



Our Firm Foundation

The Seventh-day Sabbath

Christ Our Righteousness

The Immutable Law of God

The Non-Immortality of the Soul

The Three Angels' Messages

The Sanctuary

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Church & State ON TRIAL

The Signs of Christ's Return

There are hundreds and thousands of predictions concerning the future of our planet. Some teach that the year A.D. 2000 will usher in a new age of global cooperation, while others teach that God's wrath will soon be meted out in the seven last plagues. It is my firm conviction that the Bible is our only Safeguard in knowing the events that will soon take place.

Yet, even among professed Christians, there are many and varying prophetic interpretations concerning the end of time. Who is right? What is really going to happen? We must honestly ask ourselves: Am I willing to examine my beliefs and discard any error that I find? If the Bible shows me one thing, but my church teaches me something different, will I stand on the Word of God or on church teachings—tradition?

This special issue* of *Our Firm Foundation*, focuses on the Bible's prophecies of Christ's return. We believe it is imperative that each of us be well grounded in the Scriptures so that we will not be deceived, for "your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour." 1 Peter 5:8.

Jesus told us that certain conditions would exist in the world before His return. He said, "And ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars: . . . For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places. . . For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many. . . Then if any man shall say unto you, Lo, here is Christ, or there; believe it not. For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect." Matthew 24:6-7, 5, 23-24.

(All emphasis supplied unless otherwise noted.)

Perhaps the most shocking sign of the imminent return of Christ is the formation of a political coalition between Catholics and Protestants. Inspiration forewarns us that the churches will so control the governments that religious legislation will lead to religious persecution.

In this special issue we will focus our study on three prophetic chapters in the Bible. In these prophecies we will discover two superpowers. The first superpower is a religious institution described symbolically as a leopardlike beast that all who "dwell upon the earth shall worship." Then there is the second superpower symbolically described as a beast with "two horns like a lamb" that "causeth the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast, . . . and cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed." Revelation 13:8, 11-12, 15.

What a religious crisis! Who are these two superpowers? How will the world be forced to worship the leopardlike beast? Will this generation live under the executive, legislative, and judicial rule of the prophesied New World Order of Church and State? All these questions are answered in this publication.

I encourage you to read in their order the following three prophetic chapters in your Bible: Daniel chapters 2 and 7, and Revelation, chapter 13, as they unfold sweeping world events. Christ is coming, dear reader. Get ready! *Get ready! Get ready!* ✨

Jeff Wehr, Co-EDITOR

* Several of the articles have been adapted from the *Signposts* magazine, which is also available from Hope International.

It is the mission of Hope International and the editors of *Our Firm Foundation* to clearly present Christ and His truth. The days that yet remain of this world are few, and what we do we must do quickly. We must boldly proclaim the historic truths of Adventism that place us on so firm a foundation in the midst of this troubled world. —Editors

Co-Editors: Ron Spear, Jeff Wehr
Associate Editors: Alan Esselbach, Clark Floyd, Philip Garber, Beth Jennings, Harvey Steck
Production Manager: Harvey Steck
Contributing Editors: Colin Standish, Russell Standish
Design & Layout: Kevin Patterson
Circulation: Adam Reiswig

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The Rise and Fall of World Empires



This dream, found in Daniel, chapter 2, is the first of three chapters on Bible prophecy that we will study. Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, had a dream that describes the succession of world empires. In this dream the king saw a great image with a head of gold, a chest and arms of silver, a belly and thighs of brass, and legs of iron with feet partly of iron and partly of clay. Then he saw a stone cut out without human hands which came down from heaven and destroyed the whole image. See Daniel 2:31–35.

Babylon

We are told that the head of gold represents the king or the kingdom of Babylon. See Daniel 2:36–38. The silver breast and arms, and the brass belly and thighs represent other nations that would arise after Babylon. See Daniel 2:39.

Medo-Persia

Daniel, chapter 5, describes the fall of the Babylonian Empire to the Medes and the Persians. See Daniel 5:22–31. The Medes and Persians defeated the Babylonians in 539 B.C. The Medes and Persians are represented by the silver breast and arms.

Greece

Twice in the book of Daniel we are told that the Medes and Persians would be defeated by the Greeks. See Daniel 8:4–7, 20–21; 11:1–3. The Greeks defeated the Medes and Persians in 331 B.C., and are represented by the brass belly and thighs.

Rome

The iron legs represent the fourth world

empire. See Daniel 2:40. History records that the Greeks were defeated in 168 B.C. by the Romans. Rome is well described in the Bible as an empire that crushes like iron.

Europe

The ten toes made of iron and clay represent the ten divisions of the iron kingdom. See Daniel 2:41–43. In A.D. 476, the Roman Empire fell and was divided among ten barbaric tribes—namely, the Anglo-Saxons (English), Alemanni (Germans), Franks (French), Burgundians (Swiss), Suevi (Portuguese), Visigoths (Spanish), Vandals (in North Africa), Lombards, Ostrogoths, and the Heruli (the last three in a part of what is now Italy). There have been many attempts to bring these ten tribes into a singular empire, “but they shall not cleave one to another.” Daniel 2:43. Napoleon, Hitler and others have attempted to unite Europe through force, and others tried it through the mingling of the “seed of men.” Yet, all such attempts have always failed.

The Papacy

However, the iron and clay also represent the union of church and state. In the Bible, “clay” represents a church. See Isaiah 64:8; Jeremiah 18:6.

After the breakup of the Roman Empire in A.D. 476, there would arise an ecclesiastical power. History identifies the Papacy as the next world empire that would be a continuation of the iron legs of Rome, ruling both civilly and religiously.

Christ’s Kingdom

In the end, the stone cut without hands, which represents Christ’s kingdom, will crush all of these earthly kingdoms. See Daniel 2:34–35, 44–45. Daniel, chapter 2, teaches us that man will never build an everlasting empire—nor one that will usher in a millennium of peace. Only God’s kingdom will reign forever and ever. ✨



Intolerance in the Church



Daniel, chapter 7, repeats and enlarges upon Daniel, chapter 2, providing us with more details leading up to earth's closing events. In this vision, Daniel sees "four great beasts" come "up from the sea, diverse one from another." Daniel 7:3. Daniel was told that these four great beasts are "four kings" or kingdoms. See Daniel 7:17.

Babylon

The first beast looked like a lion with the wings of an eagle. See Daniel 7:4. Ancient Babylon commonly used the lion and eagle as symbols. Lions would have the wings of eagles. The Bible describes Babylon as a lion. See Jeremiah 50:17.

Medo-Persia

The second beast looked like a bear which raised itself up on one side, and had three ribs between his teeth. See Daniel 7:5. The Medes and the Persians defeated the Babylonians in 539 B.C. The bear is said to have raised itself up on one side, because the Persians would become the more dominant of the two. Between the years of 547 B.C. and 545 B.C., the Medes and Persians defeated Egypt, Lydia, and Babylon. That is why the bear has three ribs between his teeth.

Greece

The third beast looked like a leopard with four wings and four heads representing the Greeks who defeated the Medes and the Persians in 331 B.C. The Greek king, Alexander the Great, conquered the world very quickly; therefore, the leopard is seen as having four wings representing his speedy accomplishments. When Alexander died, his empire was divided up among his four generals into four smaller

kingdoms: Ptolemy in Egypt; Seleucus in Syria; Cassander in Asia Minor; and Lysimachus in Macedonia. That is why the leopard is described as having four heads.

Rome

The ferocious fourth beast with ten horns represents the fourth kingdom that was to arise upon the earth. See Daniel 7:23. History identifies Rome as becoming the fourth world empire by defeating the Greeks in 168 B.C.

Europe

The ten horns that were to come out of this fourth beast represent the ten divisions of Rome in A.D. 476. See Daniel 7:7, 24. These ten smaller kingdoms are: the Anglo-Saxons, Alemanni, Franks, Burgundians, Suevi, Visigoths, Vandals, Lombards, Ostrogoths, and the Heruli.

The Papacy

After the ten divisions of Rome were formed, there arose another little horn among the first ten. See Daniel 7:8. Because of this little horn, three of the first ten horns were plucked up by their roots—destroyed as nations. See Daniel 7:8, 23. The three horns that were destroyed were the Heruli in A.D. 493, the Vandals in A.D. 534, and the Ostrogoths in A.D. 538. The other seven horns, or kingdoms, still exist today as nations in Europe.

The following ten identifying marks of the little-horn power accurately describe the Papacy as the next world empire:

1. This little horn is to be a kingdom just as the other horns are kingdoms. For it says, "And *another* [horn] shall rise. . . ." Daniel 7:24. (All emphasis supplied unless

otherwise noted.) A "horn" represents a kingdom in Bible prophecy. The Papacy was not only a religion but also a kingdom. Just as the little horn came out of the fourth beast so did the Papacy come out of the Roman Empire. History records the following:

"Long ages ago, when Rome through the neglect of the Western Emperors was left to the mercy of the barbarous hordes, the Romans turned to one figure for aid and protection, and asked him to rule them; and thus, . . . *commenced the temporal sovereignty of the popes*. And meekly stepping to the *throne of caesar*, the vicar of Christ took up the scepter to



which the emperors and kings of Europe were to bow reverence through so many ages.” *American Catholic Quarterly Review*, April 1911.

2. This little horn was to come out of Rome or Western Europe with the other ten kingdoms. For it says, “there came up *among* them another little horn.” Daniel 7:8. “Out of the ruins of political Rome, arose the great moral Empire in the ‘giant form’ of the Roman Church.”

belong solely to the Church—they are *men of the state, and then rulers of the state.*” Charles Bemont and G. Monod, *Medieval Europe From 395 to 1270*, 120–121.

The ten nations of Europe were formed by A.D. 476. The Papacy began her reign in A.D. 538, fulfilling the prophecy that she would arise after them.

4. She was to uproot three horns or three kings—namely, the

“The Pope is the absolute monarch of this whole structure. Elected for life by a committee of princes, the cardinals, he has exclusive power to appoint new princes as vacancies occur, and the princes have no power to discipline him or to remove him after they have once elected him.” Paul Blanshard, *Communism, Democracy, and Catholic Power*, 51.

7. This little-horn power would speak great words against God, or speak blasphemously. See Daniel 7:25. What is blasphemy? Jesus was accused of blasphemy because He claimed to be God, and claimed to have the authority to forgive sins. See John 10:33; Luke 5:20–21. Jesus was not speaking blasphemously because He *is* God, and He *can* forgive sin. However, when a mere man, regardless of his rank or file among men, claims to be God, or to have the authority to forgive sins, he is speaking great words against God. See Daniel 7:21, 25.

Unfortunately, the Papacy has made such blasphemous claims. A most regrettable remark was made by Pope John Paul II when he dismissed the “widespread idea that one can obtain forgiveness directly from God,” and exhorted Catholics to confess more often to their priests. Don A. Schanche, “No Forgiveness ‘Directly From God,’ Pope says.” *Los Angeles Times*, December 12, 1984, 11.

Then there is the claim that the pope holds the position of God upon the earth. “We hold upon the earth the place of God Almighty.” Pope Leo XIII, Encyclical Letter of June 20, 1894.

8. We are told that this little horn power will attempt to make alterations in the Ten Commandments—make changes in “times and laws.” See Daniel 7:25.

The following is from a *Catholic Catechism*:

“**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 have done that in which all modern religionists

“Sunday is our mark of authority. . . . The church is above the Bible, and this transference of sabbath observance is proof of that fact.”

A.C. Flick, *The Rise of the Medieval Church*, 1909, 150.

3. We can get the approximate date when this little horn was to rise to power, for it says, “And another shall rise *after* them.” Daniel 7:24. The ten divisions of Rome were completed in A.D. 476. Did the Papacy come to both civil and religious power after this date?

“The recognition of the Roman See as the highest ecclesiastical authority remained the cornerstone of his [Justinian’s] policy in relation to the West.” G. Kruger, “Justinian I, Emperor of the East,” in *The New Shaff-Herzog Encyclopedia of Religious Knowledge*, Volume 6, page 286. (It is widely recognized that Pope Vigilius’ reign began in A.D. 538, the year that so much power was given to the Papacy by Justinian. His predecessor, Pope Silverius, did not die until June A.D. 538).

“Down to the sixth century all popes are declared saints in the martyrologies. Vigilius (537–555) is the first of a series of popes who no longer bear this title, which is henceforth sparingly conferred. *From this time on the popes*, more and more involved in worldly affairs, no longer

Heruli, Vandals, and Ostrogoths. See Daniel 7:8. Does history identify the Papacy as the instigator behind their destruction? “I might cite three that were eradicated from before the pope out of the list first given, viz., the Heruli under Odoacer, the



Vandals, and the Ostrogoths.” Edward B. Elliott, *Horae Apocalyptica*, Volume III, 139, Note 1.

5. He shall be diverse from the first ten. It would be a radically different kingdom. See Daniel 7:8, 24. The Papacy is also an ecclesiastical kingdom, while the first ten are political kingdoms.

6. This diverse kingdom was still to have a singular male leader at its head, for it is to have the eyes of a man and a mouth. See Daniel 7:8.

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—a change for which there is not Scriptural authority.” *A Doctrinal Catechism*, 3rd Edition, 174, by Stephen Keenan.

The Vatican admits to changing the Sabbath to Sunday, and that such a change is not Biblical. In fact, the Vatican recognizes that Sunday is her mark of authority.

“Sunday is our mark of authority. . . . The church is above the Bible, and this transference of sabbath observance is proof of that fact.” *The Catholic Record*, London, Ontario, September 1, 1923.

Although the Papacy has purported to have changed the law of God, many Christian groups continued to keep the seventh-day Sabbath for centuries, and they still do today. For example: “Widespread and enduring was the observance of the seventh-day Sabbath among the believers of the Church of the East and the St. Thomas Christians of India, who never were connected with Rome. It also was maintained among those bodies which broke off from Rome after the Council of Chalcedon, namely, the Abyssinians, the Jacobites, the Maronites, and the Armenians.” Schaff-Herzog, *The New Encyclopaedia of Religious Knowledge*, article on “Nestorianer.”

9. We are told the length of time that the Papacy would have supremacy. It says, “until a time and times and the dividing of time.” Daniel 7:25.

How long is a “time, times, and the dividing of time”? We find the answer by comparing scripture with scripture. Let us consider the following verses found in the book of Revelation:

“And to the woman [God’s true church] were given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness, into her place, where she is nourished for a time, and times, and half a time, from the face of the serpent.” Revelation 12:14.

“And the woman fled into the

wilderness, where she hath a place prepared of God, that they should feed her there a thousand two hundred and threescore days.” Revelation 12:6.

According to Revelation 12:6, 14, “a time, and times, and half a time” equals “a thousand two hundred and threescore days.” In other words, “a time” equals one year; “times” equals two years; and “half a time” equals 6 months. Three



years and six months is the same as 42 months, or 1,260 days. A Biblical calendar year is 360 days. Therefore, $360 + 360 + 360 + 180 = 1,260$ days. But wait! How could any entity accomplish all these things if it were in authority for only 1,260 literal days? In Bible prophecy, a “day” represents a “year.” See Numbers 14:33–34; Ezekiel 4:5–6.



Did the Papacy rule for exactly 1,260 years? The Papacy began its temporal rule in A.D. 538. Did it therefore end exactly 1,260 years later in A.D. 1798?

“When in 1797, Pope Pius VI fell grievously ill, Napoleon gave orders that in the event of his death no successor should be elected to his office, and the Papacy should be discontinued. But the Pope recovered. *The peace was soon broken: Berthier entered Rome on the tenth of*

February, 1798, and proclaimed (Rome to be) a republic. The aged Pontiff refused to violate his oath by recognizing it, and was hurried from prison to prison in France. Broken with fatigue and sorrows, he died on the seventeenth of August, 1799, in the French fortress of Valence at the age of 82 years. No wonder half of Europe thought Napoleon’s veto would be obeyed, and that with the Pope, the Papacy was dead.” Joseph Rickaby, *The Modern Papacy*, 1.

The Papacy began its reign in A.D. 538 and lost her political supremacy exactly 1,260 years later in A.D. 1798.

10. The little horn, the Papacy, wears out the saints of God. See Daniel 7:25. It is estimated that the Vatican is responsible for the martyrdom of over 100 million innocent people.

“For professing faith contrary to the teachings of the Church of Rome, history records the martyrdom of more than one hundred million people.” *Brief Bible Readings*, 16.

“That the Church of Rome has shed more innocent blood than any other institution that has ever existed among mankind, will be questioned by no Protestant who has a complete knowledge of history.” William E. H. Lecky, *History of the Rise and Influence of the Spirit of Rationalism in Europe*, Volume II, 32.

The Judgment

After the description of this terrible spiritual fall of the Church of Rome, the Bible turns our attention to the judgment. Daniel’s name means “God is judge.” In the book of Daniel, God judges the powers that have allied themselves against the people of God—from ancient Babylon to the Papacy. The last word will be how God judges the earth, not how intolerant powers judge the righteous.

The book of Revelation will now enlarge upon the prophecies found in the book of Daniel. We will see that the Papacy will regain her lost supremacy due to her political coalition with Protestants in America. ❁

The Vatican

and the

UNITED STATES

In this third and final vision, which we are addressing, John sees two beasts representing the two superpowers in the end of time. The first is seen rising up out of the sea while the second rises up out of the earth. The Bible tells us that “seas” or “waters” represent a very populous part of the earth with its teeming multitudes. See Revelation 17:15. The “earth,” therefore, symbolically represents a new world with its few inhabitants.

The Papacy



The Papacy has long been identified as the first beast of Revelation 13, because it has the same characteristics of the little horn power of Daniel, chapter 7. For example, the first beast of Revelation, chapter 13, speaks great things and blasphemies against God. See Revelation 13:5–6. The little-horn power of Daniel, chapter 7, spoke great words and blasphemies against God. See Daniel 7:25. The first beast made war with the saints and persecuted them. See Revelation 13:7. The little horn of Daniel, chapter 7, also persecuted the saints of God. See Daniel 7:21. The first beast rules for 42 prophetic months (or 1260 years). See Revelation 13:5. The little horn power of Daniel, chapter 7, rules for a time, times, and the dividing of time, or 1260 years. See Daniel 7:25. They both ruled for the exact amount of



time prophesied. Who can question that these are the same power? The Papacy is the first beast of Revelation 13.

There are other valuable identifying marks of the Papacy here described. For example, this first beast power is described as a composite beast made up of several different animals. “And the beast which I saw was like unto a leopard, and his feet were as the feet of a bear, and his mouth as the mouth of a lion.” Revelation 13:2. We find these three beasts described elsewhere in Daniel, chapter 7. These

three beasts represented Greece, Medo-Persia, and Babylon. Notice that these three beasts in Revelation 13 are given in the reverse order than that found in Daniel, chapter 7. Why? Because Daniel was looking forward in time (Babylon, Medo-Persia, and Greece), while John was looking back in time (Greece, Medo-Persia, and Babylon).

But what do these three ancient universal empires have to do with the Papacy? We were told in Daniel, chapter 7, that these three empires would continue on, even after being militarily defeated. “As

concerning the rest of the beasts [the lion, bear, and leopard], they had their dominion [or kingdom] taken away: yet their lives [their pagan beliefs and customs] were prolonged for a season and time.” Daniel 7:12. The lives of these defeated empires were prolonged by the Papacy assimilating their pagan beliefs and customs. Historian Alexander Hislop states, “To conciliate the pagans to nominal Christianity, Rome, pursuing its usual policy, took measures to get the Christian and pagan festivals amalgamated (or mixed together), and by a complicated but skillful adjustment of the calendar, it was found no difficult matter, in general, to get paganism and Christianity, now far sunk in idolatry, . . . to shake hands.” Alexander Hislop, *Two Babylons*, 105.

Historian Mosheim points out that, “The Christians were pronounced atheists, because they were destitute of temples, altars, victims, priests, and all that pomp in which the vulgar suppose the essence of religion to consist. . . . To silence this accusation, the Christian doctors [particularly in Rome] thought they must introduce some external rites, which would strike the senses of the people; so that they could maintain that they really had all those things of which Christians were charged with being destitute, though under different forms.” A. T. Jones, *Ecclesiastical History*, cent. 2, part 2, chap. 4, sec. 3. To facilitate the conversion of the pagans to Christianity, the Church of Rome instituted pagan rites. Instead of many simple churches, there emerged the grand cathedrals with altars and idols. Instead of pastors, evangelists, apostles, and teachers, there emerged the Catholic priesthood. The apostasy went even so far as to have a bloodless victim—namely, the wafer at communion was said to become the literal body of Christ.

We are also told that the first beast had seven heads. See Revelation 13:1. Heads represent kings or kingdoms in Bible prophecy. See Revelation 17:9–10. Therefore, these seven heads represent seven different kingdoms. The first beast, the Papacy, actually represents one of those seven heads. It represents the one-world kingdom that ruled in the

past, received a deadly wound, and then comes back as a universal political power. The Bible says, “And I saw *one of his heads* as it were wounded to death; and his deadly wound was healed [comes back to political power]: and all the world wondered after the *beast* [the Papacy].” Revelation 13:3. (All emphasis supplied unless otherwise noted.)

When the Papacy received her deadly wound in A.D. 1798, she ceased to be a universal political power. She continued as a church, but she lost her political power over the nations. However, the prophecy predicts that the Papacy will become a universal political power again, because the deadly wound will be healed just prior to the second coming of Christ.

The United States

John sees another beast, another political power, but it arises out of the earth, signifying that it would arise out of the New World with its few inhabitants. See Revelation 13:11. When would this great nation arise? While John sees in vision the first beast, the Papacy, going into captivity in 1798, he sees another beast rise up out of the earth. See Revelation 13:10–11. The United States is that beast-political power that arises out of the sparsely populated New World around 1798.

The United States is described as a beast with two horns like a lamb. See Revelation 13:11. A “lamb” is used in the Bible to



To facilitate the conversion of the pagans to Christianity, the Church of Rome instituted pagan rites.

Now concerning the rest of the seven heads, they represent the seven major world powers described in these visions beginning with Babylon. We have already identified the first five, namely, Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, Rome, and the Papacy. The second beast described in this chapter is number six, which is the United States. The seventh is the United Nations when the world will follow the lead of the United States in making it possible for the Vatican to regain her lost supremacy.

This first beast also has ten horns and ten crowns. See Revelation 13:1. Horns represent kingdoms in Bible prophecy. See Daniel 7:24. In Daniel, chapter 2, the image had ten toes, representing the breakup of the Roman Empire into ten smaller kingdoms. In Daniel, chapter 7, the ten horns of the fourth beast, Rome, represented the ten divisions of Rome. In Revelation, chapter 13, the ten horns also represents the ten divisions of Rome from which the Papacy emerges as a world power.

describe Jesus. See Revelation 13:8; John 1:36. Therefore this nation would have Christ-like features.

Every other nation has been described as a ferocious beast, because of its intolerance, both civil and religious. However, this lamb-like nation occupies the New World offering freedom, both civil and religious. This is why it has *two* lamb-like horns.

However, in the end, it will speak “as a dragon.” See Revelation 13:11. It is not said to *look* like a dragon. No, it will look like a professedly Christian nation, a “lamb.” But it will *speak* as a dragon by repudiating the two great principles of civil and religious liberty. It will trample upon liberty of conscience by legislating religious laws against the law of God. So what will happen in America that will lead her in a course of religious intolerance?

The Worship of the Beast

The Bible says, “And he [the United States] exerciseth all the power of the first beast before him,

and causeth the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast [the Papacy], whose deadly wound was healed [when it comes back into political power].” Revelation 13:12.

The second beast power “causeth the earth . . . to worship the first beast [the Papacy].” The lawmakers of the United States will be pressured into passing religious legislation. This legislation will have to do with the worship of the first beast, the Papacy. But who in America is clasping hands with the Church of Rome to pressure our lawmakers to pass religious legislation?

Ralph Reed, former executive director of the Christian Coalition, said:

“The future of American politics lies in the growing strength of Evangelicals and their Roman Catholic allies. If these two core constituencies, Evangelicals comprising the swing vote in the South, Catholics holding sway in the North, can cooperate on issues and support like-minded candidates, they can determine the outcome of almost any election in the nation.” Ralph Reed, *Politically Incorrect*, 16.

Former ambassador to the Vatican, Melady, stated:

“And I believe that, just as the Evangelicals have become the base vote of the Republican party, Catholics are now today the swing vote in American politics. Any candidate who wins the Catholic vote will be able to govern America. . . . The Catholic vote holds the key to the future of America. And I believe that if they can unite, if Catholics can unite with the Evangelical Christians, the Protestants, who share their views on the sanctity of innocent human life, on the need of religious liberty and school choice and common sense values, I believe if Catholics and Evangelicals can unite there is no person who runs for office in any city or any state in America that can’t be elected and there is no bill that can’t be passed in either house of Congress or any state legislative chamber anywhere in America. It is

the emerging force in the electorate today.” Quoted in G. Edward Reid, *Sunday’s Coming!*, 71.

The coalition between many Evangelical Protestants and the Church of Rome is gaining strength in American politics. But is the United States able to “cause” the world to worship the first beast, the Papacy? How strong are both the United States and the Papacy?

After the collapse of the Soviet Union, Jim Hoagland wrote in the Washington Post that “America would now determine all major global events.” Clifford Goldstein, *Day of the Dragon*, 25.

President George Bush stated, “It’s a big idea: a new world order, where diverse nations are drawn together in common cause. . . . Only the United States has both the moral standing and the means to back it up.” George Bush, State of the Union address, quoted in *Los Angeles Times*, February 18, 1991.



THE SEVENTH
DAY IS THE SABBATH
OF THE LORD THY GOD: FOR
IN SIX DAYS THE LORD MADE
HEAVEN AND EARTH, THE SEA, AND
ALL THAT IN THEM IS, AND RESTED
THE SEVENTH DAY: WHEREFORE
THE LORD BLESSED THE
SABBATH DAY, AND
HALLOWED IT.

An article in *Time* magazine called the United States the “world’s sole remaining superpower, no prospect in the immediate future of any power to rival the United States.” *Time*, July 29, 1991, 13.

Former ambassador Melady stated, “I believe that the U.S., as the world’s only superpower, and the Holy See, as the only worldwide

moral-political sovereignty, have significant roles to play in the future. Their actions will impact the lives of people in all parts of the globe.” Melady, quoted in G. Edward Reid, *Sunday’s Coming!*, 31.

Malachi Martin wrote, “Pope John Paul II . . . insists that men have no reliable hope of creating a viable geopolitical system unless it is on the basis of Roman Catholic Christianity.” Malachi Martin, *The Keys of This Blood*, 492.

The two superpowers today are the United States and the Vatican. According to prophecy, these two superpowers will come to world dominance just prior to the second coming of Jesus Christ. The United States is indeed the strongest nation in human history—with a strong and diverse economy and superior military force.

The Vatican is the world’s most multi-racial and multi-cultural institution, claiming one-fifth of the world’s population. The pope is the most popular international figure who controls a worldwide infrastructure of schools, universities, churches, hospitals, libraries, newspapers, magazines, publishing houses, and radio and television stations. He has a working force of about one-half million priests overseeing more than 200,000 parishes. The Vatican Bank, “with its team of international advisers who administered an extensive portfolio of the Holy See’s holdings and investments in virtually every sector of the world’s commercial and industrial activity, makes the Papacy a major economic force in geopolitics today.” Malachi Martin, *The Keys of This Blood*, 111.

The Image of the Beast

The prophecy predicts that the United States will cause the world to worship the Papacy through political muscle and deception. The Bible says, “And he [the second beast] doeth great wonders, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men, and deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles which he had power to do

in the sight of the beast; saying to them that dwell on the earth, *that they should make an image to the [first] beast*, which had the wound by a sword, and did live.” Revelation 13:13–14.

Protestant America will deceive the world to “make an image to the [first] beast,” the Papacy, by the means of miracles and legislation. The second beast will be able to make “fire come down from heaven.” In other words, Satan will be behind a nationwide apostate religious movement in America that will not only exert its influence on American politics, but also upon the whole world.

The apostle Paul had warned us, saying, “Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils.” 1 Timothy 4:1. Miracles will be performed to mislead people from the truth. See 2 Thessalonians 2:8–10. All these lying wonders will be performed to lead the world to worship the first beast and to make an image to the first beast.

The “image of the beast” is an image or likeness to the Papacy. It will be a mirror image of papal supremacy in the Dark Ages when the church dominated in both civil and religious matters. During the Dark Ages, the Church of Rome became corrupted by departing from the simplicity and purity of the gospel, by accepting into her practices and teachings the beliefs and customs of pagan religions. In doing so she lost the Spirit and the power of God.

In order to gain control over the conscience of the people, she sought the support of the secular power. The result was the Papacy—a church that controlled the power of the state, and employed it to further her own interests.

In these last days, when the leading churches of the United States, uniting upon certain points of doctrine, pressure the lawmakers to enforce their beliefs and to sustain their institutions, then Protestant America will have formed an image or likeness to the Papacy, and the infliction of civil penalties upon dissenters will inevitably result.

The Penalty for Not Worshipping the Beast

What is the penalty for those who do not worship the beast and his image? The Bible says, “And he had power to give life unto the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak [legislatively], and cause that *as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed*. And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads; *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.” Revelation 13:15–17.

What a religious crisis! Those who do not worship the beast or his image, or receive the mark of the beast, cannot buy or sell, and eventually will face a death decree. The “image of the beast,” the union of church and state, leads to religious laws and religious persecution.

The Mark of the Beast

What is meant by receiving the “mark of the beast”? First, the “mark of the beast” is the mark of the first beast—the Papacy. It is therefore a mark of papal authority. Second, “the mark of the beast” has to do with the “worship of the beast.” Therefore this mark of papal authority has to do with worship. Third, “the mark of the beast” has to do with the “image of the beast,” the union of church and state. Therefore, the receiving of the “mark of the beast” begins when the state passes religious legislation that forces people to worship in a certain way.

What does the Papacy declare to be the mark of her ecclesiastical power? “Sunday is our mark of authority. . . . The Church is above the Bible, and this transference is proof of that fact.” *The Catholic Record*, September 1, 1923.

Again she states, “Of course, the Catholic church claims that the change [from Sabbath to Sunday] was her act. It could not have been otherwise, as none in those days would have dreamed of doing anything in matters spiritual and religious without her, and the act is

a mark of her ecclesiastical power and authority in religious matters.” *The Catholic Mirror*, September 23, 1893. The Papacy is very clear that Sunday sacredness is her mark of authority.

Does this mark of papal authority have to do with worship? Yes, indeed! Does this mark have to do with the union of church and state? Definitely! A national Sunday law in America would strike directly against freedom of religion. It would also strike directly against the Sabbath commandment found in God’s law. See Exodus 20:8–11.

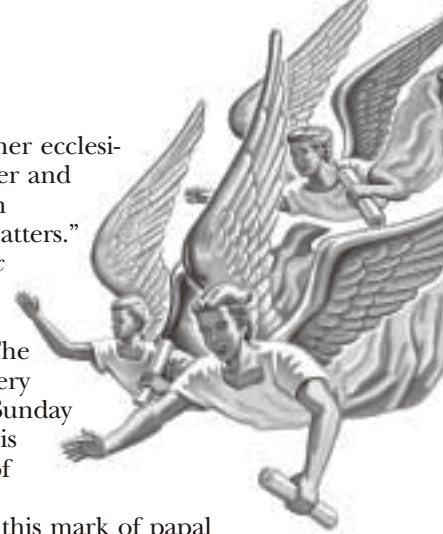
The Almost-Forgotten Day

When our world sprang forth from the Creator’s hand it was exceedingly beautiful. There were hills and plains, and mountains and valleys. The landscape was adorned with flowers that filled the air with their sweet perfume. Majestic trees rose high above the earth, being many times larger and much more splendid than they are today. The plant kingdom was simply magnificent with its rich variety of shapes, colors, and sizes.

Then there was the marvelous animal kingdom—from the ant to the elephant, from the lion to the lamb, from the fish that swam the seas to the birds that filled the air with song. All these creatures that God had made were in their original perfection—an expression of the very thoughts and purposes of God.

As a Memorial of His creative works God established the seventh-day Sabbath. The Bible says, “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 the work which he had made. And God blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it: because that in it he had rested from all the work which God created and made.” Genesis 2:1–3.

Continued on page 13 . . .



Heaven

How to mark your Bible and know God's Word better

We present this study with the desire that it will encourage you, our readers, to a deeper examination of God's Word. We have been warned that "none but those who have fortified the mind with the truths of the Bible will stand through the last great conflict." The Great Controversy, 593–594. We suggest that you use this study personally, in group settings, or with your family. We also encourage you to add other Scriptural references to this study as you proceed in your own personal, careful scrutiny of God's Word.

Bible Marking Directions

1. In this month's study our Bible marking key letter is H, which represents "Heaven."
2. On the blank flyleaf at either the beginning or end of your Bible, write in the key letter followed by the first Scriptural text. This month's beginning entry should appear as follows: *H 2 Corinthians 12:2.*
3. Turn to the first reference and in the margin near it write the second reference. Then turn to the second reference and in the margin near it write the third reference, and so on, to the end of the lesson. When you come to the last reference write "End H."

1H 2 Corinthians 12:2.

Since there is a third heaven, there must be a first and a second. So there are three heavens.

The first is the aerial heaven, where the birds fly (see Revelation 19:17), where the clouds form, and from which the rain and snow come down. This is the belt of air which reaches from the surface of the earth up into the sky. This first heaven will pass away someday, and God will make a new, pure atmosphere—a new heaven to surround the new earth which He will make. See 2 Peter 3:10, 13; Revelation 21:1.

The second is the stellar heaven, where the sun, moon, and stars move in their orbits. See Psalms 19:1–4.

The third heaven is paradise (see 2 Corinthians 12:2, 4), where the throne of God is located, and where Jesus is now ministering as our High Priest.

2H John 14:3.

Jesus said, while on earth, that He would go up to heaven to prepare a place for His people. He promised that afterward He would return to take the faithful to that beautiful place.

3H Hebrews 11:10, 16.

The place that Jesus has prepared is the City of God—or the New Jerusalem. A description of this wonderful city can be found in the last two chapters of the Bible.

4H Revelation 21:10–21.

The New Jerusalem is 12,000 furlongs, or 1,500 miles in circumference, or 375 miles on each side.

It contains 140,625 square miles. This is more square miles than the total area of North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee. The city has a wall of jasper 264 feet high, 12 foundations of 12 different precious stones, 12 gates, and each gate is made of one solid pearl, streets of pure gold, and inside a beautiful mansion prepared for each saint.

5H Revelation 21:4.

It is a city where everyone will have a perfect, immortal body, where there will be no sickness, sorrow, crying, death or pain—where His people will be perfectly happy throughout all eternity.

6H Revelation 21:1–3.

This New Jerusalem will be the capital of the New Earth. The New Jerusalem is now in the third heaven, and when Jesus comes the saints will all go up to that city, to reign with Him there for 1,000 years. At the end of that 1,000 years, the earth will be made over into the New Earth, free from sin and sinners, and the New Jerusalem will rest on this New Earth as its grand capital. With Christ, the saints will reign forever over this New Earth.

7H Revelation 22:14.

Only those who keep all of His commandments, by the power and faith of Jesus, will enter that city.

8H Philippians 3:20–21.

When we go to the New Jerusalem we will each have a glorious spiritual body, just as Jesus has. See 1 John 3:2; 1 Corinthians 15:44.

9H John 20:11–16, 27–28.

Just as Mary knew Jesus by His voice, and Thomas recognized Him by His appearance, so we will know our friends in heaven by their voices and appearance.

10H Isaiah 65:21.

In the Earth-made-new the people of God will build their own

houses. There beside the silvery streams they will plant their vineyards. No evil oppressor will come to take their homes or rob their harvest.

11H Revelation 22:2.

In the New Jerusalem there will be the tree of life which will produce twelve different kinds of fruit—one for each month. The

leaves from this tree will be for the healing of the nations.

12H Isaiah 66:23.

Every Sabbath the redeemed will gather in the New Jerusalem to joyfully and reverently worship God. And all this is offered to each of us to have forever, if we will cooperate with Him. ✨

Continued from page 11 ...

Even in the Garden of Eden, God foresaw the need for Adam and Eve to lay aside their own interests and pursuits on a certain day each week—that they might more fully contemplate His created works. So important is the observance of the seventh-day Sabbath that God made it a part of the Ten Commandments: “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 it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates: for in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it.” Exodus 20:8–11.

From the time of Creation to the time of Christ, the people of God have joyfully kept the fourth commandment concerning Saturday, the seventh-day Sabbath. Christ Himself, by whom “were all things created,” certainly did not forget the Sabbath. Colossians 1:16. The Bible says, “And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up: and, as his custom was, he went into the synagogue on the sabbath day, and stood up for to read.” Luke 4:16. The disciples continued the “custom” and example of Jesus in keeping the seventh-day Sabbath holy. See Acts 13:42–44.

For centuries, most of the Christian churches kept the seventh-day Sabbath. It was not until the fourth century that we find the

Church of Rome casting aside the seventh-day Sabbath and substituting in its place Sunday worship. As one Catholic catechism records, “We observe Sunday instead of Saturday because the Catholic Church in the Council of Laodicea (A.D. 364) transferred the solemnity from Sabbath to Sunday.” Peter Geirmann, *The Convert’s Catechism*, 50.

The Church of Rome clearly teaches that the transference of the Sabbath to Sunday is not based on the Bible, stating, “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.

To facilitate the conversion of the pagans in the Roman Empire to Catholicism, the Church of Rome instituted pagan rites—such as, sun-worship, incense, images, holy days, and much more. As history records, “The Church [of Rome] made a sacred day of Sunday . . . largely because it was the weekly festival of the sun; for it was a definite Christian policy to take over the pagan festivals endeared to the people by tradition, and to give them a Christian significance.” Arthur Weigall, *The Paganism in Our Christianity*, 1928, 145.

When the Church of Rome switched to Sunday observance, most of the other Christian bodies continued to keep the seventh-day Sabbath. Even in the eleventh century, the Sabbath issue continued to be “the subject of a bitter dispute

between the Greeks and Latins.” Neale, *A History of the Holy Eastern Church*, vol. 1, 731.

However, today, the seventh-day Sabbath is almost forgotten, even though in over 100 languages around the world, “Saturday” is rendered “Sabbath.” For example:

Spanish “Sabado”
Russian “Subbata”
Bulgarian “Shubbuta”
Arabic “As-Sabt”

Yet there is good news! All around the world, millions of Christians from the various denominations are restoring the “breach” made in the law of God by keeping the seventh-day Sabbath. See Isaiah 58:12–14. They have come to realize that it is God’s will for all people to keep all of His commandments, including the seventh-day Sabbath. See Hebrews 10:16; John 14:15; 1 John 5:2–3.

The last gospel call to the world, symbolically described by three angels flying in the midst of heaven, brings together the preaching of the everlasting gospel, the judgment-hour message, the worship of God as our Creator [by keeping the Sabbath], and the warning not to worship the beast and his image. See Revelation 14:6–12.

This threefold message that will go to all the world just prior to the second coming of Christ, teaches us to “worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters.” Revelation 14:7. It also describes the members of God’s last-day church as those who “keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.” Revelation 14:12. The one commandment

that teaches us to worship God as our Creator is the fourth commandment—the seventh-day Sabbath.

Tragically, the “worship of the beast” is in direct opposition to the “worship [of] him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters.” Sunday sacredness, the mark of papal authority, is in direct opposition to God’s seventh-day Sabbath. The issue here is more than merely over a different day of worship. It is a question of authority. Whom shall we obey?

Obviously, this is a very important issue to God because the penalty for worshipping the beast is eternal condemnation. The Bible says, “If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand, the same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God.” Revelation 14:9–10.

Now note this very important point: no one as yet has received the “mark of the beast.” No one will suffer the wrath of God until he or she has received sufficient light to make an informed decision concerning the Sabbath of the Lord and the papal Sunday. Some people have never heard of the binding claims of the fourth commandment. And as yet, most of God’s people are in the Sunday-keeping churches. But in these last days God is calling forth the final Reformation. The call to keep the almost-forgotten day will be the central issue in the reformation of both Catholic and Protestant churches, because it has been the one commandment most trampled upon in the Christian era.

The Number of His Name

We are told that the first beast, the Papacy, has a mark—namely, Sunday worship. However, the Papacy also has an identifying number. We are told that the number 666 is the number of the beast, and the number of a man, and that it is the number of his name. See Revelation 13:17–18.

The letters in the alphabet of these ancient languages also had numerical value. The ones we are most familiar with are the Latin letters. For example, I = 1, V = 5, X = 10, L = 50, C = 100. In the Greek language, U = 6, I = 10, N = 50, X = 600.

We know that the number 666 is the number of a man, the pope. Why is this? Because without a pope there would be no Roman Catholicism as we know it today. The Roman Church rests its authority on the position of the pope having primacy over all other religious leaders. Take away this position and the Rome Church is an entirely different organization. Therefore, in Latin, the official name and office of the pope, “Vicar of the Son of God,” adds up to 666:

$$\begin{array}{r} \text{V} \quad \text{I} \quad \text{C} \quad \text{A} \quad \text{R} \quad \text{I} \quad \text{U} \quad \text{S} \\ 5 \quad 1 \quad 100 \quad 0 \quad 0 \quad 1 \quad 5 \quad 0 \\ + \quad \text{F} \quad \text{I} \quad \text{L} \quad \text{I} \quad \text{I} \\ 0 \quad 1 \quad 50 \quad 1 \quad 1 \\ \quad \quad \text{D} \quad \text{E} \quad \text{I} \\ + \quad 500 \quad 0 \quad 1 = 666 \end{array}$$

In Latin, the present pope’s name, John Paul Vicar of God, adds up to 666. In fact, John Paul II is the only pope whose name adds up to 666:

$$\begin{array}{r} \text{J} \quad \text{U} \quad \text{A} \quad \text{N} \\ 0 \quad 5 \quad 0 \quad 0 \\ + \quad \text{P} \quad \text{A} \quad \text{U} \quad \text{L} \quad \text{A} \\ 0 \quad 0 \quad 5 \quad 50 \quad 0 \\ \text{V} \quad \text{I} \quad \text{C} \quad \text{E} \quad \quad \text{D} \quad \text{E} \quad \text{O} \\ + \quad 5 \quad 1 \quad 100 \quad 0 \quad \quad 500 \quad 0 \quad 0 \\ = 666 \end{array}$$

In Greek, the numerical value of the Roman sun god is 666:

$$\begin{array}{r} \text{X} \quad \text{I} \quad \text{U} \quad \text{N} \\ + \quad 600 \quad 10 \quad 6 \quad 50 = 666 \end{array}$$

The number 666 is the number of the beast—the Papacy—and the number of a man—the pope. It is also the number of the Roman sun god. Why? Because the Papacy has admittedly tampered with God’s Ten Commandments by claiming to have changed the seventh-day Sabbath to Sunday. Could John Paul II be the pope that will usher in this apostate New World Order of Church and State?

Currently, Pope John Paul II is pressing for mandatory Sunday laws. The Vatican is asking the “civil authorities” to cooperate with the Church in the legislation of Sunday as a national day of rest, stating that “it is only in this way that the faithful will understand why it is Sunday and not the Sabbath day that we now

keep holy.” *Roman Catechism* (1985).

In a recent news article that appeared in the *Detroit News* on July 7, 1998, revealed the pope’s stern call for Sunday legislation. With Sunday laws looming on the horizon, the seventh-day Sabbath, the almost-forgotten day, faces its greatest threat in the 6,000 years of earth’s history. At just this time, God is calling for men and women not only to uplift His downtrodden law, but to take their stand for religious liberty. We are to uphold the divine principle that every man is to worship God according to the dictates of his own conscience.

Sunday legislation is not the answer to the declining morals of society. The cause of the prevailing immorality is the human heart. The only thing that can change the human heart is the gospel of Jesus Christ—not religious legislative reform.

The law of God is vitally important for all of us living in these last days. Each person is to cooperate with God to have His law written upon his heart and mind. See Hebrews 10:16. Those described as giving the last gospel call to the world are described as those who “keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.” Revelation 14:12. Those who enter through the gate into heaven “are they that do his commandments.” Revelation 22:14. But the most precious words of all concerning the Ten Commandments are those spoken by our Saviour Jesus Christ, saying, “If ye love me, keep my commandments.” John 14:15.

Many have asked, and rightly so, How can this religious crisis begin in America and then sweep throughout the world? Humanity faces a common enemy—his name is Satan. It has been the devil’s desire since the beginning to rid the earth of God’s faithful people. If he can, through deception, cause the world to pass a religious law against the law of God, then he can use force to persecute dissenters. Satan had already attempted this during the life of the prophet Daniel. See Daniel, chapter six.

It is the purpose of the article entitled “The Apparitions of Mary” to unmask this grand deception of Satan. ✠



The Apparitions of Mary

There is a common warning that runs through many of these prophecies concerning Christ's second advent—namely, the warning not to be deceived. Jesus said, "Take heed that no man *deceive* you. For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall *deceive* many. . . . And many false prophets shall rise, and shall *deceive* many. . . . Then if any man shall say unto you, Lo, *here is Christ*, or there; believe it not. For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew *great signs and wonders*; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall *deceive* the very elect. Behold, I have told you before. Wherefore if they shall say unto you, Behold, he is in the desert; go not forth: behold, he is in the secret chambers; believe it not." Matthew 24:4–5, 11, 23–26. (All emphasis supplied unless otherwise noted.)

The apostle Paul also warned us, saying, "Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils." 1 Timothy 4:1.

Seducing Spirits and Doctrines of Devils

These false christs, false prophets, and seducing spirits (demons) will appear as benefactors to the human race. Yet, they will mix truth with error.

This grand deception will come with "great signs and wonders"

and the "doctrines of devils." After all, the coming stupendous crisis has to do with religious doctrines concerning worship.

This deception by Satan will: (1) attempt to wipe out the people of God by deceiving the world into passing religious laws that oppose the law of God; (2) bind the world together; (3) create a bond of sympathy with the Church of Rome; and (4) lead the world to form an "image to the beast," the union of church and state. Satan will then deceive the world into enforcing the "mark of the beast" by mandating Sunday laws. Those who do not comply will be persecuted and made to look as if they were rebelling against God.

We have been forewarned that the performance of miracles is not a sure test that someone is of God. The Bible says, "Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world." 1 John 4:1. "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 Bible will be our Safeguard against these seducing spirits. It is important that we understand the Word of God for ourselves.

While Satan personates Christ, his demons will personate the "ministers of righteousness"—such as the twelve apostles and the Virgin

Mary. See 2 Corinthians 11:14–15. In fact, this deception is going on right now. Millions are flocking to see "Mary" in Georgia, Yugoslavia, France, Portugal, Mexico, and around the world. However, it is not really Mary whom they see; she is resting in the grave awaiting the resurrection. So why are people being deceived by these apparitions of Mary? Because many believe that man possesses an immortal soul that cannot die.

Never in the Scriptures does it say that man has a soul or spirit that is immortal. In fact, the Scriptures state that only God has immortality. "Which in his times he shall shew, who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords; who only hath immortality, dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto." 1 Timothy 6:15–16.

The Bible states that we are to seek immortality. "To them who by patient continuance in well doing seek for glory and honour and immortality, eternal life." Romans 2:7. If we already possess immortality, then why are we to seek for it? Notice that immortality and eternal life are inseparable. Do the wicked have eternal life? No. Therefore, they do not possess immortality either.

When will man receive immortality? "Behold, I shew you a mystery; we shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the

twinkling of an eye, at the last *trump*: for the *trump* shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this *mortal* must put on *immortality*. So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this *mortal* shall have put on *immortality*, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory.”
1 Corinthians 15:51–54.

The Dead in Christ Raised to Immortality When The Trumpet Blows

The dead in Christ are raised to immortality when the trumpet blows. When does the trumpet blow? “For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one another with these words.” 1 Thessalonians 4:16–18.

The trumpet of God will blow at the second coming of Christ. It is at this time that the “dead in Christ” will be “raised incorruptible” and will “put on immortality.”

Jesus spoke of two resurrections. The first resurrection will occur at His second coming. “Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, and shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation.” John 5:28–29.

Paul also spoke of two resurrections, saying, “that there shall be a resurrection of the dead, both of the just and unjust.” Acts 24:15.

The apostle John spoke of these two resurrections as being one thousand years apart. “And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had

received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years. But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection. Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.” Revelation 20:4–6.

The “first resurrection” is the resurrection of the saved. They will reign with Christ for a thousand years in heaven. For Jesus said, “Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father’s house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again [Second Coming], and receive you unto myself [first resurrection]; that where I am [heaven], there ye may be also.” John 14:1–3.

During the thousand years, among other things, we will understand why some were not saved. This will be a very important time for us, because when the thousand years are over the unsaved will be raised to a “resurrection of judgment.” See Revelation 20:12–15.

The unsaved will, after the 1,000 years, be destroyed in the “lake of fire,” which is the “second death.” The Bible says, “And death and hell [the grave] were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.” Revelation 20:14–15.

It is appointed for every man to die once; but we do not have to die twice, for Christ tasted the second death for us. See Hebrews 9:27; 2:9. If Christ had not died for us, then we would all perish, because the “wages of sin is death.” Romans 6:23. But “God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not *perish*, but have everlasting life. . . . He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.” John 3:16, 36.

The choice is not between eternal life, on the one hand, and God torturing you forever, on the other, but between eternal life and the second death. When people die the second death they perish in the lake of fire.

God is merciful and just. He is not going to torture a person forever for one lifetime of sin. Nor will the average unsaved person experience as much suffering as the most evil of men. See Luke 12:47–48. Dear reader, you do not need to experience the lake of fire at all. Jesus already paid the price. He experienced the wrath of God for you. Simply stop resisting His love. “For, behold, the day cometh, that shall burn as an oven; and all the proud, yea, and all that do wickedly, shall be stubble: and the day that cometh shall burn them up, saith the LORD of hosts, that it shall leave them neither root nor branch.” Malachi 4:1.

The false doctrine of the immortality of the soul has already opened the door for Satan to deceive many. There are millions today who are caught up into spiritualism. They believe that they are speaking to departed souls, but they are conversing with demons. Demons, pretending to be Mary, have made the Marian movement the fastest growing element in Christianity today. Even though it is not really Mary, “The Vatican reports receiving more than 200 accounts of apparitions yearly. . . . Mary seems to be popping up everywhere. . . .” *Arizona Republic*, November 13, 1994.

There are currently over 50,000 Catholic priests who are receiving direct communication from these demons personating Mary.

John Paul has dedicated his pontificate to “Mary.” “When he was made a bishop in 1958, John Paul emblazoned a golden *M* on his coat of arms and chose as his Latin motto ‘Totus Tuus’ (All Yours)—referring to Mary, not Christ. Once he put on St. Peter’s ring, John Paul made Mary’s unifying power a centerpiece of his papal arsenal. . . . Moreover, John Paul is firmly convinced, as are many others, that Mary brought an end to commu-

nism throughout Europe. His faith is rooted in the famed prophecies of Mary at Fatima in 1917.” *Time*, December 30, 1991.

The pope, the world’s most popular international leader, has dedicated his office to Mary—who is resting in the grave. In reality, he has, perhaps unknowingly, dedicated his pontificate to demons personating Mary. Satan will make use of this situation to its fullest, and will deceive the world through spiritualism.

John Paul II believes that the final act in the rivalry for world dominance will end with a supernatural display. “John Paul is convinced neither ‘East’ nor ‘West’ can succeed of itself in creating a geopolitical structure; and this is so mainly because, before any definitive moves in such an effort are made, the condition of all the major players will be severely modified by an act of God. That act will have as its epicenter precisely that Central European area between the Oder River in the west and the Caucasus Mountains in the east. . . .

“He is waiting, rather, for an event that will fission human history, splitting the immediate past from the oncoming future. It will be an event on public view in the skies, in the oceans, and on the continental landmasses of this planet. It will particularly involve our human sun, which every day lights up and shines upon the valleys, the mountains and the plains of this earth for our eyes. But on the day of this event, it will not appear merely as the master star of our so-called solar system. Rather, it will be seen as the circumambient glory of the Woman whom the apostle describes as ‘clothed with the sun’ and giving birth to ‘a child who will rule the nations with a scepter of iron.’” Malachi Martin, *The Keys of This Blood*, 455, 639.

John Paul believes that “Mary,” not the church, is the woman “clothed with the sun.” He expects a major apparition of “Mary” in Eastern Europe to separate us from what has been—to what will be. These false sightings of “Mary” as the “woman clothed with the sun,” wherever they may occur, will prepare the way for Satan to personate Christ.

The Bible declares that our world will be thrown into great turmoil—and then the end will come. However, these demons personating Mary are saying that an age of peace on the earth will follow a great time of trouble. Emmett Culligan wrote in his book, *The Last War and the End of Time*, “Our Lady of Fatima promised: ‘In the end my Immaculate Heart will triumph and a period of peace will be granted humanity.’ This is an absolute promise without qualification. It is certain to come. What other great news could the Mother of God bring to earth other than Peace on Earth?” Thomas W. Petrisko, *Call of the Ages*, 453.

This false doctrine of coming peace upon the earth is one of Satan’s masterpieces of lies. The Bible says, “And at that time [the end of time] shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book. And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt.” Daniel 12:1–2.

In the end, earth’s greatest time of trouble will come. That which follows the great time of trouble is the resurrection—not a time of peace in this old world. When Jesus resurrects His saints, He will take them back to heaven.

The Bible says, “For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night. For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape.” 1 Thessalonians 5:2–3. These false prophets and seducing spirits will say, “Peace and safety,” but, dear reader, there will be none. This world is heading toward the Battle of Armageddon—the Battle of the Ages. When it is over, it will be left desolate. There will be nothing left to build upon. This old world will not be the inheritance of the saints. This earth will lie desolate for

one thousand years. At the end of the thousand years, God will create a new heaven and a new earth. See Revelation 21:1–4.

Christ’s Return and Satan’s Personation of Christ

The following is a brief summary of how to tell the difference between Christ’s return and Satan’s personation of Christ:

First of all, Jesus will return with all His angels. See Matthew 24:30–31. Jesus is not returning with any loved ones who have died. However, Satan will pretend to be Jesus, and his demons will pretend to be the twelve disciples, the Virgin Mary, and loved ones who have died. See 2 Corinthians 11:14–15.

Second, Jesus will be visible to everyone at the same time. See Revelation 1:7. However, Satan cannot appear to everyone at once. See Matthew 24:23–27.

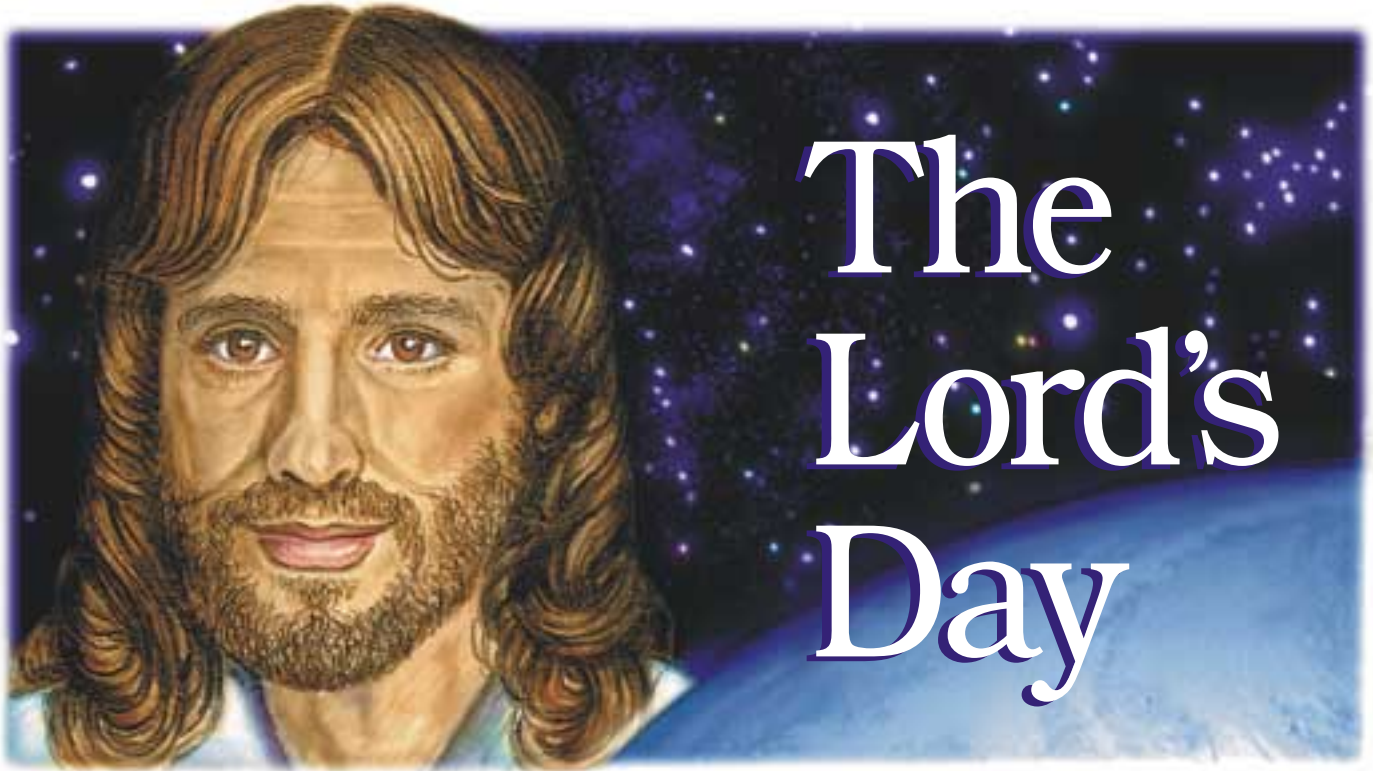
Third, when Jesus returns He will not touch the ground. The Bible says that we will be caught up in the air with Jesus, and then be taken to heaven to the place that Jesus has been preparing for us. See 1 Thessalonians 4:16–17; John 14:1–3.

When these glorious events take place, Jesus will perform only one miracle—namely, the resurrection of the saints and the translation of the living. See John 5:28–29. However, Satan will roam the earth performing miracles to deceive the world. See Matthew 24:24; 2 Thessalonians 2:8–10.

And lastly, Jesus will come and rescue His people after the seven last plagues. See Revelation 16:12–21; Daniel 12:1–2. At that time the earth will be lying in complete devastation.

However, when Satan first begins to personate Christ, it will be near the beginning of the seven last plagues. The world may be facing troublous times, but it will not be in total devastation.

Satan wants to lead the world against the people of God by declaring that God has changed the Sabbath to Sunday. Through deceit he will cause the world to pass a law against the law of God. See Psalm 94:20–21; Daniel 6:4–5; 7:25; John 16:2; Revelation 12:17. ✠



The Lord's Day

Jesus created all things. “For by him [Jesus] were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: and he is before all things, and by him all things consist.” Colossians 1:16–17.

After Jesus created “all things,” He rested on His Sabbath. “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.

The Sabbath is a Memorial of God’s creative works. By it, we forever remember that God has given us life. It is a special time of communing with our Maker who has twice bought us. First, we are God’s by Creation. Second, we are God’s by redemption or re-creation. It is God’s will that we set aside this holy time on the seventh day to experience His sanctifying influence. “Moreover also I gave them my sabbaths, to be a sign between me

and them, that they might know that I am the LORD that sanctify them.” Ezekiel 20:12.

The Bible says, “The sabbath was made for man, and not man for the sabbath: therefore, the Son of man is Lord also of the sabbath.” Mark 2:27–28.



Notice that the Sabbath was not made for the Jews, but the “Sabbath was made for man.” The Sabbath existed long before there was a Jewish nation in the world,

and it will continue for eternity. See Isaiah 66:23.

God desires that we keep the Sabbath from sunset Friday to sunset Saturday. “From even unto even, shall ye celebrate your sabbath.” Leviticus 23:32. When Jesus created our world in six days, each day began in the evening. “And the evening and the morning were the first day. . . . And the evening and the morning were the second day,” and so forth. Genesis 1:5, 8. See also Genesis 1:13, 19, 23, 31.

We are to cease from our secular labors on the Sabbath. “Six days shalt thou labour, 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 20:9–10.

The Bible says, “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, honourable; and shalt honour him, not doing thine own ways, nor finding thine own pleasure, nor speaking thine own words: then shalt thou delight thyself in the LORD; and I will cause thee to ride upon the high places of the earth, and feed thee with the heritage of Jacob thy father: for the mouth of

the LORD hath spoken it.” Isaiah 58:13–14.

Sabbathkeeping does not find itself in seeking the pleasures of the world, but in seeking how we may please God in worship, in the contemplation of His mighty works, and in reaching out to the needs of others. The Sabbath offers a tremendous benefit to the human race.

There have been many arguments trying to justify the transference of the Sabbath to Sunday as the day of worship. However, they are never supported by Scripture. For example, some argue that we should keep Sunday because redemption is greater than Creation. However, does the Bible teach that redemption is greater than Creation? Suppose that redemption is greater than Creation, why should we keep Sunday? Has God required us to keep any particular day as a memorial of redemption? No. If He did, would it be the day of His crucifixion or resurrection? Do we have redemption through Christ’s resurrection?

The Bible says, “And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast *redeemed us to God by thy blood* out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation.” Revelation 5:9. See also Colossians 1:14. (All emphasis supplied unless otherwise noted.)

The Bible says that we have redemption through the shed blood of Christ. How do we commemorate Christ’s death on the cross? “For I have received of the Lord that which also I delivered unto you, that the Lord Jesus the same night in which he was betrayed took bread: and when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me. . . . For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord’s death till he come.”

1 Corinthians 11:23–26. We commemorate Jesus’ death through the Lord’s Supper. Does the Lord’s Supper rob the seventh-day Sabbath of its holiness? No.

How do we commemorate the resurrection of Jesus? “Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into

his death? Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection.” Romans 6:3–5.



We commemorate the resurrection of Jesus through baptism. Does baptism rob the seventh-day Sabbath of its holiness? No. We are to participate in the Lord’s Supper, practice the ordinance of baptism, and keep the seventh-day Sabbath holy. Unfortunately, those who claim to have the authority to change the Sabbath to Sunday, have also been bold enough to change the celebration of the Lord’s Supper and the rite of baptism.



Others argue that the Ten Commandments are no longer binding upon the Christian, and therefore we do not need to keep the seventh-day Sabbath. However, Jesus said, “Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil. For verily I say unto

you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled. Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven: but whosoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.” Matthew 5:17–19.

Many of the most respected Christian scholars have recognized the binding claims of God’s Ten Commandments. D. L. Moody said, “The law that was given at Sinai has lost none of its solemnity. Time cannot wear out its authority or the fact of its authorship. . . . I have never met an honest man that found fault with the Ten Commandments. . . . The commandments of God given to Moses in the mount at Horeb are as binding today as ever they have been since the time when they were proclaimed in the hearing of the people.” *Weighed and Wanting*, 11, 15.

The founder of the Presbyterian Church, John Calvin, said, “We must not imagine that the coming of Christ has freed us from the authority of the law; for it is the eternal rule of a devout and holy life, and must therefore be as unchangeable as the justice of God, which it embraced, is constant and uniform.”—Calvin’s Comment on Matthew 5:17 and Luke 16:17, in *Commentary on a Harmony of the Gospels*, vol. 1, 277.

Presbyterian scholar Dr. Albert Barnes wrote, “We learn hence: (1) That all the law of God is binding on Christians. Compare James 2:10. (2) That all the commands of God should be preached in their proper place, by Christian ministers. (3) That they who pretend that there are any laws of God so small that they need not obey them, are unworthy of His kingdom. And (4) That true piety has respect to all the commandments of God. Compare Psalm 119:6.” Barnes, *Commentary*, note on Matthew 5:19.

So what is God’s law? The Ten Commandments of God are His moral rules that govern His creation. They are recorded in Exodus 20:2–17.

The first four commandments define our loving relationship with

God, while the last six define our loving relationship with our fellow man. If these commandments were strictly kept, it would produce communities of decency and domestic tranquillity. There would be no idolatry, profanity, Sabbathbreaking, dishonoring of parents, murder, adultery, stealing, lying, or coveting. How would you like to live in a community like that?

God's law is as eternal and unchanging as God Himself. The Bible says, "All his commandments are sure. They stand fast forever and ever." Psalm 111:7-8. "Every one of thy righteous judgments endureth for ever." Psalm 119:160.

There are some who teach that God's law has been abolished, but Jesus said, "Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets. . . . For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled." Matthew 5:17-18.

Jesus said of Himself, "I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love." John 15:10. In fact, the prophet Isaiah said of the Saviour, "He will magnify the law, and make it honourable." Isaiah 42:21. Did Jesus magnify and honor the law by abolishing it? God forbid! Christ came and lived a sinless life "that the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit." Romans 8:4.

How did Christ then magnify the law? Jesus said, "Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not commit adultery: but I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart." Matthew 5:27-28. Did Jesus abolish the seventh commandment? Certainly not! He did just the opposite. Christ defined adultery beyond the physical act. He magnified the law by declaring that you can commit adultery in your heart.

Never in the Scriptures are any of the Ten Commandments degraded or abolished. Paul asks the very question of whether the law is abolished. "Do we then make void the law through faith?" What is his answer? "God forbid: yea, we

establish the law." Romans 3:31.

Throughout the Bible, God's law is exalted. Paul said, "Wherefore the law is holy, and the commandment holy, and just, and good. . . . For we know that the law is spiritual; . . . For I delight in the law of God." Romans 7:12, 14, 22. Paul does not say that the law *was* holy, good, and



spiritual. Paul declares that the law *is* holy, good, and spiritual. After all, the psalmist says, "The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul." Psalm 19:7. Moreover, Solomon wrote, "Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man." Ecclesiastes 12:13.



The beloved John declared, "He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him." 1 John 2:4. James said, "For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all. For he that said, Do not commit adultery, said also, Do not kill. Now if thou commit no adultery, yet if thou kill, thou art become

a transgressor of the law." James 2:10-11.

When a young man came to Jesus and asked how he might receive eternal life, Jesus said, "If thou wilt enter into life, keep the commandments." Matthew 19:17.

God wants to inscribe His law in our hearts and in our minds. The Bible says, "This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, saith the Lord, I will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them; and their sins and iniquities will I remember no more." Hebrews 10:16-17.

He wants us not only to know His commandments (in the mind) but He also wants us to love His commandments (in the heart). Paul said, "For I delight in the law of God after the inward man." Romans 7:22.

James said, "If ye fulfil the royal law according to the scripture, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself, ye do well." James 2:8. It requires love to keep God's commandments. As Jesus said, "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets." Matthew 22:37-40.

The Morality of the Sabbath

Some argue that we are to keep nine of the Ten Commandments, but that we do not need to keep the seventh-day Sabbath. They argue that the Sabbath is not a moral commandment.

The fact that all Ten Commandments existed before sin and could be disobeyed, makes them all moral. Yet, what makes the Sabbath an especially moral precept?

After God created the world in six days He rested on the seventh. He blessed the Sabbath day and set it apart for a sacred use. The Bible says, "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.

The word “sanctified” means to “separate, set apart, or appoint, to a holy or religious use.” Consequently, God has an intended holy use for the seventh day as the Sabbath.

The first thing God asks us to do is to “remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. . . . for in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day.” Exodus 20:8, 11. We are to “remember” that God created us. It is morally correct to keep the seventh-day Sabbath because God gave us life. He has the power to give life and to take life away. He has the perfect right to set the standards by which we are to live. As Paul said, “O man, who art thou that repliest against God? Shall the thing formed say to him that formed it, Why hast thou made me thus? Hath not the potter power over the clay, of the same lump to make one vessel unto honour, and another unto dishonour?” Romans 9:20-21.

Men ought to morally keep the Sabbath in order to preserve that knowledge of the true and living God, the Creator of heaven and earth. Tragically, men have not remembered to keep the Sabbath holy, which has resulted in rampant skepticism and scoffing.

Perhaps the greatest moral reason for keeping the Sabbath is that it is the Lord’s day. The com-

mandment says that the “seventh day is the sabbath of the LORD thy God.” Exodus 20:10. It is said of Jesus that “the Son of man is Lord also of the sabbath.” Mark 2:28.

Let us consider the eighth commandment, which says, “Thou shalt not steal.” Exodus 20:15. Why should we not steal? Because it protects the possessions and property of the owner. We are not lawfully able to take that which belongs to someone else.

The Creator, who has made everything, including all seven days of the week, has allowed us to perform our secular duties on the first six days. However, the seventh day God has reserved for Himself. The seventh day is not our day; it belongs to God, and God alone. The Lifegiver has commanded us, His creation, not to perform our secular duties on the seventh day, but we are to keep it holy.

Let us illustrate the point. Suppose a wealthy man has seven very beautiful and fruitful pear trees. He has given permission to a neighbor to freely take from the first six trees, but the seventh tree the owner has reserved for his own special use. This would be a very generous offer indeed. Now suppose that the neighbor became ungrateful, and then also partook from the seventh pear tree. Would this not be considered immoral? If it would be wrong to rob a man of his pears, which are here today and gone tomorrow, how much more morally

wrong would it be to rob God every week of the honor due to Him on His Sabbath day.

If a man would knowingly rob God of His day by pursuing his worldly interests and selfish ambitions, then that man is just as capable of stealing from his fellow man.

With all these entreaties and warnings from Holy Writ, how can a man deliberately set aside the law and the authority of His Creator? How disappointing such behavior must appear to God who gave us His only begotten Son!

Today God needs people who will love Him supremely. He needs men and women who will choose to do right because it is right, and because it pleases Him. God calls today for those who will be as true to duty, and to the truth, as the compass needle is to the North Pole.

God has emptied all of heaven—for you. Jesus suffered an ignominious, painful death—for you.

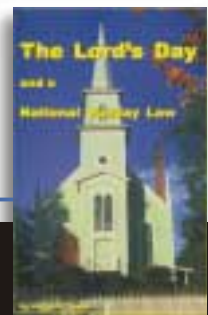
What are you willing to do for Him? Will you be among the faithful who determine to follow Him whithersoever He goes?

Will you determine today that you will willingly keep all of His commandments?

Will you worship your Creator and Redeemer on the day which He has set aside as holy?

Soon Jesus will say, “Here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.” Revelation 14:12. ❖

What day is the Lord’s Day?



The Lord’s Day and a National Sunday Law

by Jacob M. Teske

This easy-to-read booklet gives answers to questions about God’s true day of rest. Regarded as one of the most powerful and complete presentations on the Sabbath, it presents the reader with thought-provoking insight into the issues of God’s Law and the freedom to worship in these last days.

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**A Call for National
“Sabbathkeeping”**

News Item: “In the relentless busyness of modern life, we have lost the rhythm between action and rest. . . .

“How have we allowed this to happen? . . . How did we get so terribly rushed in a world saturated with work and responsibility, yet somehow bereft of joy and delight?

“I suggest it is this: We have forgotten the Sabbath. . . .

“Rest is not just a psychological convenience; it is a spiritual and biological necessity. Perhaps this is why, in most spiritual traditions, ‘Remember the Sabbath’ is more than simply a lifestyle suggestion. It is a commandment, an ethical precept as serious as prohibitions against killing, stealing and lying. . . .



“As part of the Judeo-Christian tradition, it is already woven into the fabric of our society. Many of us still recall when, not long ago, shops and offices were closed on Sundays. Those quiet Sunday afternoons are embedded in our cultural memory. . . .

“The point is not to return to some forced, legalistic Sabbath. We rightfully chafe against the dreary and humorless Sundays that obscured the more traditional healing prescriptions of companionship and laughter. A new Sabbath must invite a conversation about the forgotten

necessity of rest. . . .

“I make a plea for renewed Sabbathkeeping. As a nation, we cannot live like this, endlessly rushing about in a desperate frenzy, never stopping to enjoy the blessings of family and friends, unable to taste the fruits of life.” *USA Weekend*, April 2–4, 1999.

Prophetic Perspective: “God has revealed what is to take place in the last days, that His people may be prepared to stand against the tempest of opposition and wrath. Those who have been warned of the events before them are not to sit in calm expectation of the coming storm, comforting themselves that the Lord will shelter His faithful ones in the day of trouble. We are to be as men waiting for their Lord, not in idle expectancy, but in earnest work, with unwavering faith. It is no time now to allow our minds to be engrossed with things of minor importance. While men are sleeping, Satan is actively arranging matters so that the Lord’s people may not have mercy or justice. *The Sunday movement is now making its way in darkness.* The leaders are concealing the true issue, and many who unite in the movement do not themselves see whither the undercurrent is tending. *Its professions are mild and apparently Christian,* but when it shall speak it will reveal the spirit of the dragon. It is our duty to do all in our power to avert the threatened danger. We should endeavor to disarm prejudice by placing ourselves in a proper light before the people. We should bring before them the real question at issue, thus interposing the most effectual protest against measures to restrict liberty of conscience. We should search the Scriptures and be able to give the reason for our faith.” *Testimonies*, vol. 5, 452. (All emphasis supplied unless otherwise noted.)

“In the last conflict the Sabbath will be the special point of controversy throughout all

Christendom. Secular rulers and religious leaders will unite to enforce the observance of the Sunday; and *as milder measures fail, the most oppressive laws will be enacted.* It will be urged that the few who stand in opposition to an institution of the church and a law of the land ought not to be tolerated, and a decree will finally be issued denouncing them as deserving of the severest punishment, and giving the people liberty, after a certain time, to put them to death. Romanism in the Old World, and apostate Protestantism in the New, will pursue a similar course toward those who honor the divine precepts.” *The Spirit of Prophecy*, vol. 4, 444–445.

Truly, the Sunday movement is making its way in darkness as the servant of the Lord foretold. Its professions are mild and apparently Christian, as the above writer so ably demonstrates; however, in the end it will speak as a dragon. We can see that the Sunday laws will begin with very mild measures that will increase in severity—culminating in a death decree. May God help His people to prepare for the storm that is coming!



**Charismatic Movement Is the
Cement Between Protestants
and Catholics**

News Item: “The charismatic movement within the Lutheran



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Church-Missouri Synod [LCMS] continues to grow while LCMS officials appear to be doing very little, if anything, to take disciplinary action against the charismatics." *The Christian News*, April 19, 1999.

One Pentecostal leader when invited to speak to a group of LCMS charismatics "said that he believes more than 900 LCMS pastors are charismatics." *Ibid*.

There are those who are concerned about the dangerous counterfeit of the charismatic movement. Among these is Alexander Seibel, who recently published a book on the subject, entitled *The Church Subtly Deceived?*

As quoted in *The Christian News*, Seibel writes: "Today we also observe the increasing tendency towards creating the 'right mood.' This is cultivated through various emotional and worldly actions and techniques such as rhythm, a heavy beat, clapping, shouting, etc. Such an atmosphere is supposed to indicate 'life' and 'fullness of the spirit.' To members of dead churches, particularly, such 'lively meetings' have a special appeal, but, unfortunately, emotional excitement is often confused with the genuine work of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit causes feelings, but feelings don't bring about the Holy Spirit" (14). *Ibid*.

Speaking of Rome, Seibel writes, "It can be clearly observed how the Charismatic movement is shifting more and more towards the Roman system. In doing so it is providing a bridgehead from Protestantism to Catholicism" (100). *Ibid*.

"The Charismatic movement is not only the cement between the Protestant and Catholic church, it has the tendency to lead to syncretism" [to reconcile differing religious beliefs] (109). *Ibid*.

Prophetic Perspective: "As we approach the last crisis, it is of vital moment that harmony and unity

exist among the Lord's instrumentalities. The world is filled with storm and war and variance. *Yet under one head—the papal power—the people will unite to oppose God in the person of His witnesses. This union is cemented by the great apostate. While he seeks to unite his agents in warring against the truth he will work to divide and scatter its advocates.* Jealousy, evil surmising, evilspeaking, are instigated by him to produce discord and dissension. The members of Christ's church have the power to thwart the purpose of the adversary of souls. At such a time as this let them not be found at variance with one another or with any of the Lord's workers. Amidst the general discord let there be one place where harmony and unity exist because the Bible is made the Guide of Life. Let the people of God feel that a responsibility rests upon them to build up His instrumentalities." *Testimonies*, vol. 7, 182.

"Through the two great errors, the immortality of the soul and Sunday sacredness, Satan will bring the people under his deceptions. While the former lays the foundation of spiritualism, the latter creates a bond of sympathy with Rome. The Protestants of the United States will be foremost in stretching their hands across the gulf to grasp the hand of *spiritualism*; they will reach over the abyss to clasp hands with the *Roman power*; and under the influence of this *threefold union*, this country will follow in the steps of Rome in trampling on the rights of conscience. . . .

"The line of distinction between professed Christians and the ungodly is now hardly distinguishable. Church members love what the world loves and are ready to join with them, and *Satan determines to unite them in one body and thus strengthen his cause by sweeping all into the ranks of spiritualism.* Papists, who boast of miracles as a certain sign of the true church, will be readily deceived by this wonder-

working power; and Protestants, having cast away the shield of truth, will also be deluded. Papists, Protestants, and worldlings will alike accept the form of godliness without the power, and they will see in this union a grand movement for the conversion of the world and the ushering in of the long-expected millennium." *The Great Controversy*, 588–589.

We can clearly see that the prophecies of Revelation 16:13–14 are being fulfilled today. The spirits of devils are going forth working miracles to deceive those who dwell upon the earth. May God's people truly heed the admonition of verse 15:

"Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame."



War in Yugoslavia—an Update

News Item: Dr. Ray Jurjevich, who is a Diplomat in Clinical Psychology, stated via phone from Belgrade that he "is convinced that the war is being fought to punish Serb nationalism, but also to discourage other countries that want to be completely free to govern themselves and who are unwilling to surrender their sovereignty to the New World Order and the United Nations." *Christian News*, April 12, 1999.

"As tens of millions of Russians celebrated Easter (April 11), the country's most important religious

holiday, some militant Orthodox Christian activists cast NATO's bombing of Yugoslavia as a religious conflict and urged believers to fight for Serbia.

" 'This is a geopolitical battle to destroy the Orthodox,' said the head of the Russian-Serbian Orthodox Brotherhood, Konstantin Yershkov, a Cossack colonel. 'Our enemies are the Masons. Our enemies are in the Vatican. Our enemies are in Israel, in New York and in Washington.' " Ibid., April 19, 1999.

Another Russian cleric stated: "At the root of this conflict is Orthodoxy. Some in the West believe that Orthodoxy is the enemy of the New World Order they want to build. This New World Order is

the work of the anti-Christ." Ibid.

Prophetic Perspective: "Romanism in the Old World and apostate Protestantism in the New will pursue a similar course toward those who honor all the divine precepts." *The*

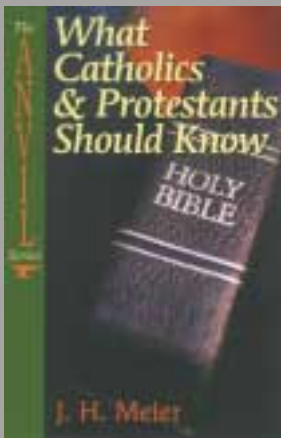


Great Controversy, 616.

In order for the Roman Catholic Church to gain the power and influence necessary to rule the Old World—as prophecy has predicted—she will have to gain power over the nations of Europe. It appears that what we have been seeing in the conflict in Yugoslavia has been masterminded by Satan and endorsed by Rome for the purpose of bringing into place a strong Catholic Europe.

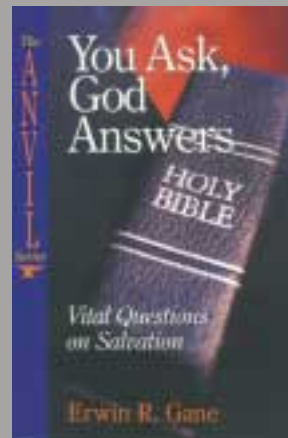
Read the prophecies and you will see that the nations will give their allegiance to Rome. See Revelation 17:12–13, 17; 19:19.

May God give us discernment to see the rapid fulfillment of prophecy that is happening all around us. 🙏



What Catholics & Protestants Should Know

by J.H. Meier



You Ask, God Answers

by Erwin R. Gane

This book was written to clarify many of the issues over which Protestantism and Catholicism disagree—with the Bible as the final authority. The author addresses many of the basic doctrines of the Christian faith in the hope that the Holy Scriptures will give a fuller and clearer understanding of them. Intended for anyone desiring to know the truth and willing to find it in God's Word. Part of the Anvil Series from Orion Publishing.

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Church & State

ON TRIAL

History identifies religious institutions that control the power of the state as the greatest enemies of religious freedom. In fact, most conflicts around the world today are ethnically or religiously centered. From the bloodbaths of Bosnia and Kosovo to the bombings of Ireland and Yugoslavia, from the conflicts between Suni and Shiite Moslems to the persecution of Protestants in Mexico, we find differences concerning religion continuously adding to the number of martyrs.

Most of those who are persecuted when the church controls the state are Christians, not the secular humanists or the immoral. There is an heightened intolerance against those who believe—but believe differently.

Persecution in America

Anti-Catholicism, as well as hatred towards Anabaptists, Mennonites, Quakers, and anyone else whose beliefs did not square with those of the Pilgrims, came to America on the Mayflower in 1620. Tolerance was not a characteristic in great abundance when the Pilgrims first stepped onto Plymouth Rock.

Many were imprisoned, had their tongues cut out, and some were even put to death. However, tolerance was something that Americans would progressively develop.

In 1791, 170 years later, there would be a legal break in this dark side of American history with the ratification of the First Amendment, which reads, “Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof.” However, persecution still continued for some time in the New World.

Papal Persecution

The most widespread persecution and intolerance was expressed by the Church of Rome. Some historians have estimated that over one hundred million people were martyred for believing differently. This staggering figure translates into over 50,000 martyrs each year since the existence of popery.

“For professing faith contrary to the teachings of the Church of Rome, history records the martyrdom of more than one hundred million people. A million Waldenses and Albigenses perished during a crusade proclaimed by Pope Inno-

cent III in 1208. Beginning from the establishment of the Jesuits in A.D. 1540 to 1580, nine hundred thousand were destroyed. One hundred and fifty thousand perished by the Inquisition in thirty years. Within the space of thirty-eight years after the edict of Charles V against the Protestants, fifty thousand persons were hanged, beheaded or burned alive for heresy. Eighteen thousand more perished during the administration of the Duke of Alva in five and a half years.” *Brief Bible Readings*, 16.

Persecuting and burning heretics is not according to the will of God. If there were one heretic in the whole world who believed contrary to all other people, the world would be no more justified in silencing that one man, than that one man, if he were able, would be justified in silencing the whole world.

The fruit of this injustice during the Dark Ages of papal rule was neither due to the barbarism of the age nor to the unenlightened and uneducated masses. The principles that fueled the Inquisition in persecuting Protestants came straight down from the popes. That

professed Christians could drag innocent people through unjust trials, similar to those endured by Jesus Christ, illustrates the inevitable fruit of the union of church and state.

It was commonly believed that a society forfeits God's protection when it does not punish those who believe differently. It was thought that religious cleansing brought future rewards, while the failure to punish religious dissenters was to experience natural disasters as a result of God's wrath.

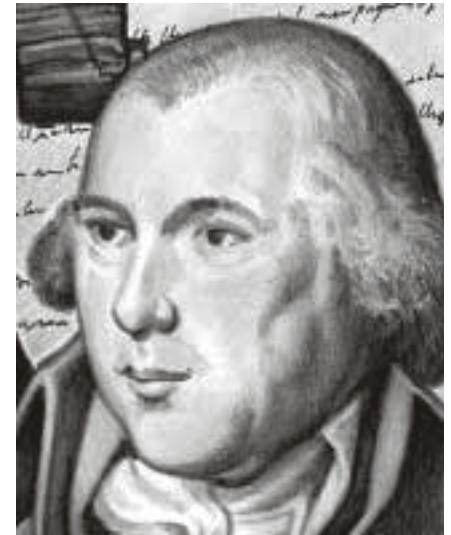
Perhaps the greatest danger in punishing "heretics," is that the "heretic" might be right. After all, Jesus was considered a "heretic," and they crucified Him—the world's Redeemer. While Jesus was about His Father's business in saving man, the religious leaders took advantage of the opportunity to destroy Jesus through the arm of the state.

It should be noted that the word "heretic" means "to exercise an option in the presence of alternatives." Those who saw the Christian

fruits of the union of church and state. After all, the union of church and state had been on trial for over twelve centuries. Therefore, the establishment clause in the First Amendment to the American Constitution reads, "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof."

The Framers of the American Constitution were neither atheists nor secular humanists seeking to destroy Christianity. They were

"Because we hold it for a fundamental and undeniable truth 'that religion, or the duty which we owe to our Creator, and the manner of discharging it, can be directed only by reason and conviction, not by force or violence.'" – James Madison



Catholic scholar Desiderius Erasmus declared, "How could anyone infer . . . that I do not approve of killing heretics? . . . To kill blasphemous and seditious heretics is necessary for the maintenance of the state." Sebastian Castello, *Concerning Heretics: Whether They Are To Be Persecuted and How They Are To Be Treated*, translation with introduction by Roland H. Bainton (New York, 1935), 38–41.

Catholic theologian Thomas Aquinas taught that heretics must be delivered to "the secular tribunal to be exterminated." Otherwise, they would corrupt the faith of others. "Eternal salvation takes precedence over temporal good, and . . . the good of the many is to be preferred to the good of one." Aquinas, *Summa Theologica*, volume 9, 154–155.

It is understandable that actions of incivility are punishable, but to punish someone because of his religious beliefs is uncivil.

life to be a matter of personal conscience were for that reason called heretics by those who believed in a "choiceless Christianity." The "heretic" was persecuted because he chose to believe differently—not because what he believed was theologically wrong.

Even if the "heretic" were doctrinally incorrect, the greatest "heretic" is the one that professes to be a Christian, but denies Jesus with his life. Is not the persecution of others a denial of the spirit of Christ? Christ taught us to love our enemies—not to hate them or to slay them. Truth makes men good—not evil.

The satanic remedy of persecuting "heretics" is far worse than any heresy. Force does not protect truth. Truth makes men good—not evil. Truth makes men loving—not hateful.

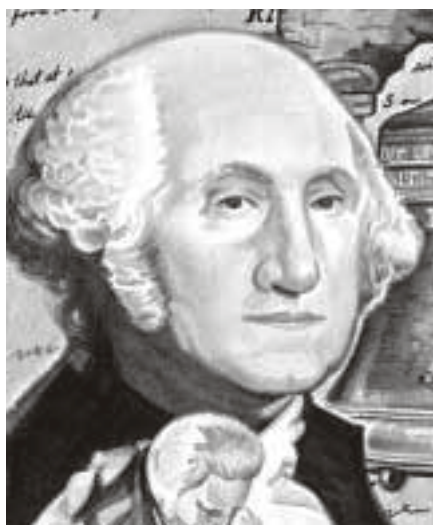
The founders of this great nation, the Framers of the American Constitution, were well aware of the

largely Christians seeking to protect government from religion—and religion from government. They desired neither to support religion nor to be antagonistic toward religion on the federal level, so that they could maintain civility between believers and nonbelievers. Congress was not to pass any religious laws which would favor any one church or fifty churches, so that they could maintain civility between the various Christian denominations, and between Christianity and other beliefs.

However, there are those who advocate that the First Amendment only prevents Congress from establishing a national religion. What these advocates and many others fail to understand is that at the time of the framing of the First Amendment in 1789, and the ratification of the Bill of Rights in 1791, we had no national church. There was no Lutheran Sweden or Catholic Spain in America. In Rhode Island, Pennsylvania, Delaware, and New

Jersey, there never was an establishment of religion at all. Therefore, at the time of the framing of the First Amendment, the issue was not primarily preventing Congress from establishing a national religion, but keeping Congress from passing laws that tax people in the support of any religion and from the legislation of religious dogmas.

As an example, let us use New York to show the progression of American thought on the relationship between church and state:



When New York was known as New Netherlands under Dutch control, there was an established church—the Dutch Reformed Church. When the English conquered New Netherlands in 1664, they renamed it New York in honor of the Duke of York, James II. The *Duke's Laws* of 1664 “disestablished the Dutch Reformed Church and established in its place a multiplicity of churches.” Levy, *The Establishment Clause*, 10.

There was the disestablishment of a *singular* established church. Any church, thereafter, could become the church that received the tax in support of the *Christian* religion. Under the *Duke's Laws* every township was obligated to pay a tax to support some Protestant church and a minister. The denomination of that church did not matter. Any *Protestant* church could have become that established church within a district. However, your tax dollars in support of religion might

very well go to a church in your district that you could not conscientiously support. If the Presbyterian Church were the established church for a district, then the tax dollars of the Presbyterians, the Baptists, the Catholics, the Lutherans, the Mennonites, and all others, went to the Presbyterian Church. We still had the union of church and state, but without the establishment of any singular church. This practice continued for nearly seventy years.

national church had not been the issue in New York for over one hundred and thirty years. “Respecting the establishment of religion” had come to mean far more than preventing Congress from setting up a national religion. The real issue was whether Congress should pass laws that establish religious laws, such as taxing people in support of religion, or forcing people to conform to certain modes of worship.

George Washington said, “Every man who conducts himself as

“Every man who conducts himself as a good citizen, is accountable alone to God for his religious faith, and should be protected in worshiping God according to the dictates of his own conscience”

– George Washington

In 1731 this multiple establishment in support of the Christian (Protestant) religion progressed to the point of allowing the tax dollars of the people to go to the church of their own persuasion. Therefore, in a town where many churches are represented, there was no longer the practice of one church receiving all the tax in support of religion. The tax dollars of the Baptists went to the Baptist Church. Under this system we still had the union of church and state, but we were far beyond the idea of having one state or national church.

By the time we came to 1791 and the ratification of the Bill of Rights, the issue was not the fear of a national religion, but whether government should force people to pay a tax to support even a church of their own choosing? The answer was, “Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof.” The problem of a

a good citizen, is accountable alone to God for his religious faith, and should be protected in worshiping God according to the dictates of his own *conscience*.” A. T. Jones, *The Rights of the People*, 31.

The New Jersey Constitution of 1776 provided that no person should “ever be obliged to pay *tithes, taxes, or any other rates*, for the purpose of building or repairing any other church or churches, place or places of worship, or for the maintenance of any minister or ministry, contrary to what he believes to be right, or has deliberately or voluntarily engaged himself to perform.” Francis Newton Thorpe, ed., *The Federal and State Constitutions, Colonial Charters, and Other Organic Laws*, Volume 5, 2597. (All emphasis supplied unless otherwise noted.)

James Madison said, “Because we hold it for a fundamental and undeniable truth ‘that religion, or the duty which we owe to our Creator, and the manner of dis-

charging it, can be directed only by *reason and conviction*, not by force or violence.’ The religion, then, of every man must be left to the *conviction and conscience* of every man; and it is the right of every man to exercise it as these may dictate. This right is in its nature an unalienable right. It is unalienable because the opinions of men, depending only on the evidence contemplated in their own minds, cannot follow the dictates of other men. It is unalienable, also, because what is here a right towards men is a duty towards the Creator. It is the duty of every man to render to the Creator such homage, and such only, as he believes to be acceptable to Him. This duty is precedent, both in order of time and in degree of obligation to the claims of civil society.” A.T. Jones, *Ecclesiastical Empire*, 821.

By man’s Creator, all men are equally free and independent and have entered society on an equal basis. Therefore, all men have an equal freedom to embrace, to profess, and to observe the religion which he is convinced is of God. No man is to be punished because he has not yielded to the evidence that has convinced us. To deny any man this freedom is an offense against God, and an account will be rendered in the judgment.

At the Constitutional Convention of 1787, which framed the Constitution of the United States, they gave very little attention to the subject of religion. Why? The Framers had no intention of giving Congress any authority to pass laws that establish religion or prohibit the free exercise of religion. “Edmund Randolph of Virginia declared that ‘no power is given expressly to Congress over religion,’ and added that only powers ‘constitutionally given’ could be exercised.” Leonard Levy, *The Establishment Clause*, 65.

At the first session of the First Congress, Representative Madison on June 8, 1789, proposed for House approval a series of amendments to the Constitution. The House, which included Madison, was composed of one member from each state. The Senate began debate on the House amendments on

September 3 and continued through September 9. The debate was conducted in secrecy and no record exists except for the account of motions and votes in the Senate Journal. According to the record, on September 3, three motions concerning the First Amendment were defeated. The first motion was: “Congress shall make no law establishing one religious sect or society in preference to others.” It was defeated. The second motion was: “Congress shall not make any law infringing the rights of conscience, or establishing any religious sect or society.” It was defeated. The third motion was: “Congress shall make no law establishing any particular



denomination of religion in preference to another.” It was defeated. The language was changed to read, “Congress shall make no law respecting the establishment of religion.” *Ibid.*, 82.

Why were the first three motions defeated? Because they were grossly inadequate. The main issue was not the fear of a national religion, but whether Congress can pass laws that establish church laws.

The purpose of the First Amendment, like the other amendments, was to restrict the powers of Congress. The Bill of Rights limited and qualified the powers of government. Congress had no powers to legislate laws establishing religion even in the absence of the First

Amendment, because the Constitution never gave Congress any authority to do so. The Constitution does not mention God. Therefore, it is unreasonable to conclude that the First Amendment, “Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof,” means that Congress can tax the people in the support of religion, and pass religious legislation.

On August 17, more than two weeks prior to these three defeated amendments, there was a proposal that passed by a vote of thirty-one to twenty. This proposal did not become the final wording of the First Amendment, but it does well represent the intent of many of the Framers. The proposal was made by Samuel Livermore and it read as follows: “Congress shall make no laws touching religion, or infringing the rights of conscience.” *Ibid.*, 78. Congress was not to pass laws that touch religion. They were not to pass religious legislation that supports one religion or all religions impartially. This is in full harmony with the Constitution which does not give Congress any powers to pass religious legislation.

Three days later, on August 20, Fisher Ames proposed the following amendment: “Congress shall make no law establishing religion, or to prevent the free exercise thereof, or to infringe the rights of conscience.” *Ibid.*, 81. This proposal passed as well. It is apparent that making “no law touching religion” and making “no law establishing religion” are in agreement. If Congress were able to pass laws touching religion then there would be the establishment of religion.

On September 15 the House changed the amendment to read: “Congress shall make no law establishing articles of faith or a mode of worship or prohibiting the free exercise of religion.” The Framers’ intent was to keep Congress from passing laws “establishing articles of faith or a mode of worship.” Congress was to pass no laws that establish “articles of faith” favoring one church or fifty churches. Congress was to pass no laws that touch upon “modes of worship.”

After all, the Constitution never gave Congress any power to do so.

On September 25 the Senate accepted the House amendment that “Congress shall make no laws respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof.” We then had our First Amendment.

Now those who advocate that there should be religion in the government without preference to one, are afraid that without religion in the government we are fostering irreligion. Our founding fathers realized that Christ’s church did not need government aid to pay the salaries of pastors or teachers of a religious institution in order to carry out her divine commission, or even to establish her dogmas to save America. The issue was not whether the Framers were choosing between religion and irreligion, but whether the state should coerce the citizenry to support religion.

So, how can we have the Christian religion in our government without having an establishment of the Christian religion?

However, the Christian Coalition asserts that this is a Christian nation, and that there should be religion in the government without a national church. What religion would there be in this government? No doubt, the Christian religion. No other religion would be considered by the Christian Coalition. So, how can we have the Christian religion in our government without having an establishment of the Christian religion?

Let us take as an example—the Christian Coalition’s push for a national Sunday law. Remember, the Christian Coalition says we must have religion in the government, but not a national church.

Now the Sabbath was instituted at Creation and placed in the very heart of the Ten Commandments. The Sabbath is the fourth commandment of God, which I am not against, and believe most decidedly in keeping holy. How does the fourth commandment read in the Bible? “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 it thou shalt not do any

work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates: for in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the *seventh day*: wherefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it.” Exodus 20:8–11. (All emphasis supplied unless otherwise noted.)

There are Jews, Seventh Day Baptists, Seventh-day Adventists, Apostolic Churches, and many others who keep the seventh-day Sabbath holy. Those who generally make up the Christian Coalition keep the first day of the week—Sunday.

For the Supreme Court to legislate a national day of rest based on the Bible, they must, in all honesty, pass this law as it reads in the Scriptures. One of the rules that lawgivers must adhere to is that, “The words of a statute, if of common use, are to be taken in their natural, plain, obvious, and ordinary significance and import.” A.T. Jones, *Views of National Reform*, Series One, 18.

Where do we find the Sabbath commandment? We find it in the Ten Commandments. This is its natural setting. Is the command plain and obvious? Yes. It reads, “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.” Exodus 20:8–9.

God intended that man should keep holy the seventh-day Sabbath, while the Christian Coalition intends to have the first day—Sunday—established as a national day of rest. Herein is the difficulty. If the courts are to pass the Sabbath commandment as a national law, they are not allowed to reconstruct the plain words of the commandment. They will need to legislate the seventh-day Sabbath. Will the Christian Coalition be satisfied with the legislation of the seventh-day Sabbath instead of passing a national Sunday law? No. This is exactly what is wrong with having the church in the government. If the courts should enforce the seventh-day Sabbath, the Christian Coalition would call it an invasion of their religious liberties,

and I would agree. However, in proposing a national Sunday law, the Christian Coalition has only changed the day. A national Sunday law is as much an invasion of human rights and religious liberty as would be the legislating of the seventh-day Sabbath. What makes Sunday laws especially unconstitutional is the fact that a certain day is chosen above all others. If it is wrong to force people to worship God, it certainly is wrong to force them to do so on a specific day. This is a matter of conscience.

Sunday laws will not solve the problem of the swelling immorality of our age; it will only create another problem—namely, religious persecution.

The problem with immorality in our nation is due to the human heart. The only thing that can change the human heart is the gospel. There are to be civil laws that punish incivility. However, we cannot have religious laws that punish someone for holding different religious beliefs.

Jesus lived during a time of great injustices, but He did not push for any religious or civil reforms. Why? Because the real remedy did not rest with legislative reform. God alone can change the sinful human heart. When churches fail to live the life of Christ, and share the love of Christ, then a nation is flooded with immorality. In reality, many of the sins of the world lie at the door of the church. “For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.” Hebrews 4:12. The problem is not with the Word of God, but whether Christians truly have faith in God’s Word.

The greatest battle each person must fight is the battle with self and sin. There is no corporate salvation. Each person must have a personal relationship of faith and obedience to Christ. No one is saved because his name is on the church role at the Catholic, or Baptist, or any other church. His name needs to be recorded in the books of heaven. ✨

Solid Outreach Material



Signposts

Looking for solid outreach material? Our *Signposts* magazine contains many of the same articles as this issue of *Our Firm Foundation*, in a format more suitable for non-Adventists. It's perfect for giving to your family and friends, or even for bulk mailing.

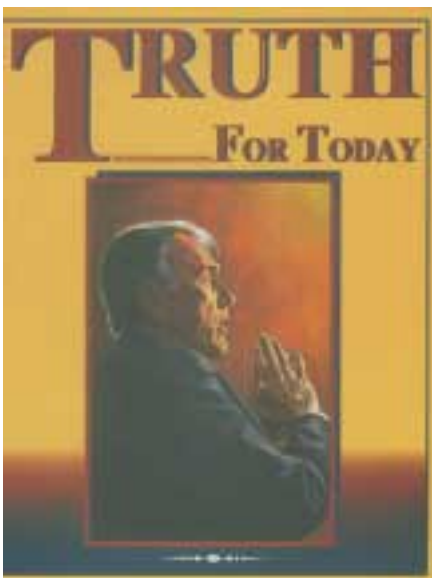
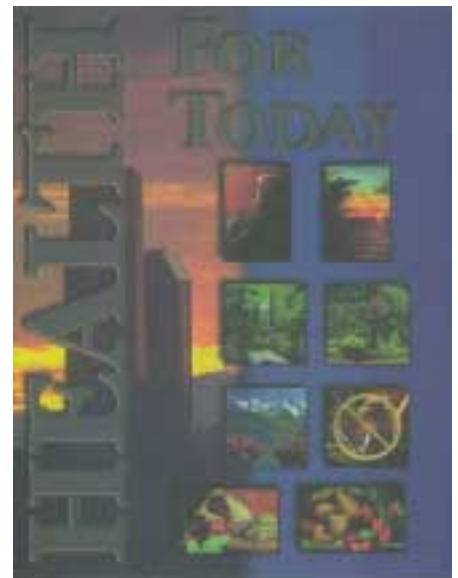
"Proclaim the third angel's message, that all the world may hear, and know that there is a people who 'keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.'" *The Publishing Ministry*, 57.

See below for pricing on all magazines shown.

Health for Today

Designed to fulfill its role as the "right arm" of the evangelistic work, this magazine contains practical information by Adventism's leading health professionals. It also introduces the reader to Ellen White, who was one hundred years ahead of her time as a health promoter.

Health for Today is an excellent magazine to use for sharing God's eight natural remedies with your friends and neighbors.



Truth for Today

See the last six-thousand years of Earth's history through this thirty-two page magazine. Drawn entirely from *Patriarchs and Prophets*, *The Desire of Ages*, and *The Great Controversy*, this publication will open the mind and heart of the reader to a completely different message than that of the world.

Truth for Today is designed to captivate the reader's attention and catch his or her interest. The full books from which this publication is drawn can be ordered from an ad on the back cover.

A Spanish edition of this magazine is also available.

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1-10	\$1.75	
11-199	\$1.00	
1-6 cases (200 per case)	\$0.75	
7+ cases (200 per case)	\$0.65	



Thank you so much for sending us *Our Firm Foundation*. This truth-filled magazine has been a great spiritual uplift to my own life in God's mighty work. Thank you so much for your love to spread His truth. We are faithfully distributing this magazine to our pastors, workers, administrators, and lay workers. I believe that through this magazine God will bring a true revival and reformation to our great church.

I have started medical missionary work from door to door and from church to church. I have also started publishing this last-day message into local languages—Hindi, Assamese, Bengali, Nepali, etc. I need prayer and support from God's people around the world. Kindly continue to supply us with books and magazines. I have no money to support the work, but I have dedicated my life to support your ministries in God's work in India.

RB, India

We ARE sending to you warm regards in the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. We are fine and doing well. A few years ago you sent us a few samples of your published materials for our evaluation. They were a blessing to our work and to the members of our church, plus members of our neighboring Seventh-day Adventist Church! Would you kindly please send to us the following materials on a larger scale? (Listed: *The Great Controversy*, *The Desire of Ages*, *The Lord's Day and a National Sunday Law*, *The Ministry of Healing*, *Prophets and Kings*, *The Acts of the Apostles*, plus natural remedy tracts.) Writing eagerly for materials.

*Rev. P.M.
Christian Methodist Church*

I am an SDA lay worker here in Zambia, rural Central Africa. At the present time in the area I live and work I have seen many new false movements come and go, using the same church name—Seventh-day Adventist—and condemning the church organization. After reading

two copies of *Our Firm Foundation*, I am convinced that you are on the right track. I am a firm believer in God's last church on planet earth, but in the area and time we have reached in our history I have seen false teachings creep into the church and have seen the lowering of her standard. My prayer and request is to read more of the present truth found in your magazines that can help me grow and share the same truth with the people.

Please help me by sending me copies of *Our Firm Foundation* and also the three-volume Spirit of Prophecy library—even old books. These books are hard to find in Zambia. I have requested a lot, and I will leave it in the hands of our Lord whom we serve.

IH, Zambia

I have been blessed by reading the copy of your magazine that deals with health. May the Lord supply the efficiency in your work through the Holy Spirit. I am a young Adventist preacher and leader. Out here the people are hungry for the true Word—especially as given by Mrs. E. G. White. Some other subjects still enshrouded in darkness are end-time prophecy, the health message, and the controversy over the Sabbath versus a Sunday law. I believe a few magazines and books of the Spirit of Prophecy would arouse a few sleeping sentinels to the danger before us.

SK, Kenya

Last fall we listened to Ron Spear and the Standish brothers on a video regarding Y2K, and we became concerned that the troubles are right now—not somewhere down the road. We decided we had better move, but where and how? We claimed the Lord's promise in the book *Country Living* where it is stated that when we decide to move to the country He will lead us on, "point by point." We can certainly testify that He has done that! At every step forward, we came up against a mountain of difficulty, but we pressed on in faith, and He never failed us on a single point.

The Lord enabled us to purchase an acre of land next door to a lovely SDA couple in a small, secluded country setting—in an area that has a little over 500 people, rather than the 150,000 where we are moving from. It is breathtaking how the Lord worked!

HG, Tennessee

Greetings in the sweet name of Jesus our Saviour! Thank you very much for the five cartons—two of *Our Firm Foundation*, two of *Earth's Final Warning*, and one of *The Lord's Day and a National Sunday Law*. Your help is very much appreciated! These books will bless many thousands in my country. My wife and I were worried a week ago because we ran out of *National Sunday Law* books. We were overjoyed when we received the cartons of these books this morning. God is so wonderful! Amen!

LK, Papua New Guinea

I can't tell you how much the articles in your magazine have helped me and even protected me against so many false doctrines that are out here in our society. I really appreciate the articles very much! My husband and I are elderly, but I hope we are good examples to our community for clean, healthy, godly living. Please keep us in your prayers.

MD, Delaware

I received a copy of your tabloid (*Earth's Final Warning*) in the mail the other day, and I was fascinated by what I read. I am a true believer in the Word of God, and I know that when all else fails, God's Word will prevail. I believe wholeheartedly in Bible prophecy, so when I read the heading of your tabloid—"A New World Order Is Coming"—I knew in my spirit that Bible prophecy was unfolding right before my eyes. I am writing this letter to you to ask if you would send me more information. Whatever you can send me, whether it be more tabloids, books, or other materials, I will be more than grateful.

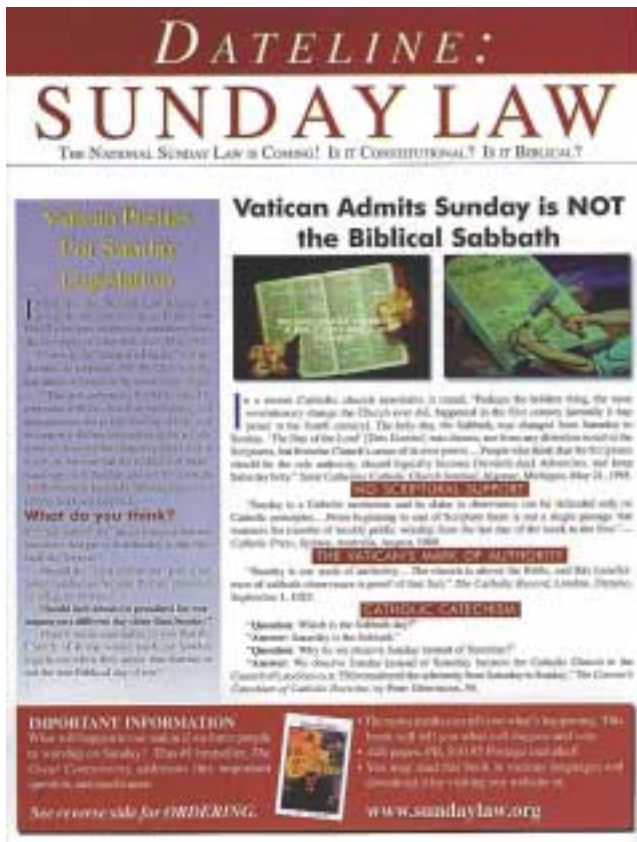
AB, Georgia

Have a letter to share?

contact editor@hopeint.org or see page 2 for our mailing address.

Dateline: Sunday Law

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Brothers and sisters around the country have had their “feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace” as they have distributed the new tract—*Dateline: Sunday Law*, written by Jeff Wehr.

Individuals and church groups have inserted them in local newspapers and shoppers. One group covered a county newspaper with a circulation of 17,000. Another group inserted them in their city newspaper with a circulation of 42,000. Some people have gone door-to-door distributing them with other literature.

Dateline: Sunday Law is a very simple but attractive tract—short enough for people to read and interesting enough to keep their attention! This very important tract shows clearly that the Church of Rome admits that Sunday is not the Biblical day of rest. The tract encourages people to question, Is Sunday rest Biblical, and is a Sunday law constitutional? It provides them with two opportunities to respond. They can order *The Great Controversy* or *Rome’s Challenge*, or they can visit our website, where they can read the entire text of *The Great Controversy*.

While there is still opportunity, why not consider distributing some *Dateline: Sunday Law* tracts in your area?

You may order these tracts from Hope International. See page 2 for shipping and tax information.

Prices:

- Small quantities:** 15¢ each
- 1–4 cases*:** 5¢ each (\$190 per case)
- 5 or more cases:** 4.5¢ each (\$171 per case)
- *3800 tracts in each case

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