

ARMAGEDDON

and the
International

Sunday Law



By Richard and Melody Drake

CHAPTER 1

ARMAGEDDON

September 11, 2001 dawned as a beautiful morning in Northern California. We were looking forward to spending an uneventful day and then celebrating our 24th wedding anniversary together when the phone rang. Our daughter called and told us to turn on the TV because something awful had happened in New York City. We were met with a sight, that we, along with millions of fellow Americans, will never forget. The image of the Twin Towers falling has been burned into our collective memories as a nation and the horror that we felt will not soon be forgotten.

Terrorism had finally crossed the ocean and come to our land. We had been warned for years that it was not a question of “if”, but “when” a terrorist act would hit our great nation. We had watched with disinterested complacency the suicide bombings occurring in the Middle East, never dreaming that they would become a reality in our country. But, the predictions had in fact become true and we were suddenly making choices that would not have been acceptable or even considered before 9/11.

We had now lost the innocence that we once took for granted and had been lured into exchanging our freedoms that we fought so hard with our blood to win and then protect, for a security that we will never again enjoy. Benjamin Franklin stated correctly that if we give up our freedoms for security we will have neither freedom nor security.

Numerous commentators have noted that this country will never again be the same. One commentator on Fox News recently predicted that we will have another 9/11. The Patriot Act was rushed through Congress and we are now seeing people detained without being charged with a crime. Our e-mails and phone conversations are being monitored in the name of national security. Truly the protections that our constitution guaranteed us are being eroded before our eyes, but we have not seen anything yet.

Babies' brains have been sucked out with partial birth abortions in the name of freedom of choice. Mothers are killing their children and fathers are killing their entire families before killing themselves. Sex outside of the marriage contract is now considered the norm and gay marriages are being publicly performed. We are rapidly plunging into an end time abyss that Daniel the prophet and John the Revelator could only write about. Armageddon is right around the corner and most people are not ready. Worse yet, they do not have a clue what is about to happen or the cause of the misery that we are in now.

Before we discuss the meaning of Armageddon, let us go back eons of time to see if we can discover the root of the problems that we are now facing in our modern world. You see, a harvest of evil cannot be reaped before an evil seed is planted. We will look at the history of this great controversy and will then see how it will play out in our generation and what the Bible predicts will be the final resolution. Truly the end has begun.

War in Heaven

Long before this world was created there was an attempted coup in heaven by one of God's most trusted angels. Lucifer was the angel that covered God's throne. We read the sad story in Isaiah 14:12-15. "How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! *how* art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations. For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High. Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit."

Ezekiel 28:12-19 fills in more of the details of Lucifer's treachery. Note that Lucifer is called the king of Tyrus in this passage, that he was created perfect, and that he was the cherub (angel) that covered God's throne. "Son of man, take up a lamentation upon the king of Tyrus, and say unto him, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Thou sealest up the sum, full of wisdom, and perfect in beauty. Thou hast been in Eden the garden of God; every precious stone *was* thy covering, the sardius, topaz, and the diamond, the beryl, the onyx, and the jasper, the sapphire, the emerald, and the carbuncle, and gold: the workmanship of thy tabrets and of thy pipes was prepared in thee in the day that thou wast created. Thou *art* the anointed cherub that covereth; and I have set thee *so*: thou wast upon the holy mountain of God; thou hast walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire. Thou *wast* perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee. By the multitude of thy merchandise they have filled the midst

of thee with violence, and thou hast sinned: therefore I will cast thee as profane out of the mountain of God: and I will destroy thee, O covering cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire. Thine heart was lifted up because of thy beauty, thou hast corrupted thy wisdom by reason of thy brightness: I will cast thee to the ground, I will lay thee before kings, that they may behold thee. Thou hast defiled thy sanctuaries by the multitude of thine iniquities, by the iniquity of thy traffic; therefore will I bring forth a fire from the midst of thee, it shall devour thee, and I will bring thee to ashes upon the earth in the sight of all them that behold thee. All they that know thee among the people shall be astonished at thee: thou shalt be a terror, and never *shalt* thou *be* any more." (Ezekiel 28:12-19 KJV)

Lucifer was the most exalted angel in God's kingdom, but pride in his beauty became his downfall. He decided to exalt himself above God's throne and to convince the universe to worship him rather than God. We just read in Isaiah 14:13 that Lucifer said, "I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north." In this text the original Hebrew word for *congregation* is mo'ed, which can be translated as *appointed times, feasts, or festivals*. We can see from this passage that Lucifer decided to not only take over God's government, but that he would set up his own appointed festivals in opposition to God's appointed festivals. The issue now became on whose appointed festivals would each individual in God's universe choose to worship? The bottom line was and still is loyalty. Who would you choose to worship, God or Lucifer?

Lucifer committed the highest treason in the universe and unfortunately carried his war to our world. You can read in

Genesis chapter 3 how he overcame Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden and established his kingdom on this earth. Lucifer (Satan) is competing with God for your loyalty which is what this book will expose—the great battle between God and Satan for your soul. Who are you going to choose to serve?

Now that we have established what the war is over, let us take a look at what comprises Armageddon and then we will take a look at the details of this war.

The word *Armageddon* appears only one time in the Bible in Revelation 16:16. *Armageddon* is correctly understood by many to mean Satan's Last Battle against God. The first part of the word comes from the Hebrew word *har*, which means *mountain*. The second part of the word *mageddon* has been interpreted two different ways, the first being as Megiddo, which was an ancient city, and the second as coming from the Hebrew word *moed*, which means *feasts, congregation, assembly*. God's people *congregate* to have a *festival* or *assembly* as described in Leviticus chapter 23. People who believe in the second interpretation as being *moed* are those who understand the second derivation, *harmoed*, on the basis of its use in Isaiah 14:13, in terms of the great contest between Christ and Satan.

The second interpretation is best because it *fits* the pieces of the puzzle that the Bible portrays. When all the pieces of the puzzle fit and you can see the picture clearly then you have arrived at truth.

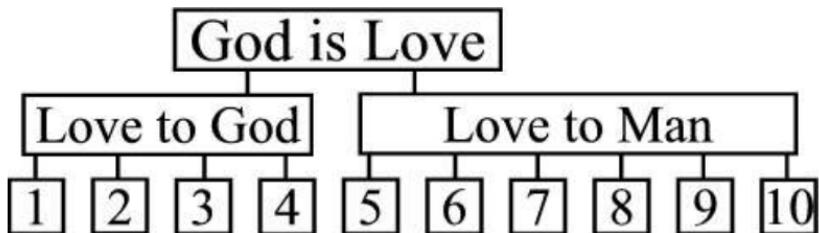
The word *Armageddon* means *mount of the moed*, which is the same meaning as *mount of the congregation* in Isaiah 14:13. Both mean *mount of the festivals*. This is telling us that **Armageddon is a battle over whose Holy Days you are going to keep—God's or Satan's.** In Isaiah 14:13, Satan is declaring that he is going to invent his own holy days in opposition to God's Holy

Days. Remember that the word *congregation* in this text means *moed* or *festivals*. Revelation 16:16 tells us that the Holy Days are what the last great battle is fought over. The issue is indeed over loyalty to God or loyalty to Satan.

Before we identify which holy days belong to God and which belong to Satan, let us look at a very interesting point that Jesus made in Matthew 22:36-40. A lawyer came to Jesus and asked Him, "Master, which is the great commandment in the law?" Jesus gave a very interesting answer. He said, "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets." (Matthew 22:36-40) When Jesus stated that the first great commandment is to love God with all our heart, He was quoting from Deuteronomy 6:5, which says, "And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might."

Jesus said that all the commandments and the prophets hang on these two commandments. Of the Ten Commandments, the first four hang under love to God and the last six hang under love to man.

Let us illustrate it like this:

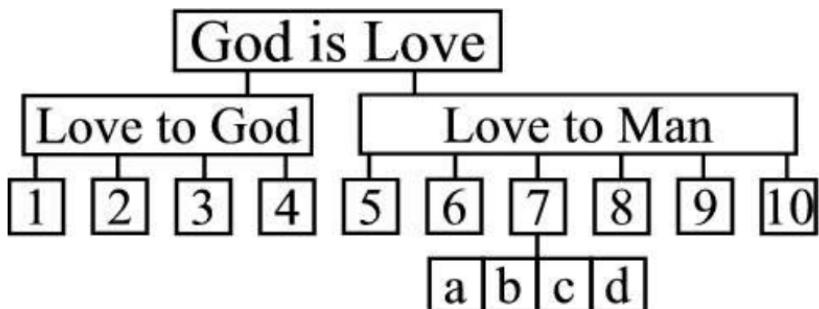


More than just the Ten Commandments hang under these first two commandments. In this statement Jesus said that all the *law* hangs under these two commandments. The word *law* comes from the original Greek word *nomos* which means *Mosaic Law or torah*. In fact, nearly every time the word *law* appears in the New Testament it comes from *nomos*. The Mosaic Law is the Pentateuch, or the first five books of the Old Testament, which were given by God and written by Moses.

Each of the statutes in the Mosaic Law can be put under one of the Ten Commandments because the statutes further explain the commandments. The only exceptions are the laws that the Bible specifically states were eliminated at the cross (more on this shortly).

Here are some specific examples showing how the Mosaic Law further interprets the Ten Commandments. In the Mosaic Law God gives specific examples as to with whom one is not to have sexual relations. These examples further explain the seventh commandment “Thou shalt not commit adultery.” All the health laws in the Mosaic Law come under the sixth commandment “Thou shalt not kill.” God does not want us to kill ourselves through unhealthy living. Tithing is given in the Mosaic law and it comes under the eighth commandment “Thou shalt not steal.” We are not to steal God’s money from Him. One can go through the Mosaic Law and put every statute under one of the Ten Commandments, with the exception of those laws that were eliminated at the cross.

We can illustrate this principle like this:



Statutes further defining the 7th commandment regarding adultery:

- a. Do not lie with your daughter-in-law. See Leviticus 20:12.
- b. Homosexuality is condemned. See Leviticus 20:13.
- c. Do not lie with your father's wife. See Leviticus 20:11.
- d. Do not lie with a beast. See Leviticus 20:15.

Notice that if you break one of the statutes “a” through “d” above, you have in fact broken the seventh commandment that says you are not to commit adultery. It is crucial to understand that the statute that explains the commandment has the same force of law as the commandment that it further explains. Think of it this way; the Ten Commandments are chapter titles to God’s Law and the statutes are the description or further explanation of what is included in each commandment. All of the commandments and the statutes together make up God’s Law.

With this information in mind, let us consider what commandment in God’s law deals with the issue of worship and loyalty. If

Armageddon is fought over this point, then we had better clearly understand the specific details that make up this issue.

There is only one commandment that clearly outlines the day that we are to worship God and interestingly it begins with the word ‘remember’ because God knew that we would forget. "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 KJV)

Ask any Christian what day of the week Jesus arose on and they will tell you that it was the first day, which is Sunday. If Sunday is the first day of the week, then Saturday is the seventh day of the week. It is very clear to see from the fourth commandment quoted above that Saturday is the day that God Himself has set aside as His Holy Day for us to spend special time with Him each week. Some people believe that Saturday worship was only given to the Jews and that the rest of the world should worship God on Sunday. The following text sheds light on this point. "Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, *Concerning* the feasts of the LORD, which ye shall proclaim *to be* holy convocations, *even* these *are* my feasts. Six days shall work be done: but the seventh day *is* the sabbath of rest, an holy convocation; ye shall do no work *therein*: it *is* the sabbath of the LORD in all your dwellings." (Lev 23:2-3 KJV)

Note that God says that the feasts listed in Leviticus chapter 23 are His feasts. Nowhere does the Bible say that these Holy Days were only for the Jews. In fact, God reaffirms that the seventh day (Saturday) is “the Sabbath of the LORD”. That makes Saturday the LORD’s day and not Sunday as most Christians believe. If Saturday is the Lord’s Day, then who made the change to Sunday being the Lord’s Day and why? Daniel 7:25 gives us a hint. "And he shall speak *great* words against the most High, and shall wear out the saints of the most High, and think to change times and laws: and they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and the dividing of time." (Dan 7:25 KJV)

This verse predicted that somebody was going to “think to change times and laws”. The word translated *times* comes from a Chaldean word meaning *seasons*. Remember when Satan (Lucifer) had rebelled in heaven (see Isaiah 14:12-13 and Ezekiel 28:12-19) he had said he would be like the Most High and would set his throne above God’s throne. Some of God’s Holy Days, as we shall soon see, are tied to the yearly seasons and thus this passage in Daniel is predicting that all of God’s Holy Days would come under attack by Satan. Satan, working through somebody would attempt to change God’s laws and the timing of God’s Holy Days.

We will let the organization who carried out this attack on God’s Holy Days speak for herself. “The new law has its own spirit...and its own feasts which have taken the place of those appointed in the law of Moses. If we would know the days to be observed...we must go to the Catholic Church, not to the Mosaic law.” (*The Catholic Catechism* as quoted in the *Signs of the Times*, November 4, 1919)

“As the sign of the authority of the Catholic Church, papist writers cite “the very act of changing the Sabbath into Sunday, which Protestants allow of,... because by keeping Sunday, they acknowledge the church’s power to ordain feasts, and to command them under sin.”--Henry Tuberville, *An Abridgment of the Christian Doctrine*, page 58.”

The following letter from T. Enright, CSSR, the Catholic Bishop of St. Alphonsus Church, St. Louis, Missouri clearly states the issue that we are discussing.



St. Alphonsus' (Rock) Church,

1116 N. Grand Ave.

St. Louis, June 1, 1905

Dear Friend, I have offered & still offer \$1000. to any one who can prove to me from the Bible alone, that I am bound, under grievous sin to keep Sunday holy.

It was the Catholic Church which made the law obliging us to keep Sund. holy. The church made this law long after the Bible was written. Hence said law is not in the Bible.

Christ, our Lord empowered his church to make laws binding on Conscience. He said to his apostles & their lawful successors in the priesthood "Whatever you shall bind on earth shall be binding in heaven," Mat. 16. 19. Mat. 18. 17. Luk 16. 19. The Cath. Church abolished not only the Sabbath, but all the other Jewish festivals.

Pray & study. I shall be always glad to help you as long as you honestly seek the truth

Respectfully
T. Enright, CSSR

Here is the typed form of this letter. “Dear Friend, I have offered and still offer \$1000 to any one who can prove to me from the Bible alone that I am bound, under grievous sin to keep Sunday holy. It was the Catholic Church which made the law obliging us to keep Sunday holy. The church made this law long after the Bible was written. Hence said law is not in the Bible. Christ, our Lord empowered his church to make laws binding in conscience. He said to his apostles and their lawful successors in the priesthood “Whatsoever you shall bind on earth shall be binding in heaven.” Matthew 16:19. Matthew 18:17. Luke 16:19. The Cath. Church abolished not only the Sabbath, but all the other Jewish festivals. Pray and study. I shall be always glad to help you as long as you honestly seek the truth. Respectfully, T. Enright CSSR.”

Would you not agree that these are some rather astounding admissions? If the Catholic church “made the law obliging us to keep Sunday holy,” then we can see who is changing “times and laws” spoken of in Daniel 7:25. Furthermore, if we worship on the day that the Catholic church has made holy, then we are setting ourselves in opposition against God who made the seventh day (Saturday) holy. Do you see the situation that we are finding ourselves in? If Saturday is God’s Holy Day, then who do you suppose is ultimately behind making Sunday a holy day? Remember that this is a war between God and Satan.

There is an interesting sentence in the previous quote that we need to look at further. “The Cath. Church abolished not only the Sabbath, but all the other Jewish festivals.” What are these “other Jewish festivals” that are referred to and how do they fit into the idea of worship?

First, let us remember that every commandment hangs under either ‘Love to God’ or ‘Love to Man’ as seen in our previous illustration and that there are statutes that hang under each

commandment. Would it surprise you to find out that there are statutes that hang under the fourth commandment (Remember the Sabbath day...) that further explain that commandment? We must remember that each of the statutes that hang under a commandment have the same force of law as the commandment that they are explaining. We shall shortly identify what the Catholic church is referring to when they talk about “other Jewish festivals”.

"These *are* the feasts of the LORD, *even* holy convocations, which ye shall proclaim in their seasons." (Lev 23:4 KJV) This text in Leviticus chapter 23 begins a list of God's feasts (festivals or holy days) that are proclaimed “in their seasons”. Notice that these are God's festivals and not the Jews' festivals as we are so often told, but before we identify what God's Holy Days are let us look at when they occur and how to identify them.

The story begins during the creation week as told in Genesis. "And God said, Let there be lights in the firmament of the heaven to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs, and for seasons, and for days, and years:" (Genesis 1:14 KJV)

We need to take particular note of a couple of words in this passage. The word *signs* comes from the Hebrew word *owth*, which, according to Strong's Concordance of the Bible means “a signal (lit. or fig.), as a flag, beacon, monument, evidence, etc.:--mark, miracle, (en-) sign, token.” It is apparent that the lights in heaven (sun, moon, and stars) were given by God to be a signal or a mark for something. But for what? The answer is contained in the verse. The sun determines our day and our year, but what about the word *seasons* in this passage? According to Strong's Concordance the word *seasons* comes

from the Hebrew word *mo'ed* and means “an appointment, i.e. a fixed time or season; spec. a festival; conventionally a year; by implication, an assembly (as convened for a definite purpose); technically the congregation; by extension, the place of meeting; also a signal (as appointed beforehand):--appointed (sign, time), (place of, solemn) assembly, congregation, (set, solemn) feast, (appointed, due) season, solemn (-ity), synagogue, (set) time (appointed).”

With the definitions that we have discovered for the words *signs* and *seasons* found in Genesis 1:14, we can now start to see a picture of what God is doing. He made the sun to determine the day and the year and He made the moon to determine when His festivals would occur. Psalm 104:19 validates this fact. "He appointed the moon for seasons: the sun knoweth his going down." (Psalm 104:19 KJV) Again the word *seasons* in this passage comes from the Hebrew word *mo'ed*, meaning appointed time or festival. We can see that the moon was indeed given as a sign for God's people to know when to meet with Him on His yearly appointed Holy Days. Now let us look at what God's Holy Days are.

CHAPTER 2

GOD'S FESTIVALS

God's Weekly Holy Day The Seventh-day Sabbath

Leviticus 23:3 lists God's first Holy Day. "Six days shall work be done: but the seventh day *is* the sabbath of rest, an holy convocation; ye shall do no work *therein*: it *is* the sabbath of the LORD in all your dwellings." (Leviticus 23:3 KJV)

Earlier we noted that the seventh day is Saturday and that Saturday is actually the Lord's Day. This text simply reaffirms what we learned earlier. Note that the seventh day is a holy convocation and that no work is to be done on that day. This is very important because we will soon see the same thing said for the Holy Days that occur yearly.

Many Christians believe that the Seventh-day Sabbath was abolished at the cross and replaced with Sunday. However, nowhere does the Bible state that God changed His Sabbath to Sunday. The letter by T. Enright, Catholic Bishop, which was printed in the previous chapter correctly stated that the Catholic Church changed God's Sabbath to Sunday long after the Bible was written; hence this change is not found in the Bible. Man changed the day to Sunday—not God. The New Testament mentions the word *Sabbath* sixty times, and not once does the New Testament anywhere hint that the Sabbath was changed to any other day in any of these texts. Conversely, the New Testament only speaks of the first day, or Sunday, eight times,

and not once is there any mention that the first day of the week is now the Sabbath. Of these eight texts that mention the first day, or Sunday, five of them are speaking of Jesus being resurrected on the first day. None of these texts mention any change in the Sabbath from Saturday to Sunday. These five texts are: Matthew 28:1, Mark 16:2, Mark 16:9, Luke 24:1, and John 20:1. This leaves only three *first day* texts to examine. The first text is John 20:19 which says that the disciples “were assembled for fear of the Jews.” No mention is made of any kind of worship or church service being held. The second text is 1 Corinthians 16:2 which states that on the first day of the week the people were to set aside their offerings. In other words, they were to do an accounting of their finances on the first day of the week and set aside their offerings so that when Paul came to visit they would be ready to give him their tithes and offerings. No mention is made of any kind of worship day or the Sabbath being changed to Sunday. The last text is Acts 20:7-11 which states “And upon the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul preached unto them, ready to depart on the morrow; and continued his speech until midnight. And there were many lights in the upper chamber, where they were gathered together. And there sat in a window a certain young man named Eutychus, being fallen into a deep sleep: and as Paul was long preaching, he sunk down with sleep, and fell down from the third loft, and was taken up dead. And Paul went down, and fell on him, and embracing him said, ‘Trouble not yourselves; for his life is in him. When he therefore was come up again, and had broken bread, and eaten, and talked a long while, even till break of day, so he departed.’” This is the only

text in the New Testament which speaks of a religious service being held on the first day of the week and one would not want to make a whole doctrine dependent upon one text! However, upon examining this text in great detail, we can see that this service was held in the evening of the first day of the week. The Jews' day began at sundown and continued through the next day until sundown. (Genesis 1:5,8,13,19,23,31, and Leviticus 23:32) Therefore this meeting was held on Saturday evening and continued until early Sunday morning, at which time Paul left on his trip. So Paul spent most of Sunday traveling, not at church. This certainly does not sound like Paul was observing Sunday as a Sabbath, does it? God's Word, the Bible, never speaks of the Sabbath being changed to any other day. Furthermore, the Bible does tell us that Jesus and the early Christians held church services on the Seventh-day Sabbath (Luke 4:16, Acts 13:14,44, Acts 15:21, Acts 16:13, Acts 17:1-2, and Acts 18:4).

A pastor who observes the Seventh-day Sabbath has a current challenge on his website offering a million dollars to anyone who can produce "a verse from the Holy Bible showing that God commands us to keep holy the first day of the week" – Sunday – "instead of the seventh day" – Saturday – "as is commanded in the Bible" (www.seventh-day.org). World Net Daily News ran an article about this offer. This news article is posted on the pastor's website and contains the following amazing admission. "I am afraid that you are not going to find an exact Bible verse to counter the good pastor's challenge and collect," says James Efird, professor of biblical interpretation at Duke University Divinity School in North Carolina. "As far as

I know, there is no verse which specifies that Sunday is the day for Christians to observe the Sabbath.”

God’s Yearly Holy Days

Leviticus 23:4 states, “These *are* the feasts of the LORD, *even* holy convocations, which ye shall proclaim in their seasons.” (Lev 23:4 KJV) The word *seasons* in this passage again comes from the Hebrew word mo’ed, which you may remember means “an appointment, i.e. a fixed time or season; spec. **a festival; conventionally a year**; by implication, an assembly (as convened for a definite purpose)”. All of the festivals listed after verse four in this chapter occur only on a yearly basis.

We strongly suggest that you carefully and prayerfully read all of Leviticus chapter 23 to get the complete picture. We will only quote those verses that directly apply to the yearly Holy Days. We will briefly point out each of the Holy Days in this chapter and then will point out the prophetic significance of these days later on in the book.

The first month of God’s calendar generally begins on the first new moon after the spring equinox, which is about March 21. The new moon is marked when the first sliver can be seen, which is different from the new moon on your calendar, which occurs during the dark part of the moon. You can see the sliver of the new moon low on the horizon right at sunset. From sundown when you see the sliver of the new moon until sundown the next day is day one of the new month.

Passover

Passover occurs on the fourteenth day of the first month. "In the fourteenth *day* of the first month at even *is* the Lord's passover." (Leviticus 23:5 KJV) Passover is an important festival, but it is not one of the Holy Days where no work is to be done.

Unleavened Bread

"And on the fifteenth day of the same month *is* the feast of unleavened bread unto the LORD: seven days ye must eat unleavened bread. In the first day ye shall have an holy convocation: ye shall do no servile work therein. But ye shall offer an offering made by fire unto the LORD seven days: in the seventh day *is* an holy convocation: ye shall do no servile work *therein*." (Leviticus 23:6-8 KJV) Notice that the first and seventh days of this festival are Holy Days where no work is to be done and that this festival begins on the fifteenth day of the first month.

Firstfruits

"Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, When ye be come into the land which I give unto you, and shall reap the harvest thereof, then ye shall bring a sheaf of the firstfruits of your harvest unto the priest: And he shall wave the sheaf before the LORD, to be accepted for you: on the morrow after the sabbath the priest shall wave it." (Leviticus 23:10-11 KJV) Firstfruits, like Passover, is a yearly festival, but it is not one of

the Holy Days where work is not to be done. It occurs the day after the Sabbath, which in this case is the annual Sabbath of the first day of Unleavened Bread. There is a controversy between various groups regarding which Sabbath is meant in verse eleven. It is our belief that the context is in line with it being the first Sabbath of Unleavened Bread, which would be the sixteenth day of the first month.

Pentecost

"And ye shall count unto you from the morrow after the sabbath, from the day that ye brought the sheaf of the wave offering; seven sabbaths shall be complete. Even unto the morrow after the seventh sabbath shall ye number fifty days;" (Leviticus 23:15-16 KJV)

Fifty days from Firstfruits brings us to Pentecost, which will always be on the same day of the week that Firstfruits is on. In verse twenty one we find that Pentecost is a Holy Day and that it is to be observed forever. "And ye shall proclaim on the selfsame day, *that* it may be an **holy convocation** unto you: ye shall **do no servile work** therein: *it shall be a statute for ever* in all your dwellings throughout your generations." (Leviticus 23:21 KJV)

Trumpets

"Speak unto the children of Israel, saying, In the seventh month, in the first *day* of the month, shall ye have a sabbath, a memorial of blowing of trumpets, an holy convocation. Ye shall do no servile work *therein*: " (Leviticus 23:24-25 KJV)

Notice that Trumpets is also called a Sabbath and that no work is to be done on that day.

Day of Atonement

"Also on the tenth *day* of this seventh month *there shall be* a day of atonement: it shall be an **holy convocation** unto you; and ye shall afflict your souls, and offer an offering made by fire unto the LORD. And ye shall **do no work in that same day**: for it *is* a day of atonement, to make an atonement for you before the LORD your God. For whatsoever soul *it be* that shall not be afflicted in that same day, he shall be cut off from among his people. And whatsoever soul *it be* that doeth any work in that same day, the same soul will I destroy from among his people. **Ye shall do no manner of work: it shall be a statute for ever** throughout your generations in all your dwellings. **It shall be unto you a sabbath of rest**, and ye shall afflict your souls: in the ninth *day* of the month at even, from even unto even, shall ye celebrate your sabbath." (Leviticus 23:27-32 KJV) The Day of Atonement is the most solemn of God's festivals. It points forward to our judgment day, which we will discuss later. Note that this day is a holy convocation where no work is to be done and that it is also a Sabbath and a statute forever.

Tabernacles

"Speak unto the children of Israel, saying, The fifteenth day of this seventh month *shall be* the feast of tabernacles *for* seven days unto the LORD. On **the first day shall be an holy**

convocation: ye shall do no servile work *therein.* Seven days ye shall offer an offering made by fire unto the LORD: on **the eighth day shall be an holy convocation** unto you; and ye shall offer an offering made by fire unto the LORD: it is a solemn assembly; *and ve shall do no servile work* *therein.*" (Leviticus 23:34-36 KJV) When God repeats information, He wants us to know that He takes the information very seriously. Look at verses 39-41. "Also in the fifteenth day of the seventh month, when ye have gathered in the fruit of the land, ye shall keep a feast unto the LORD seven days: on **the first day shall be a sabbath**, and on **the eighth day shall be a sabbath**. And ye shall take you on the first day the boughs of goodly trees, branches of palm trees, and the boughs of thick trees, and willows of the brook; and ye shall rejoice before the LORD your God seven days. And ye shall keep it a feast unto the LORD seven days in the year. **It shall be a statute for ever** in your generations: ye shall celebrate it in the seventh month." (Lev 23:39-41 KJV) We find two Holy Days during this festival, which are called Sabbaths and are to be observed forever.

Leviticus chapter 23 ends the same way that it began. "And Moses declared unto the children of Israel **the feasts of the LORD.**" (Lev 23:44 KJV) We see that these are God's festivals that are to be observed forever by all of His people and that they are not just for the Jews.

In Review

All of God's festivals are contained in Leviticus chapter 23. His first Holy Day is the seventh day Sabbath, which occurs every week. Seven other Holy Days occur every year: the first and seventh days of Unleavened Bread, Pentecost, Trumpets, Day of Atonement, and the first and eighth days of Tabernacles. Passover and Firstfruits are festivals, but are not Holy Days.

CHAPTER 3

WERE GOD'S FESTIVALS NAILED TO THE CROSS?

When we were first introduced to the Annual Holy Days we thought that they had been nailed to the cross. We knew that the ceremonial system, which is made up of sacrifices and oblations (meal offerings, etc) that pointed forward to Jesus' death on the cross were no longer needed after the cross. Daniel 9:27 clearly showed that. "And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week **he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease...**" (Daniel 9:27 KJV)

The phrase "in the midst of the week" that we just quoted is rather interesting, but we will need to lay some ground work before the phrase makes much sense. When Adam and Eve sinned they were sentenced to hard labor on this earth. They labored for six days and then they were given a day of rest on the seventh day. This is a mini model of what God has done for the human race. "But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day *is* with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day." (2 Peter 3:8 KJV) Looking at this verse it is easy to see that six thousand years is like six days to God. If you add up all of the years in the genealogies in the Bible, it will take you to a known date in history. If we then add that total time to today, we can see that we are approximately 6,000 years from creation. If God has given mankind six thousand years (six days in God's time) for man to be sentenced to hard labor with the sin experiment, then we can

see that our time of hard labor is nearly up. The seventh day in God's week (1,000 years or the millennium spoken of in the Bible) is nearly upon us and we will soon begin the great Millennial Sabbath of rest in heaven with God.

Now that we have laid the groundwork let us go back to the phrase "in the midst of the week" in Daniel 9:27. We know that a week is made up of seven days and that the middle of the week is Wednesday, which is the fourth day of the week. We know from history and the genealogies in the Bible that Jesus, our Messiah, died approximately 2000 years ago, or 4,000 years after sin entered this world, which is in the middle of God's great week of 7,000 years. Daniel 9:27 is therefore a prophecy providing a time stamp to let us know where we are in God's great week of time. We are now nearly 2,000 years past that point in history and God's great Millennial Sabbath of rest is nearly upon us.

We knew that all of God's Festivals had sacrifices connected with them (see Numbers chapter 28) and so we assumed for that reason that the Festivals were part of the ceremonial law that was nailed to the cross. The problem was that we had to ignore all of those verses in Leviticus chapter 23 that said that these Festivals were statutes that were to be in effect forever. We were surprised to see that God's weekly Festival (Saturday) was so closely associated with the seven annual Festivals. It began to appear that all of God's Festivals either stood together or fell together. We decided to look in the New Testament and see what the Apostles had to say on this subject after the cross.

Paul's Teaching

Paul was a Pharisee whose ambition was to stamp out this heresy called Christianity that was infecting Judaism. Through a miraculous experience (you can read about it in Acts chapter 9) Paul became a converted Christian who turned the world upside down with his teaching and preaching of the Messiah. Paul was the top student of Gamaliel, who was the preeminent teacher in the whole country of Israel. In spite of this Paul preached what Jesus Himself taught him—not what he learned at the feet of Gamaliel. Let us hear it straight from Paul himself. "**But I certify you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached of me is not after man. For I neither received it of man, neither was I taught it, but by the revelation of Jesus Christ.**" For ye have heard of my conversation in time past in the Jews' religion, how that beyond measure I persecuted the church of God, and wasted it: And profited in the Jews' religion above many my equals in mine own nation, being more exceedingly zealous of the traditions of my fathers. But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb, and called *me* by his grace, to reveal his Son in me, that I might preach him among the heathen; immediately I conferred not with flesh and blood: Neither went I up to Jerusalem to them which were apostles before me; but I went into Arabia, and returned again unto Damascus. Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to see Peter, and abode with him fifteen days. But other of the apostles saw I none, save James the Lord's brother. Now the things which I write unto you, behold, before God, I lie not." (Galatians 1:11-20 KJV)
Paul spent three years in the wilderness of Arabia being taught

by Jesus what he was supposed to preach and teach. What an experience that must have had Jesus as his teacher!

Paul was so sure that what he was teaching was the truth that he told people to do as he did. "Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and the God of peace shall be with you." (Philippians 4:9 KJV) If Paul was directly taught by Jesus and Paul said to follow his example, then do you not think that we ought to follow what Paul says to do and what the Holy Spirit had Paul write into the Bible to do? Actually most of us want to follow Jesus and Paul until they tell us to do something that is contrary to our thinking or that makes us uncomfortable. At this point too many of us try to spiritualize away what Paul says or we say that Paul had a hard time giving up his Jewish traditions. What we are really saying is that either Paul was a poor student or that Jesus was a poor teacher. Either one of those options puts us directly in opposition to the clear word of scripture. We need to look at what Paul taught his Gentile converts to do and also what he did himself.

"But bade them farewell, saying, I must by all means keep this feast that cometh in Jerusalem: but I will return again unto you, if God will. And he sailed from Ephesus." (Acts 18:21 KJV) The word *keep* in this text means to fulfill, observe, or perform, according to Strong's Concordance. Paul clearly states to his Gentile converts in Ephesus that he is going to keep or perform the feast in Jerusalem. We try to say that he is simply going to Jerusalem at the feast time in order to convert the thousands of people coming to Jerusalem during that time of year, but that is not what the text says. Be careful not to make a text say more or less than what it says. Here is another

example. "For Paul had determined to sail by Ephesus, because he would not spend the time in Asia: for he hasted, if it were possible for him, to be at Jerusalem the day of Pentecost." (Acts 20:16 KJV)

Paul clearly understood the spiritual meanings of God's Festivals and he taught his Gentile converts to not only observe the Festivals, but to also understand their deep spiritual meanings. 1 Corinthians 5:7-8 is a good example. Remember that the Corinthians were Gentile converts that Paul was teaching. "Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. For even Christ our passover is sacrificed for us: **Therefore let us keep the feast**, not with old leaven, neither with the leaven of malice and wickedness; but with the unleavened *bread* of sincerity and truth." (1 Corinthians 5:7-8 KJV) Paul is clearly teaching his Gentile converts to not only keep God's Festivals, but is also teaching them the deep spiritual meanings contained therein.

Jesus is Our Example in All Things

Jesus gave us an example of how to celebrate Passover in Luke 22:8-20 by observing the foot washing and Communion at Passover time. Notice that Jesus did not slay or eat a lamb on this day. 1 Peter 2:21 states, "Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example that ye should follow His steps." Since Jesus celebrated the foot washing and Communion without the sacrificial system on Passover, so should we. In Luke 22:16 Jesus said, "With desire I have desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer; For I say unto you, I will not anymore eat thereof, until it (Passover) be fulfilled in the kingdom of God." [Parentheses inserted.] Jesus is saying that Passover is not fulfilled until

heaven. In Matthew 5:18 Jesus said, "For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled." Since Passover is not yet fulfilled we should still be observing it, as Jesus did, with the foot washing and Communion meal.

Jesus called Communion by the name of Passover, and observed it at a home on Passover evening. He said in Luke 22:19, "this do in remembrance of me." It is noteworthy that Passover is called by the name of Communion or Mass, is not celebrated in a home, but celebrated at all times of the year except on Passover itself. If it were not for Easter, most of Christianity would not have a clue as to the time of year when Passover occurs. Remember that the Catholic Church changed the name, time, and place of celebrating God's Festivals and most of Christianity has followed along.

The Bible records that Jesus also kept the Sabbath. "And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up: and, **as his custom** was, he went into the synagogue on the sabbath day, and stood up for to read." (Luke 4:16 KJV) Jesus, being Jewish, would have recognized that the Sabbath day was the seventh day of the week—the day that we call Saturday. If Jesus is our example in all things and He kept the Sabbath on Saturday, then do you not think that we should do the same? Remember that He is Lord of the Sabbath (Saturday). "Therefore the Son of man is Lord also of the **sabbath**." (Mark 2:28 KJV)

The Bible also records that Jesus observed the Feast of Tabernacles in John chapter seven. However, note that Jesus never sacrificed a lamb because He knew that when He died on the cross then the sacrificial system, which was the sacrificing of a lamb when someone sinned and which God commanded

when sin entered this world, would end. Everything Jesus did was an example for us today. (1 Peter 2:21)

The Holy Spirit Came on Pentecost

A rather amazing story is recorded in Acts chapter 2. Fifty-two days after the crucifixion of Jesus the disciples were gathered together on the festival of Pentecost when all of a sudden the Holy Spirit fell on them in a powerful way. You may want to read the account for yourself. They were filled with great power and were able to speak in different languages, which was rather amazing for this simple group of uneducated fishermen.

If, as most Christians believe, the festivals are part of the ceremonial law (the sacrificial system) that was done away with at the cross, then why did God choose to honor the festival of Pentecost by sending His Holy Spirit to His disciples on that day? Obviously God is giving evidence that His festivals were not done away with at the cross and therefore they are part of the moral law and not part of the ceremonial law.

The Woman at the Well

Some say that since the Jews were instructed to keep God's Holy Days at the temple in Jerusalem, we cannot keep these Holy Days because the temple no longer exists. The woman at the well brought up this very subject. "The woman saith unto Him, Sir, I perceive that thou art a prophet. Our fathers worshipped in this mountain; and ye say, that in Jerusalem is the place where men

ought to worship.” (John 4:19-20) Notice Jesus’ answer to this question. “Woman, believe me, the hour cometh, when ye shall neither in this mountain, nor yet at Jerusalem, worship the Father. But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship Him.” (John 4:21, 23) Jesus was telling this woman that now God’s true people can worship Him anywhere and observe His Holy Days anywhere. Jesus affirmed this truth again in Matthew 18:20, “For where two or three are gathered together in My Name, there am I in the midst of them.”

What have we learned so far? God has one weekly Festival Holy Day plus seven yearly Festival Holy Days. Paul was taught by Jesus and he taught his Gentile converts to keep all of God’s Holy Festivals long after the cross. Jesus is our example in all things and He observed God’s Festivals. None of God’s Festivals were nailed to the cross and they are therefore still valid for us today.

CHAPTER 4

GOD'S FESTIVALS DOWN THROUGH THE AGES

The evidence shows that the early Christian church observed all of God's Holy Days. Historians also testify that the early Christian church observed these days. "Far be it from us to charge John with foolishness, for he observed the precepts of the Law of Moses literally, at a time when the church still followed the Jews in many things; and the Apostles were not able suddenly to set aside the entire observance of the Law laid down by God...So, John, according to the custom of the Law, began the celebration of the feast of Easter on the evening of the fourteenth day of the first month, paying no attention to whether it fell on the Sabbath or on some other day." (Bede's *The Ecclesiastical History of the English People* for *The Great Histories Series* by Washington Square Press, N.Y., 1968) (Note that Bede incorrectly called Passover by the name of Easter.)

"[p. 505] Therefore we keep the day undeviatingly, neither adding nor taking away, for in Asia [Minor] great luminaries sleep, and they will rise on the day of the coming of the Lord, when he shall come with glory from heaven and seek out all the saints. Such were Phillip. . . and two of his daughters. . . .[p. 507] There is also John who lay on the Lord's breast. . . .And there is also Polycarp at Smyrna, both bishop and martyr, and Thraseas, both bishop and martyr, from Eumenaea. . . .[Also] Sagaris, . . . Papirius, . . . and Melito. . . . all of these kept the fourteenth day of the Passover according to the gospel, never swerving, but following according to the rule of the faith. And I also, Polycrates, the least of you all, live according to the tradition of my kinsmen,

and some of them have I followed. For seven of my family were bishops and I am the eighth, and my kinsmen ever kept the day when the people put away the leaven. Therefore, brethren, I who have lived sixty-five years in the Lord and conversed with brethren from every country, and have studied all holy Scripture am not afraid of threats, for they have said, who were greater than I, ‘It is better to obey God rather than men.’” “Source: Polycrates, Letter to Victor, Bishop of Rome, quoted in *Eusebius’ Ecclesiastical History* v. 24. 2-8; translated by Kirsopp Lake, Vol. 1 (Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 1949), pp. 505, 507, 509.

John the Revelator still observed Passover, on the very day of Passover, well after the cross. John learned this from Jesus Himself. See Luke 22:14-20. John would have been observing Passover the way Jesus taught them to at the Last Supper, with unleavened bread and unfermented grape juice, instead of slaying and eating a lamb. Notice that Polycrates said, “It is better to obey God rather than men.” Polycrates said this because the early Christians were already being threatened for observing Passover on the 14th day of the first month.

The following quote is from *The History of Protestantism* by the Rev. J. A. Wylie, LL.D. This quote shows that the early Christians still observed Passover and that it was the Catholic Church who did away with Passover, changing it to Easter. “While the ‘living oracles’ were neglected, the zeal of the clergy began to spend itself upon rites and ceremonies borrowed from the pagans. These were multiplied to such a degree, that Augustine complained that they were ‘less tolerable than the yoke of the Jews under the law.’ [4] At this period the Bishops of Rome wore costly attire, gave sumptuous banquets, and when they went abroad were carried in litters. [5] They now began to speak with an authoritative voice, and to demand obedience from all the

Churches. Of this the dispute between the Eastern and Western Churches respecting Easter is an instance in point. The Eastern Church, following the Jews, kept the feast on the 14th day of the month Nisan [6]—the day of the Jewish Passover. The Churches of the West, and especially that of Rome, kept Easter on the Sabbath following the 14th day of Nisan. Victor, Bishop of Rome, resolved to put an end to the controversy, and accordingly, sustaining himself sole judge in this weighty point, he commanded all the Churches to observe the feast on the same day with himself. The Churches of the East, not aware that the Bishop of Rome had authority to command their obedience in this or in any other matter, kept Easter as before; and for this flagrant contempt, as Victor accounted it, of his legitimate authority, he excommunicated them. [7] They refused to obey a human ordinance, and they were shut out from the kingdom of the Gospel. This was the first peal of those thunders which were in after times to roll so often and so terribly from the Seven Hills." (J.A. Wylie's History of Protestantism, Chapter Two, "Declension of the Early Church")

"From Rome there came now another addition to the sun-worshipping apostasy. The first Christians being mostly Jews, continued to celebrate, in remembrance of the death of Christ, the true Passover; and this was continued among those who from among the Gentiles had turned to Christ. Accordingly, the celebration was always on the Passover day, the fourteenth of the first month. Rome, however, and from her all the West, adopted the day of the sun as the day of this coloration. According to the Eastern custom, the celebration, being on the fourteenth day of the month, would of course fall on different days of the week as the years resolved. The rule of Rome was that the celebration must always be on a Sunday." (*Great Empires of Prophecy*, 1898, p. 389 by A.T. Jones)

“The arrogant pretensions of the bishop of Rome, to secure power over the whole church, was first asserted in behalf of Sunday by Victor, who was bishop of Rome from A.D. 193 to 202. He wrote an imperious letter to the Asiatic prelates commanding them to imitate the example of the Western Christians with respect to the time of celebrating the festival of Easter [that is commanding them to celebrate it on Sunday]...The Asiatics answered this lordly requisition...with great power and resolution, that they would by no means depart in this manner from the custom handed down to them by their ancestors. Upon this the thunder of excommunication began to roar. Victor, exasperated by this resolute answer of the Asiatic bishops, broke communion with them, pronounced them unworthy of the name of his brethren, and excluded them from all fellowship with the church of Rome.” (*The National Sunday Law*, The Sentinel Library, Pacific Press Publ. Co. 1888, A.T. Jones, p. 68.)

“The eastern churches celebrated the resurrection of Christ annually two days after the Passover feast. They commemorated the resurrection on whatever day of the week the sixteenth day of the month fell. This was in harmony with the way the Bible regulated the Old Testament Passover feast...In addition to their yearly spring festival at Easter time, sun worshippers also had a weekly festival holiday. As was previously pointed out, the first day of the week had widespread recognition as being sacred to the sun. The bishop of Rome, seeking to outrival pagan pomp, assaulted those churches which celebrated Easter as a moveable feast. He determined to force Easter to come on the same day of the week each year, namely, Sunday. By this he would create a precedent which only a devout and scholarly opposition could expose. By this he would appeal to the popular prejudices of his age, be they ever so incorrect. By this he would claim to be the lord of the calendar, that instrument so indispensable to civilized

nations. By this he would assert the right to appoint church festivals and holy days. By this he would confuse and perplex other church communions more simple and scriptural than he. Only those who have read carefully the history of the growth of papal power will ever know how powerfully the controversy concerning Easter served in the hands of the bishops of Rome...God had ordained that the Passover of the Old Testament should be celebrated in the spring of the year on the fourteenth day of the first Bible month. Heathenism in the centuries before Christ, had a counterfeit yearly holiday celebrating the spring equinox of the sun. It was called 'Eostre' from the Scandinavian word for the goddess of spring, from whence we get our word 'Easter.'" (*Truth Triumphant*, by B.G. Wilkinson, Ph.D., pp. 123-125) Notice that B.G. Wilkinson states that the heathen's celebration of Easter was a counterfeit of Passover. Satan always counterfeits God's truth in order to muddy the waters and confuse people.

In the *Catholic Encyclopedia* the Catholic Church states that they changed Passover to Easter under Pope Victor. In this quote the Catholics call the Christians who observed Passover *Quartodecimans*. According to J.A. Wylie, church historian, the word *Quartodecimans* means "fourteenth-day men" in reference to those who observed Passover because they observed this Holy Day on the fourteenth day of the first Jewish month, according to the Bible in Exodus 12:2,6. (*History of the Scottish Nation*, p. 665) "Internal dissensions during this era affected the Church at Rome. The dispute over the celebration of Easter grew more acute. The Christians at Rome, who had come from the province of Asia, were accustomed to observe Easter on the 14th day of Nisan, whatever day of the week that date might happen to fall on, just as they had done at home. This difference inevitably led to trouble when it appeared in the Christian community of Rome.

Pope Victor decided, therefore, to bring about unity in the observance of the Easter festival and to persuade the Quartodecimans to join in the general practice of the Church. He wrote, therefore, to Bishop Polycrates of Ephesus and induced the latter to call together the bishops of the province of Asia in order to discuss the matter with them. This was done; but in the letter sent by Polycrates to Pope Victor he declared that he firmly held to the Quartodeciman custom observed by so many celebrated and holy bishops of that region. Victor called a meeting of Italian bishops at Rome, which is the earliest Roman synod known. He also wrote to the leading bishops of the various districts, urging them to call together the bishops of their sections of the country and to take counsel with them on the question of the Easter festival. Letters came from all sides: from the synod in Palestine, at which Theophilus of Caesarea and Narcissus of Jerusalem presided; from the synod of Pontus over which Palmas as the oldest presided; from the communities in Gaul whose bishop of Irenaeus of Lyons; from the bishops of the Kingdom of Osrhoene; also from individual bishops, as Bakchylus of Corinth. These letters all unanimously reported that Easter was observed on Sunday. Victor, who acted throughout the entire matter as the head of Catholic Christendom, now called upon the bishops of the province of Asia to abandon their custom and to accept the universally prevailing practice of always celebrating Easter on Sunday. In case they would not do this he declared they would be excluded from the fellowship of the Church." (obtained from the *Catholic Encyclopedia* at www.newadvent.org)

"Not until the council of Nice in 325 A.D. decreed that Easter should be kept on the Sunday next after the first full moon on or after the vernal equinox was there a definite day for the observance of Easter. **Here is the evidence that it has a human origin**, as it was not known until after the fourth century just

when Easter would be.” [Emphasis added] (*Medieval and Modern History*, by Meyers, p. 4)

“The rule of Rome was that the celebration must always be on a Sunday—the Sunday nearest to the fourteenth day of the first month of the Jewish year. And if the fourteenth day of that month should of itself be a Sunday, then the celebration was not to be held on that day, but upon the next Sunday. One reason of this was not only to be as like the heathen as possible, but to be as unlike the Jews as possible...this, in order not only to facilitate the conversion of the heathen by conforming to their customs, but also by pandering to their spirit of contempt and hatred of the Jews. It was upon this point that the bishop of Rome made his first open attempt at absolutism.” (*The Two Republics* by A.T. Jones, p. 214)

“...it seemed to every one a most unworthy thing that we should follow the custom of the Jews in the celebration of this holy solemnity, who, polluted wretches! Having stained their hands with nefarious crime, are justly blinded in their minds. It is, therefore, that rejecting the practice of this people, we should perpetuate to all future ages the celebration of this rite, in a more legitimate order, which we have kept from the first day of our Lord’s passion even to the present times....Let us then have nothing in common with the most hostile rabble of the Jews...and to sum up the whole in a few words, it is agreeable to the common judgment of all, that the most holy feast of Easter should be celebrated on one and the same day.” Constantine at the Council of Nice in 325 A.D. (*A Historical View of the Council of Nice*, translation by Isaac Boyle, T. Madison, and G. Lane, New York, 1839, pp. 51,54) In the preceding quote the author is quoting the words of Constantine at the Council of Nice in 325 A.D. Notice that the reason Constantine gives for changing Passover to Easter is because of hatred of the Jews, not because of any command from God. Constantine changed the weekly day of worship from

the Sabbath on the seventh-day to Sunday for the same reasons. Hatred of the Jews is not a good reason to set aside the Word of God. Most people do not know why God's Holy Days were abolished by the majority of Christians. The time has come to discover that the reason was based upon hatred and not upon the Word of God. Just because celebrating Easter instead of Passover has been done for centuries does not make it right.

"The great church festival of those days was Easter, and the manner in which this observance was kept was the main point of distinction between the Eastern and the Western churches. The Church of Asia Minor observed Easter according to a mode of reckoning which made the festival fall on the fourteenth day of the month, whatever the day of the week. The Church of Italy, on the other hand, observed Easter by a mode of reckoning which made the feast always fall on a Sabbath, whatever day of the month that might chance to be. **The Christians of Britain, following another custom than that of Italy, always observed Easter on the fourteenth day of the month.** On this great testing question they were ruled by the authority of the Eastern Church, and in this they plainly showed that their first christianization came not from the city of the Caesars, but from that land which was the cradle of the Gospel and the scene of the ministry of the apostles." (Wylie's *History of the Scottish Nation*, p. 187)

"The controversy respecting Easter is one of the more famous in ecclesiastical history. It was eminently one of the battlegrounds betwixt the Eastern and Western Churches in the early centuries. The controversy reached Scotland in the eighth century, having been brought hither by the Romanizers from Canterbury, who wished to impose their mode of celebration upon the Columban clergy. It was the door by which the followers of Columba would enter the great Western Church. But as the majority of the Columbites had no desire to be included in that pale, or to have

any close connection with the Roman bishop, they declined compliance with a rite which was universally interpreted as a badge of Roman servitude. The controversy was therefore as hotly waged almost in Scotland as in the churches of Asia and Europe. It is necessary we should understand a little of the merits of this question...It was judged decorous that this festival should be observed by all Christian churches throughout the world on the same day. It was at this point that division and strife entered. The Eastern Church kept Easter on the same day on which the Jews had celebrated the passover; that is, they kept it on the fourteenth day of the first moon after the vernal equinox, even though that day should be an ordinary weekday. The Western Church, on the other hand, observed Easter on a Sabbath, or first day of the week, that being the day on which our Lord rose, and never on a weekday. The first Sabbath after the fourteenth day of the vernal or paschal moon was the day of Western observance. The Eastern Church pleaded the example of the Jews, who kept the passover only on the fourteenth of the month Nisan, but the Western Church refused the authority of that example, and denounced the oriental Christians for celebrating the resurrection on what they deemed the wrong day, as almost as heinous offenders as if they had denied the fact of the resurrection altogether. Conferences were held betwixt the Eastern and Western Churches, embassies were exchanged, excommunications were threatened, but the scandal of two different celebrations was not removed. The war went on till Constantine ascended the throne, and got a decree passed in the Council of Nicea, ordaining that henceforth Easter should be observed East and West only on a Sabbath, or first day of the week. (*Socrates, Hist. Eccl.*, i. 9; *Eusebius, Vita Const.*, iii. 17) The Scots had received their Christianity from the East, and along with it the ‘time’ of Easter celebration. They were Quartodecimans, as the phrase was, that is, Fourteenth-day men.

Their practices corresponded with the Paschal table of Anatolius, Bishop of Laodicea in Syria, who had, in the year 277, drawn up a canon on the basis of the nineteen years cycle in which the 19th March was considered as the vernal equinox. (Bellesheim's *History of the Catholic Church of Scotland*, vol. i. 135 Edin., 1887) But this displeased that Church which now called herself the 'mother and mistress of all Churches.' She could not tolerate the slightest deviation from her own practice, and accordingly sent, as we have seen, her agents to the Scots, with her 'scissors' in the one hand, and her 'paschal tables' in the other, to impose upon them uniformity." (*History of the Scottish Nation*, pp. 663-666) Notice that in this quote the author, J.A. Wylie, incorrectly called Sunday the Sabbath.

Wylie further elaborates, stating that Queen Margaret tried to get the Scottish people to change from observing Passover to observing Easter. "The points raised were these: uniformity of rite, the Lenten fast, the observance of the Sabbath, the practice of marriage, the celebration of the eucharist, and the time of the observance of Easter. The Scottish Church and her clergy were charged on all these points, as being in error, and needing to be 'brought back into the way of truth.' Is not this a clear admission that the Columban Church in the **end of the eleventh century** still occupied separate ground from Rome? that she refused to receive the Roman laws and customs, and that she was not subject to the Roman jurisdiction, but on the contrary maintained her ancient independence? And does it not cut the ground from beneath the feet of those who assert that the Scottish Church by this time was, and had for some centuries previous, been one with the Church of Rome in doctrine and worship? Surely Queen Margaret would not have convoked a conference to bring about a union between two churches if they were already one and the same? A more decided proof there could not be of the

independence and anti-Romanism of the Scottish Church of the eleventh century.” (*History of the Scottish Nation*, p. 650) Notice that in addition to the Passover versus Easter controversy, another point of contention was that of the observance of the Seventh-day Sabbath versus the observance of Sunday. Notice also that the Scottish church was still observing God’s Holy Days in the eleventh century.

“And thus shall ye eat it; with your loins girded, your shoes on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and ye shall eat it in haste: it is the Lord’s Passover.” (Exodus 12:11) In the King James Version, the footnote for this verse explains what Passover means—“a passing over to the Lord.” Is it not time that we pass over to the Lord by observing Passover the way Jesus taught us to at the Last Supper?

Early Christians observed Passover by celebrating the Lord’s Supper on that very day. They separated the sacrificial system from the day and celebrated Passover without slaying a lamb. Very few Christians today celebrate the Lord’s Supper on Passover Day. Most Christians do not even know the date for Passover. How tragic that the very day on which Jesus died for us is ignored by the majority of the Christian world. How sad He must feel!

The Waldenses Observed the Seventh-day Sabbath and God’s Holy Days

Down through the ages God has always had His people who observed His Holy Days. God preserved the true Christian faith through the Waldenses. The Waldenses were converts of the apostles and maintained their faith until the nineteenth century A.D. “For this we have the confession of Raynerus, an inquisitor,

who lived before the middle of the thirteenth century. He ingenuously acknowledgeth, ‘That the heresy of those he calls Waudois, or poor people of Lyons, was of great antiquity. mongst all sects, saith he, cap. 4. that either are or have been, there is none more dangerous to the Church than that of the Leonists, and that for three reasons: the first is, because it is the sect that is of the longest standing of any; for some say it hath been continued down ever since the time of Pope Sylvester, and others, ever since that of the Apostles. The second is, because it is the most general of all sects; for scarcely is there any country to be found, where this sect hath not spread itself.’” (*The Ecclesiastical History of the Ancient Churches of the Piedmont and the Albigenses* by Peter Allix D.D., p. 185)

“The Reformers held that the Waldensian Church was formed about 120 A.D., from which date on, they passed down from father to son the teachings they received from the apostles.” (*Our Authorized Bible Vindicated* by B. G. Willkinson, p. 33)

J.N. Andrews quotes another writer in the following statement. “President Edwards says:—‘Some of the popish writers themselves own that this people never submitted to the church of Rome. One of the popish writers, speaking of the Waldenses, says, The heresy of the Waldenses is the oldest heresy in the world. It is supposed that they first betook themselves to this place among the mountains, to hide themselves from the severity of the heathen persecutions which existed before Constantine the Great.’ (*Edward’s History of Redemption*, period 3, part 4, sec. 2)” (*The History of the Sabbath*, p. 303)

In order to trace the history of the Waldenses we have to understand that they were called by many other names in different localities because the “Catholics had also spent a very long time trying to pretend that these people had no continuous history and that they were local aberrations in time and space of a peculiar

and heretical Judaising mind bent." (Editor's Forward, *The Sabbatarians in Transylvania*, by Samuel Kohn, p. i.) This editor further states, "Jews and Catholics, Orthodox and Protestants have all tried to pretend that there was no continuous or even long extant Sabbatarian church. A non-Trinitarian Sabbath-keeping church keeping the festivals and the food laws and the other non-sacrificial laws of the Old Testament and the teachings of the Christ and the New Testament since the time of the apostles and the NT Church is an embarrassment." (Editor's Forward, *The Sabbatarians in Transylvania*, by Samuel Kohn, p. iii.)

Jean Paul Perrin in his *History of the Ancient Christians*, pp. 44-46, tells us some of the many names, some of which are not complimentary, that the Waldenses were called. They are: Albigenses, Beggars of Lyons, Chaignards or Dogs, Tramontanes, Josephists, Lollards, Henricians, Esperonists, Arnoldists, Siccars, Fraticelli, Patarins, Passagenes, Gazares, Turlupins, Thoulousians, Picards, Bulgarians, Bohemians, Cathari, **Puritans**, Manichees, Gnostics, Adamites, Cataphrigians, Apostolicals, and Sodomites. Peter Allix gives us even more names that the Waldenses were called. "I say, that in the Council of Lateran, under Alexander III. in the year 1179, they are not called Vaudois, but Patetines. True it is, that Gualterus Mappeus, who assisted at that council, where he disputed against them, calls them Valdesii, and speaks of them, as if they had got that name from Petrus Valdo, who had been very famous amongst them. But it is apparent that he did so only to abuse them. Accordingly we find that the canon of the Lateran Council speaks only of the Albigenses, though it is evident he bestowed the several names upon them of Cathari, Paterines, and Publicans only, to render them the more odious; either as having been restorers of old heresies, or as corresponding with the heretics of the diocese of Italy, or as being downright Manichees, which the term Publican

implies, as we have had occasion to observe elsewhere.” (*The Ecclesiastical History of the Ancient Churches of the Piedmont and the Albigenses*, p. 188.)

Elsewhere in the same book Peter Allix testifies to yet other names the Waldenses were called: Cathari (p. 148), Ketters (p. 149), Passagines, Josephines, Arnoldists (p. 260), Leonists, Speronists, Circumsized (p. 265), Bulgarians, Paphlagonians (p. 457), Albigenses, and Manichees (p. 491). Some of these names were given because of the location where they lived. Some of these names were uncomplimentary and given in hatred. Their enemies called them by different names in different places to make it appear as if these people were only a local group and not as wide-spread as they were.

The Waldenses observed the Seventh-day Sabbath. Under the chapter entitled “Exposition of the Waldenses and Albigenses, Upon the Ten Commandments of the Law of God,” Jean Paul Perrin quotes their belief of the Seventh-day Sabbath. “They that will keep and observe the Sabbath of Christians, that is to say, sanctify the day of the Lord, must be careful of four things: the first is, to cease from all earthly and worldly labors: the second, not to sin: the third, not to be idle in regard of good works: the fourth, to do those things that are for the good and benefit of the soul. Of the first it is said; Six days shalt thou labor, and do all that thou hast to do but the seventh is the Sabbath of the Lord thy God: in it thou shalt do no manner of work. And in Exodus it is said, Keep my Sabbath, for it is holy; and he that polluteth it, shall die the death: and in the book of Numbers we read, that one of the children of Israel being seen to gather sticks upon the Sabbath day, he was brought unto Moses, who not knowing what course to take therein, the Lord said unto Moses; This man shall die the death, all the people shall stone him with stones, and he shall die. God would that his Sabbath should be kept with such reverence, that the children of Israel

durst not gather manna thereon, when it was given them from heaven.” (*History of the Ancient Christians*, pp. 336-337)

“Another quotation from the church historian, Sozomen, who was a contemporary of Socrates, declares: ‘The people of Constantinople, and almost everywhere, assemble together on the Sabbath, as well as on the first day of the week, which custom is never observed at Rome or at Alexandria.’ (Sozomen, *Ecclesiastical History*, b. 7, ch. 19, found in Nicene and Post-Nicene Fathers, 2d Series, vol. 2)” (*Truth Triumphant*, p. 248) Thus the Waldenses and all Christians, except those at Rome and Alexandria, observed the Seventh-day Sabbath during the first several centuries after the cross.

“The Waldenses were so thoroughly a Bible people that they kept the seventh-day Sabbath as the sacred rest day for centuries. Two centuries after Pope Gregory I (A.D. 602) had issued the bull against the community of Sabbathkeepers in the city of Rome, a church council which disclosed the extent of Sabbathkeeping in that peninsula was held at Friaul, northern Italy (c. A.D. 791). Friaul was one of the three large duchies into which the Lombard kingdom had been originally organized. This council, in its command to all Christians to observe the Lord’s Day, testified to the wide observance of Saturday as follows: ‘Further when speaking of that Sabbath which the Jews observe, the last day of the week, which also all peasants observe.’ (Mansi, *Sacrorum Conciliorum Nova et Amplissima Collectio*, vol. 13, p. 852) About one hundred years later (A.D. 865-867), when the sharp contest between the Church of Rome and the Greek Church over the newly converted Bulgarians and their observance of the Sabbath came to the front, the question again entered into the controversy, as can be seen in the reply of Pope Nicolas I to the one hundred six questions propounded to him by the Bulgarian king.” (Allix, *The Ancient Churches of Piedmont*, p. 154)

In addition to correctly believing that the Mosaic Law ought to be observed, the Waldenses also observed the festivals, or God's Holy Days. Samuel Kohn, a Jewish rabbi, wrote a book about the Bosnian Cathars in Hungary. (Remember that Cathars is another name given the Waldenses as stated earlier.) "The hymnal was written in Hungarian. It consisted of one hundred and two hymns. Forty-four for the Sabbath, five for the New Moon, eleven for Passover and Unleavened Bread, six for the Feast of Weeks, six for Tabernacles, three for New Year, one for Atonement, and twenty-six for everyday purposes." (Bosnia Cathars) 1588-1623
Samuel Kohn: *Die Sabbatharier in Siebenburgen Ihr Gesichte, Literalur, und Dogmatik*, Budapest, Verlag von Singer & Wolfer, 1894; Leipzig, Verlag von Franz Wager, p. 55. Translated by Gerhard O. Marx)

Samuel Kohn elaborates, "Furthermore they celebrated the three main Jewish Feasts: the celebration of the unleavened bread for a week and the Feast of Tabernacles, for which they had provided several songs which tell the history and the meaning of the celebration concerned. In particular the first of these celebrations, which they tended to call Passover in the *Hungarianised* Hebrew term, was held in great admiration among them. They ate only unleavened bread during the time, 'although they had not come out of Egypt themselves with the Jews.' They observed the first and seventh day as high holidays, and the days lying between them, which were designated weekdays of the Passover after the literal translation of the Hebrew designation usual 'with the Jews', demi-feast days. This celebration had for them, apart from its direct Biblical meaning, in addition the significance of 'the future redemption' which Jesus will bring when he comes again to establish the millennial Kingdom of God. One of their Passover hymns refers to this deliverance of which the deliverance of the Jews is a reminder. The memory of the marvelous release of

Israel from Egypt encourages them in their faith in ‘a still more splendid future release.’...They celebrated all of these Jewish celebrations, however, as they so seriously stress at every opportunity, in order to obey the teaching and example of Jesus. They sanctified the Sabbath because one who does not do so does ‘not participate with Christ in eternal life.’ They celebrated ‘the Feast of the Passover of Israel according to the instruction of our Christ,’ and the Feast of Tabernacles, because whoever observes it ‘belongs to Christ.’” (ibid, pp. 106-107)

Kohn also states that these Waldenses did not observe the holidays of the Catholic Church. “The Christian holidays, which, according to their opinion were not prescribed in the Bible, but were the ‘inventions of the Popes’ are left completely disregarded by them.” (ibid, p. 108)

One of their Passover songs reflects their beliefs about the Catholic holidays.

“All pageantry not from the Bible Word
Most certainly arrives from Italy.
Of this truth we bear witness, hearts bestirred,
As far as Rome itself, the Pope’s city.

Just ask the Pope! He shall himself confess
His celebrations do not come from God,
The Jewish statutes God alone will bless,
Where Popes unholy refuse to trod.

He may claim that the Bible is divine,
But his grand liturgies are not found there.
He does not say they are not Rome’s design,
Invented for the god-man’s idol prayer.

However held, Passover in God's Word
As we can clearly read what God commands,
Pope Victor changed, the Jewish rites interred,
Wrote innovations with unholy hands.

The dastard change was implemented when
Commodus ruled in splendid Roman state,
In which year if you count from Christ till then
One hundred seventy will give the date.”
(ibid., p. 57-58)

Another of their hymns also denounces the Catholic Church’s holidays.

Instead of Sabbath, they Sunday hold,
The Passover into Easter transform;
Whitsuntide they boldly make the celebration of the
Fiftieth day.

The New Year and its celebration they do boldly
Shift from the autumn into the winter;
They do not hold all other celebrations—
Just as the Gentiles.”
(ibid., p. 80)

Remember that the name *Puritans* was also another name for the Waldenses. Kohn has a very interesting quote about the Puritans. “We meet similar sects around 1545 among the Quakers in England. Several leaders and preachers of the Puritans, imbued with the Old Testament spirit, likewise raised the issue of reinstating the day of rest from Sunday to Saturday, and even

demanded that the law of the Old Testament be recognized as the law of the State.” (*ibid.*, p. 11)

“These Puritans were also known as the ‘Pilgrim Fathers’, and brought the Sabbath observance to America. This is confirmed by Dugger: In the month of December, 1934, Hugh Sprague, editor of the St. Joseph Gazette (Missouri), wrote an editorial on this very matter. ‘Strange as it may seem in the early history of America there was an attempt at suppression of the Christmas spirit. The stern Puritans at Plymouth, imbued with the rigorous fervor of the Old Testament, abhorred the celebration of the orthodox holidays. Their worship was on the Sabbath (Saturday), rather than Sunday, and Christmas in particular they considered a pagan celebration. Later immigrants attempted to observe Christmas as a time of joy, but were suppressed. Governor Bradford, Elder Brewster, Miles Standish and other leaders were firm against the yuletide spirit as we know it today.’ In a private conversation between Elder A. N. Dugger and Editor Hugh Sprague, after this editorial appeared, the latter stated that the Pilgrims were his direct ancestors, and that he very well knew their religious beliefs and practices. And in addition, he stated that all his grandparents and great-grandparents knew that the Pilgrims of the Mayflower days were strict Sabbathkeepers on the seventh day of the week instead of Sunday.” (*The Bible Study Papers* at www.logon.org)

The Messianic Jews have the following to say about the Feast of Tabernacles. “Many Americans, upon seeing a decorated sukkah for the first time, remark on how much the sukkah (and the holiday generally) reminds them of Thanksgiving. The American pilgrims, who originated the Thanksgiving holiday, were deeply religious people. As they were trying to find a way to express their thanks for their survival and for the harvest, it is quite possible that they looked to the Bible (see Leviticus 23:39) for an appropriate way of

celebrating and based their holiday in part on the Feast of Tabernacles.” (www.biblicalholidays.com)

“The 102 Pilgrims who sailed on board the Mayflower, fleeing religious oppression, were well acquainted with annual thanksgiving day celebrations. The custom was ancient and universal. The Greeks had honored Demeter, goddess of agriculture; the Romans had paid tribute to Ceres, the goddess of corn; while the Hebrews had offered thanks for abundant harvests with the eight-day Feast of Tabernacles. These customs had never really died out in the Western world.” (*Panati's Extraordinary Origins of Everyday Things*, p. 64)

Some of the Puritans observed the Seventh-day Sabbath and God’s Holy Days while rejecting pagan and Catholic holidays. Most likely the first Thanksgiving was their celebration of the Feast of Tabernacles. It is probable that the Puritans knew that the harvest feasts of the pagans mentioned in the previous quote by Panati were Satan’s counterfeit of the Feast of Tabernacles. (More on Satan’s counterfeits of God’s Holy Days are coming later in this book.)

“In 1659, the General Court of Massachusetts enacted a law making any observance of December 25 (other than a church service) a penal offense; people were fined for hanging decorations. That stern solemnity continued until the nineteenth century, when the influx of German and Irish immigrants undermined the Puritan legacy. In 1856, the poet Henry Wadsworth Longfellow commented: ‘we are in a transition state about Christmas here in New England. The old Puritan feeling prevents it from being a cheerful hearty holiday; though every year makes it more so.’ In that year, Christmas was made a legal holiday in Massachusetts, the last state to uphold Cromwell’s philosophy.” (*Panati's Extraordinary Origins of Everyday Things*, pp. 70-71) For a long time in the United States the

influence of the Puritans was felt, preventing the celebration of Christmas, because the Puritans knew that Christmas was nothing more than a baptized pagan holiday.

“Behind the lofty bulwarks of the mountains—in all ages the refuge of the persecuted and oppressed—the Waldenses found a hiding place. Here the light of truth was kept burning amid the darkness of the Middle Ages. Here, for a thousand years, witnesses for the truth **maintained the ancient faith.**” [Emphasis added] (*Great Controversy*, pp. 65-66) The Waldenses maintained the ancient faith, the same faith that Paul and John the Revelator had, and observed God’s Holy Days just as they did. The Waldenses also observed the Seventh-day Sabbath and rejected the pagan holidays, such as Christmas and Easter, which were brought into the Christian Church by the Catholic Church. They were taught their faith by the apostles and they maintained their faith for seventeen hundred years.

“Thus saith the Lord, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls.” (Jeremiah 6:16) “Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.” (Jude 3)

God’s Holy Days in India

B.G. Wilkinson testifies to the fact that the Seventh-day Sabbath was observed by the Christians in India. “Mingana proves that as early as 225 A.D. there existed large bishoprics or conferences of the Church of the East stretching from Palestine to, and surrounding, India. In 370 A.D. Abyssinian Christianity (a

Sabbath-keeping church) was so popular that its famous director, Musaeus, traveled extensively in the East promoting the church in Arabia, Persia, India and China...These churches were sanctifying the seventh day, as can be seen by the famous testimonies of Socrates and Sozomen, Roman Catholic historian (cA.D. 450), that all the church throughout the world sanctified Saturday except Rome and Alexandria, which two alone exalted Sunday." (*Truth Triumphant*, p. 456)

Eventually the Jesuits came to India to convert these Christians to Catholicism. "They (the Jesuits) accompanied the conquerors principally for the purpose of converting the St. Thomas Christians." (*Christianity in India*, reviewed in Dublin University Magazine, Vol. 54, p. 340, as quoted in *The Inquisitive Christians*, p. 23)

Thomas, one of the twelve apostles of Jesus, had traveled to India and raised up the Christian church there. Since these Christians were observing the Seventh-day Sabbath, then Thomas must have taught them to do so. One of the Jesuits who came to convert these Christians to Catholicism was Francis Xavier. "He (Xavier) could not tolerate what was known as 'Jewish wickedness,' such as Sabbath-keeping and refraining from eating pork, nor did he like the Moslems who regarded swine flesh with abhorrence and the Roman Catholics as idolaters. So, in the true spirit of Romanism, he opted for tried and tested methods of fear and force to coerce such people into conforming to the 'true faith.' On May 16, 1545 he wrote to D. Joao III, King of Portugal as follows: 'The second necessity for Christians is that your majesty establish the Holy Inquisition, because there are many who live according to the Jewish Law and according to the Mahomedan sect, without fear of God or shame of the world.' (Siva Redo) (Cited by A.K. Priolkar – *The Goa Inquisition*, pp. 23, 24, 1961)." (*The Inquisitive Christians*, p. 23) Thus these

early Christians in India were observing the Seventh-day Sabbath as well as the Mosaic Law.

Malachi Chapter Four

Read all of Malachi chapter 4. This entire chapter speaks of events connected with the Second Coming. In the middle of Malachi chapter 4 are the words, “Remember ye the law of Moses.” (Malachi 4:4) God used the word *remember* because He knew the last generation would forget the Mosaic Law. Indeed, they have. In the Judgment we are judged by the Mosaic Law, with its statutes, and God wants us to know what standard we are being judged by. Thus the Mosaic Law, with the statutes, is of special importance for the last generation.

Since God’s Holy Days are contained in the Mosaic Law, and since God commands the last generation, in Malachi 4:4, to especially remember the Mosaic Law, then His Holy Days are of special importance for the last generation. The last generation will have to live through the most difficult time period of earth’s history and not lose their faith. To have the strength to do this they need to spend extra time with God and that is what the Holy Days are all about—spending extra time with God.

God’s Holy Days in Heaven

“And it shall come to pass, that from one new moon to another, and from one Sabbath to another, shall all flesh come to worship before me, saith the Lord.” (Isaiah 66:23) The context of this quote shows that after the wicked are all destroyed at the Second Coming, God’s people will observe His Sabbath forever in heaven. The Holy Days are part of the fourth commandment

since they explain the Seventh-day Sabbath more fully and are thus included in the Sabbath mentioned in the above text.

“And it shall come to pass, that every one that is left of all the nations which came against Jerusalem shall even go up from year to year, to worship the King, the Lord of hosts, and to **keep** the Feast of Tabernacles.” (Zechariah 14:16) Read this whole chapter to see that the context of this chapter is in the new earth. Zechariah 14:4 states that Jesus will come down to Mount Olives which will split in half, preparing the way for the New Jerusalem to descend, and then the Lord shall be King over all the earth. See verse 9. Jesus is not King over all this earth until all sin and sinners have been vanquished off this earth forever. We will be keeping the Feast of Tabernacles forever in heaven, just as Leviticus chapter 23 tells us to, where God says four times that we are to keep His feast days forever. If we are keeping the Seventh-day Sabbath and the Feast of Tabernacles in heaven, as the last two verses state, then surely we are keeping all of God’s Holy Days! Why would God separate them and have us keep only part of His Holy Days when He says in Leviticus chapter 23 that we are to keep all of these days forever?

Jesus says that we will keep the Feast of Passover in heaven. “And He said unto them, With desire I have desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer; For I say unto you, I will not any more eat thereof, until it (Passover) be fulfilled in the kingdom of God.” [Parentheses inserted.] (Luke 22:15-16). The word *fulfill* in the Bible does not mean *abolish* but rather to *make more glorious*. In the preceding text Jesus is saying that Passover is fulfilled in heaven. The only meal that the Bible mentions us eating in heaven is the Marriage Supper of the Lamb. The Marriage Supper of the Lamb is the ultimate fulfillment of Passover. The Marriage Supper is the celebration of God’s Church, His Bride, being united with her Bridegroom, Jesus. See Matthew 25:1-13 and Revelation 19:7-9. So Passover will forever be celebrated in heaven as the anniversary of the Marriage Supper! We want to celebrate the time when we **passed out** of sin forever to be with our Bridegroom throughout eternity!

CHAPTER 5

OBJECTIONS TO THE OBSERVANCE OF GOD'S FESTIVALS

We have found that many people try to abolish the observance of God's festivals by quoting several texts from the New Testament. We will now take a brief look at each of these arguments.

Colossians 2:14-17

"Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to His cross. And having spoiled principalities and powers, He made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it. Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holyday, or of the new moon, or of the Sabbath days: Which are a shadow of things to come; but the body is of Christ." (Colossians 2:14-17)

The above verses in Colossians are used by Christians to try and prove that the Seventh-day Sabbath and God's yearly Holy Days were eliminated at the cross.

The first key word to understanding this text is the word *ordinances*. (See also the following commentary on Ephesians 2:15.) According to *Strong's Concordance* this word simply means *law*. The Bible does not tell us here what kind of law was nailed to the cross. To find out which law we have to search other parts of the Bible. This text **does not** say that either the Seventh-day Sabbath or the Holy Days were nailed to the cross. The law

that was nailed to the cross was the sacrificial system. See Daniel 9:27.

“Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holyday, or of the new moon, or of the Sabbath days.” (Colossians 2:16) The word *holyday* in this text is a direct reference to the feast days as these are the only holydays stated in the Bible. This text also **does not** say that God’s Holy Days or the Seventh-day Sabbath were abolished at the cross, which is what most Christians try to make it say; rather it says that we should not judge each other in these matters. We must not read more into a text than what it actually says.

If Paul had not taught the Colossians to keep God’s Holy Days then he would not have addressed this issue as it would have been irrelevant. The Colossians must have been judging each other as to how they kept God’s Holy Days and so Paul found it necessary to tell them not to judge each other. The Colossians were Gentile converts and were not observing God’s Holy Days before their conversion. The very fact that Paul raises the subject of God’s Holy Days shows that Paul had taught them to observe these days. Rather than eliminating either the yearly Holy Days or the Seventh-day Sabbath, Colossians 2:16 affirms that all of these Sabbaths are still valid after the cross. Why else would Paul have been writing about the Holy Days to the Colossians who were not raised observing them?

“Which are a shadow of things **to come.**” [Emphasis added] (Colossians 2:17) This text is saying that God’s Holy Days and the Seventh-day Sabbath point forward to things yet in the future. Indeed, when these days are studied in great detail one finds that they do point to future events. (More on this will be forthcoming.)

Ephesians 2:15

“Having abolished in His flesh the enmity, *even* the law of commandments *contained* in ordinances; for to make in Himself of twain one new man, *so* making peace.” (Ephesians 2:15)

Some say that the above text means that all ordinances are abolished, and since the feasts are also ordinances (see Exodus 12:14), then God’s Holy Days were eliminated at the cross. However, upon closer examination this text is not even saying that the ordinances were eliminated. Let us look at the way the Messianic Jews translate Ephesians 2:15. “Abolishing the enmity **to** the Law, the Commandments, and the Ordinances, through His own flesh, in order to create in Himself one new man from the two, making peace.” (*The Book of Yahweh, The Holy Scriptures*)

Romans 7:14-25 describes this very issue. A battle is going on between good and evil in every human (especially for those trying to do what is right). The good that we want to do we do not do and the bad that we do not want to do we do. In verse 24 Paul says, “O wretched man that I am! Who shall deliver me from the body of this death?” In the very next verse he answers his question. Jesus is the answer. Romans 8 continues this discussion saying in verse 2 that “Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.” He does this by “Abolishing the enmity (hatred) to the Law” as seen in Ephesians 2:15. We now see a man who has had his hatred to God’s Law abolished and he is left as “one new man” with peace in his life. This is confirmed in Ephesians 2:16. “And that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby.” Note that it is the enmity to the law that is slain, rather than the law being slain. By translating Ephesians 2:15 this way, this text is then put in harmony with other texts that say that the law has not been abolished, such as Romans 3:31 and Matthew 5:17-18.

Galatians 4:9-11

“But now, after that ye have known God, or rather are known of God, how turn ye again to the weak and beggarly elements, whereunto ye desire again to be in bondage? Ye observe days, and months, and times, and years. I am afraid of you, lest I have bestowed upon you labour in vain.” (Galatians 4:9-10)

Many Christians use this text to try to prove that the Seventh-day Sabbath and God’s Holy Days were abolished. Both premises are false because they do not take the context of this quote into consideration. Neither the Seventh-day Sabbath nor the yearly Holy Days are even mentioned in this text or in the context. One rule of Biblical interpretation is that one must not read more or less into the text than what it says.

This text says that the Galatians are turning back to beggarly elements by observing certain days. Several verses earlier, in Galatians 4:3, Paul states, “Even so we, when we were children, were in bondage under the elements of the world.” Paul is telling the Galatians that they are turning away from what he has taught them and are turning back to their worldly ways that they followed before they became Christians. Before Paul taught them to become Christians the Galatians were keeping pagan holidays—days like Easter and Baal’s birthday, which was on December 25. Acts 19:24-41 records how the Ephesians cried, “Great is Diana of the Ephesians” for two hours because they were upset that Paul was turning people away from this heathen goddess. Another name for Diana was Astarte, from which the word Easter comes. Astarte conceived Tammuz, another name for Baal, at Easter, and Tammuz was born on December 25. These are some of the pagan holidays that Paul was condemning when he was speaking to the Galatians in this text. (More on this will be addressed under Satan’s Holy Days later on in this book.)

Acts Chapter 15

Many say that Acts chapter 15 proves that God's Holy Days and the Mosaic Law were abolished at the cross. However, nowhere are God's Holy Days even mentioned in this chapter. Again, we must not read more into the Bible than what it says. Read Acts chapter 15 carefully. The discussion was over circumcision and several items in the Mosaic Law. Notice their conclusion. "For it seemed good to the Holy Ghost, and to us, to lay upon you no greater burden than these necessary things; That ye abstain from meats offered to idols, and from blood, and from things strangled, and from fornication: from which if ye keep yourselves, ye shall do well. Fare ye well." (Acts 15:28, 29) Abstaining from blood, from things strangled, and from fornication are statutes in the Mosaic Law. By passing this verdict the apostles vindicated the Mosaic Law, showing they still believed in observing the Mosaic Law. The argument they were having was simply over circumcision and the things listed--eating meat offered to idols, things strangled, eating blood, and fornication. The rest of the Mosaic Law and the Holy Days were not in question. When people read Acts chapter 15 they seem not to notice verse 21 which says, "For Moses of old time hath in every city them that preach him, being read in the synagogues every Sabbath day." (Acts 15:21) What they were saying was, "These are the items of dispute, this is our conclusion, and as for the rest of the Mosaic Law, the Gentiles will learn about it when they go to the synagogue." The apostles did not do away with the Mosaic Law or God's Holy Days.

Many Christians who try to say that Acts chapter 15 proves that the Mosaic Law and the Holy Days are abolished still eat meat with blood, directly ignoring the New Testament verdict not to eat blood. They try to eliminate that which was not eliminated and try to keep that which was eliminated.

CHAPTER 6

SATAN'S FESTIVALS

The story begins with Nimrod who built the city of Babel, which evolved into Babylon. See Genesis 10:8-10. In brief, a study of the ancient heathen religions reveals that every one of them revolved around three main gods—father, mother, and child. In each culture the names of these three gods were different, but the beliefs were essentially the same. Nimrod married Ashtoreth who was also his mother. Nimrod died, and after he died, Ashtoreth became pregnant. To conceal her wicked ways, she claimed that Nimrod had gone to the sun when he died and had become the sun god, that this child had been supernaturally conceived by Nimrod and was therefore the son of the sun god. Nimrod, Ashtoreth, and this child, Tammuz, became the first unholy trinity. Tammuz was conceived at Easter (derived from the name Ashtoreth) and born on December 25. Therefore Easter and December 25 became two very important pagan holidays.

Does this story begin to sound a little familiar? You can do the research yourself through history books and encyclopedias and verify that we speak the truth. Two very good books to read on this subject are *The Two Babylons* by Alexander Hyslop and *Too Long in the Sun* by Richard Rives. (See *Additional Resources* at the back of this book to find out where you can obtain *Too Long in the Sun*.)

Satan has many different holy days that are observed in different cultures and they are all in opposition to God's Holy Days. We will look at four of his major days in our culture.

Sunday is the crown jewel of Satan's authority and was instituted by Nimrod at Babel. All of the ancient pagan cults

worshipped the sun on the day of the sun—thus the beginning of Sunday worship. God predicted that pagan sun worship would come into His church as shown in the following passage. "Then he brought me to the door of the gate of the LORD'S house which *was* toward the north; and, behold, there sat women weeping for Tammuz. Then said he unto me, Hast thou seen *this*, O son of man? turn thee yet again, *and* thou shalt see greater abominations than these. And he brought me into the inner court of the LORD'S house, and, behold, at the door of the temple of the LORD, between the porch and the altar, *were* about five and twenty men, with their backs toward the temple of the LORD, and their faces toward the east; and they worshipped the sun toward the east." (Ezekiel 8:14-16 KJV) Notice that these people turned their back on God's temple and worshipped the sun as it came up from the east. Unfortunately pagan worship is alive and well in virtually every organized church today, but very few people realize the danger that they are in. Whether most people know it or not they are participating in Baal (sun) worship and will be confronted with their choices on judgment day.

According to the pagans, Tammuz, the sun god (often referred to as Baal), was conceived on Easter. The ancient pagans celebrated Easter as the goddess of fertility and the tradition of Easter bunnies came from that unholy worship.

Tammuz was born on Christmas, December 25. The yule log was burned on Christmas eve and magically reborn into a beautiful evergreen on Christmas morning. This symbolized the rebirth of the sun god Tammuz (Baal). The ancient Druids sacrificed an animal on December 25. They turned the hide inside out and made a coat from the skin. The sleeves and

collar were rolled back exposing the white fur which contrasted with the rest of the bloody garment. Today we call it a Santa Claus suit and have no clue where that tradition originally came from. Remember that in Isaiah 14:13 Satan decided to set his throne above God “in the sides of the north.” Santa lives at the north pole and once a year he rewards all of the good boys and girls with toys and all of the bad kids get nothing. Can you see how Satan (ironically the same letters as Santa) has counterfeited God’s festivals with his own?

Many Christians believe that celebrating Christmas is a harmless celebration because most have forgotten that it was originally a pagan holiday. What if someone murdered your son and became your archenemy? Later your family tells you, “From now on, we are going to celebrate your son’s birthday on the birthday of the one who murdered your son.” How would you feel? Yet this is what we are doing to God. Rest assured that God has not forgotten the origin of December 25. By celebrating December 25 as the birthday of Jesus we are combining the holy and profane, the unclean with the clean, which is expressly forbidden in Ezekiel 22:26.

The word *Christmas* comes from two words—Christ’s Mass. The Catholics took the pagan celebration and Christianized it. Many Christians gave up their lives during the Dark Ages simply because they refused to celebrate Mass; yet once a year the majority of Christians now celebrate Christ’s Mass. These changes began with Constantine who took Babylonian pagan celebrations and brought them right into the Christian church. “It is important to note that for two centuries after Christ’s birth, no one knew, and few people cared, exactly when he was born. Birthdays were unimportant; death days counted. Besides, Christ was divine, and his natural birth was deliberately played down.

As mentioned earlier, the Church even announced that it was sinful to contemplate observing Christ's birthday 'as though He were a King Pharaoh.' Several renegade theologians, however, attempted to pinpoint the Nativity and came up with a confusion of dates: January 1, January 6, March 25, and May 20...What finally forced the issue, and compelled the Church to legitimize a December 25 date, was the burgeoning popularity of Christianity's major rival religion, Mithraism. On December 25, pagan Romans, still in the majority, celebrated Natalis Solis Invicti, 'Birthday of the Invincible Sun God,' Mithras. The cult originated in Persia, and rooted itself in the Roman world in the first century B.C. By A.D. 274, Mithraism was so popular with the masses that Emperor Aurelian proclaimed it the official state religion. In the early 300s, the cult seriously jeopardized Christianity, and for a time it was unclear which faith would emerge victorious. Church fathers debated their options. Thus, to offer converts an occasion in which to be proudly celebratory, the Church officially recognized Christ's birth. And to offer head-on competition to the sun-worshiper's feast, the Church located the Nativity on December 25. The mode of observance would be characteristically prayerful; a mass; in fact, Christ's Mass. As one theologian wrote in the 320s: 'We hold this day holy, not like the pagans because of the birth of the sun, but because of him who made it.' Though centuries later social scientists would write of the psychological power of group celebrations—the unification of objectives—the principle had long been intuitively obvious. The celebration of Christmas took permanent hold in the Western world in 337, when the Roman emperor Constantine was baptized, uniting for the first time the emperorship and the Church. Christianity became the official state religion." (*Panati's Extraordinary Origins of Everyday Things*, pp. 67-68) This quote states that psychologists have

acknowledged that groups can be unified by uniting their celebrations. This is exactly what happened. By uniting the pagan holiday of December 25 with the birth of Jesus, many pagans joined the Christian church in an unconverted state, bringing the church into a state of apostasy.

Jeremiah 10:2-4 says, “Learn not the ways of the heathen...For the customs of the people are vain: for one cutteth a tree out of the forest, the work of the hands of the workman, with the axe. They deck it with silver and with gold; they fasten it with nails and with hammers, that it move not.” Sound familiar?

All Saints’ Day or Halloween is another pagan day that has been adopted into our culture. Many Christians recognize that witches and goblins are not part of God’s way, but very few of them recognize the dangers that accompany this day. The Harry Potter books and movies along with the Lord of the Rings series have desensitized many people in regards to the occult movement that is so prevalent in our culture today. They think that it is an innocent entertainment that has no basis in fact, which is exactly what Satan wants.

We have already seen that the pagan worship days of Sunday, Easter, Christmas, and Halloween were sanitized, baptized, and Christianized as Christian holy days in order to bring pagans into the church and to be as much unlike the Jews as possible. It is a sad, but true fact that many Christians come to church only twice a year on Christmas and Easter, two of the most profane days of the entire year. For more information on this subject, go to our website at www.GodsHolidays.com and read the article entitled “Paganized, Baptized, and Christianized.”

“My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge; because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me; seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I

will also forget thy children.” (Hosea 4:6) By stating that the Law was eliminated at the cross, when the Bible clearly teaches that it was not, we have forgotten the Law of God. This text is warning us that if we forget God’s Law, God will forget us.

“O Lord, my strength and my fortress, and my refuge in the day of affliction, the Gentiles shall come unto thee from the ends of the earth, and shall say, Surely our fathers have inherited lies, vanity, and things wherein there is no profit.” (Jeremiah 16:19) Truly, we have inherited lies from past generations. It is time that we recognize this and throw these lies out. Sunday observance, Christmas, Easter, and Halloween are all Babylonian pagan holidays celebrating the original unholy trinity and are the invention of Satan. Satan has created his own holidays in direct opposition to God’s Holy Days--His Sabbaths. In Old Testament times, Israel frequently apostasized and followed after Baal (Tammuz). Perhaps we are just as guilty. “How long halt ye between two opinions? If the Lord be God, follow Him; but if Baal, then follow him.” (1 Kings 18:21) December 25 is the birthday of Baal. God is telling us in this text to either follow Baal or Himself, but not to mix the two.

We have now come around full circle. We began with the war in heaven between God and Satan and we saw that the issue was over worship and loyalty. Whose Festivals would each creature in God’s universe choose to honor? That question has been asked down through the ages and is still being asked today. Whose side will you choose and whose festivals will you keep?

CHAPTER 7

GOD'S FESTIVALS, WORSHIP, AND THE THREE ANGELS' MESSAGES

Who and How We Worship (The First Angel's Message)

Worship is the central issue of the first angel's message found in Revelation 14:6-7. The questions of who, how, when, and why all need to be answered when we talk about the issue of worship. Revelation 14:6-7 states, "And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people, Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters." (Revelation 14:6-7 KJV) We can see from this passage that God, the creator of heaven, earth, the sea, and the fountains of waters is the God that we are to worship. The Sabbath commandment found in Exodus 20:8-11 also emphasizes that God is the Creator of heaven, earth, and sea.

It is becoming clear that the battle that we have been describing between God and Satan has been muddied by Satan. If he can deceive us into believing that God is not the Creator of the universe, but that somehow we have evolved by chance, then he can step in and claim our loyalty for himself. If he can convince us that we were created in the image of a monkey,

rather than in the image of God, then he can eventually claim to have won the battle. Remember that the fourth commandment found in Exodus 20:8-11 clearly outlines who is the Creator. "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 20:11 KJV) This is the only commandment that begins with the word *remember*, because God knew the world was going to forget this commandment, and it clearly shows who and when we are to worship. Saturday is the day that our Creator set aside as His Holy Day and most of the world has forgotten that fact. We would also suggest that it would be well to read Genesis chapters one and two in order to review the creation story. Also, review the www.AnswersInGenesis.org website.

It is very easy to believe that how we worship God is not really a very important issue, but we need to remember that it is very important to God. Several stories come to mind that illustrate how important this subject is to God.

"And she again bare his brother Abel. And Abel was a keeper of sheep, but Cain was a tiller of the ground. And in process of time it came to pass, that Cain brought of the fruit of the ground an offering unto the LORD. And Abel, he also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of the fat thereof. And the LORD had respect unto Abel and to his offering. But unto Cain and to his offering he had not respect. And Cain was very wroth, and his countenance fell. And the LORD said unto Cain, Why art thou wroth? and why is thy countenance fallen? If thou doest well, shalt thou not be accepted? and if thou doest not well, sin lieth at the door. And unto thee *shall be* his desire,

and thou shalt rule over him. And Cain talked with Abel his brother: and it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother, and slew him." (Gen 4:2-8 KJV) We find in this short story that the first murder on this earth was caused by jealousy arising from God not accepting the worship offering given by Cain. God had explicitly told how He wanted offerings and worship to be done. God honored Abel because Abel followed God's plan and God rejected Cain because he chose to worship in his own way.

The second story is found in Leviticus 10:1-2. "And Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, took either of them his censer, and put fire therein, and put incense thereon, and offered strange fire before the LORD, which he commanded them not. And there went out fire from the LORD, and devoured them, and they died before the LORD." (Lev 10:2 KJV) Nadab, and Abihu also found out that God is very particular 'how' we worship Him.

A third story is found in Exodus chapter 32. Moses was in the mountain communicating with God and was taking a long time to come back. During this time, the people began to long for the idolatry of Egypt they had grown up with, so they asked Aaron to make them a golden calf to worship. They knew about the true God, because they had witnessed His power and heard His voice (see Exodus chapter 19 and 20), so they decided to mix the idolatry of Egypt with the worship of the true God by worshipping this golden calf yet calling it a "feast to the LORD" (Exodus 32:5) God does not tolerate mixing light with darkness. In fact, He specifically forbids doing so. In Leviticus 10:10 He states, "And that ye may put difference

between holy and unholy, and between unclean and clean.” In Ezekiel 22:26 God states, “Her priests have violated My law, and have profaned mine holy things: they have put no difference between the holy and profane, neither have they shewed difference between the unclean and the clean, and have hid their eyes from My Sabbaths, and I am profaned among them.” God is saying that the ministers and priests of His church have combined light with darkness and have forgotten His Sabbaths, and so He is upset with them. In Isaiah 5:20, God states, “Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!” Bringing pagan holidays into God’s church and calling them God’s Holy Days definitely falls into the category of calling darkness light, yet this is what the majority of Christians have done.

Christians have also brought many other unholy beliefs and practices into God’s church and declare them to be godly. For instance, many Christian churches are now saying that homosexuality is an acceptable lifestyle, in direct opposition to God’s commands against homosexuality in both the Old and New Testaments (Leviticus 18:22, Romans 1:27-28). Many Christian churches have also combined unholy music with holy words when they combine rock music with Christian words. Rock music originated with drum rhythms in Africa and was used to put people into a trance while enticing their pagan gods to possess them. (*Rock and Roll, An Unruly History*, pp. 52-66, by Robert Palmer). Thus rock music’s origin is Satanic and Christians should have nothing to do with it. Combining rock music with Christian words is combining light with darkness, which the Bible expressly forbids. Christians have

brought many other unholy practices into the church, which are beyond the scope of this book. However, if we prayerfully study the Bible with an intense desire to follow truth and eliminate all error out of our life, the Holy Spirit will open up our eyes to these falsehoods in the church and will guide us into all truth (John 14:6). Yes, God is very particular as to “how” we worship Him.

Avoid False Worship (The Second Angel’s Message)

"And there followed another angel, saying, Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication." (Revelation 14:8 KJV) This second angel delivers a rather astounding message that can most clearly be seen by looking at the meaning of the original Greek words. The word *fallen* according to Strong's Concordance means to fail or fall down so we can see that Babylon (Satan's Kingdom) is going to fail. This failure is because Babylon makes the nations drink the wine of the wrath of her fornication. Strong's Concordance defines wine as meaning "effervesce; wine (as fermented); by implication intoxication: wine bibber." Strong's defines *fornication* as figuratively meaning *idolatry*. Idolatry means worshipping any person or thing besides the one true God, Creator of the universe. So we see Babylon falling because she makes all of the nations become intoxicated with the worship of something or somebody besides God. Satan is ultimately the one that is worshipped in this passage.

When We Worship (The Third Angel's Message)

The third angel's message begins in Revelation 14:9. "And the third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive *his* mark in his forehead, or in his hand, the same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb:" (Rev 14:9-10 KJV) According to Strong's the word *worship* has a rather interesting meaning—"to kiss—like a dog licking his master's hand—to prostrate in homage, do reverence to, adore—worship." Strong's defines *beast* as "a dangerous animal—(venomous, wild) beast" and *image* as "a likeness, representation, resemblance, image." The final word that we will look at in this passage is *mark*, which Strong's defines as "a scratch or etching, i.e. stamp (as a badge of servitude)."

We can now see that those people who choose to worship or do reverence to this dangerous beast will receive the beast's badge of servitude—in other words his mark. We often paint or etch a mark on our tools in order to distinguish them from somebody else's tools. This is exactly what Satan does to his subjects. Later on we will find out how God does the same with those people who choose Him as their Master. We will all receive a mark, either Satan's or God's mark in our foreheads and hands.

"The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation;

and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb: And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name." (Revelation 14:10-11 KJV) We can see from this passage that those people who choose the mark of Satan's name are going to be on the wrong side when all is said and done. The word *name* in this passage means "authority, character." Receiving the mark of Satan's name means that those people who ultimately choose Satan's side of the battle will receive the stamp of his character in their minds. They will be completely loyal to him and will have the same hatred toward God that he has.

God tells us "when" we are to worship Him in Exodus 20:8-11 and Leviticus chapter 23 where He tells us to worship Him on the Seventh-day Sabbath and on the yearly Holy Days. We can now see how important all of God's Holy Days or Satan's holy days become in this great struggle for your loyalty. We will either choose to follow God completely with all of His Holy Days or Satan with all of his holy days.

If we choose to worship on Satan's holy days we will receive his mark in token of our loyalty to him. "And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads: and that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name. Here is wisdom. Let him that hath understanding count the number of the beast: for it is the number of a man; and his number *is* Six hundred threescore and six." (Rev 13:16-18 KJV)

If we choose to worship on God's Holy Days, we will receive the Seal of God. Satan always counterfeits truth, and the mark of the beast is Satan's counterfeit for the Seal of God. Therefore, we should expect the mark of the beast to be the opposite of the Seal of God. If the mark of the beast is placed on the forehead and hand and involves worship on Satan's holy days, then the Seal of God will also be placed on the forehead and hand and will involve worshipping God on His Holy Days.

The following texts show that God's Holy Days are indeed His Seal. "Unleavened bread shall be eaten seven days...and it (Feast of Unleavened Bread) shall be for a **sign** unto thee upon thine hand, and for a memorial between thine eyes, that the LORD's law may be in thy mouth." (Parentheses inserted) (Exodus 13:7,9) According to *Strong's Concordance*, the word *sign* in this text means *mark*. "And I gave them My statutes, and shewed them My judgments, which if a man do, he shall even live in them. Moreover also I gave them My Sabbaths, to be a **sign** between Me and them, that they might know that I am the LORD that sanctify them. And hallow My Sabbaths; and they shall be a **sign** between Me and you, that ye may know that I am the LORD your God." (Ezekiel 20:11,12,20) The word *sign* in this text comes from the same original Hebrew word as the word *sign* in Exodus 13:9 and also means *mark*.

"Bind up the testimony, **seal** the law among My disciples." (Isaiah 8:16) According to this text, the law is to be sealed among His people. The word *law* in this text means *Torah*, or *Mosaic Law*. God's Holy Days are included in this Law. Thus this Law is God's Seal, with God's Holy Days being the crowning part of His Seal. For additional proof, read

Deuteronomy 6:6-9 which states that God's Law is to be "a **sign** upon thine hand, and they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes." The word *sign* in this verse is the same original word found in Exodus 13:9 and Ezekiel 20:12,20 and again means *mark*.

A seal always contains three elements: the name of the person who owns the seal, their dominion, and their title. The crowning part of God's Seal is contained in Exodus 20:8-11 and also contains these three elements: God's Name, His Title, and His Dominion. "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 they stranger that is within thy gates; For in six days the LORD (God's Name) made heaven and earth, the sea, (God's Dominion) and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day; wherefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day, and hallowed it." (Parentheses inserted) (Exodus 20:8-11) God's title as Creator of this earth is implied when this verse says that He *made* heaven, earth, and the sea.

Revelation 7:3 states that the 144,000 (God's true spiritual leaders of the last generation) will have His Seal in their foreheads. Since all of God's Holy Days are included in God's Seal, this means that God's true people at the end time will be observing all of His Holy Days, the Seventh-day Sabbath and the yearly Holy Days.

The last verse of the three angel's messages has tremendous hope for those people who choose God's side in this great battle. "Here is the patience of the saints: here *are* they that

keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus." (Revelation 14:12 KJV) God's true people at the end time will be observing ALL of God's commandments which are contained in His Law, including all of His Holy Days.

In review we have seen that every person will either have God's seal or Satan's seal. God and Satan are locked in a deadly battle for our loyalty and in the very near future Satan will launch a last-ditch effort to win the war. He will prompt men to enact a worldwide law attempting to force every human into worshipping him on his holy days. This final conflict between God and Satan is called Armageddon and will be enforced by the International Sunday Law and will be the final issue that determines each person's future destiny.

CHAPTER 8

GOD'S FESTIVALS REVEAL THE GOSPEL AND THE FUTURE

We were surprised to find out that God has revealed many things about the future through His Festivals. If you can see a pattern of numbers you can accurately predict what the next number will be. For example if we gave you the following numbers: 2, 4, 6, 8...you could predict that the next number would be 10. God has done the same thing through His Festivals. God's Festivals are not only prophetic, but they also contain the whole gospel. We have combined these two elements in the following section.

Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread

For fifteen hundred years the Israelites offered a lamb on Passover that pointed forward to the death of the Messiah. Jesus died at three o'clock in the afternoon at the exact time that the Passover lamb was to be slain. The veil in the temple was rent from top to bottom and the Passover lamb escaped at the very time that Jesus died. Passover also celebrated the Israelites' escape from Egypt and the entrance into Canaan, the promised land. In the Bible Egypt represents sin and Canaan represents heaven, so we have something to look forward to—our escape from sin and living forever with Jesus in heaven, our promised land. God's people were also to remove all leaven (representing sin) from their houses on Passover. This

represented the fact that with God's help His people must remove sin out of their lives before being taken to heaven. (See the discussion under the Day of Atonement to see how this occurs.)

We have found that removing the leaven from our home every year is a tremendous object lesson to us. We do our best to remove the leaven, but invariably during the week we find more leaven than we did not realize that we had. That is just like our sin problem. We try to repent of our sins and remove them out of our lives, but about the time we think that we have things under control, up pops another sin with a whole new host of areas that we need to overcome.

The good news is that Jesus has made this process of removing sin a simple process. Note that we did not say that it was easy—just simple! The following passage from First John lays the process out for us. "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." (1 John 1:9 KJV)

Our first step is to realize that we are sinners and to confess and repent from our sins. That is a simple step, but not always easy because pride gets in our way. Old habits are difficult to change and so we go through a struggle when we try to resist temptation. Satan knows our every weakness and he does his best to get us to join him in sin. Many times we yield to his temptations and return to our sins, but that is the time we need Jesus the most. Some Christians try to make themselves look good without repenting and changing their sinful lives. We see them as hypocrites and they do tremendous damage to God's cause. The Apostle John has this to say, "If we say that we

have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us." (1 John 1:10 KJV)

We are to do our best not to sin, but when we do sin, we have an advocate who will plead our case when we repent from our sin. "My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous." (1 John 2:1 KJV)

Jesus is our advocate and He makes atonement for us when we sin and repent. "And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for *the sins of* the whole world."

(1 John 2:2 KJV)

John tells us that we know Jesus if we keep His commandments. And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments." (1 John 2:3 KJV)

John further tells us that if we do not keep God's commandments, but say that we know Him, then we are a liar and the truth is not in us. "He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him." (1 John 2:4 KJV)

In review we must remove the leaven of sin from our lives by confessing our sins and turning away from them. When we sin, Jesus is our advocate who will stand by us and help us as soon as we confess our sins and ask for His help. This is a process of a lifetime and as we participate in this process we will come closer and closer to Jesus. We will want to keep His commandments because we love Him—not because we simply want fire insurance.

First Fruits

The festival of First Fruits pointed forward to Jesus being resurrected as the first fruit of those that are raised from the dead. "But now is Christ risen from the dead, *and* become the firstfruits of them that slept. For since by man *came* death, by man *came* also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming. Then *cometh* the end, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power." (1 Cor 15:20-24 KJV)

We see from this passage that not only is Jesus the firstfruits, but that this festival points forward to the end of time when all of Jesus' friends will also be raised from the dead. What a good God we serve!

Pentecost

The Holy Spirit was poured out on the early Christians at Pentecost. This was called the early rain of the Holy Spirit and we are now looking forward to the latter rain, which we expect to again begin on Pentecost. When the Holy Spirit was poured out at Pentecost, Peter stated that this was the fulfillment of Joel's prophecy. Compare Acts 2:16-18 with Joel 2:28-29 which states, "And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out My Spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions: and also upon the servants

and upon the handmaids in those days will I pour out My Spirit.” Isaiah 44:3 compares pouring out the Holy Spirit to pouring out water. The Bible compares Christian growth to seeds being planted which then mature into a full harvest (Matthew 13:37-39). So when God speaks of the early and latter rain He is referring to the early rain which came right after the crop was planted to make the seed grow, and the latter rain which came to mature the harvest. Symbolically He is also referring to the early rain of the Holy Spirit which came at the beginning of the planting of the Christian Church at Pentecost (Acts chapter 2) and the latter rain of the Holy Spirit which will again come just before the end of this world to bring Christians into full maturity. This latter rain of the Holy Spirit will also include showering upon God’s true people the most complete knowledge of His truth ever brought to mankind. “My doctrine shall drop as the rain, My speech shall distil as the dew, as the small rain upon the tender herb, and as the showers upon the grass.” (Deuteronomy 32:2) This is the special time that God will pour out His Spirit in order to bring mankind back to Him. Remember that we are in a war between God and Satan and that Satan will not easily give up when he sees his people joining God’s side. God’s Spirit will help give us the strength to resist Satan’s temptations if we will let Him work for us.

Trumpets

Throughout history trumpets have been used as a communication and warning device and God’s trumpets are no different. They are God’s wakeup call to planet earth telling us

that our judgment day is near. Revelation chapters eight and nine describe seven trumpets that are going to literally hit this earth. The first three trumpets describe asteroid impacts that are going to wreak havoc on our planet. This is the only way that our world will wake up and listen to what God has to say. Thousands of cities and millions of lives will be lost. The trumpets described in Revelation will most likely begin on the first festival of Trumpets during the great tribulation. Just before Jesus comes, late in the great tribulation, God will announce the day and hour of His coming on the last festival of Trumpets. Go to our website and read the article about the trumpets for a more detailed explanation of what to expect from the trumpets of Revelation that are coming in our lifetime. This is God's last call to wakeup mankind to repent from their sins and to return to Him.

Day of Atonement

The Day of Atonement is God's judgment day. This is the day that God will look at our record and see what we have done with our lives. This is the day that He gives His people their new natures that are free from sin. About the Day of Atonement, the Bible says, "For on that day shall the priest make an atonement for you, to cleanse you, that ye may be clean from all your sins before the Lord." (Leviticus 16:30) Jesus is now our Priest and on judgment day He will be in heaven making atonement for us and cleansing us from all sin. (Hebrews 4:14-16) Our struggles with overcoming our sinful desires and habits will be over. Sin will then be detestable to us and we will be fit to live forever in the kingdom that Jesus is

preparing for us. Judgment day is the most wonderful day for those people who have whole-heartedly chosen to follow Jesus, but it will be the worst day for those who have chosen to serve Satan.

For many years we looked forward to our judgment day with fear and trembling, afraid that we could never be good enough to pass God's test. We read texts like the following and wondered how we could ever live a perfect life. "All scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be **perfect**, thoroughly furnished unto all good works." (2 Tim 3:16-17 KJV) Many of our friends became discouraged and did one of two things. They either threw out Christianity altogether, or they changed the definition of perfection. After all, how could God expect something from us that is impossible? They decided that perfection must mean doing the best that they could and that would be enough. We have discovered that there is a third option that makes perfect sense and that Satan is doing everything in his power to keep people from discovering the truth. The truth is so simple and yet so complete. We think that you will be astounded at the simplicity and beauty of this plan.

The story begins in Genesis chapter 3. "And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die: For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil."

(Genesis 3:4-5 KJV) Read this whole chapter to acquaint yourself with the circumstances surrounding these verses. You will discover that in the process of deceiving Adam and Eve Satan let the key out of the bag that unlocks the understanding

of the plan of salvation. You see, God created Adam and Eve with a perfect nature. They did not struggle with sin the way that we do—in fact they did not even know what sin was. The only knowledge that they gained when they disobeyed God was an experiential knowledge of evil. When they chose to listen to Satan rather than to God, their very nature became evil. You may have heard it said that “by beholding you become changed” or that “when you play with fire you will get burned.” Both statements are true and they both describe what happened to Adam and Eve. Their sinful nature was nothing more than an experiential knowledge of sin. This is the vital point to understand in unlocking the process that occurs in God’s plan of saving His friends from their sins. Heavenly angels have seen sin and know the results of sin, but they have never had an experiential knowledge of sin.

Thankfully the story does not end here. Jesus made man with a perfect nature and man lost that perfection when he sinned. The plan of salvation is the story and the process of what Jesus has done, is doing, and will do to bring us back to the perfect nature that He created us with.

The next piece of this puzzle is found in Hebrews chapter 10. "For the law having a shadow of good things to come, *and* not the very image of the things, can never with those sacrifices which they offered year by year continually make the comers thereunto perfect. For then would they not have ceased to be offered? **because that the worshippers once purged should have had no more conscience of sins.**" (Hebrews 10:1-2 KJV) This verse tells us that the law and the sacrifices that were offered could never make the sinner perfect. The point is then made that if a person was made perfect by offering the

sacrifices, then they would no longer need to make the sacrifices each year. The punch line of this verse is the portion that we have underlined. Once a sinner has been purged of his sins he has no more conscience of sins. According to Strong's Concordance the word *conscience* can also be translated as *knowledge*. That all of a sudden clarifies what is going on here. When God purges the sin out of our mind, He is actually removing the experiential knowledge of sin out of our mind. He is in effect giving us the perfect nature that He originally gave to Adam and Eve. To put it into our modern language, God reformats our hard drive and installs a new operating system. At this point our evil desires are gone! Praise God! Our new nature detests sin and all of those temptations that we have struggled with are a thing of the past.

The obvious question to ask is, "When does this happen?" After all, have you ever known anybody that is living a perfect life? There will be no sinners in heaven and we do not know anybody who is living a perfect life today. That means that sometime between now and the second coming of Jesus the purging spoken of in Hebrews chapter 10 must take place and the Bible tells us when that happens. "Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord;"

(Acts 3:19 KJV) If you do a word study in the Bible you will discover that the words *blot*, *purge*, and *cleanse* mean the same thing. We see from this verse that our sins are purged or blotted out during the "times of refreshing," which is the latter rain of the Holy Spirit that falls during the time of Jacob's trouble just before Jesus comes. The word *refreshing* means *revival* which is exactly what happens when the Holy Spirit is poured out at

the latter rain. Water refreshes us, and the Holy Spirit being poured out will refresh God's people and bring them to full revival.

The mistake that many people make is that they say that Jesus is going to do it all for them and that they essentially have no part to play in their salvation. Books have been written on this subject and we do not have the room to address the whole issue, but suffice it to say that we do have a part to play because the Bible says, "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins, and to **cleanse us from** all unrighteousness." (1 John 1:9 KJV) It is our duty to confess our sins (to God) and He will forgive us our sins, and then will blot, purge, or cleanse us from all unrighteousness during the latter rain of the Holy Spirit as we saw in Acts 3:19. This latter rain of the Holy Spirit will begin during the Great Tribulation (Joel 2:1-2,23,28) It is a rather simple process that Satan has tried to hide and make difficult. Truly friend, judgment day is not a day to be afraid of.

Tabernacles

The Feast of Tabernacles is the festival of the harvest. The work has been done and the harvest is ready to be brought in. In Matthew 13:24-30 Jesus told a parable about the wheat and tares. He then explained the meaning of the parable in verses 38-43. Read the whole passage to see what is happening. We will look at just two verses.

"The field is the world; the good seed are the children of the kingdom; but the tares are the children of the wicked *one*; the enemy that sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of

the world; and the reapers are the angels." (Matthew 13:38-39 KJV)

We can expect Jesus' second coming to occur on the first day of the festival of Tabernacles because the harvest of souls is ready to be brought into God's kingdom. It will take seven days to travel to heaven and we will actually enter into heaven on the eighth day of the festival. The timing that we have just described became very clear when we ran across this very interesting verse in John. It reads, "In the last day, that great *day* of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink." (John 7:37 KJV)

In the past we have put a spiritual interpretation on this verse, which is valid to do, but there is a literal meaning that we have missed. The Jews have traditionally believed that they would enter into God's kingdom on the last great day, which is the eighth day of Tabernacles. Jesus stood up on "the great day of the feast" and made His announcement that His people would literally be drinking of the water of life in His kingdom on the last great day. That will be our first day in heaven!

Every year that we celebrate these festivals we are reminded what God is doing for us and what He will do for us. We role play the plan of salvation, which helps keep it fresh in our minds. We do indeed serve a wonderful God!

CHAPTER 9

CHANGE IS DIFFICULT

We are all raised believing in a set of rules and facts based upon our life experiences and training. This model or pattern is sometimes called a paradigm. When we run into new information that does not fit our paradigm we tend to become very uncomfortable and resistant to the new ideas.

When our youngest son was eight months old we took a vacation in Arizona. He had not yet learned to walk and so he was relegated to his walker. He had never seen or experienced cactus before and so when he saw his first cactus he started moving his walker over to investigate. Melody immediately saw trouble brewing and as he reached his little hand toward the cactus she told him “no”. He looked at his mother, then at the cactus, and then back at his mother. You can already guess what happened next. It is amazing how deaf we can become when we do not want to hear something! He took one last look at his mother, decided that she did not know what she was talking about, and promptly stuck his chubby little finger into the cactus. Immediately a great wail exploded from his lips. He turned to his mother who said “no” again and then he promptly stuck his finger back in the cactus! The battle was on. By now our little experimenter was angry that his mother was punishing him for disobeying her and so this time he angrily stuck his finger back into the cactus. Thankfully that third stroke at independence was the one that convinced him that his mother knew what she was talking about all along. He had no more run-ins with cactus!

We laugh at the foolish things that children do in rebellion against our authority, but we are guilty of doing the same kinds of

things to our Heavenly Father. When God tells us something that does not fit our paradigm we look Him in the eye and stick our finger in the cactus. A battle brews between God and Satan for our loyalty. God says, “You will hurt yourself if you stick your finger in the cactus.” Satan says, “God is trying to keep you from having fun by telling you not to play with the cactus.” When we listen to Satan and follow his suggestions we get hurt. Satan then tells us, “God caused you to be hurt—He did it to you.”

Yes, dear friend, change is difficult and many times it is painful, but in this world of sin it is imperative that we be willing to make the changes that God points out to us that need to be made. God’s Holy Days are no exception.

We have now shown that the mark that God places on His people has to do with loyalty and worship. More specifically, the days on which you choose to worship will determine whose mark you will receive. We have seen that God has specifically said that Saturday and the seven annual Sabbaths are His Festivals and are therefore the mark that distinguishes His people from Satan’s people. It is easy to see that any other day(s) of worship would be showing loyalty to Satan and that worshipping on those days would ultimately result in those people receiving the mark of the beast (Satan) described in Revelation 14:9-12.

It is important to clarify an issue that will certainly arise with many people at this point. We have all been in rebellion against God at some time in our lives—sometimes we knew that we were in rebellion and sometimes we did not know. God will not hold us responsible for the sins that we have committed in ignorance, but He will hold us responsible when we know that we are sinning and choose to keep on doing it regardless of the consequences. Many Christians have unknowingly worshipped on Satan’s holy days (Sunday, Christmas, Easter, All Saints Day, etc.) and have profaned God’s Holy Days by not observing them, thinking that

they were worshipping on God's Holy Days. They have been honestly deceived, but will change their worship when they see the truth. For many years we did not observe many of God's Holy Days until God, in His mercy, showed us the changes that we needed to make. We, like many of you, simply did not understand all of the issues that are involved.

In the very near future the war between God and Satan will reach a climax and every person on planet earth will be able to clearly understand the issues involved. They will then be able to make an educated choice about who to worship and that choice will determine which days they will worship on. That choice will also determine whose mark they will receive.

Sadly, the book of Revelation shows that the vast majority of people will choose Satan's mark rather than God's mark. Remember that the ancient pagans worshipped the sun god Baal on Sunday. That tradition started with Nimrod at the tower of Babel and will again be enforced on this world—this time in the form of an International Sunday Law. We will have come full circle from Babel to Babylon and the majority of people will choose to worship Baal (Satan).

The beast (Satan) has unity with most of this world's population for a short time—Revelation 17:12 says for one hour. "And the ten horns which thou sawest are ten kings, which have received no kingdom as yet; but receive power as kings one hour with the beast." (Revelation 17:12 KJV) Satan will try to force worship to himself by enacting first a National Sunday Law in the United States and then later the International Sunday Law to force the whole world to worship him.

This whole end-time scenario will last for three and a half years (see Revelation 13:1-5 and Daniel chapter 12) and will be

triggered by the National Sunday Law. Many Christians call this the Great Tribulation and hope to be raptured before it begins. However, the biblical evidence shows that God's people will be raptured after the great tribulation and that it will not be a secret event. "For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be." (Matthew 24:27 KJV)

Dear friend, this war between God and Satan has lasted for many thousands of years, but the evidence is pointing to us as being the generation that will see the final conflict. We hope and pray that you will choose God's side in this battle. Be willing to change your paradigms and do not stick your finger in the cactus!

Final Review

We began this study by recounting the great war between God and Satan that began before this earth was created. We saw that both God and Satan are fighting for our loyalty and worship and that the final battle of Armageddon is the end-time climax of that fight. Both God and Satan have their own holy days that their followers will observe. The ultimate issue is over worship as seen in the three angels' messages in Revelation chapter 14 and our choice will determine whose mark will be placed on our foreheads and hands. The issue is the same one that confronted Joshua and the children of Israel and our choice will likewise determine our destiny. Joshua's challenge rings loud and clear. "**Choose you this day whom ye will serve;** whether the gods which your fathers served that *were* on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell." Our prayer for you is that your answer will be, "as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD." Joshua 24:15

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

For a much more in-depth study of God's Holy Days, read the book *The Testimony of the Moon* by Shauna Manfredine. To obtain this book call 559-591-6193 or go to www.lightedway.org.

Our ministry, Last Generation Ministries, www.GodsHolidays.com, 1-877-820-1926. Periodically recheck this website as we will post new books and articles as they are written. Download this book for free from our website and share it with your friends.

Bible Explorations, 25810 Ave. 100, Terra Bella, CA 93270, www.bibleexplorations.com, 559-535-5441. Bible Explorations has excellent books and videos about God's Holy Days, a bi-yearly week-long retreat during the spring and fall Holy Days, plus a free newsletter that is sent out periodically. Contact them to get on their mailing list.

For an in-depth study from the Bible showing that there will be a Sunday law enacted world-wide during the coming Great Tribulation, read the book *National Sunday Law* by Jan Marcussen. You can read his book online or order it. On his website he has posted a 1 million dollar reward for anyone who can show one Bible text that the Sabbath was changed from Saturday to Sunday. www.seventh-day.org 618-627-2357

The book *The Two Babylons* by Alexander Hislop shows how much of modern Christianity is really ancient Babylonian paganism revived. Order at www.amazon.com.

Partakers Publications, P.O. Box 23031, Charlotte, NC 28227, www.toolong.com, toolong@united.net. Partakers Publications has an excellent book, entitled *Too Long in the Sun*, which proves that

most of the modern holidays are straight out of the Babylonian religion.

Chick Publications, P.O. Box 3500, Ontario, CA 91761, www.chick.com. Chick Publications sells the book *New Age Bible Versions* by Gail Riplinger. This book proves that all Bible versions, except for the King James Version, have been significantly corrupted and cannot be trusted. They also sell the book 50 Years in the Church of Rome, an autobiography written by Charles Chiniquy, a Catholic priest who lived over one hundred years ago and converted to Protestantism. This is an amazing story you will not want to miss. Chick Publications also sells the Alberto Series, which is the biography of Alberto Rivera, another Jesuit priest who converted to Protestantism. In this biography Mr. Rivera reveals facts most people do not know about the Catholic Church.

Ages Software, P.O. Box 1926, Albany, OR 97321, 800-297-4307, www.ageslibrary.com. You can obtain the Reformation History Library all on one CD from Ages Software. This CD contains the following books that were quoted from in this book: *The Ecclesiastical History of the Ancient Churches of the Piedmont and the Albigenses* by Peter Allix, *Our Authorized Bible Vindicated and Truth Triumphant* by B.G. Wilkinson, *The Great Empires of Prophecy* and *The Two Republics* by A..T. Jones, and *History of the Sabbath* by J.N. Andrews. The page numbers of these books on the CD are different from the hard copy of these books. This CD also contains many other Reformation books.

Christian Churches of God, P.O. Box 76, Airway Heights, WA 99001-0076. The Christian Churches of God sell the book *The Sabbatarians in Transylvania* by Samuel Kohn.