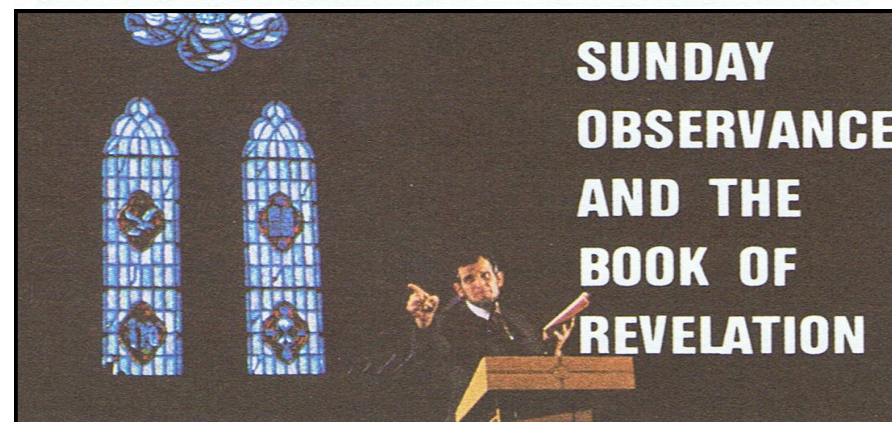


A BIBLE PROPHECY ADVENTURE **REVELATION SEMINARS**



Since Revelation is a book for the last days, and since it centres on Jesus and His resurrection, one would expect to find some exciting comments in the book in regard to the church custom of keeping Sunday as a holy day in honour of His resurrection.

But, strangely, the day is not even mentioned. Stranger yet, though the day is mentioned eight times in other books of the New Testament, in no case is a command given to keep it holy. Since millions of sincere and loving, Bible-believing Christians worship on Sunday, why is the Bible curiously silent on this subject?

Could it be that much more is involved, here, than appears on the surface? The answer is "yes" [One of the greatest prophecies of the book of Revelation involves the subject of Sunday worship. One of our Seminar lessons will consider this crucial topic in detail.

It would, however, be impossible to understand this important prophecy unless the topic for today becomes crystal clear. So let us examine the eight Scripture references in the New Testament, which mention the first day of the week Obviously, if there is a command to keep Sunday holy we should find it in one of these Bible passages.

EIGHT SUNDAY TEXTS

1. Consider three of these New Testament texts that speak of the resurrection of Jesus: Mark 16:9; Matthew 28:1; John 20:1. Do any of these scriptures suggest that the day is to be considered holy?

Ans: _____

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- Ans:** _____

Ans: _____

Ans: "for _____ of the _____."

Ans:

[illegible]

in the water under the earth. **Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them:** for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me; And shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments. Exodus 20:4-6

3. **Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain;** for the LORD will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain. Exodus 20:7
4. **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
5. **Honour thy father and thy mother:** that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee. Exodus 20:12
6. **Thou shalt not kill.** Exodus 20:13
7. **Thou shalt not commit adultery.** Exodus 20:14
8. **Thou shalt not steal.** Exodus 20:15
9. **Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour.** Exodus 20:16
10. **Thou shalt not covet** thy neighbour's house, **thou shalt not covet** thy neighbour's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor any thing that is thy neighbour's. Exodus 20:17

a. Does this passage say, "Drop money in the collection plate when it is passed in your church on the first day?"

Ans: _____

b. It says upon the first day of the week let everyone of you lay BY HIM in store. What is the significance of 'BY HIM'?

Ans: _____

NOTE: The expression "BY HIM" means to do it privately in your home. Many Bible translations so record it. For example, one modern translation* says, "Each of you should at home lay aside some money he makes and save it". Paul was gathering funds for the Jerusalem Christians who were suffering from famine, Acts 11:27-30; Romans 15:26. So he wrote ahead to the churches he would visit, asking that each believer be putting money aside at home weekly so it would be ready when he arrived. These Christians kept Sabbath holy and usually balanced their accounts on Sunday so it was an ideal time to plan their giving. (*New Testament in the language of today, by William F. Beck © '63 Used by permission.)



**God's Law, like
His character,
never changes.**

7. The eighth, and final, New Testament passage which mentions the first day of the week is Acts 20:7-12. Does it say to observe Sunday as a holy day?

Ans: _____

a. Does it say the Sabbath was changed to Sunday?

Ans: _____

b. Does it say they met every Sunday for worship?

Ans: _____

NOTE: Paul was on a farewell trip to the churches. Acts, chapters 20 and 21

A BIBLE PROPHECY ADVENTURE REVELATION SEMINARS

mention at least five other churches that Paul visited on this same farewell trip. When he told the people he would not see them again, they wept much, Acts 20:37, 38; 21:13, 14. The meeting at Troas was a special farewell meeting. That is why it lasted so long. Two other points should be made:

- a. The fact that they broke bread or celebrated communion at this service does not indicate the day was holy, because the Bible says they broke bread every day, Acts 2:46.
- b. In the Bible, a 24-hour day is measured from even to even which means from sundown to sundown, Leviticus 23:32; Mark 1:32. Also, the dark part of the day, or evening, comes first in the Bible, and then comes the light part, Genesis 1:5. This meeting was called for the dark part of Sunday (the lights were on, Acts 20:8), which is what we now call Saturday night. Some Bible translations put it that way. For example, the New English Bible says, "On Saturday night". By Bible reckoning, when the sun goes down on Saturday night the dark part of Sunday begins. So this special farewell meeting was called for what we would now designate Saturday night. Thus it could not possibly be an indication of Sunday sacredness, because Sunday keepers do not begin their holy day until midnight.

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THE LORD'S DAY

8. **Do you believe, that if Jesus or the disciples had made Sunday a holy day, Paul would have told us? Acts 20:27**

Ans: Yes — he gave us _____ of God's _____.

NOTE: The book of Acts, in covering a period of twenty-three years beginning with Jesus' ascension, mentions the Sabbath in eight different chapters, but never with any hint of a change.

9. **Could the disciples have changed the Sabbath command even if they had wished to do so? Matthew 5:18; Deuteronomy 4:2**

Ans: _____

10. **Often Satan's strategy is to cause me to ignore or break just one of God's commands. Do you know why? James 2:10-12**

Ans: "Whosoever..., offend in _____ point... Is _____ of all".

NOTE: God's law is like a ten-sided fortress. Only one side needs to be broken down to permit the enemy to enter.

11. **In Revelation 1:10, John said he was in the spirit on the Lord's day.**

THE LAW OF GOD - NEW TESTAMENT

1. "Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and Him only shalt thou serve", Matthew 4:10.
2. "Little children, keep yourselves from idols", "Forasmuch then as we are the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the Godhead is like unto gold, or silver, or stone, graven by art and man's device", I John 5:21; Acts 17:29.
3. "That the name of God and His doctrine be not blasphemed", I Timothy 6:1.
4. "Pray ye that your flight be not in the winter, neither on the Sabbath day", "The Sabbath was made for man, and not man for the Sabbath: therefore the Son of man is Lord also of the Sabbath", "For He spake in a certain place on the seventh day on this wise. And God did rest the seventh day from all His works", "There remaineth therefore a keeping of a Sabbath to the people of God. For he that is entered into His rest, he also hath ceased from his own works, as God did from His", "For by Him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth", Matthew 24:20; Mark 2:27, 28; Hebrews 4:4, 9, 10 margin; Colossians 1:16.
5. "Honour thy father and thy mother", Matthew 19:19.
6. "Thou shalt not kill", Romans 13:9.
7. "Thou shalt not commit adultery", Matthew 19:18
8. "Thou shalt not steal", Romans 13:9.
9. "Thou shalt not bear false witness", Romans 13:9.
10. "Thou shalt not covet", Romans 7:7.

THE LAW OF GOD - OLD TESTAMENT

1. And God spake all these words, saying, I am the LORD thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.
Thou shalt have no other gods before me. Exodus 20:1-3
2. **Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image**, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is

from Saturday to Sunday? None." — **Manual of Christian Doctrine**, p. 127

METHODIST

"Take the matter of Sunday . . . there is no passage telling Christians to keep that day, or to transfer the Jewish Sabbath to that day." — Harris Franklin Rail, **Christian Advocate**, July 2, 1942

LUTHERAN

"The observance of the Lord's day (Sunday) is founded not on any command of God, but on the authority of the church." — **Augsburg Confession of Faith**, quoted in **Catholic Sabbath Manual**, part 2, Chapter 1, Section 10

PRESBYTERIAN

"The Christian Sabbath (Sunday) is not in the Scriptures, and was not by the primitive church called the Sabbath." — **Dwight's Theology**, vol. 4, p. 401

DICTIONARY

"The notion of a formal substitution by apostolic authority of the Lord's Day (meaning Sunday) for the Jewish Sabbath (or the first for the seventh day) ... and the transference to it, perhaps in a spiritualized form, of the sabbatical obligation established by the promulgation of the Fourth Commandment, has no basis whatever either in Holy Scripture or in Christian antiquity." — Sir William Smith & Samuel Cheetham, **A Dictionary of Christian Antiquities**, vol. 2, p. 182, Article "Sabbath"

ENCYCLOPEDIA

"It must be confessed that there is no law in the New Testament concerning the first day." — M'Clintock and Strong, **Cyclopedia of Biblical, Theological and Ecclesiastical Literature**, vol. 9, p. 196

NOTE: Though some individual pastors may argue the point, we have not found one single Sunday-keeping organization yet, which did not in its official literature plainly admit that there is no Scripture to support Sunday observance.

According to the Bible which day is the Lord's day? Exodus 20:10; Isaiah 58:13; Mark 2:28

Ans: _____

NOTE: People sometimes call Sunday, the Lord's day. But the Bible says the Sabbath is the Lord's day.

MEMORIAL OF JESUS' RESURRECTION

12. What does the Bible call Sunday? Ezekiel 46:1

Ans: One of the six _____ days.

13. Since the Bible calls Sunday a work day and nowhere suggests that it is holy, where must the concept of Sunday sacredness have come from? Matthew 15:3-9

Ans: From the tradition and commandments of _____ .

NOTE: Misguided men have substituted another day of worship for the Sabbath.

14. Many people observe Sunday as a holy day in honour of Jesus' resurrection. but what did Jesus institute for us in honour of His death, burial and resurrection? Romans 6:3-6; Colossians 2:12

Ans: _____

15. Hasn't the calendar been changed so we cannot know which day is the seventh day? (See note and picture of calendar before answering this question.)

Ans: _____

October 1582						
sun	mon	tue	wed	thu	fri	sat
	1	2	3	4	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

A BIBLE PROPHECY ADVENTURE REVELATION SEMINARS

THE CHURCHES COMMENT

BAPTIST

"There was and is a commandment to keep holy the Sabbath day but that Sabbath day was not Sunday ... It will be said, however, and with some show of triumph, that the Sabbath was transferred from the seventh to the first day of the week ... Where can the record of such a transaction be found? Not in the New Testament — absolutely not. There is no scriptural evidence of the change of the Sabbath institution from the seventh to the first day of the week" — From a paper by Dr. Edward T. Hiscox, author of **The Baptist Manual**

CATHOLIC

"You may read the Bible from Genesis to Revelation, and you will not find a single line authorizing the sanctification of Sunday. The Scriptures enforce the religious observance of Saturday, a day which we (Catholics) never sanctify." — James Cardinal Gibbons, **The Faith of Our Fathers**, p. 111

CHRISTIAN

"There never was any change of the Sabbath from Saturday to Sunday. There is not in any place in the Bible any intimation of such a change." — **First-Day Observance**, pp. 17,19

CHURCH OF CHRIST

"I do not believe that the Lord's day came in the room of the Jewish Sabbath, or that the Sabbath was changed from the seventh to the first day." — Alexander Campbell, **Washington Reporter**, October 8, 1821

CONGREGATIONALIST

"The current notion that Christ and His apostles authoritatively substituted the first day for the seventh, is absolutely without any authority in the New Testament." — Dr. Lyman Abbott, **Christian Union**, January 19, 1882

EPISCOPAL

"Is there any command in the New Testament to change the day of weekly rest

NOTE: The Romans, who were ruling in Jesus' day, gave us our modern calendar. Only one change has been made. In October of 1582, ten days were removed from the calendar. However, the change did not affect the weekly cycle, because the numbering on the calendar went from THURSDAY, the 4th, to FRIDAY, the 15th. We add a day (the 29th of February) each leap year, but this does not affect the weekly cycle, either. Not all countries made this necessary calendar adjustment in 1582, but the same kind of change was eventually made everywhere. Therefore, the seventh day on our calendar today is the very same seventh day that Jesus kept.

NAILED TO THE CROSS

16. In Colossians 2:14-17. Paul tells us that certain Sabbaths are no longer binding because they ended at the cross, Which Sabbaths were these?

Ans: Those that were a "shadow of
to

NOTE: God gave His people **different kinds** of instruction, through Moses.

- a. He gave them the **MORAL LAW** of the Ten Commandments which defines man's duty to his God and his duty to his fellow beings. Such a Law is permanent by its very nature.
- b. He gave them **RITUAL** or **CEREMONIAL LAWS**, which regulated the sacrificial system that symbolized and foreshadowed the coming sacrificial death and priestly ministry of Christ, Hebrews 10:1.

By this means he taught Israel the Gospel, Hebrews 4:1-2, or the Plan of Salvation. Through the sacrifices and the mediation of the Hebrew priesthood they saw, foreshadowed, the coming Redeemer. By their nature, it is evident that the ceremonial or ritual laws are **temporary** — until the coming of the Jesus which they foreshadowed. The annual or yearly Sabbaths were a part of this ritual system — each foreshadowing some aspect of Christ and the Plan of Salvation. For example, the ritual Sabbath of the Passover foreshadowed Christ's death, I Corinthians 5:7. All of these yearly Sabbaths came to an end at the cross.

VERY IMPORTANT: At this point, please review carefully the special Seminar Exhibits #1, #2 and #4 which compare God and His law: the Moral Law and the Ceremonial or Ritual Law, and which outline the ten commandments in the New Testament.

17. What do the churches which worship on Sunday say about this problem?

NOTE: See special Seminar Exhibit #3 entitled "The Churches Comment" for answer to this question.

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A BIBLE PROPHECY ADVENTURE

REVELATION SEMINARS

COMPARISON OF GOD AND HIS LAW

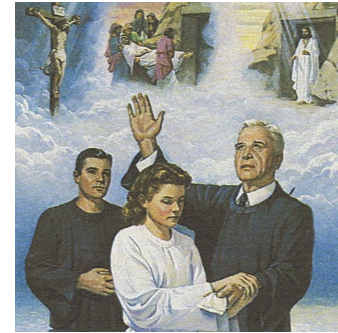
GOD

God is Spiritual — John 4:24 (1552)
 God is Love — I John 4:8 (1794)
 God is Truth — John 14:6 (1575)
 God is Righteous — I Corinthians 1:30 (1670)
 God is Holy — Isaiah 6:3 (1031)
 God is Perfect — Matthew 5:48 (1404)
 God stands Forever — James 1:17 (1774)
 God is Good — Luke 18:19 (1529)
 God is Just — Deuteronomy 32:4 (344)
 God is Pure — I John 3:3 (1792)
 God is Unchangeable — James 1:17 (1774)

LAW

His law is Spiritual — Romans 7:14 (1656)
 His law is Love — Matthew 22:37-40 (1436)
 His law is Truth — Psalm 119:142 (951)
 His law is Righteous — Psalm 119:172 (952)
 His law is Holy — Romans 7:12 (1655)
 His law is Perfect — Psalm 19:7 (871)
 His law stands Forever — Psalm 111:7:8 (942)
 His law is Good — Romans 7:12 (1655)
 His law is Just — Romans 7:12 (1655)
 His law is Pure — Psalm 19:8 (871)
 His law is Unchangeable — Matthew 5:18 (1402)

NOTE: As you can readily see, God's law is a transcript of His character. It can no more change or end than can the eternal God, Himself.



"Only baptism by immersion represents death, burial, and resurrection"

MY LOVE AND OBEDIENCE

18. Why, do you suppose, the book of Revelation stresses three times that God's people will keep His commandments? Revelation 12:17; 14:12; 22:14

Ans: Hebrews 5:9 "He became the _____ of eternal _____ unto _____ them that _____ Him".

NOTE: Jesus, in Revelation, is stressing that salvation is provided for the obedient and not for the disobedient. Matthew 7:21-23 makes it very clear that many active church members will be shocked when they are shut out of Heaven for disobedience in spite of the fact that they did many wonderful things in the Lord's name.

19. What two crucial things is Jesus saying to all of us today in regard to this problem? Matthew 15:3; John 14:15

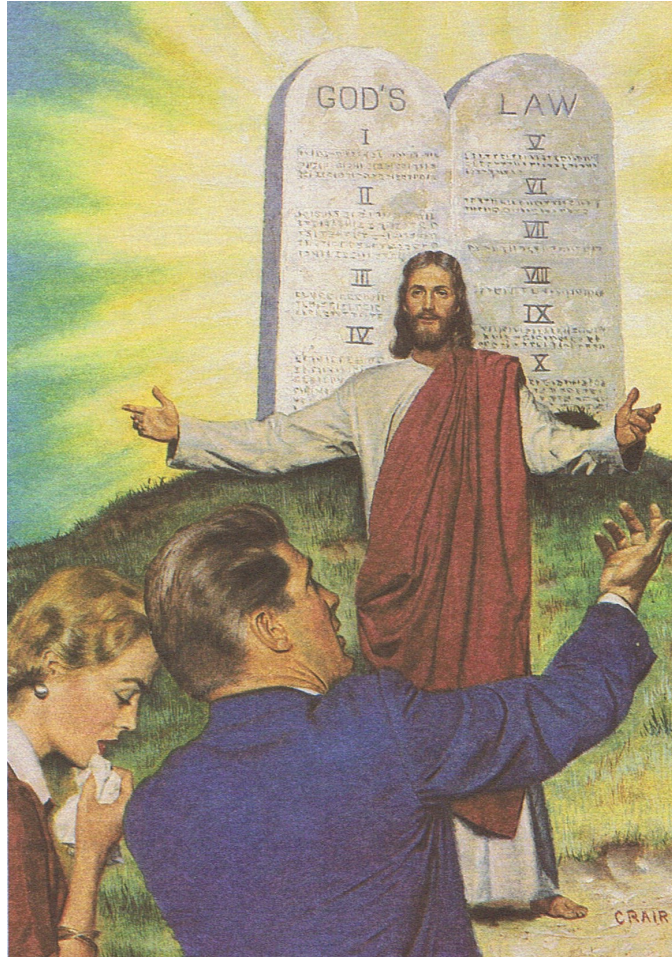
Ans: a. "Why do you also _____ the _____ of _____ by your _____?"

Ans: b. "If you _____ me, _____ my _____."

NOTE: We serve whomever we obey, Romans 6:16. Will we serve Jesus and worship on His holy day, or will we serve, and thus worship, misguided men who were led by Satan to replace God's holy day with a substitute? Jesus said very plainly that if we love Him we will gladly keep His commandments. This includes Sabbath-keeping, which is the fourth commandment.

20. Are YOU willing to follow where Jesus leads? Though the road may sometimes be difficult, it leads to the tree of life in the city of God.

Ans: _____



“If you love me,
keep my commandments.”

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CONTRAST OF MORAL AND CEREMONIAL LAWS

MORAL LAW

Called Royal Law of Liberty — James 2:8-12 (1775)
Spoken by God — Deuteronomy 4:12 (295)
Written by God on stone — Exodus 24:12 (126); 31:18 (141)
Placed in the Ark — Hebrews 9:4 (1764); Exodus 40:20 (158)
To stand forever — Psalm 111:7,8 (942)
Gives the knowledge of sin — Romans 3:20 (1651); 7:7 (1655)
Not grievous — I John 5:3 (1794)
Judges all men — James 2:10-12 (1775)
Spiritual — Romans 7:14 (1656)

RITUAL OR CEREMONIAL LAW

Called Law . . . contained in ordinances — Ephesians 2:15 (1716)
Spoken by Moses — Leviticus 1:1-3 (160)
Written by Moses in book — II Chronicles 35:12 (754)
Placed in the side of the ark — Deuteronomy 31:24-26 (343)
Ended at the cross — Colossians 2:14-17 (1730)
Was given because of sin — Galatians 3:19 (1709)
Contrary to us — Colossians 2:14-17 (1730)
Judges no man — Colossians 2:14-17 (1730)
Carnal — Hebrews 9:10 (1765)