

# HOPE through Prophecy



## Lesson 11 – When Christianity Follows the Beast 2

1. What is the issue in end-time prophecy? Rev. 14:6-12

Remember that the issue in end-time prophecy is worship. This is where the contest is, the ground on which the final battle will be fought. The devil wanted worship from the beginning, and is seeking with all his diabolical power to get it in whatever deceptive way he can.

2. What did God institute on the seventh day of creation week? Gen. 3:2-3.
3. What is the only commandment to begin with the word “remember”? Ex. 20:8-11

Note: The Sabbath, then, became a memorial of creation, a reminder that in six literal days God created the heavens and the earth..

4. Who is the Creator? Jn. 1:1; Heb. 1:1-2; Eph. 3:9. Then who made the Sabbath?

The Bible tells us that Jesus made all things. The Sabbath, then, is a memorial, or reminder, of His creative power. Sabbathkeeping, in its truest sense, is honoring Christ as Creator.

5. What three things did God do on the Sabbath day? Gen. 3:3; Ex. 20:11
6. God rested when He made the Sabbath. What kind of rest was it? Isa. 40:28; Ex. 31:17
7. What is the Sabbath a sign of? Ex. 20:8-11; Ex. 31:16-17; Ezek. 20:12, 20

Christ's rest was not a rest from weariness, but a rest of satisfaction in a job well done. The Sabbath was a reminder that, in the midst of a world of sin, God's original creation was perfect. It further pointed forward to the day when all things would be made new. So the Sabbath was a sign of creation, and also a sign of sanctification, or re-creation.

8. Did Jesus keep the Sabbath? Lk. 4:16; Mt. 12:12; Mk. 2:28

9. Did Jesus expect His disciples to be keeping the Sabbath after His death? Mt. 24:20

10. Did the apostles keep the Sabbath day? Ac. 17:1-2; 16:13; 18:4

There is absolutely no Scriptural record of Christ or His disciples ever honoring Sunday as a holy day. In fact, the earliest historical records reveal that the only people who observed Sunday as a holy day prior to the second century A.D. were the pagans, who worshiped on that day in honor of the sun god (thus the name "sun-day"). And even from the second through the fifth centuries A.D., it was primarily the Christians at Alexandria and Rome that started observing Sunday as a day of worship, while the majority of Christians continued to worship on the seventh day, Saturday, well into the fifth century A.D.

11. Did Paul have a special first-day service for the gentiles? Ac. 13:14, 42-44

If no other text were given in the Bible, this text is more than sufficient to establish that there was no change of the Sabbath made by the apostles of Christ. Gentile believers who visit the synagogue one Saturday to hear Paul preach ask him if they can come back and hear more next week. What an opportune time for Paul to explain to them that he held special Sunday services for the Gentile believers, and that they could come back "tomorrow morning." Yet Paul makes no such reference, and gives no such invitation, because there was no such Sunday service. Instead, the Bible tells us that the Gentile believers came back "the next Sabbath."

12. What day of the week does the Bible Sabbath fall on? Lk. 23:50-24:2.

We must be thankful for this passage in the Bible written by Luke, the Gentile convert of the apostle Paul. He tells us as clear as words can explain that the "Sabbath according to the commandment" is the day between the day of the crucifixion ("Good Friday") and the day of the resurrection ("Easter Sunday"). The Bible Sabbath is on Saturday.

13. Will the Sabbath be kept in heaven? Isa. 66:22-23

14. Does the day matter? Gen. 2:16-17; Isa. 58:13-14; Ezek. 22:26

Some people will challenge that the day doesn't matter – that it isn't that big of a deal. One would have to ask the question, "If it doesn't really matter, why did God put it in the Bible? Why did Jesus keep the Sabbath? Why did the apostles keep the Sabbath, if it wasn't important? Why did Jesus expect that His followers would be keeping it long after His death? (see Mt. 24:15-20). Why would God point out the change of His law as an identifying mark of the antichrist power, if He didn't consider the change a big deal? Indeed, all the evidence we have in the Bible tells us that the day is a big deal to God. It is the one commandment in the Law of God that tests our loyalty to Him.

15. What does Jesus call worship that exalts tradition above His commandments? Mt. 15:3, 9

16. What is the purpose for all God's laws? Deut. 5:33

All of God's laws are for our best good, for our present and our future happiness, because He loves us.

# The Change of the Sabbath Reference Quotes

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 (A.D. 336), transferred the solemnity from Saturday to Sunday. – Rev. Peter Geiermann, Convert's Catechism, p. 50.

The Church... after changing the day of rest from the Jewish Sabbath, or the seventh day of the week, to the first, made the third commandment refer to Sunday as the day to be kept holy as the Lord's Day. – The Catholic Encyclopedia, vol. IV, p. 153.

Finally, at the last opening [session of the Council of Trent] on the eighteenth of January, 1562, their last scruple was set aside; the archbishop of Reggio made a speech in which he openly declared that tradition stood above Scripture. The authority of the church could therefore not be bound to the authority of the Scripture, because the church had changed Sabbath into Sunday, not obey the command of Christ, but by its own authority. With this, to be sure, the last illusion was destroyed, and it was declared that tradition does not signify antiquity, but continual inspiration. – Dr. J. H. Holtzman, Canon and Tradition, p. 263.

You may read the Bible from Genesis to Revelation, and you will not find a single line authorizing the sanctification of Sunday. The Scriptures enforce the religious observance of Saturday. – Catholic Cardinal James Gibbons, The Faith of Our Fathers, 1893 Ed., p. 111.

The Catholic Church, for over one thousand years before the existence of a Protestant, by virtue of her Divine mission, changed the day from Saturday to Sunday. – The Christian Sabbath, p. 29 (Printed by the "Catholic Mirror", the official organ of Cardinal Gibbons, Baltimore, Md., 1893.

Christendom is indebted to the Catholic Church for the institution of Sunday as the Sabbath day... - "Our Sunday Visitor," Jan. 4, 1931.

In keeping Sunday, non-Catholics are simply following the practice of the Catholic Church for 1800 years, a tradition and not a Bible ordinance. – The Question Box, p. 99.

Reason and sense demand the acceptance of one or the other of these alternatives: either Protestantism and the keeping holy of Saturday, or Catholicity and the keeping holy of Sunday. Compromise is impossible. – Cardinal Gibbons, "Catholic Mirror," Dec. 23, 1893.

The Bible says: "Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy," but the Catholic Church says: "No, keep the first day of the week," and the whole world bows in obedience. – Father Enright, "The Industrial American," Harlan, Iowa, Dec. 19, 1989.

Q. – Have you any other way of proving that the Church has power to institute festivals of precept?

A. – Had she not such power, she could not have done that in which all modern religionists 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 or which there is no Scriptural Authority." – Stephen Keenan, Doctrinal Catechism, p. 174.

Q. – How prove you that the Church hath power to command feasts and holy-days?

A. – By the very act of changing the Sabbath into Sunday, which Protestants allow of; and therefore they fondly contradict themselves, by keeping Sunday strictly, and breaking most other feasts commanded by the same Church."

Q. – How prove you that?

A. – Because by keeping Sunday, they acknowledge the Church's power to ordain feasts, and to command them under sin: and by not keeping the rest by her commanded, they again deny in fact, the same power." – Rev. Henry Tuberville, D.D., An Abridgment of the Christian Doctrine, p. 58.

The seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord thy God; in it thou shalt not do any work.' .. Such being God's command then, I ask again, Why do you not obey it?...

You will answer me, perhaps, that you do keep holy the Sabbath-day; for that you abstain from all worldly business, and diligently go to church, and say your prayers, and read your Bible at home, every Sunday of your lives.

But Sunday is not the Sabbath-day, Sunday is the first day of the week; the Sabbath-day was the seventh day of the week. Almighty God did not give a commandment that men should keep holy one day in seven; but He named His own day, and said distinctly, 'Thou shalt keep holy the seventh day.' ... Almighty God ordered that all men should rest from their labor on the seventh day, because He too had rested on that day: He did not rest on Sunday, but on Saturday... Why then do you keep holy the Sunday, and not Saturday?

You will tell me that Saturday was the Jewish Sabbath, but that the Christian Sabbath has been changed to Sunday. Changed! But by whom? Who has authority to change an express commandment of Almighty God? When God has spoken and said, Thou shalt keep holy the seventh day, who shall dare to say, Nay, thou mayest work and do all manner of worldly business on the seventh day; but thou shalt keep holy the first day in its stead?...

You are a Protestant, and you profess to go by the Bible and the Bible only; and yet in so important a matter as the observance of one day in seven as a holy day, you go against the plain letter of the Bible, and put another day in the place of that day which the Bible has commanded. The command to keep holy the seventh day is one of the Ten Commandments; you believe that the other nine are still binding; who gave you authority to tamper with the fourth? If you are consistent with your own principles, if you really follow the Bible and the Bible only, you ought to be able to produce some portion of the New Testament in which this fourth commandment is expressly altered...

We blame you not for making Sunday your weekly holy-day instead of Saturday, but for rejecting tradition which is the only safe and clear rule by which this observance can be justified." – The Brotherhood of St. Vincent de Paul, Why Don't You Keep Holy the Sabbath-Day?, pp. 2-4, 8. (Found also in the Clifton Tracts, Most Rev. John Hughes, D.D.)

That the church has instituted the Sunday as the Lord's day instead of the Sabbath... shows forth her great power which she solemnly received from Christ. – Manual of the Catholic Religion, p. 186.

Hence he is said to have a heavenly power, and hence changes even the nature of things, applying the substantial of one thing to another – can make something out of nothing – a judgment which is null he makes to be real, since in the things which he wills, his will is taken

for a reason. ... He can dispense with the law, he can turn injustice into justice by correcting and changing the law, and he has the fullness of power. – Pope Gregory, Decretals of Gregory, Book I, title 7, chap. 3.

He can pronounce sentences and judgments in contradiction to the right of nations, to the law of God and man... He can free himself from the commands of the apostles, he being their superior, and from the rules of the Old Testament. The pope has power to change times, to abrogate laws, and to dispense with all things, even the precepts of Christ. – Roman Decretalia, an authentic work on Roman Ecclesiastical Law.

[Sunday keeping] not only has no foundation in the Bible, but it is in flagrant contradiction with its letter, which commands rest on the Sabbath, which is Saturday. It was the Catholic Church which, by authority of Jesus Christ, has transferred this rest to the Sunday.... Thus the observance of Sunday by the Protestants is an homage they pay, in spite of themselves, to the authority of the Church. – Luis Segur, Plain Talk About the Protestantism of Today, p. 213.

Perhaps the boldest thing, the most revolutionary change the Church ever did happen in the first century. The holy day, the Sabbath, was changed from Saturday to Sunday... not from any directions noted in the Scriptures, but from the Church's sense of its own power. – "St. Catherine's Catholic Church Sentinel," May 21, 1995.

The authority of the Church could therefore not be bound to the authority of the Scriptures because the Church had changed the Sabbath into Sunday... not by a command of Christ, but by its own authority. – Canon and Tradition, p. 263.

Protestantism, in discarding the authority of the Church, has no good reason for its Sunday theory, and ought, logically, to keep Saturday with the Jews. – American Catholic Quarterly Review, Jan. 1883.

Of course the Catholic Church claims that the change was her act... And the act is a mark of her ecclesiastical power and authority in religious matters. – H. F. Thomas, Chancellor for Cardinal James Gibbons, Letter to J. F. Snyder of Bloomington, Ill., Oct. 28, 1895.

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, Sept. 1, 1923.

Reverend Philip Carrington, Anglican Archbishop of Quebec, sent local clergymen into a huddle today by saying outright that there was nothing to support Sunday being kept holy. Carrington definitely told a church meeting in this city of straight laced Protestantism that Tradition, not the Bible, made Sunday the day of worship. – "Toronto Daily Star," October 26, 1949.

It is well to remind the Presbyterians, Baptists, Methodists, and all other Christians, that the Bible does not support them anywhere in their observance of Sunday. Sunday is an institution of the Roman Catholic Church, and those who observe the day observe a commandment of the Catholic Church. – Priest Brady, "Elizabeth, N.J. News," March 18, 1903.

# Lesson 11b – Sabbath Observance

17. The Bible tells us God “hallowed” the seventh day, or made it holy. How does God make anything holy? Ex. 3:5-6; 2 Pet. 1:18 (compare w/ Matt. 17:1-8).

It is God’s presence that makes anything holy. The desert floor, no different from the ground around it, was suddenly made “holy ground” when the presence of the Lord appeared in the burning bush. The mountain, no different from any other in Judea, became “the holy mountain” when the Father’s presence was manifested in the transfiguration of Christ. In the book of Numbers, there were some men who thought they had the right to be priests, even though they were not of the sons of Aaron. God instructed Moses that, if they were so certain about this, to have them bring golden censers (incense burners) before Him (Num. 16:16-21). These proud and presumptuous men were then consumed from the presence of the Lord, but all the censers were gathered up and used in the temple, as they were now considered holy from being in the presence of the Lord (Num. 16:36-39).

18. God blessed the seventh day. With what did He bless it? Eph. 1:3.

The Bible says that every blessing we receive is ultimately found in Christ. So it is with the Sabbath day. It is being in the presence of God that makes anything holy. It is Christ, the second person of the Godhead, the Son of God who is also Himself God, who is the blessing of the Sabbath day. It is the special presence of Christ in the Sabbath day that blesses it and makes it holy. Note that God did not hallow or bless any other day. Christ meets with His people on the Sabbath day in a way unlike any other day. We can choose to worship God on any other day, but that day will not be the Sabbath, and can not contain the special blessing that is only to be found in the Sabbath day.

19. Was God’s original Sabbath rest because He was tired? Isa. 40:28.

20. What kind of rest was it? Gen. 1:31-2:3; Ex. 31:17.

21. What is the Sabbath day a perpetual reminder of? Ezek. 20:12-20.

God rested “and was refreshed.” His rest was a rest of satisfaction in a job well done. His creation had come into being exactly according to His plans. The work was finished just as He had designed it, and He rested to enjoy the finished work. The Sabbath is also a sign that God sanctifies us, or makes us holy. Once again, it is God’s presence that makes anything holy. The Sabbath is a sign, then, that God intends to dwell with us and in us and make us – sinful human beings – into holy beings. When we rest on the Sabbath, it is not our rest, but His rest that we enter into. It is a spiritual rest of trust in God to do for us what we cannot do for ourselves. We are to “rest” our hope in the finished work that God is completing in us (Phil. 1:6). The Sabbath is, in essence, a promise from God, the Creator, the Lawgiver, that He will restore not only us, but His entire creation to the perfect, holy state that it was in when He first created it.

22. When does the Bible say the Sabbath should be observed? Lev. 23:32.

23. When does “evening” begin? Mk. 1:32; Gen. 1:5, 13; Neh. 13:19.

In the Bible, the days begin at sunset. Evening was reckoned by the setting of the sun. The Sabbath was to be observed from sundown Friday through sundown Saturday. The entire day belongs to God, and is holy (not just a couple hours in the morning for church service).

24. What did the Lord command His followers to refrain from during the Sabbath hours?  
Ex. 16:23; Neh. 13:15-21; Lk. 23:54.

Friday, the day before the Sabbath, was called "the preparation." It was the day to prepare for the Sabbath by doing any cooking, cleaning, buying, selling, etc., so that no unnecessary work would need done during Sabbath hours.

25. How does the Bible story of Jesus' visit to Mary and Martha illustrate the principle of proper Sabbath observance? Lk. 10:38-42.

Jesus came to visit the home of Mary and Martha. Mary made the best use of the time by spending it with the honored guest. Martha, although her intentions were good, lost the quality time with Jesus by working on everything else. In the same way, Jesus comes to us as a special guest on the Sabbath day. We, like Mary, should put aside everything that would detract from spending quality time with Him.

26. What other guidelines does God give for determining how to spend the Sabbath hours?  
Isa. 58:13-14.

The purpose of the Sabbath is not merely to cease working; to attend services; to stop shopping and cook your food ahead of time – it is to "delight yourself" in the Lord. To take advantage of the time you can spend with Christ, as a special measure of His presence is in the Sabbath day – to spend time at the feet of Jesus.

"If a man stops work on Friday evening at sunset, and abstains from all labor until the next day at sunset, merely as a form of worship, and in order that he may be physically better able to go at his work again, or with the thought that he is thereby discharging a duty, and gaining the favor of God, that is not keeping the Sabbath of the Lord. To keep the Sabbath of the Lord is to delight in the Lord. Those who do not delight themselves in the Lord, do not keep His Sabbath, no matter when they abstain from labor." – E.J. Waggoner, *The Three Sabbaths*, p. 23.

27. Why does God ask us to keep the Sabbath day holy anyway? Deut. 6:24; Matt. 11:28-30.

Everything God asks of us, counsels us, and commands us is for our own good. True Sabbathkeeping will bring rest to our souls (Greek word is psuche, which is translated psyche – mind). It brings an inner peace that surpasses anything this world can give, and it comes from simply trusting and obeying God.