commanded. The command to keep holy the seventh day is one of the Ten Commandments; you believe that the other nine are still binding. Who gave you authority to tamper with the fourth? If you are consistent with your own principles, if you really follow the Bible, and the Bible only you ought to be able to produce some portion of the New Testament in which this fourth commandment is expressly altered.” Excerpts from “Why Don’t You Keep Holy the Sabbath Day?”, pages 3-15 in *The Clifton Tract*, vol. 4, published by the Roman Catholic Church 1869.

“The arguments...are firmly grounded on the word of God, and having been closely studied with the Bible in hand, leave no escape for the conscientious Protestant except the abandonment of Sunday worship and the return to Saturday, commanded by their teacher, the Bible, or, unwilling to abandon the tradition of the Catholic Church, which enjoins the keeping of Sunday, and which they have accepted in direct opposition to their teacher, the Bible, consistently accept her (the Catholic Church) in all her teachings. Reason and common sense demand the acceptance of one or the other of these alternatives: either Protestantism and the keeping holy of Saturday, or Catholicism and the keeping holy of Sunday. Compromise is impossible.” James Cardinal Gibbons, *Catholic Mirror*, December 23, 1893.

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# APPENDIX III

## IDENTIFYING THE EARTH BEAST

### (REVELATION 13)

#### Introduction:

The prophetic story of Revelation 12, showing the dragon's (Satan's – vs 9) rage against the pure woman (vs 1) (God's true church) leads to war against her offspring (a remnant who identifies with God's commandments and with Jesus) (vs 17).

- Chapter 13 shows how that war will be waged.
- There, the dragon uses two “agents” – a sea beast and an earth beast – to fight that remnant.
- Chapter 14:1-5 further identifies God's victorious saints – that remnant.

Our focus is on the earth beast. To clarify its identity and mission, we must briefly look at the sea beast. It parallels the beast in Revelation 17 and the fourth “earth beast” of Daniel 7. Those prophecies clarify that it is a state power, centered in Rome, controlled by an apostate church (harlot), who has developed an illicit relationship with the world through an abomination (false doctrine) she holds in a cup.

- That “beast” comes center stage in 17:11, when it emerges as a geopolitical power with the collective support of ten horns:
  - **First** – without kingdoms (geopolitical regions) (17:12-13).
  - **Later** – with identifiable crowns (13:1) – powers ruling geopolitical areas of the earth.

That descriptive coalition is of a “world order,” which is currently and rapidly evolving!<sup>1</sup> The papacy is predicted to be its “head.”<sup>2</sup>

*“The ten horns which thou sawest are ten kings ... these have **one mind and shall give their power and strength unto the beast**”* (Revelation 17:12-13; cf. Daniel 7:24a).

The bonding occurs through the harlot's sharing of her abominations: *“With whom the kings of the earth have committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth have been made drunk with the wine of her fornication.... having a golden cup in her hand full of abominations and filthiness of her fornication”* (Revelation 17:2, 4c).

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<sup>1</sup> Fowler, Franklin S., Jr.; *The Last Geopolitical “Order”* (Christian Heritage Foundation, Lucerne Valley, CA, 2014).

<sup>2</sup> White, *The Faith I Live By*, p. 329.

The world was recently (1942) divided into ten regions.<sup>3</sup>

***“We shall have a world government, whether or not we like it. The question is only whether it will be achieved by consent or by conquest.”*** (James P. Warburg, international financier and political scientist).<sup>4</sup>

Later, The Club of Rome refined those ten divisions.<sup>5</sup>

“World peace can be ours if we only submit to a one-world government that manages our lives and our finances.”<sup>6</sup>

There were voices that spoke out against papal global power:

“The Roman church–state is a hybrid – a monster of ecclesiastical and political power. Its political thought is totalitarian and whenever it has had the opportunity to apply its principles, the result has been bloody repression.

“The Roman church–state ... is an institution recovering from a mortal wound. If and when it regains its full power and authority it will impose a regime more sinister than any the planet has yet seen.”<sup>7</sup>

“The encyclical [Pope Paul VI’s, *Populorum Progressio*, 1967] is the manifesto of an impassioned hatred for capitalism; but its evil is much more profound and its target is more than mere politics: The Catholic church has never given up the hope to re-establish the medieval union of church and state, with a global state and a global theocracy as its ultimate goal. This is the spectacle of *religion climbing ...* in a desperate attempt to recapture the power it lost.”<sup>8</sup>

Enamored, prophecy says that all the world will wonder after that papal beast with ten crowned horns (Revelation 13:3). Her world control, however, won’t happen easily: She will employ “every device to extend her influence and increase her power in preparation for a ***fierce and determined conflict*** to regain control of the world.”<sup>9</sup>

### **The Sea Beast Activities**

The dragon gives it its power, seat and authority (Revelation 13:2), currently (2014) functioning as a church/state with 179 ambassadors, defined in Revelation 17.

- The world becomes so enticed that it even worships this beast (13:2-3, 8). Thus, it has a religious image/influence.

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<sup>3</sup> [http://www.his2ndcoming.org/joomla/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=57&Itemid=66](http://www.his2ndcoming.org/joomla/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=57&Itemid=66)

<sup>4</sup> Warburg, James P.; Testimony before the *Senate Foreign Relations Committee*, February 9, 1950 (emphasis added).

<sup>5</sup> <http://conspiracywiki.com/documents/club-of-rome-report-regionalized-and-adaptive-model-of-the-global-world.pdf>

<sup>6</sup> Pope Benedict XVI, *Caritas in Veritate*, 2009 (emphasis added).

<sup>7</sup> John W. Robbins, *Ecclesiastical Megalomania* (The Trinity Foundation, 1999), p. 195 (emphasis added).

<sup>8</sup> Rand, Ayn; *An Answer to the Papal Encyclical Populorum Progressio*, pp. 315, 362; 1967 (emphasis added).

<sup>9</sup> White, *The Great Controversy*, p. 565 (emphasis added).

- It blasphemes God – it is the antichrist (13:5-6).
- It is the key agent of Satan’s war against the remnant (13:7, 17:6) – it is “Babylon” (Revelation 17:5).
- Its evil power is permitted for 42 months (13:5) – just like the dragon (12:14).

Expositor White correctly saw a dual application to this beast prophecy:

“In the last days Satan will appear as an angel of light, with great power and heavenly glory, and claim to be the Lord of the whole earth. He will declare that the Sabbath has been changed from the seventh to the first day of the week; and as lord of the first day of the week he will present this spurious sabbath as a test of loyalty to him. ***Then will take place the final fulfillment of the Revelator’s prophecy.*** *‘And they worshipped the dragon which gave power unto the beast: and they worshipped the beast, saying, Who is like unto the beast? who is able to make war with him? And there was given unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and power was given unto him to continue forty and two months.’* (Revelation 13:4-5) [13:6-18 is quoted].”<sup>10</sup>

1. There is to be a new geopolitical order.
2. The papacy will be its head.
3. The world becomes enamored of its leadership and *evil* focus.
4. Satan has already appeared as an angel of light, affirming its abominable doctrine and sinister global power.

In this context, the earth beast can be addressed:

### **The Earth Beast**

John appears to have a second vision:

***“And I beheld another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb, and he spake as a dragon”*** (Revelation 13:11).

- Since this new “beast” has lamb-like horns, some see this as a parody of the Messianic Lamb or that it must be Christ-like.<sup>11</sup>
- The sea beast “ascends” (cf. Revelation 11:7, Daniel 7:17).
- This new creature “arises out of the earth” (*ges*) – naturally a “settled” or “fixed” geographic area. John uses this word in a variety of ways. Since it contrasts with the sea (restless waters – Isaiah 57:20-21 – unsettled wicked state of world), many see this as arising from a more peaceful area.<sup>12</sup>
- Together, the earth and sea convey a “global” prophetic picture such as represented in 10:5.<sup>13</sup> (Such Christ and Satan end-time contrasts are frequent in Revelation.)

<sup>10</sup> White, Ellen G.; *Manuscript Releases*, vol. 19, p. 282 (emphasis added).

<sup>11</sup> Stefanovic, Ranko; *Revelation of Jesus Christ*, p. 419.

<sup>12</sup> Barnes, Albert; NT Commentary (Revelation 13:1) software.

<sup>13</sup> White, Ellen G.; *Manuscript Releases*, vol. 19, p. 321.

The last phrase associates this beast with the “dragon,” and, stunningly, the Greek word for “beast” is *therion*, implying a vicious, savage, terrifying creature.

- Beast imagery symbolizes a world empire or a nation (Daniel 7:17, 23). Some geopolitical power is in sight. Since the prophetic context unfolds sequentially, a story is evolving within this chapter. **After** a global coalition is in evidence (sea beast with crowned horns), the **activity** of this earth beast emerges! It portrays a meek, lamb-like imagery, but it then speaks/directs/leads like Satan and acts viciously and terrifyingly.
- Its “**speaking like a dragon**” contrasts with its “lamb-like” horns.
- This is a “message by design,” given to John for us to understand.

Again, the imagery reveals:

From a peaceful area (earth, opposed to restless sea) → A nation arises (beast) → In its final **prophetic setting**, during a 42-month period (vs 5), then acts like a tyrant, revealing a vicious nature

This wild “savage” beast imagery (*therion*) means that we must identify which “nation” this represents! A prophetic change in its nature, that God wants us to anticipate, is in evidence in this end-time prophecy. Peaceful – then tyrannical.

**“And he exerciseth all the power of the first beast before him, and causeth the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed”** (Revelation 13:12).

John is revealing that a theo-political peaceful nation will later wield tyrannical power on behalf of the papacy (within a 42-month setting). This immediately precedes Christ’s coming (another study) (cf. Revelation 10–11).

- The prophecy relates to the time of the end (13:7; 12:17; 11:2, 7; 6:8-11) sometime during a three-and-a-half-year period (cf. Daniel 9 and 12).
- This nation is apparently established before the world is enamored by the sea beast (via the timing limitation).
- It must have worldwide influence and power.
- It must have an initial imagery of innocence and peace (that changes – but deceptively continues to “wear” those lamb-like horns. That introductory portrayal is a significant clue).
- It must be so unique that it can represent (though deceptively) the ideals of the “other Lamb,” elevated in John’s apocalyptic book as the “Lamb of God” and, later, called a prophet.

### **End-time Paradox**

Since we will see this beast/nation giving global support to the sea beast (Holy See – church/state), there is a coalition between the two. But a paradox is presented:

- This beast “speaks like Satan” – its nature has changed.
- Yet, it is called a “prophet” (Revelation 16:13, 19:20, 20:10) – thus it continues to portray a religious aura.
- Albeit – a “false prophet” according to John.
- A true prophet leads to the worship of God. This prophet leads to the worship of the antichrist.<sup>14</sup>

Jesus specifically warned against “false prophets.” They “come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ravaging wolves” (Matthew 7:15).

- False prophets appear within the church (i.e., Revelation 2:2, 14-15, 20-24).
- Even inside the “believing community” itself.<sup>15</sup>

An apostate religious aura flows throughout the world from both the sea and earth beasts. They are both given authority and power by Satan but are located in two different geographic areas. One is clearly Rome (Vatican – the sea beast – cf. Revelation 17). The other, that earth beast, arises from a place that was previously devoid of political turmoil (opposite of the sea).

### Exploring Additional Clues

The papal beast was given a geopolitical blow in 1870 when it finally lost the remaining Papal States along with the City of Rome.

- That occurred September 20, 1870, under General Giuseppe Garibaldi, on behalf of Italy’s king, Victor Emmanuel II.
- The nation/country of Italy was finally unified.

From 1870 to 1929 the Roman Catholic Church had no state. It was *not then* “beast” oriented.

- In 1929, under Pope Pius XI and Italy’s Benito Mussolini, the Lateran Accords were signed, giving the Church the Vatican City State.
- Ambassadors quickly began to be exchanged.
- The **beast’s** “deadly wound” was healed (not a head).
- The church then enters end-time prophetic history as having a beast/state in 1929!
- In Revelation 13 it is *in* a world coalition with ten powers (crowned horns), during a 42-month period, **when the support of the earth beast arises.**
- Again, that occurs sometime during the 42 months (vs. 5).

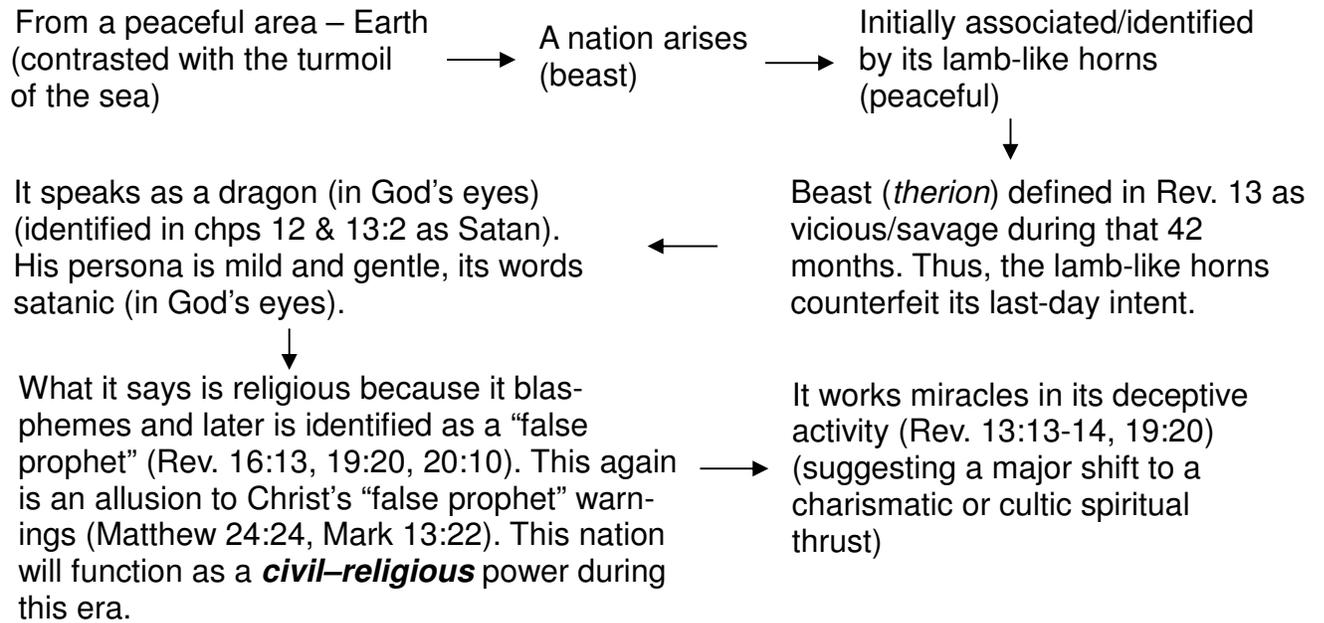
### That Earth Nation

Summation to this point:

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<sup>14</sup> Beale, G. K.; *The New International Greek Testament Commentary; The Book of Revelation* (William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, Grand Rapids, Michigan – 1999), p. 707.

<sup>15</sup> Osborne, Grant R.; *Revelation* (Baker Book House; Grand Rapids, MI), p. 512.



**What world power, prominent in today’s world, began as a peaceful nation but is changing?**

We appeal to history that looks at the early United States of America – but is now becoming coercive.

**American Exceptionalism – The Lamb-like Past**

Five decades after America gained independence, French political writer and analyst Alexis de Tocqueville (1805–1859) remarked on the exceptional character of the United States. “Unlike other nations that were defined by ethnicity, geography, common heritage, social class, or hierarchal structures, America was a nation of immigrants bond[ed] together by a shared commitment to the democratic principles of liberty, equality, individualism and free enterprise economics.”

It came from a sparsely populated area without political upheaval or conflict.

G. K. Chesterton said that the “American creed” “is set forth with dogmatic and even theological lucidity in the Declaration of Independence.”<sup>16</sup>

Thomas Jefferson, the main author of that Declaration of Independence, and the least religious, wrote: “We are not in a world ungoverned by the laws and the power of a Superior Agent. Our efforts are in His hand, and directed by it; and He will give them their effect in His own time.”

Ben Franklin issued this stirring appeal during an arduous debate in the Constitutional Congress:

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<sup>16</sup> Chesterton, G. K.; *What I Saw in America* (T. and A. Constable Ltd. at the Edinburgh University Press, London), 1922.

“In the beginning of the Contest with G. Britain, when we were sensible of danger, we had daily prayer in this room for Divine protection.... All of us who were engaged in the struggle must have observed frequent instances of Superintending Providence in our favor.... Have we now forgotten that powerful Friend? Or do we imagine we no longer need His assistance? ... God Governs in the affairs of men (Daniel 4:17). And if a sparrow cannot fall to the ground without His notice (Matthew 10:29), is it probable that an empire can rise without His aid?”

Centered on the back of the dollar bill are the words, “In God we trust.”

Expositor White keenly observed:

“The beast with horns like a lamb is seen ‘coming up out of the earth;’ [Revelation 13:11.] signifying that instead of overthrowing other powers to establish itself, the nation thus represented arose in territory previously unoccupied, and grew up gradually and peacefully.

“Here is a striking figure of the rise and growth of our own nation. And the lamb-like horns, emblems of innocence and gentleness, well represent the character of our government, as expressed in its two fundamental principles, Republicanism and Protestantism. The Christian exiles who first fled to America, sought an asylum from royal oppression and priestly intolerance, and they determined to establish a government upon the broad foundation of civil and religious liberty. These principles are the secret of our power and prosperity as a nation. Millions from other lands have sought our shores, and the United States has risen to a place among the most powerful nations of the earth.”<sup>17</sup>

- For those who love America and cherish her ideals and history, there must be a growing discomfort, an uneasiness, at its more recent changes.
- John said that it will exercise the same power as the sea beast (which came from Satan).
- Thus, it is in a coalition with “him.”

How can this prophecy of a savage, Satan-like beast, represent the United States? It just doesn't seem possible! Let's first look further at the other keys John shares.

1. It is a nation so strong that it tries to force **all** of earth's inhabitants to worship the papacy or something it stands for (Revelation 13:15, 12) – it is a **global** power, a dominant nation, which becomes coercive and tyrannical.
2. It uses its moral focus to deceive, as a tool to force the whole world to worship that sea beast.
3. Under its religious guise it will perform **supernatural miracles** (similar to what Elijah did on Mt. Carmel, representing “the” God above all gods – I Kings 18:36-39). A dramatic turn of events occurs when it functions as a “prophet.” Spiritualism is now a consideration. Since Satan will have already been appearing as an angel of light,<sup>18</sup> any supernatural possibility is present.
4. The papal sea beast looks to the earth beast to accomplish its geopolitical goals.

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<sup>17</sup> White, Ellen G.; *Spirit of Prophecy*, vol. 4, p. 276, 1884.

<sup>18</sup> White, Ellen G.; *Manuscript Releases*, vol. 19, p. 282.

“Though Pius [XI] has little liking for our wicked ways and our heresies, he sees in us the nation [United States] that counts for most in the world today – the nation of the future. We are rich, young, strong, and our life is before us as a nation. He would have us; he needs us; he means to have us. He believes that the destiny of the Church will be fulfilled in America and that with the spiritual conquest of America the world-dominion of the Church will be regained.... Meanwhile through his Press he reminds Americans that to the Church alone belongs the right of reforming the social and moral order. [Ref. 1: ‘To the Church and to the Church alone belongs the leadership of social forces for reform and human improvement,’ said Pius XI.]”<sup>19</sup>

5. It is a leader in an emerging geopolitical order (ten crowned horns).

To the casual observer, the history and “being part of” the United States speaks against this understanding. ***In fact, this prophecy could not be properly understood until recently.*** But that is now changing – and quickly. In a recent article in *Forbes Magazine*, Bill Flax observes: “It has become evident Washington now embodies the gravest threat to freedom.”<sup>20</sup> There’s more!

### **The Emerging Drama**

In the Counter-Reformation the Roman Catholic Church eclipsed the rapid spread of Protestantism through the work of Ignatius de Loyola (founder of the Society of Jesus – Jesuits), the establishment of the Roman Inquisition and the Council of Trent.

- Their expressed objective was defined as wanting “control of the world,”<sup>21</sup> to be earth’s sovereign leader.<sup>22</sup>
- This goal was later set into a geopolitical agenda by Pope Leo XIII in *Rerum Novarum* (1891). This was an ingenious encyclical that created “victims” of the poor and working class and, using ***spiritual*** dogma, conveyed solutions.
- By this one document the Roman Catholic Church moved beyond its ecclesiastical realm into key issues of the secular world. Redistribution of wealth for the poor became a major part of their agenda.

After the Catholic Church regained its “nation” status (the Vatican City State in 1929), Pope Pius XI engaged psychoanalysts to guide in how the Church might dominate the world’s powers. A summary observation by Jesuit E. Boyd Barrett (one of those analysts) – again:

- “The Church, under Pius XI’s superb leadership, has become a world power again.”

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<sup>19</sup> Barrett, E. Boyd; *Rome Stoops to Conquer* (Julian Messner, Inc., New York – 1935), pp. 259, 263.

<sup>20</sup> <http://www.forbes.com/sites/billflax/2011/06/30/a-politically-incorrect-perspective-on-american-exceptionalism/> (emphasis added).

<sup>21</sup> General Montholon, *Memorial of the Captivity of Napoleon at St. Helena*, vol. II (Paris: Paulin, 1847), p. 62. Charles-Tristan Montholon was aid-de-camp to the Emperor Napoleon Bonaparte (as quoted in *Fifty Years in the Church of Rome* by Charles Chiniqy, chapter 59).

<sup>22</sup> *The Brothers Karamazou* (1821 – 1881) (New York: Random House, 1950, originally published in 1880), p. 309, 310. [http://hotfile.com/dl/211653233/ed1343e/The\\_brothers\\_Karamazou..pdf.html](http://hotfile.com/dl/211653233/ed1343e/The_brothers_Karamazou..pdf.html) The brothers Karamazou..pdf ebook, pdf (emphasis added).

- “He [the pope] believes that the destiny of the Church will be fulfilled in America and that with the ***spiritual conquest*** of America the world-dominion of the Church will be regained.”<sup>23</sup>
- America must be religiously dominated by “Catholic power” at the end of time. And through the United States global power will be regained.

That objective, through its “social” agenda, moves forward under the guise of a New World Order. Popes Pius XI, Paul VI, John Paul II, Benedict XVI and Francis all wrote encyclicals similar to Leo XIII’s *Rerum Novarum*. Each rendering its goals through increasingly coercive language. All documents undermine capitalism and elevate Marxist principles.

- Underlying all global objectives is the need to bring this country under its geopolitical “ideals.”
- In turn, their world dreams are being implemented through the New World Order agenda.<sup>24</sup>

How would the United States give Rome such an ideological “gift?” Through the grooming of Barack Obama. Coming up through community work in Chicago with the Catholic Developing Community Project, he learned about dealing with the socially and financially needy. Then he ran for the Senate, getting the endorsement of the Democratic Socialists of America organization with a large gift from Marxist ideologue George Soros.<sup>25</sup> Then Roman Catholic Emil Jones, president of the Illinois Senate, took on the role of being “senator maker.” Suddenly, a Jesuit professor of St. Peter’s College came out publically as an activist for Barack’s Senate run.<sup>26</sup> Barack Obama won.

### **The Obama Presidency**

On November 5, 2008, Senator Barack Obama became the first “Black” president of the United States. It wasn’t long after his inauguration (March 2009) that the documentary “The Obama Deception,” produced by Alex Jones Productions, hit the screens. It claimed that Obama was a puppet, that he would undermine the Constitution, that he would be a proponent of global chaos (like fascism) and make attempts to disarm America and bankrupt the country, and that “globalists” would be behind him, directing his administration.

- His former defense Secretary, Leon Panetta, told Senator Jeff Sessions (2011) and the Senate that the U.S. military answers to international bankers, the U.N. and NATO – not the Congress of the American people.<sup>27</sup>
- The Affordable Health Care Act would be a major means to redistribute wealth in America,<sup>28</sup> just as the Roman Catholic Church’s social doctrine envisioned.

The Marxist ideology went forward, claiming totalitarian control of the “communities of citizens.” By mid-2012 President Obama perpetrated the principle that he can pick and choose

<sup>23</sup> Barrett, E. Boyd; *Rome Stoops to Conquer*, pp. 254, 259 (emphasis added).

<sup>24</sup> Fowler, *op. cit.*

<sup>25</sup> <http://www.theobamafile.com/BarackObama.htm>

<sup>26</sup> <http://www.crisismagazine.com/2008/a-jesuits-case-for-barack-obama>

<sup>27</sup> Saman, Mohammadi; [www.infowars.com](http://www.infowars.com)

<sup>28</sup> Johnson, Erika; New York Times, November 24, 2013.

which U.S. laws he wishes to enforce. He claimed a legal basis for this, which he has frequently exercised.<sup>29</sup> ***This is a change in the nature of the “earth beast.”*** This is a form of tyranny. The power he is wielding spills over into the international scene through.<sup>30</sup>

- Economic restructuring and the IMF
- Immigration – limiting enforcement
- Fomenting unrest on foreign soils – arming revolutionaries (e.g. Syria, Libya and Iraq)
- Spying through NSA on other world leaders<sup>31</sup>
- Drone spying and killing

Jonathan Turley, a Constitutional law scholar at the Jesuit-run George Washington University Law School, notes: “In many ways President Obama has fulfilled the dream of an imperial presidency.” Constitutional Professor and Legal Advisor to Obama, Laurence Tribe, Harvard Law School, agrees that no one can stop what the president is doing.<sup>32</sup>

One of the key elements of Catholic social doctrine is the right of everyone to use what another has for the “common good.” “In a 2005 senatorial speech, Obama attacked the ‘ownership society’ and made an argument for the collective good of government action. This philosophy is opposed to the individual liberty ideals of the Founding Fathers and of Abraham Lincoln.

“Obama said that Americans must have a ‘sense of mutual regard for each other, the idea that everybody has a stake in the country, that we’re all in it together and everybody’s got a shot at opportunity.’”<sup>33</sup> Yet, his actions undermine completely that “liberty” ideal.

The current trends within the Obama administrations are moving toward a “police state,” the very tyranny that Revelation 13 describes. In fact, Daniel Ellsberg, the man who leaked the Pentagon Papers in 1971, told the Huffington Post that the digital surveillance of every phone conversation, email, text message, utility bill, bank statement, credit card statement, chat log of this government “outmatches any police state in the history of humanity.”<sup>34</sup>

A major theme from the social papal encyclicals invites a central “world order,” decrying “income inequality” by encouraging redistribution of wealth. Robert Grady of the *Wall Street Journal* notes that President Obama’s concern over redistribution of American wealth is misguided – and he was siding with the Marxist ideology as did Rome (referring to the Vatican State)!<sup>35</sup>

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<sup>29</sup> <http://libertycounsel.com/2014/04/the-growing-movement-to-impeach-obama-lcaction/>

<sup>30</sup> Hanson, Victor Davis; *National Review*, June 15, 2012. <http://www.nationalreview.com/corner/303037/are-we-revolutionary-times-victor-davis-hanson>

<sup>31</sup> <http://news.yahoo.com/u-taped-moscow-plotting-chaos-094500766--politics.html>

<sup>32</sup> Friess, Steve; *Politico*, “Obama’s Policy Strategy: Ignore laws,” June 6, 2012.

<sup>33</sup> Stepman, Jarrett; July 24, 2013. <http://www.breitbart.com/Big-Government/2013/07/24/Obama-at-Knox-College>

<sup>34</sup> <http://www.newsmax.com/Newsfront/ellsberg-obama-police-state/2013/08/22id/521757#ixzz2cipyK3yP>

<sup>35</sup> Grady, Robert E.; *Wall Street Journal*, December 22, 2013.

Recently, Obama launched a chilling purge against political enemies by retiring seasoned military generals who opposed his policies. This was a “police state” tactic that targeted decency.<sup>36</sup>

Respected conservative Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia noted in a recent speech at the University of Hawaii Law School:

- “In time of ‘war,’ the law falls silent.”
- Then he said: Internment camps may be just around the corner here in America, as they were in World War II under Stalin.<sup>37</sup>
- The “earth beast” is quickly “claiming” its Greek name, *therion*.

No nation in recent history can match the description of Revelation 13:11ff as the United States. With the New World Order close to its full début, the Obama administration, closely allied with papal Rome and the world elites, shares a Marxist ideology. The “great changes” in the world that expositor White talked about are ready to burst into end-time prophecy.<sup>38</sup>

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<sup>36</sup> Watson, Paul J.; infowars.com, January 26, 2014.

<sup>37</sup> Gehrke, Joel; *Washington Examiner*, February 2, 2014.

<sup>38</sup> White, Ellen G.; *Testimonies*, vol. 9, p. 11.

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