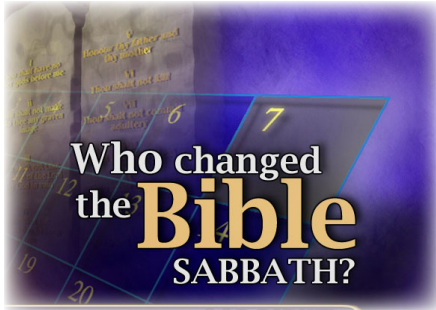


A BIBLE PROPHECY ADVENTURE

# *Revelation Promises Hope*

Notes

## The Rest of the Story



The prophecies of Daniel and Revelation unmask a titanic struggle between good and evil just before Jesus comes. This last battle in the great controversy centers in the law of God (Revelation 12:17). Satan hates the eternal principles that are the basis of heaven's government. He desires

to lead all to violate God's law and disregard the very foundation of happiness. The enemy's special attack is upon the fourth commandment, which exalts Jesus as the Creator. As we discovered in our last lesson, the seventh-day Sabbath is a memorial to Christ's creative authority. It is an eternal symbol of both our "rest in Christ" for salvation and our absolute loyalty to Him. The Sabbath is an eternal link to our Creator. Many sincere Christians are asking, "How was the Sabbath changed from Saturday to the first day? How was the Sabbath changed from Saturday and why? Is there information in the Bible predicting an attempt to change God's law?"

- I. Many have been given wrong information concerning the Sabbath. Why are Christians today worshiping God on the first day of the week? Where did the change from Saturday to Sunday come from?
  - A. There is no command in the Bible for the first day of the week to be holy or a day of worship.
    2. There are only 9 texts in the Bible that mention the first day, none of them tell us that there was a change. (See \$5000 Reward Bible class) Genesis 1:5; John 20:19; 1 Corinthians 16:1,2; Acts 20:7-12; Luke 23:56-24:1; Mark 16:1-2; Mark 16:9; John 20:1; Matthew 28:1
      1. There is no evidence in any of these that the 7th day Sabbath (Saturday) was changed to the 1st day of the week (Sunday).
  - B. The change, of the day of worship, came in from the decrees of man.
    1. Cardinal Gibbons of the Catholic Church says this: "You may read the Bible from Genesis to

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Revelation, and you will not find a single line authorizing the sanctification of Sunday. The Scripture enforces the religious observances of Saturday, a day which we never sanctify." The Faith of Our Fathers, pg. 89.

2. The Convert's Catechism of Catholic Doctrine, By Rev. Peter Geirmann, Second Edition, p.50. Says:
  - “Q. Which is the Sabbath day?
  - A. Saturday is the Sabbath day.
  - Q. Why do we observe Sunday instead of Saturday?
  - A. We observe Sunday instead of Saturday because the Catholic Church, in the Council of Laodicea (336 A.D.) transferred the solemnity from Saturday to Sunday.”
- C. To understand how this happened we need to understand some history.
  1. Ancient Babylon worshiped the Sun because the Sun gave warmth and life.
    - a. They used "Sun Day," the first day as their day of worship.
    - b. This was practiced by all the succeeding kingdoms Neo-Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, and Rome.
    - c. Sun worship on the first day of the week was so entrenched that even God's people practiced it. Ezekiel 8:14-16
  2. Pagan Rome continued this sun worship. Papal Rome simply adopted it.
    - a. Constantine, the emperor, put a Christian emphasis on it.
    - b. To celebrate it not in honor of the sun, but rather in honor of the resurrection of Jesus.
    - c. This placed the traditions of man above the Bible. Mark 7:7-9; Matthew 15:8-9
    - d. The Papal Church made it a strong point of doctrine and belief. T. Enright, C.S.S.R., in a lecture at Hartford, Kansas, Feb. 18, 1884 said:

"I have repeatedly offered \$1000 to anyone who can prove to me from the Bible alone that I am bound to keep Sunday holy. There is no such law in the Bible. It is a law of the holy Catholic Church alone. The Bible say, 'Remember the Sabbath day to keep it

holy.' The Catholic Church says: 'No. By my divine power I abolish the Sabbath day and command you to keep holy the first day of the week.' And lo! the entire civilized world bows down in a reverent obedience to the command of the holy Catholic Church."

D.B. Ray, The Papal Controversy, 1892,p.179.

"From this same Catholic Church you have accepted your Sunday, and that Sunday, as the Lord's day, she has handed down as a tradition; and the entire Protestant world has accepted it as tradition, for you have not an iota of Scripture to establish it. Therefore that which you have accepted as your rule of faith, inadequate as it of course is, as well as your Sunday, you have accepted on the authority of the Roman Catholic Church.

- e. See now why God says all the world wonders after, and worships the beast? Rev. 13:3,8
- f. God's people in Revelation stand in contrast because they worship Him who made the heavens and the earth. Revelation 14:7
- g. They keep all the commandments of God even the fourth. Rev.14:12; Rev. 22:14
- h. God wants us to follow Him and His commands not Man and his traditions.
- i. God is calling people back to follow the truth.
- 3. The Bible says that in the last days God would have commandment keeping people who will restore the Sabbath truth. Isaiah 58:12-14
  - a. The old path to restore is the Sabbath. It is to be a "delight"; the happiest day of the week. The "breach" is in God's law. The fourth commandment needs to be repaired.
  - b. Satan has a counterfeit for every truth. Ezekiel 22;26,28
    - 1. Untempered mortar is used. This mortar consists of two things.
      - a. Speaking lies. 1 John 2:3-4
      - b. "Thus says the Lord when the Lord has not spoken" Ezekiel 22:28 God has not spoken for the 1st day of the week to be holy.

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4. I encourage you to join millions around the world who have found the delight of the seventh-day Sabbath!
  5. Many say, "Well, I didn't know that I was breaking God's law." Acts 17:30
    - a. All people that keep Sunday are not lost. Many of them have not had the privilege of hearing this truth yet. When God sends us the precious truth we must obey. God never condemns sincere people in darkness. But does condemn those who choose to follow darkness rather than light. John 3:19-21
- III. The Sabbath Sunday shuffle happened very slowly, almost unnoticed, until it became accepted by all Christianity.
- A. Sunday really came into the church fairly innocently. "Ancient church Prefaces" pages 6,7. "Rites or Ceremonies of which Paul or Peter never heard crept silently into use. Then claimed the rank of divine institution." A.C. Flick ; "Rise of the Midevil Church" p.148 "Christianity could not grow up through Roman civilization and paganism without in turn being colored and influenced by rites, festivities, and ceremonies of old polyism. Christianity not only conquered Rome but Rome conquered Christianity."
  - B. The early church kept the seventh day Sabbath up until about 140 A.D. to 165 A.D.
    1. The first credible mention of Sunday worship was by Sixtus in the second century- 165 A.D.
    2. The practice of celebrating the resurrection on Sunday the first day of the week once a year.
    3. 200 A.D., Rictor, the Bishop of Rome, proposed penalties for violation of Easter Sunday.
    4. For a while both Sabbath and Sunday were kept together.
    5. Constantine, put a Christian emphasis on the first day of the week. Now it was not celebrated in honor of the sun, but rather in honor of the resurrection of the Son- Jesus.
      - a. This was a fairly easy change because;
        1. Sabbath was a drag--fasting, praying
        2. Sunday was a joy--feasting, partying – People began to Love Sunday and hate the Sabbath.
    6. 314 A.D. Constantine passed the first Sunday law. It applied only to civil servants. They were made to worship on Sunday.