

AMERICA AND
THE MARK OF
THE BEAST

FORECASTING
HOPE



1. America and the Mark of the Beast

I want to begin by asking you a question this evening. How many of you have ever been to Walmart? Could I see your hands? Of course, most of us have been there. Then you know that Walmart is a store that is open 24 hours a day. You can go in and out as you please. There are no limitations, there are no restrictions. If you want to shop at three o'clock in the afternoon, you can. If you prefer to shop at three o'clock in the morning, you can do that too. No one will stop you.

AMERICA AND
THE MARK OF
THE BEAST

FORECASTING
HOPE



2. Now, how many of you have ever been to a Sam's Club? Could I see your hands? If you have, you know Sam's Club is a little bit different. Sam's Club does not permit free access to its warehouse. In fact, in order to get into Sam's Club, what do you need? You need a membership card. That card identifies you as a member of that organization. Without the card, you cannot do any financial transactions in that warehouse.

AMERICA AND
THE MARK OF
THE BEAST

FORECASTING
HOPE



3. Now, when it comes to Walmart and Sam's Club, that's pretty innocent. There is no sinister scheme going on behind the scenes. However, the book of Revelation tells us that in the final crisis of Earth's history, something very similar is going to happen, except on a much larger scale—and there will be a sinister scheme behind it. In this final crisis, Revelation tells us that the world will be divided into two groups of people.



ONE GROUP

- Worships God
- Follows the Commandments of God
- Cannot Buy & Sell
- Receives the Seal of God



ANOTHER GROUP

- Worships the Beast
- Follows the Commandments of Men
- Are Able to Buy & Sell
- Receives the Mark of the Beast

4. One group will choose to worship God, the other group chooses to worship the beast. One group chooses to follow the commandments of God, another group chooses to follow the commandments of men. Those who choose to worship and follow the beast receive a mark in their forehead. They are able to buy and sell and to live a normal life. For those who choose to resist the beast and follow God, it will be a different outcome. They will receive the seal of God in their forehead. However, they will not be able to buy and sell. They will not be able to live a normal life and they will be persecuted.



ONE GROUP

- Worships God
- Follows the Commandments of God
- Cannot Buy & Sell
- Receives the Seal of God



ANOTHER GROUP

- Worships the Beast
- Follows the Commandments of Men
- Are Able to Buy & Sell
- Receives the Mark of the Beast

5. In that final crisis, Revelation tells us every person will have to make a decision as to whom they are going to follow. At that time, there will be no middle ground. There will be no fence to sit on. There will be no neutral position. Everyone will have to make a choice.



ONE GROUP

- Worships God
- Follows the Commandments of God
- Cannot Buy & Sell
- Receives the Seal of God



ANOTHER GROUP

- Worships the Beast
- Follows the Commandments of Men
- Are Able to Buy & Sell
- Receives the Mark of the Beast

6. Revelation tells us this final crisis centers around the subject of worship. And so tonight, we are going to take a look at this final crisis and what Revelation says about the mark of the beast. As we do so, we want to make sure we understand that God never leaves us, nor does He forsake us. His presence is always with His people, no matter what they go through. So, here we go.



ONE GROUP

- Worships God
- Follows the Commandments of God
- Cannot Buy & Sell
- Receives the Seal of God



ANOTHER GROUP

- Worships the Beast
- Follows the Commandments of Men
- Are Able to Buy & Sell
- Receives the Mark of the Beast

7. When it comes to the mark of the beast, over the years people have come up with some very interesting interpretations.



8. Some people think it's going to be a computer chip inserted into the hand or forehead.



- 9.** Some people think it's going to be some kind of government identification number, like a social security card.



- 10.** Others think it may have more to do with a barcode that you might find on a product at the grocery store that records all your financial transactions.



- 11.** Still others think it's more like the numbers on a credit card that is connected to financial institutions all over the world.



- 12.** More recently, some have thought it might be a vaccine that is injected into your body.



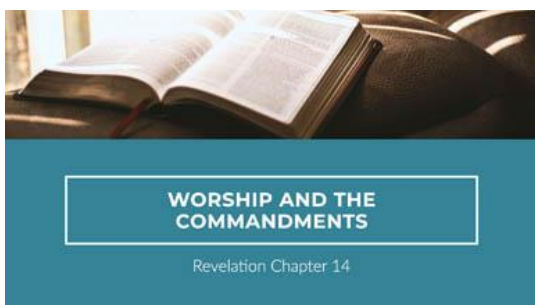
- 13.** Then there are others who believe that the number 666 will be literally and visibly implanted upon a person's forehead.



- 14.** This is highly unlikely, simply because the book of Revelation is a symbolic book. It's not meant to be taken literally. When you think about the mark of the beast being on someone's forehead, think about what the forehead represents. The forehead is where our mind is. It's the brain, the control center of our whole body. So, having the mark of the beast in the forehead signifies that a person has made a willful, intentional decision to follow the beast instead of following what God says.



- 15.** Conversely, when Revelation says a person receives the seal of God in their foreheads, it signifies that a person has made an intentional, willful choice to follow God and His law above everything else. They have chosen to resist the beast.



- 16.** Keep that in mind as we go into Revelation tonight and study what the mark of the beast is all about. Let's begin by looking at the most serious passage in the Bible that talks about the mark. We want to go to Revelation chapter 14. As we read verse six, you're going to see this picture of three angels who have three highly important messages that all the world must hear. We've already studied this a few times in the seminar. It's known as the three angels' message. So, let's get the context from the first angel in verse six.



REVELATION 14:6

"Then I saw another angel flying in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach to those

- 17.** In Revelation 14:6, the Bible says, *"Then I saw another angel flying in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach to those*



REVELATION 14:6

who dwell on the earth—to every nation, tribe, tongue, and people."

- 18.** *who dwell on the earth—to every nation, tribe, tongue, and people-- . . ." Well, what's the message? Let's go on.*



REVELATION 14:7

"...saying with a loud voice, 'Fear God and give glory to Him, for the hour of His judgment has come;

- 19.** *" . . . saying with a loud voice, 'Fear God and give glory to Him, for the hour of His judgment has come;*



REVELATION 14:7

and worship Him, who made the heavens and the earth, and the sea and springs of water.' "

- 20.** *and worship Him who made heaven and earth, the sea and springs of water.'"*



REVELATION 14:7

and worship Him, who made the heavens and the earth, and the sea and springs of water.' "

- 21.** Right here, the first angel's message tells us that Jesus is coming soon, because it says the hour of judgment has come. But then the last part specifically says to worship Him who made the heavens and the earth, the sea and the springs of water. It is a clear allusion all the way back to the Sabbath that was created to memorialize the work of creation that God did. So that first angel is telling us to worship God, worship the Creator. We can already see the theme of worship here in Revelation 14.



REVELATION 14:7

and worship Him, who made the heavens and the earth, and the sea and springs of water.' "

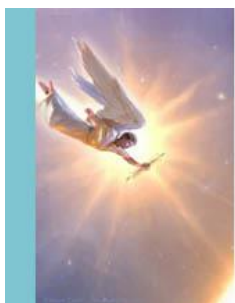
- 22.** As we move further in the chapter, there is a third angel who also talks about worship. Let's pick it up in verse nine. And this is the Bible's most serious warning about the mark of the beast.



REVELATION 14:9-10

"Then a third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, 'If anyone worships the beast and his image, and receives his mark on his forehead or on

- 23.** The Bible says, *"Then a third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, 'If anyone worships the beast and his image, and receives his mark on his forehead or on*



REVELATION 14:9-10

his hand, he himself shall also drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out full strength into the cup of His indignation."

- 24.** *his hand, he himself shall also drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out full strength into the cup of His indignation."*

Let's pause here. The first angel tells us to worship God as the Creator of heaven and earth. Then a third angel comes and says, don't worship the beast or his image or receive his mark. We see this whole theme of worship. Later on, comes verse 12, where Revelation records how God's people respond to the beast.



REVELATION 14:12

"Here is the patience of the saints; here are those who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus."

- 25.** In Revelation 14:12, the Bible says, *"Here is the patience of the saints; here are those who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus."*

Revelation 14 has just given us two important clues to identify what this mark of the beast is all about. I don't have to guess. I don't have to speculate. I don't have to come up with crazy theories or interpretations. I can simply let the Bible be my guide.



REVELATION 14:7

Worship the Creator

REVELATION 14:9

Don't Worship the Beast

REVELATION 14:12

Keep the Commandments and Faith of Jesus

- 26.** Take a look at the slide that's on your screen right now. Revelation 14:7 just said, Worship the Creator of the heavens and the earth. Verse nine warns us about not worshipping the beast. Then verse 12 tells us how God's people respond to the beast: they keep the commandments of God.



REVELATION 14:7

Worship the Creator

REVELATION 14:9

Don't Worship the Beast

REVELATION 14:12

Keep the Commandments and Faith of Jesus

- 27.** So, the key to understanding the mark of the beast has just been revealed in Revelation 14. It has something to do with worship and the commandments of God. If that makes sense, can you say, Amen? Did I make that up? Did you make that up? Did a church make that up? No, it comes straight from Revelation. Whatever the mark of the beast is—and we'll find out soon enough—we already know it's got something to do with worship and the commandments of God.



REVELATION 14:7

Worship the Creator

REVELATION 14:9

Don't Worship the Beast

REVELATION 14:12

Keep the Commandments and Faith of Jesus

- 28.** Now, friends, those two things are huge clues. I'm either worshiping God or I'm going to worship the beast. I either keep the commandments of God or I keep the commandments of men. Knowing that those two things are a big issue in the final crisis will help to clarify things as we continue our journey through the book of Revelation.



- 29.** The next question that we have to answer is this, who is the beast? Before I can identify what the mark of the beast is, it seems logical that I have to know who the beast is. And fortunately, we took an hour to study that the other night.



- 30.** If you were there on the night where we looked at Revelation's antichrist, you will remember we spent time in Daniel 7 looking at the little horn and time in Revelation 13 that talked about the beast. Those two chapters gave us 13 clues and identifying points as to who or what the beast is. As we studied that, we came to the conclusion from the Bible and the Bible only, and connected with history, that the beast has always been Rome, the Papacy, or Vatican City.



- 31.** Now, if you weren't here the night we studied that, we just need to clarify something. God is not saying that to hurt or offend anyone. He is not pointing His finger at Catholic people today. The wonderful Catholic Christians today, many of whom I know and love, had nothing to do with the unfortunate things that happened and the persecution of the Middle Ages.



- 32.** God was talking about a religious and political kingdom that would rise during the Middle Ages and do some unfortunate things. During that time, the Bible was hidden from the people. It was illegal to translate the Bible or to share it. The world was kept in darkness. That's why they call it the Dark Ages. The light of the cross was hidden from the world. Those who disagreed with the traditions of Rome were mercilessly persecuted or silenced.



33. In fact, if we look at our screen, it really makes sense because Rome was the persecuting power of the Christian Church in the first centuries. Rome had determined to stamp out Christianity in those early centuries. Rome was the persecuting power of true believers in the Middle Ages for those who chose to follow the Bible and believe salvation comes through Jesus alone.



34. Revelation is now telling us that history will repeat itself. The Bible is saying that when we get to the final crisis at the end of time, the beast will rise again. Rome will once again have a controlling influence on the world. And God's people will once more have to make a decision as to whose word they will follow?



35. Knowing, then, that the beast is Rome, leads me to some other questions. What is the mark of the beast? What would be the mark of Rome's power and authority—something that came from the Middle Ages but is still in the world today?



36. Let's do a little review so that we can allow the Bible to lead us into the pathway of truth. What have we learned so far? During the final crisis, either the mark of the beast or the seal of God is placed upon a person because it represents a decision the person will make. I either worship God or I worship the beast. I either keep the commandments of God or I keep the commandments of men.



REVELATION 14:7
Worship the Creator

REVELATION 14:9
Don't Worship the Beast

REVELATION 14:12
Keep the Commandments
and Faith of Jesus

37. Remember what we read in Revelation 14. Verse 7 said, worship the Creator. Two verses later, it said, don't worship the beast. And then three verses after that, it talks about how God's people keep His commandments.



Worship God or
worship the beast.

Keep the
Commandments of God
or the traditions of man.

38. So, the mark of the beast issue that is somehow connected to Rome is going to have something to do with worship. I either worship God or worship the beast. It's going to have something to do with the commandments of God. I either keep the commandments of God or I keep the commandments of men.



What is the sign of
Rome's authority that has
to do with worship?

What is the mark of
Rome's power that forces
us to choose between
God's law and man's law?

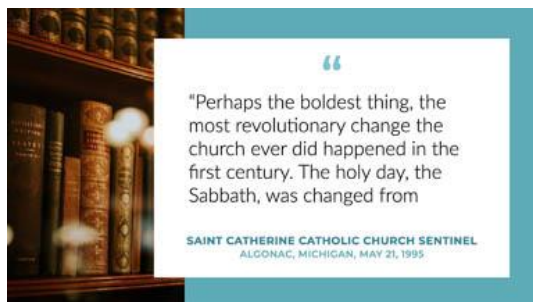
39. So, at this point, we have to ask two penetrating questions. What is the sign of Rome's authority that has to do with worship? And what is the mark of Rome's power that forces us to choose between God's law and man's law? It's something where the world has chosen to follow what Rome says instead of what God says. Let's repeat that again. What is the sign of Rome's authority that has to do with worship? And what is the mark of Rome's power that forces me to choose between God's law and man's law?



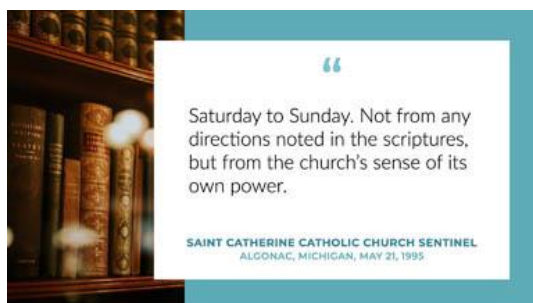
What is the sign of
Rome's authority that has
to do with worship?

What is the mark of
Rome's power that forces
us to choose between
God's law and man's law?

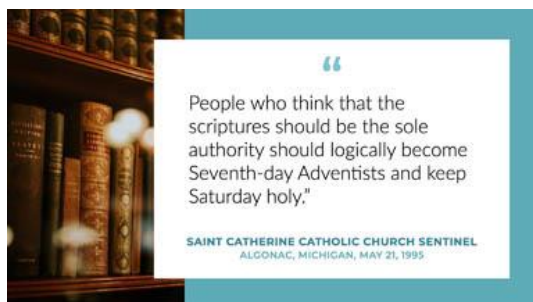
40. As we answer these very serious, but also very important questions, I want to show you a few quotes that will shed some light on the subject and help us connect the dots. I want to let you know ahead of time that these quotes have the powerful potential to change your life. When you see these historical quotes and compare it to the things we've been learning in Revelation, they are quite eye-opening. So, we need to make sure that we have our faith strong in Jesus Christ and Him crucified, because we want to be certain that we are going in the path that Jesus leads us.



41. I want to begin by showing you a quote from the St. Catherine Catholic Church Sentinel from 1995. It brings up a subject that we've already touched on. It says this, *"Perhaps the boldest thing, the most revolutionary change the church ever did happened in the first century. The holy day, the Sabbath, was changed*



42. *from Saturday to Sunday. Not from any directions noted in the scriptures, but from the church's sense of its own power."*
Let's stop there. This brings us back to the issue of the Sabbath. It's telling us that one of the changes made in the Middle Ages that goes all the way to our day today is this idea of the Sabbath being changed to Sunday. And it specifically says it was done not by the command of Scripture because the Bible says, Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy, but it was done from the church's sense of its own power.



43. In fact, the next part of that quote, I found very interesting. Notice what it says: *"People who think that the scriptures should be the sole authority should logically become Seventh-day Adventists and keep Saturday holy."*



44. Let's pause here. What are the important issues this brings up? Take a look at the screen. The issue here about this change in the Sabbath is that man's law was placed above God's law. The church uplifted its own power above the Bible. Man's authority has been elevated above God's authority.

THREE ISSUES TO CONSIDER



- Man's law was placed above God's law.
- A church uplifted its own power above the Bible.
- Man's authority was elevated above God's authority.

45. It brings the Sabbath back into the forefront again. Think about this for a second. What was the mark of the beast issue all about in Revelation 14? Remember, it had to do with worship, and it had to do with the commandments of God. What does the Sabbath have to do with? It has to do with worshiping God as the Creator, and it's found in the very heart of God's law, the Ten Commandments.



REVELATION 14:7

"Fear God and give glory to Him, for the hour of His judgment has come; and worship Him who made heaven and earth, the sea and springs of water."

EXODUS 20:11

"For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them..."

46. Remember in Revelation 14:7 it alluded to the Sabbath by partially quoting the fourth commandment. Notice the comparison. Revelation 14:7 says, "and worship Him who made heaven and earth, the sea and springs of water." The fourth commandment says in Exodus 20:11 says, "the Lord God made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them."



REVELATION 14:7

"Fear God and give glory to Him, for the hour of His judgment has come; and worship Him who made heaven and earth, the sea and springs of water."

EXODUS 20:11

"For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them..."

47. The first angel of Revelation 14 is clearly pointing us to the Sabbath commandment. This chapter in Revelation 14 which talks about the mark of the beast is also telling us to worship God by pointing us to His Sabbath. The fact that the Sabbath must have something to do with this mark of the beast issue should not surprise us. Why? Because the Sabbath has to do with worship, and it has to do with whether I'm going to follow the commandments of God or the commandments of man.



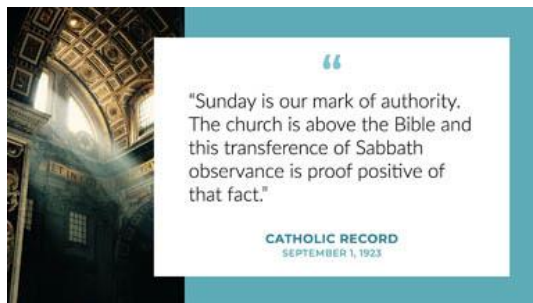
REVELATION 14:7

"Fear God and give glory to Him, for the hour of His judgment has come; and worship Him who made heaven and earth, the sea and springs of water."

EXODUS 20:11

"For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them..."

48. Now, understanding that and starting to put two and two together, the next quote has the potential to hit us like a brick between the eyes. The first time I saw this quote and I was able to put this quote together with all the symbols and the imagery in Revelation, it was an absolutely shocking and eye-opening experience.



49. Notice what it says in the Catholic Record, September 1, 1923. *"Sunday is our mark of authority. The church is above the Bible and this transference of Sabbath observance is proof positive of that fact."*

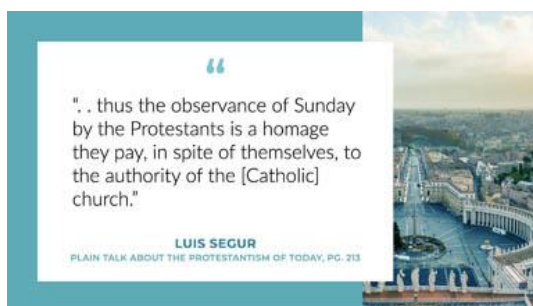


50. Okay, stop, pause. We've got to digest that one. Rome comes right out and claims they are above the Bible. What is the proof that the church has this kind of authority? Because Rome has changed the Sabbath to Sunday and almost the whole Christian world goes along with it. Rome is basically saying, *'Yes, we've changed the Sabbath. We are above the Bible. And what is the proof that we have this authority? Because almost all of the religious Christian world goes along with it and ignores God's true Sabbath in His Ten Commandments.'*

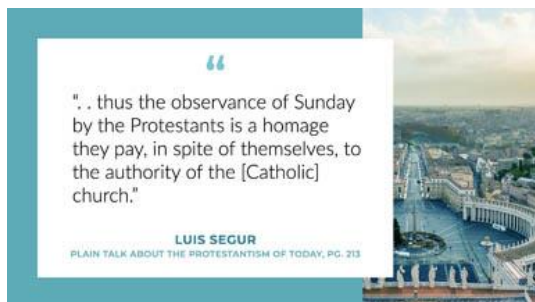
THE MARK OF AUTHORITY

The Papacy claims that the change of the Sabbath was her act. **This act is a mark of her power and authority in religious matters** because much of the Christian world honors Rome's Sunday and ignores the Bible Sabbath.

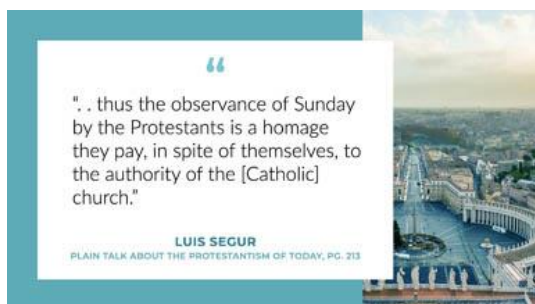
51. Now, let's summarize this in modern language. The Papacy claims that the change of the Sabbath was her act. This act is a mark of her power and authority in religious matters. How is it a mark of power and authority? Because much of the Christian world honors Rome's Sunday and ignores the Bible Sabbath. They ignore Biblical authority to follow Rome's authority, even though the tradition of Sunday is found nowhere in the Bible.



52. That's why Louis Segur in his book Plain Talk about the Protestantism of To-Day says, *". . . thus the observance of Sunday by the Protestants is a homage they pay, in spite of themselves, to the authority of the [Catholic] church."*



- 53.** I think we could all agree, it's not politically correct to say that. But the book of Revelation is not a politically correct book. Revelation seeks to reveal truth. God doesn't mince words with the visions that He gave to John. God wanted His people to know what was going to happen. So, He warns about a beast that would persecute His people, a beast that would change His law in the Middle Ages, a power that would take the Bible away from the people.



- 54.** As we look back into history and we see how that was fulfilled, then what Rome says to us today is, in a sense, right. They have changed the Sabbath! It is the mark of their power and authority in the religious world! Why? Because the vast majority of other churches and religious individuals choose to ignore what God's law says about remembering the Sabbath and choose to go along with the tradition of Sunday, a commandment of man that comes straight from Rome.



- 55.** Now, friends, understanding that puts a whole new light on the Sabbath issue. On one hand we have Rome's mark of authority, the Sunday. It's the pagan tradition of the Middle Ages, that's been spread all throughout the world. On the other hand, we have God's mark of authority, His Sabbath. It's the seventh-day Sabbath of the Bible given at creation, and as a memorial of His creative power. Sabbath points to the One who made the heavens and the earth and is the supreme authority in the universe.



- 56.** So, we have two marks here, in a sense. We have Rome's mark, the Sunday, that much of the Christian world goes along with, despite the fact that it's nowhere taught in the Bible. Then we have God's mark, or what the Bible actually calls God's seal. This represents the fact that He is the Creator of the universe and the authority in my life. Friends, I have to choose whom I am going to follow. Whose authority am I going to submit to in this issue?



57. You see, the Sabbath-Sunday issue is much deeper than we think. It has to do with the subject of worship, and it has to do with the commandments of God.



REVELATION 14:7
Worship the Creator

REVELATION 14:9
Don't Worship the Beast

REVELATION 14:12
Keep the Commandments
and Faith of Jesus

58. What did the three angels of Revelation 14 say? Verse 7 said to worship the Creator of heaven and earth, then it points us to the Sabbath commandment. Verse 9 said don't worship the beast, and we just learned Sunday comes from the beast. And verse 12 says God's people respond to this issue of worship by keeping His commandments. And the Sabbath is in the very heart of the commandments.



REVELATION 14:7
Worship the Creator

REVELATION 14:9
Don't Worship the Beast

REVELATION 14:12
Keep the Commandments
and Faith of Jesus

59. Now, I know we were probably thinking to ourselves, *"I see the deeper issue here. I know the Sabbath is true. But when I go to church on Sunday, I'm not trying to rebel against God."* Of course not, my friends. The issue goes a lot deeper because worship isn't just about a building that I go into. Worship isn't simply sitting in a pew. See, it doesn't matter what I verbally profess, worship is about who I choose to follow, what voice I choose to listen to, whose law I choose to obey.



REVELATION 14:7
Worship the Creator

REVELATION 14:9
Don't Worship the Beast

REVELATION 14:12
Keep the Commandments
and Faith of Jesus

60. When you think about it, it's the same in marriage, isn't it? If I walked around saying, "Hey, I love Marquita (use your spouse's name) with all my heart," but in my actions, you see me out with a new woman every weekend, would you believe what my verbal profession says? You wouldn't, would you? You see, worship has to do not only with who I love but also with who I obey. You see, that does make a difference.

DANIEL 7:25

"... shall
intend to
change times
and law."



- 61.** Daniel wasn't kidding in Daniel 7:25 when he said antichrist would intend to change God's times and God's law. The Sabbath is God's special time. It's found in the very heart of His law and it has to do with the issue of worship. Worship of the Creator.

DANIEL 7:25

"... shall
intend to
change times
and law."



- 62.** That's why for me personally, I'm uncomfortable with Sunday observance knowing it comes from the very power that the Bible identifies as the beast. It's hard for me to hang on to the idea of Sunday knowing that the Bible says don't worship the beast. It's hard for me to hang on to the idea of Sunday when I know that in the commandments, it says, remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy. It's hard for me to hang on to the idea of Sunday knowing that the Bible says the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord thy God.

DANIEL 7:25

"... shall
intend to
change times
and law."



- 63.** Let's go to a quote I want to share from a Baptist preacher who wrote the Baptist Manual a number of years ago. His name is Dr. Edward T. Hiscox. He made a statement about Sunday that catches our attention.

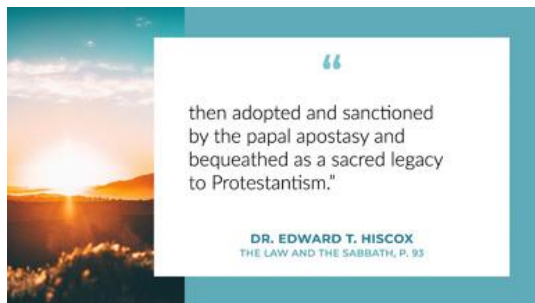
- 64.** He said, "What a pity that it comes branded with the mark of paganism and christened with the name of the sun god,

“

"What a pity that it comes
branded with the mark of
paganism and christened with
the name of the sun god,

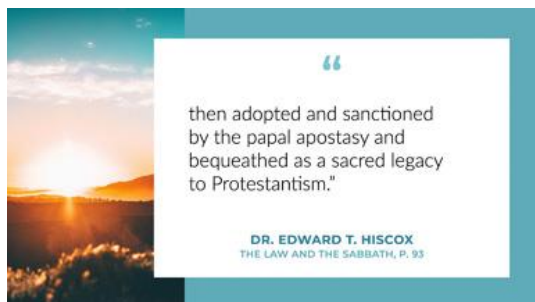
DR. EDWARD T. HISCOX
THE LAW AND THE SABBATH, P. 93



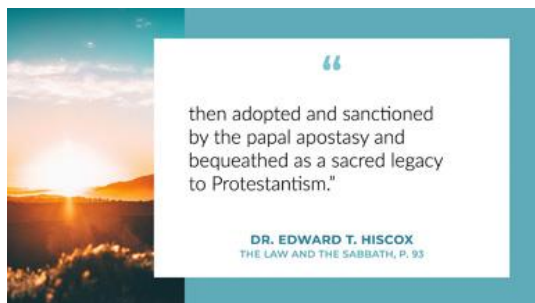


65. then adopted and sanctioned by the papal apostasy and bequeathed as a sacred legacy to Protestantism.”

I respect this Baptist preacher very much. He understands where Sunday comes from. He knew it came from paganism. He knew it came from the papal apostasy of the Middle Ages. He knew that and declares that it was a shame.



66. Friends, when the light of truth shines on us today, I have to ask myself, whose voice am I going to listen to? Am I going to listen to God’s voice or am I going to listen to man’s voice? Am I going to listen to what the popular commandments of men say, or do I choose to stand on the Word of God alone and on His law? What it comes down to is surrender. Whose voice, whose word am I going to surrender to? Jesus surrendered His life to the cross so I could be saved. Am I willing to surrender myself to Him and His Word, even if it isn’t popular?



67. *[For this illustration you need the American flag on the stage on a pole and you need a small table with a red washcloth, a white washcloth, and a blue washcloth]* Now, I want to share with you an illustration that I believe will make this really come alive for us. A question that we may be asking at this point is up on the screen. It’s a good question. It’s an honest question. It’s one that we should be asking. And it is this.



WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT? WHY MAKE A BIG DEAL OVER THE SABBATH-SUNDAY ISSUE?

68. *Why is this important? Why make a big deal over the Sabbath-Sunday issue?* Well, first of all, because Revelation makes a big deal over it. Second, because we’ve been given a clue that the mark the beast issue during the final crisis is about worship and the commandments of God. If Sunday is something that comes from the beast, but I know Sabbath comes from God, it is a big deal when I make my choice.



WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT? WHY MAKE A BIG DEAL OVER THE SABBATH-SUNDAY ISSUE?

69. I want to illustrate it this way. I know this is a really tough subject, so I want to lighten things a little. All of us have some weird quirks in our life, don't we? Quirks are those strange habits we possess that seem a bit odd to other people. Well, I have a bit of a quirk in my life. You know what it is? There are certain colors I just don't like. Now you will notice somebody has placed some very colorful wash cloths on this table in front of me. The first washcloth is red.



WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT? WHY MAKE A BIG DEAL OVER THE SABBATH-SUNDAY ISSUE?

70. The problem is, I don't like the color red. It's too bold, too bright. It seems like such an arrogant color. To show my disgust for the color red, I'm throwing this wash cloth to the ground. I'm stepping on it. I'm trampling on it, and I'm kicking it out of the way. [Kick it off the stage]. Does that bother anybody? No? That's good. You might be thinking, "The pastor is a little weird, but I guess if he wants to kick a washcloth, that's okay."



WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT? WHY MAKE A BIG DEAL OVER THE SABBATH-SUNDAY ISSUE?

71. But red is not the only color I have a problem with. I don't like white either. What color is this second washcloth? [Show the washcloth to the audience]. It's white. I think somebody put it here just to get on my nerves. White must be the most boring color ever. To show my disgust for the color white, I'm throwing it on the ground, I'm stepping on it, I'm trampling on it, I'm kicking it away. [Kick it off the stage]. Does that bother anybody? No? Good. I'm glad no one is offended.



WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT? WHY MAKE A BIG DEAL OVER THE SABBATH-SUNDAY ISSUE?

72. Well, my quirks don't end there. There's one more color I don't like. What color is this washcloth? [Show the washcloth to the audience]. It's blue. Guess what? I don't like the color blue either. It just doesn't look nice to me and I think it's ugly. So, to show my disgust for blue, I'm throwing the washcloth on the ground, I'm stepping on it, I'm trampling on it, and I'm kicking it away. [Kick it off stage]. Does that bother anybody?



WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT? WHY MAKE A BIG DEAL OVER THE SABBATH-SUNDAY ISSUE?

- 73.** Now, you're thinking, *"It's kind of weird, but if you want to step on washcloths, it doesn't bother me."* I'm glad you're so understanding. I can't help it. I just don't like those colors. They bother me.



WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT? WHY MAKE A BIG DEAL OVER THE SABBATH-SUNDAY ISSUE?

- 74.** *[Walk towards the flag on stage and look and point at it]*. Oh, wait a minute. This flag is red, white, and blue. *[Take the flag and pretend as though you are going to step on it. But do not actually do it. Just lower the flag a bit and lift up your foot. Do not let the flag touch the ground]*. Would it bother you if I stepped on this flag?



WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT? WHY MAKE A BIG DEAL OVER THE SABBATH-SUNDAY ISSUE?

- 75.** Now I've got your attention! Somebody is about ready to jump out of their seat! Now, please notice, I didn't let it touch the ground and I definitely didn't put my foot on it. This is only an illustration. I love my country, even though it's not perfect. And I'm thankful for this flag and what it represents. So please don't get mad at me. This was only an illustration. Now let me put the flag back in its proper place then we'll talk about the illustration. *[Return the flag to its stand]*.



WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT? WHY MAKE A BIG DEAL OVER THE SABBATH-SUNDAY ISSUE?

- 76.** Now that was the point? With those washcloths, I just stepped all over red, white and blue, and it didn't bother anybody at all. But the minute I went towards the flag and pretended as though I might step on it, oh my, some feathers got ruffled! Now I'm going to ask an honest question. Washcloths ... flag ... same colors. What's the difference?



WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT? WHY MAKE A BIG DEAL OVER THE SABBATH-SUNDAY ISSUE?

77. Why was it okay to step on the washcloths, but, boy, when I turned towards the symbol of the flag, we didn't like that at all? The answer is pretty simple. It's because of what it represents. The washcloths don't represent anything. The flag, on the other hand, is a symbol of life, liberty, freedom of conscience. Even though this country isn't perfect, we value what the flag stands for.



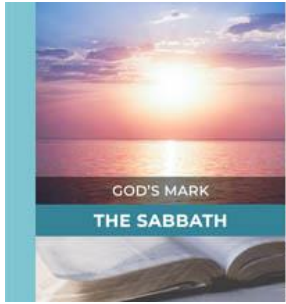
78. It's the same thing when it comes to the Sabbath-Sunday issue. It's deeper than just a couple of days. It's what those two days stand for. One day, the Sabbath, God's mark of authority throughout the universe. His seal that honors Him as the Creator of heaven and earth. His special time is found in the very heart of His law and gives us that 24-hour period to connect with Jesus in a personal relationship.



79. Then you have Sunday, Rome's mark of authority coming from paganism, where the traditions of men have been placed above the traditions of God, where the majority chooses to follow it. So, John wasn't kidding when he wrote in Revelation that all the religious world marvels and follows the beast. Why are we willing to do that when the Bible is so, so clear about what it represents?



80. Well, let's ask another question. Some people say, *"I do understand it pastor. I see it from the Bible, I see what it represents. But are you saying that people who've honored Sunday are lost, or they're less of a Christian?"* No, my friends, this is not saying that at all. You see, what we have to understand is people who have lived in the past who maybe didn't know about this, God will judge them according to the light that they knew.



81. Maybe mom and dad, grandpa and grandma, those who lived in the past, maybe they didn't understand the truth about the Sabbath, but they loved Jesus with all their heart. They were following all the light that they knew. God understands that. I believe they will be saved in the kingdom of heaven.



JOHN 12:35

"... walk while you have the light. . ."

82. But the difference is when we know the truth. Jesus says when light comes to us, when conviction is placed in our heart, we need to follow it. In John 12:35 Jesus said, "... walk while you have the light. . ." In other words, when you see the light, we need to walk in the light.



JOHN 12:35

"... walk while you have the light. . ."

83. I can't look at people in the past and say, *"You know what? They didn't know it and they didn't follow it, so I shouldn't have to follow it."* That would be like me asking Jesus, *"How much truth can I ignore and You'll still save me?"* I wouldn't go to my wife and say, *"Honey, how much can I ignore about our marriage vow and you'll still stay with me?"* What we ought to do is say, *"Lord, how much can I do for you to show that I love you, that I'm thankful for the grace that has been given me?"*



JOHN 12:35

"... walk while you have the light. . ."

84. During the Reformation, when God was restoring truth one item at a time, the Sabbath truth hadn't been uncovered yet. People like Martin Luther were living up to all the light that they had. But if the light has come to me about some truth in Scripture, some truth in God's law, God says to me, *"Walk while you have the light"*. The book of James tells me in chapter four, verse 17, that he who knows the good he should do and does not do it, to him it is sin. When God gives me light, I need to follow the light because there's always a blessing in that light. Can you say, Amen?



JOHN 12:35

"... walk while you have the light. . ."

85. You say, "*Pastor, so many people don't know the truth about the Sabbath. How will they know?*" Two ways. Number one, through you. You're going to share with them the blessings of Sabbath rest. Number two, through Bible prophecy. It may not be the big central issue right now, but Revelation tells us that in the final crisis, the subject of worship and the commandments of God take front and center.



JOHN 14:15

"If you love me, keep My commandments?"

86. Wasn't it Jesus who said, "*If you love me, keep My commandments?*"?



JOHN 14:15

"If you love me, keep My commandments?"

87. At this point, I want to try to fill in the blanks and show how this final crisis becomes real. So, we need to transition to another subject that is very much connected to this one. As we go back to Revelation 13 and see how the final crisis evolves in the last days, it brings to mind a question that many ask.



DOES THE BIBLE EVER MENTION
THE UNITED STATES IN PROPHECY?

88. Does the Bible ever mention the United States in prophecy? Bible prophecy symbolizes many nations in the past and even some in the present. It doesn't symbolize every nation that has ever existed, but it does symbolize those that either had a major part in God's plan or somehow affected God's people.

TWO BEASTS IN REVELATION 13

REV 13:1-10	1ST BEAST	ROME/PAPACY
REV 13:11-17	2ND BEAST	???

89. So, we're going to take a look at the second half of Revelation 13. You see, Revelation 13 actually talks about two beasts. We only studied the first beast so far. Verses one through 10 talk about the first beast. We know that to be Rome or the Papacy. But the second half of the chapter mentions a second beast that rises on the scene. Who or what is that? Let's go now to Revelation 13. I'm going to read verses 11 to 17 straight through so we can get the overall picture, then we'll go back and look at it verse by verse. Is that all right?



REVELATION 13:11-17

"Then I saw another beast coming up out of the earth, and he had two horns like a lamb and spoke like a dragon. And he exercises all the

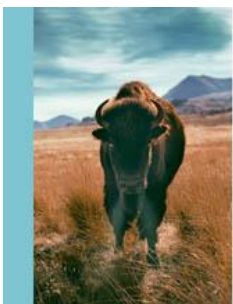
90. From Revelation 13:11, the Bible says, and John is speaking, *"Then I saw another beast coming up out of the earth, and he had two horns like a lamb and spoke like a dragon. And he exercises all the*



REVELATION 13:11-17

authority of the first beast in his presence, and causes the earth and those who dwell in it to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed.

91. *authority of the first beast in his presence, and causes the earth and those who dwell in it to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed.*



REVELATION 13:11-17

He performs great signs, so that he even makes fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men. And he deceives those who dwell on

92. *He performs great signs, so that he even makes fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men. And he deceives those who dwell on*



REVELATION 13:11-17

the earth by those signs which he was granted to do in the sight of the beast, telling those who dwell on the earth to make an image to the beast

- 93.** *the earth by those signs which he was granted to do in the sight of the beast, telling those who dwell on the earth to make an image to the beast*



REVELATION 13:11-17

who was wounded by the sword and lived. He was granted power to give breath to the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak

- 94.** *who was wounded by the sword and lived. Verse 15. "He was granted power to give breath to the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak*



REVELATION 13:11-17

and cause as many as would not worship the image of the beast to be killed. He causes all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark

- 95.** *and cause as many as would not worship the image of the beast to be killed. He causes all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark*



REVELATION 13:11-17

on their right hand or on their foreheads, and that no one may buy or sell except one who has the mark or the name of the beast, or the number of his name."

- 96.** *on their right hand or on their foreheads, and that no one may buy or sell except one who has the mark or the name of the beast, or the number of his name."*

Wow, those seven verses are packed with clues! John gives a very powerful vivid description of what this second beast does. Revelation gives us enough clues that if we know our history, we'll be able to figure it out. Let's go back to the screen and do a little summary of how this second beast is described.



1. Will rise to power and be like a lamb
2. Will eventually speak like a dragon and cause all people to follow the first beast
3. Will set up an image to the first beast and make that image speak
4. Will force people to worship the image and receive a mark

97. Number one, this beast will rise to power and in the beginning, be like a lamb. Secondly, we are told it will eventually speak like a dragon and cause people to follow the first beast, which is Rome. Whatever this second beast is, then, there's some sort of transformation that happens in its nature and character. Third, the second beast will set up an image to the first beast and make that image speak. In other words, it will partner with Rome in some way. Fourth, it will force people to worship that image and receive a mark. You say, "Whoa, man! That sounds serious. What does all that represent?"

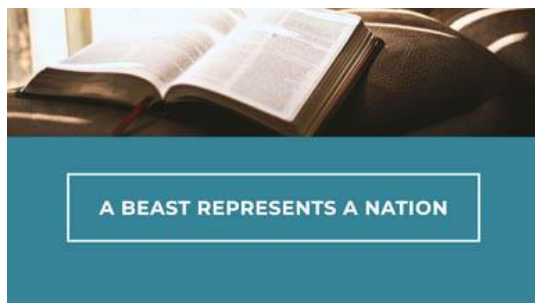


REVELATION 13:11

"Then I saw another beast coming up out of the earth, and he had two horns like a lamb..."

98. Let's go back now and let's take it verse by verse. Back to verse 11. The Bible says, *"Then I saw another beast coming up out of the earth and he had two horns like a lamb."*

Let's pause. The second beast rises up out of the earth. The first question we should ask is one that we have already answered in this seminar, and that is, what does a beast represent in Bible prophecy?



99. We already know that beasts represent nations. So, this second beast that rises represents a nation or a kingdom that rises to power on the scene of world history.



100. The next thing that we need to ask is, where does this nation rise? We may not have seen it right away, but there is a definite clue.



101. If you remember when we studied the first beast, which was Rome, it said that John saw the first beast come up out of the sea. And if you remember, we studied and found out that in Bible prophecy, waters represent multitudes of people. We saw that from Revelation 17:15. So Rome, the first beast, was to rise up in a place where there were multitudes of people, a place on the earth where there was a great population. That's exactly what happened with the Papacy.



102. But the second beast doesn't come out of the water. It said the second beast rises out of the earth—the exact opposite. What is that telling us? This new beast comes up out of the earth, or a sparsely populated area. You see, if rising out of the water is a populated area where there are multitudes of people, then rising out of the earth would be the opposite. It comes up in a new part of the world, in a sparsely populated area there is little or no population.



103. This represents a new nation rising up in a new land where there are not many people. That's a really big clue—and maybe it's enough for us to figure it out. But there's more.



104. Next question. When does this nation or kingdom rise? What in the Bible helps us pinpoint it? Remember as we studied the first beast, the rising of the papacy, we saw that it lasted for 1,260 years. It's that 1,260-year period that Revelation talks about.

1260 YEARS OF CHURCH & STATE POWER



105. And that went from 538 to 1798, when church and state united and those who chose to follow the Bible and God's way of salvation were a persecuted people. Millions and millions of martyrs died during that time period. 538 is when church and state united in Rome. 1798 is when it ended.

1260 YEARS OF CHURCH & STATE POWER



106. So, if that first beast, the Papal church-state union, lasted until 1798 when the papal government was temporarily abolished, that means the second beast is going to be rising to power around the same time as the first beast is losing its power. So, if the first beast, the Papacy, was losing its power in 1798, that means that this new nation is starting to rise to power right around the same time, somewhere near 1798. We've pinpointed it in history.



107. Next question. What kind of nation is it? Verse 11 said that it had two horns like a lamb. What do we know about lambs? Lambs are very gentle in nature. They're not obstinate, stubborn creatures like goats. You turn your back on a goat and they'll butt you. A lamb will never do that. So, this new nation in the beginning will have a gentle character.



108. The other thing you notice when it comes to the second beast is there are no crowns on the horns of the second beast. You say, "Why is that significant?"

Remember when we studied the first beast, there were crowns on the 10 horns. What does a crown mean?



109. A crown seems to refer to kingly authority—a government where all power is centered in one person or a monarchy. Since the second beast has no crowns, that means there is not going to be kingly authority in this new nation. It indicates a kind of government different from what the world has seen. The absence of crowns indicates a nation with no king, where power is not centered in one person or one group. It indicates freedom. That's a big clue.



1. Rises to power around 1798
2. Rises in a relatively unpopulated area
3. No crowns on its horns indicating no kingly authority
4. It would be a new nation or a young nation
5. It would rise to a position of worldwide power and influence

110. Here's what we've learned about this second lamb-like beast. Number one, it rises to power around 1798. Number two, it rises in a relatively unpopulated area. Number three, there are no crowns on its horns, indicating freedom from a monarchy. Number four, it would be a new nation or a young nation. And number five, it would rise to a position of worldwide power and influence. All those clues came straight from the Bible and the Bible alone. If you put those five clues together, there is only one nation that fulfills all five of them. You know who it is?



THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

111. The United States of America.



1. America was rising to power around 1798.
2. It was a new nation in a relatively unpopulated area.
3. There was no kingly authority.
4. It offered freedom through a separation of church and state.
5. It would rise to a position of worldwide power and influence.

112. Let's be sure that they fulfilled all five. Let's look back here. Number one, America indeed was rising to worldwide power around 1798. The declaration of independence was signed, and we declared our freedom in 1776. By 1798 America had a name in this world. Number two, it rose in a new world, a relatively unpopulated area. Number three, there was no monarchy, no kingly authority. When America began, it was indeed mild and gentle like a lamb, offering political and religious freedom to all who would immigrate to its shores. Number four, there was a separation of church and state.



1. America was rising to power around 1798.
2. It was a new nation in a relatively unpopulated area.
3. There was no kingly authority.
4. It offered freedom through a separation of church and state.
5. It would rise to a position of worldwide power and influence.

113. The founders did that on purpose because during the Middle Ages when church and state were united that meant persecution for those who dissented. So, in America, it was decided to put into the constitution that there would be a separation and the state would not force or mandate a particular religion . They had already seen 1,260 years of that in the Middle Ages and were determined not to repeat it. And number five, because of the freedom it offered, people flocked to America and it did not take long for this country to gain a worldwide power and influence. That's America, my friends!



1. America was rising to power around 1798.
2. It was a new nation in a relatively unpopulated area.
3. There was no kingly authority.
4. It offered freedom through a separation of church and state.
5. It would rise to a position of worldwide power and influence.

114. I wish that the prophecy ended there. I wish the prophecy ended with the picture of a gentle lamb-like beast offering freedom to all. But it doesn't. The prophecy goes on to say that something will change. That this new nation that had horns like a lamb, would eventually speak like a dragon.



REVELATION 13:11

"Then I saw another beast coming up out of the earth, and he had two horns like a lamb and spoke like a dragon."

115. Verse 11 says, *"Then I saw another beast coming up out of the earth, and he had two horns like a lamb and but spoke like a dragon."* To go from a lamb to a dragon indicates a drastic character change. It indicates a change in values and systems that would somehow take place. Bible prophecy is telling us that the character of America would change. That America would not, as Martin Luther King said, "live out the true meaning of its creed." That what America declared in its constitution, she would no longer value. That the freedoms that were so important would slowly be taken away.



REVELATION 13:11

"Then I saw another beast coming up out of the earth, and he had two horns like a lamb and spoke like a dragon."

116. Now, I wish that part of the prophecy wasn't there, but God loves us too much not to tell us. The truth is, 100 years ago people laughed at this prophecy. But nobody's laughing today. You have already seen some of the changes in character and values that have happened in this country. Not to mention some things that are even happening today. The older you are, the clearer it has become. People are no longer scoffing at this prophecy because they're seeing the change has already started. When it says it would speak like a dragon, what does that mean? When it says it would speak like a dragon, what does that mean?

HOW DOES
A NATION
SPEAK?

Through Its Laws



117. How does a nation speak? Well, a nation speaks through its laws. It speaks through its values. It speaks through its actions. You want to know something about what a nation stands for? See what its laws say. Many of the laws coming from our legislature today show that America is changing.



REVELATION 13:12

"And he exercises all the authority of the first beast in his presence, and causes the earth and those who dwell in it

118. Let's move on with the prophecy. It goes on to say in verse 12, *"And he exercises all the authority of the first beast in his presence, and causes the earth and those who dwell in it*

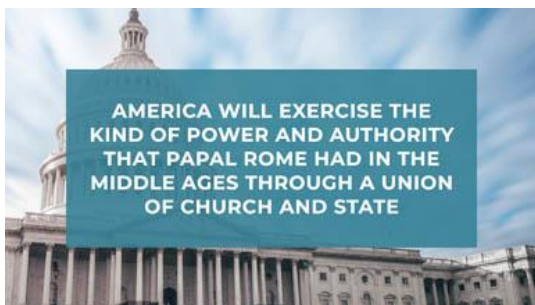


REVELATION 13:12

to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed."

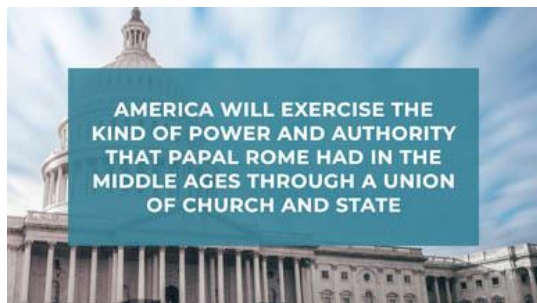
119. *to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed."*

Let's pause there. It says the second beast causes people to worship or obey the first beast.



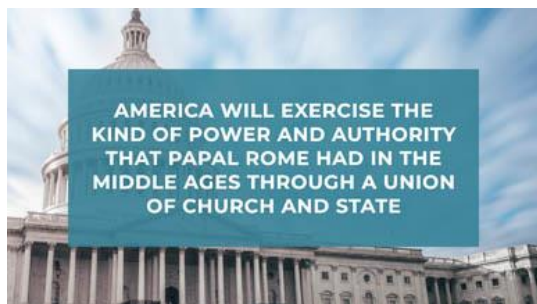
AMERICA WILL EXERCISE THE
KIND OF POWER AND AUTHORITY
THAT PAPAL ROME HAD IN THE
MIDDLE AGES THROUGH A UNION
OF CHURCH AND STATE

120. In other words, America, will at some point in its history, whether it's through crisis or something else, exercise the kind of power and authority that Papal Rome once had in the Middle Ages. And how did Papal Rome have its authority? There was a union of church and state. There was no religious freedom. Freedom and liberty were taken away. And as a result, there was persecution.



AMERICA WILL EXERCISE THE
KIND OF POWER AND AUTHORITY
THAT PAPAL ROME HAD IN THE
MIDDLE AGES THROUGH A UNION
OF CHURCH AND STATE

121. So, the prophecies of Revelation are telling us that slowly, but surely, there will come a time when America's character will change. When there will be a union of church and state and the religious freedom we value so much will not be there anymore. Years ago, people laughed at Revelation 13 and said that will never happen. Guess what? Nobody's laughing now.



AMERICA WILL EXERCISE THE
KIND OF POWER AND AUTHORITY
THAT PAPAL ROME HAD IN THE
MIDDLE AGES THROUGH A UNION
OF CHURCH AND STATE

122. The separation of church and state was one thing written into the constitution as essential. The church and state would never unite because when they do, the minority, the dissenting voice, is always persecuted. But there is a push in this country even now to do away with the separation of church and state—to change the constitution. Many people are very concerned about that idea. But let's go farther in the prophecy.



REVELATION 13:14-15

"... telling those who dwell on the earth to make an image to the beast who was wounded by the sword and lived.

123. The prophecy continues to say in verse 14, "*... telling those who dwell on the earth to make an image to the beast who was wounded by the sword and lived.*"



REVELATION 13:14-15

He was granted power to give breath to that image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak and

124. *He was granted power to give breath to that image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak and*



REVELATION 13:14-15

cause as many as would not worship the image of the beast to be killed."

125. *cause as many as would not worship the image of the beast to be killed."*

That's pretty serious, isn't it? What is it saying? The second beast makes an image to the first beast. Well, what's an image? An image is a likeness of something. So, in other words, if you look in the mirror in the morning, you're seeing an image of yourself. It should—I hope—look like you.



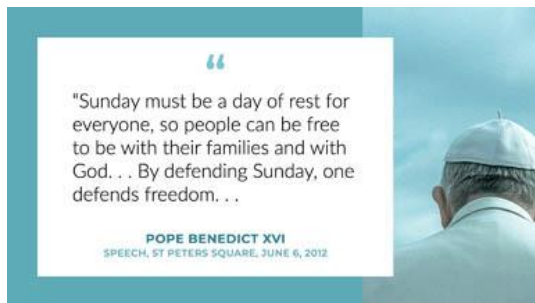
126. When church and state unite to enforce religious practice, America will look like Rome of the Middle Ages. The prophecy says America does something to force people to follow and obey Papal Rome. Now when Bible prophecy says these things, it is not meant to scare or hurt or offend. God is simply telling us what is going to be happening in the final crisis.



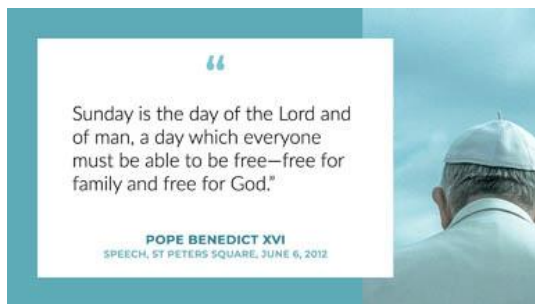
127. You may ask, *"Why would anybody want to do that? Why would anybody want to do away with the separation of church and state? Why would anyone want to end religious liberty?"* The truth is, there are many religious leaders who want to see the separation of church and state done away with.



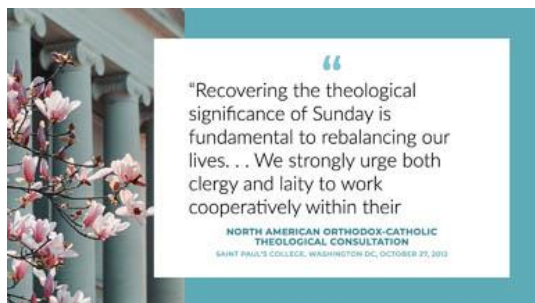
128. In fact, there are those who have pushed for mandatory Sunday observance so that businesses will close, and people can go to church. Vatican City has been foremost in echoing the same sentiments over the past few years urging Sunday observance in civil society.



129. During a speech at St Peter's Square in Rome, Pope Benedict XVI said, *"Sunday must be a day of rest for everyone, so people can be free to be with their families and with God. . . By defending Sunday, one defends freedom. . .*



130. *Sunday is the day of the Lord and of man, a day which everyone must be able to be free—free for family and free for God."*



131. At the North American Orthodox-Catholic Theological Consultation, both Orthodox and Catholic leaders joined together to issue this statement: *"Recovering the theological significance of Sunday is fundamental to rebalancing our lives. . . We strongly urge both clergy and laity to work cooperatively within their*



132. *communities to stress the importance of Sunday for worship and family. . . The rediscovery of this day is a grace which we must implore."*

It is framed in a way that promotes Sunday as a benefit to society. Even in America, the Supreme Court has repeatedly ruled over the years that Sunday blue laws are constitutional.



133. Why is it that some religious leaders would want to see the separation of church and state ended? Why would some even make a call for Sunday laws? The reason is because they see what is happening in our world today and our country today.



134. They see the terrible social problems in our land. They see society unraveling. They see the drugs, they see the rise in immorality, they see the economic uncertainty, they see the rising crime, they see natural disaster after natural disaster, they see the pestilence. And according to prophecy, it will get worse. And some say, this is because America has turned away from God! They say, *“we need a revival! America and the world needs to come back to God!”*



135. And there is a sense, in which we could agree with them. We need spiritual revival. We do need to come back to God. No doubt about that. But you cannot legislate religious revival. It cannot be forced. Because when force is involved persecution comes to those who don't comply.



136. God tells us how real revival comes. Real revival doesn't come by forcing people to do something. You can't legislate or force revival. Revival cannot come from the state, the Senate, or the prelate. Revival cannot come from Congress, the Parliament, or the United Nations. Revival cannot come from Moscow, London, or Geneva. Revival cannot come from the White House, or the courthouse, or any political house. Revival is personal. It has to start in the human heart.



137. And of course, if America is going to come back to God, on what day would religious leaders legislate that people come back to church? Sunday—which is the day that comes from the beast, the most popular day in the religious world, the sign of Rome authority. And it's already being promoted in some circles today, as we have seen from quotes we read. So, you see, it's not crazy. It's not far-fetched. The foundation has already been laid.



138. In fact, something similar has already happened in the past. What do you mean? In the Middle Ages the Roman Emperor Constantine made one of the first Sunday laws in order to unite his divided empire. In 321 A.D. Constantine declared, *"On the venerable day of the sun, let magistrates and people residing in cities rest and let shops be closed."*



139. This law was supposed to unite a divided people. Sunday as a day of rest got spread throughout the world. And Revelation tells us that, at some point, America will join with Rome. America will make an image to the beast. America will push for the Sunday of Rome in order to unite a divided society and stave off what is perceived to be the judgments of God. But it will be done under the auspices of trying to call people back to revival.



140. On the surface, it sounds good. Why not unite people? Why not force them to have a spiritual revival? But all it will be doing is fulfilling this prophecy as America uses Sunday to make an image to the beast. Then people will have to choose who they are going to follow. They will have to choose between God's Law and man's law.

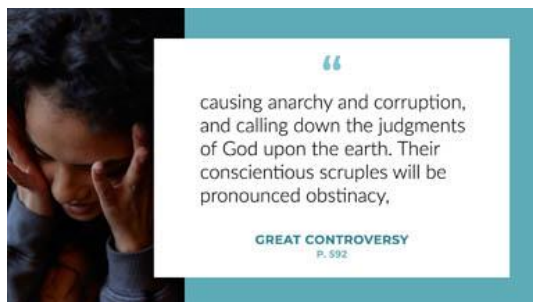


“Those who honor the Bible Sabbath will be denounced as enemies of law and order, as breaking down the moral restraints of society,

GREAT CONTROVERSY
P. 592

141. (IF YOU NEED TO SHORTEN THE MESSAGE, YOU CAN SKIP THE GREAT CONTROVERSY QUOTES)

In the classic book the Great Controversy, the author comments on this part of the prophecy in a very poignant way. She writes, *“Those who honor the Bible Sabbath will be denounced as enemies of law and order, as breaking down the moral restraints of society,*



causing anarchy and corruption, and calling down the judgments of God upon the earth. Their conscientious scruples will be pronounced obstinacy,

GREAT CONTROVERSY
P. 592

142. *causing anarchy and corruption, and calling down the judgments of God upon the earth. Their conscientious scruples will be pronounced obstinacy,*



stubbornness, and contempt of authority. They will be accused of disaffection toward the government.”

GREAT CONTROVERSY
P. 592

143. *stubbornness, and contempt of authority. They will be accused of disaffection toward the government.”*

In other words, the truth about God’s people will be twisted. They will be made to look as though they are an enemy to the government and a threat to the world. When in reality, all they want to do is put Jesus first and keep His commandments and honor His Sabbath.



“As the movement for Sunday enforcement becomes bolder and more decided, the law will be invoked against commandment-keepers. They will be threatened

GREAT CONTROVERSY
P. 607

144. The author goes on to say, *“As the movement for Sunday enforcement becomes bolder and more decided, the law will be invoked against commandment-keepers. They will be threatened*



145. *with fines and imprisonment, and some will be offered positions of influence, and other rewards and advantages, as inducements to renounce their faith."*



146. Revelation has already said the final issue will revolve around worship. You have God's mark of authority, His Sabbath, in His Holy Law, pointing to Him as the Creator. And you have the beast's mark of authority, Rome's Sunday, man's law . And when that time comes, I will need to choose. Do I worship God, or do I worship the beast? Do I keep the commandments of God or the commandments of men? Who do I surrender my heart to? And the decision we make at that time will determine whether we receive the mark of the beast or the seal of God.



REVELATION 14:12

"Here is the patience of the saints; here are those who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus."

147. That's why Revelation describes God's people responding to the crisis in this way. The Bible says, *"Here is the patience of the saints; here are those who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus."*

My friends, if I'm going to choose to surrender my heart to Jesus then, I need to start by surrendering my heart to Jesus today.



REVELATION 14:12

"Here is the patience of the saints; here are those who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus."

148. Friends, I know when we look at the final events of Revelation, it may seem scary. We may wonder, *"Will I have to stand alone?"*

PSALM 91:14-15

"Because he has set his love upon Me, therefore I will deliver him. . . He shall call upon Me, and I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble; I will deliver him and honor him."



149. But God gives us a special promise in Psalm 91 where it says, *"Because he has set his love upon Me, therefore I will deliver him. . . He shall call upon Me, and I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble; I will deliver him and honor him."*

PSALM 91:14-15

"Because he has set his love upon Me, therefore I will deliver him. . . He shall call upon Me, and I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble; I will deliver him and honor him."



150. You see, my friends, when you take a stand for Jesus, you have peace in your heart. When you take a stand for Jesus, you have the assurance that you're on the right side. When you take a stand for Jesus, you can have the confidence that He will never leave you or forsake you.

PSALM 91:14-15

"Because he has set his love upon Me, therefore I will deliver him. . . He shall call upon Me, and I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble; I will deliver him and honor him."



151. Friends, will you join me in making the decision today that we will always choose to worship Him? That we will always choose to keep His commandments? That we will choose to honor His Sabbath? Will you join me in saying today, *"I choose to turn my eyes upon Jesus so that when the crisis comes, my eyes will be fixed on Him?"*

PSALM 91:14-15

"Because he has set his love upon Me, therefore I will deliver him. . . He shall call upon Me, and I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble; I will deliver him and honor him."



152. Heavenly Father, we come to You humbly because this is a powerful prophecy that is not often talked about. We ask that You would help us to surrender our hearts to You and that we would follow You above everything else. Give us peace, Lord, as to what may happen in the future, that we can know You will be with us through the crisis and that, in the end, Your people win, Your people have victory. Thank You for the promise. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.



153. Friends, thank you for joining us on such a heavy topic. I'd like to encourage you that if you'd like to do more study on this, there's a book I would recommend to you. I'm afraid it's a book I can't offer for free because it's a rather large book, but it's well worth reading. It's called the Great Controversy.



154. You can probably find it on Amazon, but we also have a few copies at the registration table for sale if you'd like a thorough study resource on the prophecies of the Bible and Revelation's final crisis. It covers the controversy between good and evil from the time that Lucifer was cast out of heaven to the time when Jesus comes to save us. You can pick up a copy in the lobby. God bless you and have a wonderful night.