

**HOPE OF
ISRAEL
MINISTRIES**

BIBLE

CORRESPONDENCE COURSE



Typical Sunday Morning Church Services

How Did Sunday Observance Begin?

Lesson 5

An Open Letter from the Staff...

It was not until the second century after the Messiah that Sunday observance became general -- and it was not until 321 A.D. that it was enforced by State decree!

Most Catholics and Protestants would like to ASSUME that the Sabbath law was changed either by command or by example in the New Testament. But this is simply NOT true!

If, then, the New Testament Scriptures DO NOT explicitly abolish or change the Fourth Commandment (as given in Exodus 20:8-11), then just WHEN and WHERE did the Christian-professing world begin to observe Sunday? When was Sunday, in our planetary week, substituted for the anciently observed Sabbath of YEHOVAH God in the lunar week that He ordained?

Just who changed (or at least CLAIMED TO CHANGE) the Fourth Commandment? Who thought to change the Sabbath from the seventh day of the lunar week to Sunday (the first day) of the present planetary week?

The answer is shockingly clear to those who aren't afraid of the TRUTH. History, as we will show, reveals that it was the Emperor Constantine "the Great" who made the first law which actually began to FORCE THE WORLD TO KEEP SUNDAY, and to break the Sabbath of YEHOVAH God. And, it is to be noted, Constantine was an unbaptized pagan sun-worshipper until the time of his death. But HOW did Christian-professing churches of this world come to adopt Sunday as their Sabbath instead of the Sabbath of YEHOVAH God?

Satan, the Devil, the Great Deceiver, has DECEIVED this whole world (Revelation 12:9). This was quite easy for him to do for, "The heart is DECEITFUL above all things and desperately wicked" (Jeremiah 17:9). The Devil, then, has played upon the deceptive heart-strings of HUMAN NATURE in order to trick mankind into accepting a COUNTERFEIT DAY in the place of the Holy Sabbath of YEHOVAH.

Here, then, is HOW the Christian-professing churches of this world came to observe Sunday. It was the Catholic Church which bowed to Constantine's dictum to observe Sunday in place of the Sabbath. The rest is history!



HOPE OF ISRAEL MINISTRIES BIBLE CORRESPONDENCE COURSE LESSON 5

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About Our Cover...

Professing Christians practice the innocent-looking custom of Sunday observance without ever questioning its origin. They sincerely believe this day honors the true God and Yeshua the Messiah -- assuming it is a Christian practice based on Bible authority. This lesson gives the shocking TRUE ORIGIN and PURPOSE of Sunday observance!

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How Did Sunday Observance Begin?

LESSON 5

Why Satan Is Active

Satan at once appeared in the Garden of Eden to DECEIVE the very first human beings. And he has been just as busily engaged in the same work from that time on!

Let's understand how Satan and his demons continued to deceive humanity.

1. There were many people in the Middle East before the great flood of Noah's time. But had they become very DISOBEDIENT to their Creator? **Genesis 6:5**. Of all this great number of people, how many were allowed to ESCAPE the great destruction of "Noah's Flood"? **Genesis 7:7** and **I Peter 3:20**.

COMMENT: To save the people from FURTHER sin and suffering, YEHOVAH God had to DESTROY them. Only EIGHT of all the people who lived in the Middle East at that time escaped death!

2. Did Satan have a guiding hand in causing the people to SIN? **I Peter 3:19-20**.

COMMENT: Satan and his demons were so very active in deceiving and causing mankind to become extremely wicked PRIOR to the flood, that they succeeded in completely deceiving the whole known world!

Satan the DESTROYER

Satan knew that if he could influence all mankind to sin, YEHOVAH God would necessarily have to destroy them all, for sin -- DISOBEDIENCE -- brings destruction from YEHOVAH God! (**Romans 6:23**.)

Satan was -- and is to this very day -- extremely successful in causing man to sin! SATAN IS TRYING TO PREVENT MORE ADDITIONS TO YEHOVAH's FAMILY -- MORE SONS OF YEHOVAH GOD!

1. When Yeshua the Messiah was born on this earth to human parents -- mortal, of human flesh and therefore subject to death, did Satan see a "golden opportunity" to be RID of the one who might hold him back in his mad quest for dominion of the universe? **Revelation 12:4**.

COMMENT: Remember, the great red dragon is revealed to be Satan in **Revelation 12:9**, and that the Child to be born was obviously the Messiah.

2. Does YEHOVAH God warn us that Satan the Devil goes about like a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour? **I Peter 5:8**.

3. Has Satan tried to destroy YEHOVAH's SABBATH-keeping True Church -- the Church which keeps the SEVENTH day of the week according to the lunar calendar -- the day which YEHOVAH God commands us to keep today? **Revelation 12:12-17**.

COMMENT: The Bible uses the symbolism of a "woman" to indicate a CHURCH. YEHOVAH's True Church is pictured as a chaste young virgin -- PURE and UNDEFILED by the PAGAN PRACTICES of this world. The True Church REFUSES to keep "this present evil world's" day -- tagged by the pagans SUNDAY -- the observance of which is DIRECT DISOBEDIENCE to YEHOVAH God!

Notice in **verse 12** that it is the DEVIL who is being spoken of, and that it is he who is variously referred to as "the dragon," and "the serpent."

We see here that Satan has tried, with all the power at his disposal, to DESTROY the "woman" -- the collective members of YEHOVAH's True Church -- those who are on the verge of being born again at the resurrection as the very SONS of YEHOVAH God! But these members -- UNlike those not in YEHOVAH's

True Church -- have ESCAPED Satan's wrath since they have YEHOVAH's DIVINE PROTECTION: Note the words "the earth HELPED the woman ..." (verse 16).

Here is a BLESSING for keeping YEHOVAH's true Sabbath and other commandments!

But the rest of the inhabitants of the world -- POTENTIAL material to become Sons of YEHOVAH God (from Satan's viewpoint) have -- and will -- SUFFER GREAT VIOLENCE AND DEATH at the hands of Devil and demon-inspired madmen! Note the words, "for the devil is come down unto you (the WHOLE world), having GREAT WRATH" (verse 12).

Know HOW Your Enemy Works

But HOW can Satan, who is a SPIRIT being, influence people? Just because we cannot see him and his demons does not mean that they are NOT around and working actively against us.

Since Satan is a spirit and invisible to the human eye, he must be REVEALED to us. YEHOVAH God reveals that Satan is a REAL

and VERY ACTIVE BEING -- make no mistake about that!

Satan is diabolically wise -- and wily -- and is our ARCHENEMY!

You need to KNOW YOUR ENEMY and AVOID HIS DEADLY TRAP!

Yes, Satan is a VERY REAL being! And his demons -- vast in number -- are also very real and EXTREMELY DANGEROUS!

Now understand HOW Satan works.

1. If a person allows it, can a demon enter him and cause him to become dumb -- unable to talk? **Matthew 9:32-33**.

2. Can they enter a person, if that individual allows it, and cause him to have an INFIRMITY -- even become a cripple? **Luke 13:11**.

3. Can a demon who has entered a person impart SUPERHUMAN STRENGTH to him? **Mark 5:2-4**. Can many demons enter a person at the same time? **Matthew 12:43-45**.

4. Can a demon's entry into a person cause him to do frightful things? **Acts 19:16**.

5. When a demon enters a person, does that individual become Satan's own POSSESSION? **Matthew 8:28**. Notice the word "possessed" in this verse, and in verse 16.

6. Can a possessed person become destructive? **Matthew 17:15-18** and **Luke 9:42**.

COMMENT: A possessed person can do great bodily injury to himself and to others!

7. Can demons CONGREGATE HEAVILY IN ONE PLACE? **Luke 8:30**. And can a group of demons spread out and simultaneously enter a GROUP OF INDIVIDUALS (swine, in this case)? **Matthew 8:28-32**.

COMMENT: Here we see that mass groups can be influenced by demons at the same time. This is important to remember regarding PEOPLE, as you will later see. For Satan always uses



Satan and his demons can, and often do, incite crowds to riot and become destructive.

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his demons mightily to influence people in HIGH POSITIONS to force others to disobey YEHOVAH God. In this way he hopes -- and has reason to believe -- he can bring DESTRUCTION on great numbers.

Satan Supernaturally Sways Men's Minds to HIS Will

There is a great battle now going on. But it is NOT between YEHOVAH God and Satan.

The battle now going on is between Satan and those whom YEHOVAH is calling into His Kingdom.

We could know nothing of this battle unless YEHOVAH revealed it to us. For neither Satan nor his demons are fleshly beings as we are. They are, unless supernaturally manifested, undetectable by any of our five senses: sight, touch, hearing, etc.

But YEHOVAH God DOES REVEAL this battle to us. It is REAL -- VITAL FOR US TO UNDERSTAND!

Notice what YEHOVAH warns us about the deceptive ways of the Devil so we may GUARD our minds against him and his demons.

1. Does YEHOVAH God warn us against these unseen, but nevertheless very real and deadly enemies whom we are very apt to forget entirely, as there is nothing to remind us of their presence? Does YEHOVAH God solemnly warn us that SATAN, like a ROARING LION, IS OUT TO DEVOUR US SPIRITUALLY -- which would mean OUR ETERNAL DEATH? **I Peter 5:8.** NOTHING COULD BE WORSE THAN THAT!!

2. Are we warned NOT to love this "world" of the Devil's -- this, the DEVIL'S AGE -- Satan's time of dominion? **I John 2:15.** Why this warning? Is it because we might otherwise "give place to" -- weaken and be misled by -- some DEATH-DEALING TRAP of the Devil? **Ephesians 4:27.** Isn't Satan, the serpent, VERY SUBTLE -- creeping in smoothly and gradually to deceive man, often completely without our even suspecting it? **Genesis 3:1.**

3. Remember that the Devil and his demons are SPIRIT beings. Are we warned not to receive into our minds any "spirit" other than the holy spirit of YEHOVAH God? **II Corinthians 11:4.**

COMMENT: The influence of the Devil can mislead men's minds by supernaturally suggesting customs opposed to the commandments of YEHOVAH God. For example, SUNDAY observance!

4. Are we commanded to TRY THE SPIRITS whether they are of YEHOVAH God (or of the Devil)? **I John 4:1.**

COMMENT: We do this BY CHECKING IN OUR BIBLE to see if what is taught is of YEHOVAH, or is motivated by the Devil and his demons. The Devil hates the true commandments of YEHOVAH God and deceives people into BREAKING them!

5. What does Satan appear to be to those in the world? **II Corinthians 11:14.** And therefore what do his ministers -- his preachers -- appear to be? **Verse 15.** Does Satan work in those that are disobedient? **Ephesians 2:2.**

6. Aren't we warned that all TRUE CHRISTIANS have to WRESTLE with -- WORK HARD TO OVERCOME -- the Devil and his demons in order to live YEHOVAH's way and receive salvation? **Ephesians 6:10-13.**

COMMENT: "Narrow is the way, which leadeth unto (eternal) life, and FEW there be that find it" (**Matthew 7:14**). The Devil already has the VAST MAJORITY thoroughly deceived about the TRUE WAY to eternal life!

But the true Christian is locked in a life-and-death battle with the evil SPIRIT WORLD. Your Bible says so!

Satan's Government Influences the Nations

Satan determinedly fought YEHOVAH God in an attempt to seize YEHOVAH's throne.

From that time Satan has been constantly PERFECTING his method and plan for destroying man, both physically and spiritually -- perfecting it so there will be no more Sons of

YEHOVAH God added to the Family presently composed of YEHOVAH God the Father, and Yeshua the Messiah, the first-born Son.

Learn now of Satan's worldwide ORGANIZATION which has existed down through the centuries.

This Satanic organization instituted Sunday in honor of the sun. It cloaked this pagan custom in the name of the Messiah and called it "Christian." YEHOVAH God condemns it in no uncertain terms in the **book of Revelation**:

"If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his MARK (to be fully explained in future lessons) in his forehead, or in his hand (forehead for what you THINK -- hand for what you DO) 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" (**Revelation 14:9-10**).

This is what will happen to those who PERSIST in SUNDAY observance! So says YOUR Bible!

YEHOVAH God tells us to be careful, for MANY FALSE MINISTERS are in the world -- and ARE INSPIRED BY THE DEVIL AND HIS DEMONS! (**II Corinthians 11:13-15**.)

It is high time -- yes, and extremely necessary -- that you familiarize yourself now with the satanically inspired forces that are BEHIND the awesome and fearful events which are soon to cascade upon this hapless earth.

Forewarned is forearmed for escape!

Are you ready?

1. Satan has special "religious" seats of power in some localities. Where was one of these in the time of the apostle John? **Revelation 2:12-13**.

2. Does Satan have HIS CHURCH -- HIS "synagogue"? **Revelation 2:8-9**.

COMMENT: Satan supernaturally influences people to form "churches" to spread his death-dealing doctrine of Sunday observance and other damning practices which may rid him forever of potential Sons of YEHOVAH God.

3. Does Satan's Church LOOK as though it represents the Messiah -- the "LAMB" of YEHOVAH God? But does it actually speak the deceptions of the DEVIL -- the "DRAGON"? **Revelation 13:11**.

COMMENT: This great universal church here spoken of has existed for centuries. Hitler -- a leader of great military power (and backed by this church) -- was demon possessed at times and through him Satan swayed millions of people!

Satan can influence humans to do his will and commit murderous acts by SUGGESTING these actions to the mind, or by



Worshippers attend Sunday morning services, as do millions of other professing Christians the world over.

actually POSSESSING an individual through literally entering his body. An EXAMPLE of this is when Satan personally entered into and possessed Judas Iscariot just before he caused him to betray, and thereby kill, the Messiah -- "Satan ENTERED INTO him (Judas)" (**John 13:27**).

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Through Adolph Hitler, Satan was able to sway millions of people! Shown here is the historic Nuremberg rally.

Satan Associates Himself With the Sun

Just how did the INANIMATE sun come to have a day named in its honor -- Sunday -- the day most professing "Christians" observe IN THE PLACE OF YEHOVAH God's commanded Sabbath Day?

Let's begin to understand how this strange day -- SUNDAY -- and SUN WORSHIP originated.

1. Read **Genesis 1:2**. Did this earth also become darkened?

2. Also read **Jude 6**.

COMMENT: Between **verses 1 and 2 of Genesis, chapter 1**, a great battle between YEHOVAH God and Lucifer or Satan took place. In the resulting disruption, this earth became DARK (notice the word "darkness" in **verse 2**) and remained so for an untold period of time, until YEHOVAH commenced the week of re-creation.

Lucifer and his angels did not keep their "first estate" (**Jude 6**) -- their rule of this earth over which YEHOVAH God first assigned them. They became inordinately ambitious and arose to seize YEHOVAH's rulership. But they were cast back down to this darkened earth and

remained in SPIRITUAL darkness from the time of their rebellion to this day.

3. What did Satan, the serpent, then do -- ASSOCIATE himself with the SUN?

COMMENT: Satan wanted to be LIKE YEHOVAH God -- to radiate glory like YEHOVAH whose brilliance is brighter than the sun -- and to be WORSHIPPED "as" YEHOVAH. So Satan had himself identified with the sun, the BRIGHTEST object then known to man, and palmed himself off as the SUN-god.

That, in a nutshell, is WHY the sun became a favorite object of

PAGAN worship!

Now for the details.

Because of the light and heat it gives and its vital effect on the growth of food-producing vegetation, the sun was regarded as "the giver of all good gifts." And the fact that the serpent was with the first of mankind was also WELL KNOWN to the people of the early world.

So Satan, the serpent, supernaturally influenced the leaders and their followers -- already possessing a carnal mind which "is (at) enmity against (or toward) God" (**Romans 8:7; Jeremiah 17:9**) -- to believe that he, the SERPENT in the Garden of Eden, was the TRUE FRIEND of man. For wasn't it the SERPENT that gave the woman the advice that man acted upon? Wasn't it the serpent that showed them how they could be "as gods," knowing good AND evil?

Thus SATAN caused the sun and the serpent, the two "enlighteners," to become associated together. That's why one of the COMMONEST SYMBOLS of the sun, or sun-god, was a disk (the SUN) with a SERPENT AROUND IT (*Bunsen's Hieroglyphics*, Vol. I, page 497). This is found throughout ancient mythology.



Symbols of Sun and Devil Worship: Snake-head carvings on the temple of Quetzalcoatl in Mexico are symbolic of the Devil.

Of this pagan perversion your Bible says: “When they (the people of early times) **KNEW GOD** (for archaeological records show that the world did know **YEHOVAH** God immediately after the flood -- and they knew of the Garden of Eden) they ... changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like unto corruptible man, and to birds, and four-footed beasts, and **CREEPING THINGS** (the **SERPENT MAINLY** -- for it had the Devil’s **SUPER**natural influence on man to make it seem **MORE** attractive than the **OTHERS SUN** included, for its worship was especially promoted by Satan) more than the Creator ...” (**Romans 1:21-25**).

In this sort of perverted fashion Satan, the serpent, secondhandedly received the worship and adoration he craved.

But of most use and advantage to Satan was the fact that he increased the **IMPORTANCE** of the great, fiery, lifeless **SUN** in the eyes of mankind! For Satan was gradually and stealthily laying the foundation for the introduction of the **DAY** of the sun -- **SUNDAY**! This offset the “brightness” that he lost when he rebelled against **YEHOVAH** God to end up with merely a **DULL RED** serpentine body.



Pyramid to the sun-god similar to the one at Chich'n Itza, Mexico, were erected by native Indians.



The “Sun Stone” -- ancient Aztec calendar. Notice sun depicted in center.

The Origin of Today’s Week and **SUNDAY**

When **YEHOVAH** God originally gave man His **SEVEN-DAY** week it was pegged to the lunar calendar like the rest of His Holy Days. He **SIMPLY NUMBERED** each day “the **FIRST** day,” “the **SECOND** day,” etc. (**Genesis 1:5, 8, 13, 19, 23, 31** -- last two words in each verse).

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And, set apart from these six days, YEHOVAH God gave His Holy Sabbath -- the SEVENTH day -- which is both NUMBERED and NAMED (**Genesis 2:2; Exodus 16:26**). Thus YEHOVAH EMPHASIZES the extreme importance of the SABBATH DAY to man!

YEHOVAH God Almighty originally set apart ONE SEVENTH of MAN'S TIME to especially remind mankind of the true, eternal, Almighty God. An EXACT time -- the SEVENTH day of the lunar week -- and an EXACT NAME -- the SABBATH!

Then how did "this present evil world" come to drop the lunar calendar and RENAME all seven days of the week -- with NO MENTION OF YEHOVAH'S HOLY SABBATH DAY?

Clearly it was NOT by YEHOVAH's authority! He NEVER changed HIS week with its seventh-day Sabbath.

This NEW week with its FIRST day -- called SUNDAY -- originated from elsewhere. It was FROM SATAN HIMSELF with the intent to confuse and trick man to suffer the penalty of ETERNAL DEATH brought about by SIN!

Let's understand how Satan gradually brought his COUNTERFEIT WEEK into being, with his SUNDAY taking the place of YEHOVAH God's commanded Sabbath Day!

The ancient heathen countries of Babylonia and Assyria knew of YEHOVAH's lunar seven-day week with its SEVENTH-DAY SABBATH. But Babylon was where Satan started his perversion of YEHOVAH's week!

In ancient Babylon YEHOVAH's true Sabbath day fell on the 7th, 14th, 21st and 28th days of the LUNAR MONTH; but gradually these days were set apart, by the Babylonians, as "evil days." Writes Hutton Webster --

"With regard to the reasons which dictated the choice of the seventh, fourteenth, twenty-first, and twenty-eighth days....It has been held...that the "evil days" were selected as corresponding to the MOON'S successive changes; hence that the seventh day marks the close of the EARLIEST [YEHOVAH'S] FORM

of the seven-day week, A WEEK BOUND UP WITH THE LUNAR PHASES" (*Rest Days*, p. 224).

The seventh day of each Babylonian (or YEHOVAH's) week was CALLED A "SABATTUN" -- the Babylonian form of the Hebrew word for "Sabbath." This is confirmed by Webster who says that "if for practical purposes the fourteenth day might be a **shabattum**, it is not difficult to assume that this was also the case with the days (seventh, twenty-first, and twenty-eighth), which marked other characteristic stages of the LUNATION" (p. 241).

Thus the Sabbaths of YEHOVAH GOD -- times when men might ENJOY SPIRITUAL PURSUITS -- were soon called periods of "ill omens" or "evil days" (*Rest Days*, p. 232).

Here we see that Satan was beginning to give YEHOVAH's Holy Sabbath Day a bad reputation!

On these "evil days" the pagans had to afflict themselves -- they had to do penance. They could not eat flesh cooked upon coals, nor change garments, nor could the physician lay hands upon the patient. At night, the king was to bring his gifts before the images (of pagan gods) and offer sacrifice to them (*Rest Days*, p. 232).

Satan had ALREADY CORRUPTED the manner of keeping the true Sabbath at this early date!

1. How did the pagans, under Satan's influence, formulate the **planetary or astrological week which the world still retains today** -- the week which Satan uses to HIDE YEHOVAH God's true lunar week from man, and in which he puts his SUNDAY to HIDE YEHOVAH's Sabbath Day?

COMMENT: Here is THE ANSWER: "The planetary week presents itself as a curious amalgum (or mixture) of ideas derived from different sources. Babylonia, the motherland of divination, provided the doctrine of the influence of the stars ("stars" are symbolic of angels (**Revelation 1:20**)). Stars worshipped in paganism are FALLEN ANGELS -- Satan's

demons!) upon human destinies: Greece furnished the mathematical astronomy which groups the planets according to their distance from the earth...upon these foundations ASTROLOGERS of the Hellenistic (Greek) era, familiar with the cult of seven and with the division of days into twenty-four hours, built up what was, at the outset, an entirely pagan (Devil-inspired) institution."

Notice from the words just quoted that the present planetary week is a PAGAN institution!

Continuing, "This seven-day week, in its ASTROLOGICAL FORM the second century B.C. had passed ... thence to Alexandria (Egypt) ... and about the age of Augustus (31 B.C.-14 A.D.)...into the Occidental (Western -- then Roman) land" (Webster's *Rest Days*, pp. 218-19).

Even the Jewish rabbis lost sight of YEHOVAH's true Sabbath! Notice what Webster has to say: "These imported superstitions [from Babylonia and Assyria] eventually led Jewish rabbis to call SATURN *Shabbti*, "the star of the Sabbath,"....It was not until the first century of our era, when the PLANETARY WEEK had become an established institution, that the Jewish Sabbath seems ALWAYS TO HAVE CORRESPONDED TO SATURN'S DAY [SATURDAY]"! (*Rest Days*, p. 244).

So TODAY'S PAGAN WEEK WAS BORN FROM MOTHER "BABYLON"! A name which suggests to YEHOVAH God every hateful thing! "Babylon...a habitation of DEVILS (demons), and the hold of every FOUL SPIRIT, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird" (**Revelation 18:2**).

2. How did the pagans, under the guidance of Satan, name the days of this counterfeit week -- TODAY'S week?

COMMENT: As we have seen, old Babylonia provided the false doctrine of the influence of the stars on human destinies.

Guided by old Babylonian influences, the pagans of a later time named the days of this

new planetary week for ancient heroes who became honored as gods: SUNDAY was at first set apart for the sun, the "god" of this world -- SATAN, the SUN-GOD. Monday was set apart for the moon; Friday for Venus or Frigga; and Saturday for Saturn.

The other days of the week received their names in similar fashion. Each received its name from a heavenly body which had been associated with some old Babylonian god or goddess.

This is NOT THE WEEK THAT YEHOVAH GOD GAVE MANKIND -- a lunar week aligned with the moon's phases and with ONLY the seventh day bearing a name, THE SABBATH, and its other days bearing only NUMBERS.

SO WE SEE THAT HERE IS A STRANGE WEEK! Here is a week whose days bear the names of pagan gods. The "Sabbath" Day nowhere appears in our strange week of today.

But SUNDAY, the day of the SUN -- the sun around which the pagans symbolically entwined the Serpent (the Devil) -- DOES APPEAR! It is the one day which is most observed by the world today!

SUNDAY Officially Instituted as World's Day of Worship

Satan was inspiring his agents. He had Sunday instituted on the first day of the new PLANETARY WEEK -- placed right NEXT to the seventh-day (Saturn's Day, or SATURDAY) that the Jews were NOW keeping their sabbath on! In ancient mythology Saturn was none other than NIMROD himself, so here we have the Jews keeping their sabbath on "Nimrod's Day" and the so-called Christian world keeping their sabbath on the "Day of the Sun"! What a masterful stroke on Satan's part!

Satan was influencing his pawns to set apart TWO DAYS -- Saturday and Sunday -- on which he could unwittingly be worshipped. Later, he influenced Mohammed to set aside Friday -- thus making a TRINITY of PAGAN

SABBATHS!!

1. When did the Babylonian-Samaritan conspiracy introduce the practice of keeping Sunday? When was the planetary week adopted by the professing "Christians" who were perverting the Messiah's teachings?

COMMENT: Here is the answer! "The early (true) Christians had at first adopted the Jewish seven-day week (YEHOVAH's week) with its numbered week days, but by the close of the third century A.D. this began to give way to the planetary week (of Satan)...The use of planetary names (Monday, Tuesday, etc.) attests to the growing influence of astrological speculations introduced by the converts from



ROMAN EMPEROR CONSTANTINE -- His famous edict of 321 A.D. Officially enrolled Sunday as the weekly day of rest and worship of the pagan Roman State religion.

paganism" (Webster's *Rest Days*, p. 220).

Satan's plan was bearing REAL FRUIT. The PROFESSING "Christian" world was switching FROM YEHOVAH's LUNAR SABBATH week to Satan's SUNDAY week!

2. Who was directly responsible for the ultimate WIDESPREAD rise of Sunday or "day of the Lord" worship which prevails TODAY?

COMMENT: Constantine, a CIVIL -- not ecclesiastical -- ruler of the Roman Empire, had the most to do with the ascendancy of Sunday as the day of worship. "Constantine's famous edict (321 A.D.) definitely enrolled Sunday among the holidays of the Roman State religion. The change from Saturn's day (Saturday -- the space of TIME in which the Jews started to observe a PAGAN Sabbath dedicated to NIMROD after the planetary week was introduced) to Sunday must have further commended the planetary week in Christian circles, where the Lord's day (Satan's SUNDAY)...beginning the week, had long been observed as the day on which the Messiah, the 'Sun of Righteousness' (supposedly) rose from the dead. Thus a pagan institution (Sunday observance) was engrafted on (PROFESSING) Christianity" (Webster's *Rest Days*, p. 222).

Do you grasp it?

A HUMAN civil ruler -- not YEHOVAH God -- established the custom of observing Sunday as a time of "Christian" worship instead of keeping YEHOVAH's key test SABBATH Day that can occur on ANY DAY of the planetary week!

Here are the words of powerful Constantine's famous edict of 321 A.D.: "On the venerable Day of the Sun let all magistrates and people...rest" (*Schaff-Herzog Encyclopedia of Religious Knowledge*, article "Sunday Legislation").

3. What was Constantine's own

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religion?

COMMENT: Gibbon, the authoritative historian, in his *Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*, Vol. 1, pp. 636-38, tells us: "Constantine...persevered till he was near 40 years of age in the practice of the established religion (of paganism)...But the devotion of Constantine was more peculiarly directed to the genius of the SUN...the sun was universally celebrated as the invincible guide and protector of Constantine."

Notice that Constantine became a PROFESSING "Christian" after he was about forty years of age. But it was also after he was about forty that he, by his legislation, brought his sun-god -- the "lord Baal" -- and SUN-day into Satan's COUNTERFEIT "Christian" Church TO STAY!

Today, the vast majority of PROFESSING "Christians" are blindly following in Constantine's Satanically inspired footsteps!

Military Might Carries SUNDAY Through the Ages

We've just seen how Satan instituted his diabolical day -- SUNDAY -- for the destruction of all mankind.

Now let's understand the human MILITARY MIGHT he has supernaturally caused to be associated with Sunday to insure that its observance would be continued.

1. After the flood of Noah's time, did Satan inspire a "MIGHTY ONE" in his cause in order to delude man? **Genesis 10:8**. Was the beginning of Nimrod's kingdom the city of Babel? **Verse 10**. ("Babel" is a word which means CONFUSION!)

COMMENT: Remember that Satan intended his planetary week to be CONFUSING. It HIDES YEHOVAH's true lunar week with its commanded seventh-day Sabbath and ordinary six numbered days. Satan's week originated in Babylonia, the area in which Nimrod began his kingdom.

Tradition and historical records show

that Nimrod was a mighty and presumptuous one "BEFORE (correctly translated "AGAINST") the Lord" (**Genesis 10:9**). He was a military conqueror. From his home city of Babel on the Euphrates River in the east, Nimrod's victories ranged into Africa.

Nimrod was also high PRIEST OF THE SUN!

A church, in the Bible, is often symbolized by a woman. After his death, Nimrod's beautiful and licentious wife became PRIESTESS of the sun. She was the ORIGINAL of the prophetic woman -- the "CHURCH" of **Revelation 17:1-5** -- with whom the kings (rulers) of those early days committed LITERAL FORNICATION!

They were familiar with her for the mutual "benefit" of each other. They aided the spread of her doctrine of sun worship, in return for which she rewarded them with her patronage "favours." And for the same reason today many national rulers of the world have "mutually satisfactory relations" (SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING) with her counterpart (**Revelation 17:1-2**) -- this world's great "UNIVERSAL" church!

Rulers to this day use their civil office to aid her -- the "church" -- in spreading her seductive false doctrines, including pagan SUN worship.

2. Sunday has continued into our day basically through a SUCCESSION of mighty world empires under the control of the Catholic Church. Does the Bible show that Satan the "dragon" (**Revelation 12:3, 9**) has and is giving them great power and military authority? **Revelation 13:1-2**.

There are many of this world's "greats" to which the Devil gave his power. Men of violence such as NIMROD of ancient Babylon, "a mighty one before the LORD," ALEXANDER "the Great" of Greece and, of course, CONSTANTINE "the Great."

And of the "Holy" Roman Empire which projects itself into our age -- JUSTINIAN "the Great," CHARLEMAGNE "the Great," OTTO

How Did Sunday Observance Begin?

“the Great,” CHARLES “the Great” and NAPOLEON “the Great.” Mighty ones all!

Of Alexander the Great and others, it has been said that they seemed to have been POSSESSED OF THE DEVIL himself, because of their fervor for destruction.

How to Escape Satan’s Wiles

Be careful that you aren’t deceived by Satan and his henchmen into participating in this dreadful -- yet deceptively innocent-looking custom of Sunday observance -- the “mark of the beast”! For those observing it can ultimately suffer ETERNAL DEATH!

The SABBATH -- which word means “rest” -- depicts the kind of eternal rest from sin which YEHOVAH God has in mind for man. But, ironically, Satan deludes man into keeping the day of the fiery sun -- SUNDAY -- causing man to commemorate the kind of “rest” Satan has in mind for mankind -- the “rest” of ETERNAL DEATH brought about BY SIN!

Satan is a “serpent” -- hidden, but very deadly -- a great “red dragon” who would deceive all mankind into DISobedience and eternal damnation.

Satan would like this whole earth, which is finally to become a fiery-red molten mass (**II Peter 3:10**), to contain all mankind ever created so they can be BURNED, leaving not a single human being who could ever become a very Son of YEHOVAH God and be raised to a position higher than ambitious Satan and his fallen angels!

YOU can AVOID this fate!

Satan has plotted the overthrow of YEHOVAH’s government ever since he rebelled against YEHOVAH God. But Satan’s schemes can be thwarted by Yeshua the Messiah!

Yeshua the Messiah in you, through His HOLY SPIRIT (**Romans 8:9-10; Philippians 2:5; Galatians 2:20**), can DEFEAT Satan -- your archenemy!

YEHOVAH GOD ALMIGHTY

promises that He will PROTECT you from Satan and his demons.

1. How can YOU escape the wiles of Satan? **James 4:7**. In what way should you SUBMIT yourself to YEHOVAH God? **Verse 8**. How can you draw close to YEHOVAH to be protected from the Devil and his demons? **Same verse**.

2. Does this mean that YEHOVAH expects you to turn from DISOBEDIENCE to His law -- observing Sunday and other false doctrines of this world -- to QUIT SINNING -- and begin KEEPING YEHOVAH’s seventh-day Sabbath (according to the lunar calendar) and other commandments? **Romans 6:16**.

3. If you do repent of breaking YEHOVAH’s law and begin to KEEP it, does He PROMISE TO HELP you? **James 4:10**. But does YEHOVAH WARN that if you KNOW to keep His Holy Sabbath, and DO NOT -- if you continue observing Sunday or the Saturday Sabbath -- it is SIN? **James 4:17**. Is it punishable by ETERNAL DEATH in the Lake of Fire? **Romans 6:23** and **Revelation 21:8**.

COMMENT: Don’t be MISLED into observing any day other than YEHOVAH’s true Sabbath Day, or into keeping the Sabbath Day with any group other than YEHOVAH’s ONE TRUE CHURCH!

Remember! YEHOVAH God has always had but ONE Church. While a few other “churches” now may “observe” this day, they do NOT LIVE BY EVERY WORD OF YEHOVAH GOD. “Narrow is the way...” (**Matthew 7:14**) -- denoting a comparatively SMALL Church.

Yet that Church is carrying the true gospel of the Kingdom of YEHOVAH God worldwide via the Internet and the printed page! This is one of the many “fruits” proving which church is the True Church of YEHOVAH God!

YEHOVAH God has led you to KNOW His truth. He wants to know what you are going to DO ABOUT IT!

Check Your Progress...

Question 1: By influencing mankind to sin, Satan is trying to _____ more additions to YEHOVAH's family.

Question 2: Can MANY demons enter into a single person at the same time? _____

Question 3: History shows that Satan always uses his demons to INFLUENCE people in _____.

Question 4: Are TRUE CHRISTIANS locked in a life-and-death struggle with the EVIL spirit world? _____

Question 5: Satan caused the _____ and the _____ to become associated together.

Question 6: Is YEHOVAH God's WEEK pegged to the moon or to the sun? _____

Question 7: In YEHOVAH's TRUE week the ONLY day that is both numbered and named is the _____.

Question 8: YEHOVAH's Sabbath days are aligned to the _____ of the MOON.

Question 9: The PAGANS introduced the _____ to HIDE YEHOVAH's true week.

Question 10: In what COUNTRY did Satan begin his PERVERSION of the true week? _____.

Question 11: It was not until the FIRST CENTURY that the Jewish Sabbath ALWAYS coincided with _____.

Question 12: WHO was directly responsible for the WIDESPREAD RISE of SUNDAY worship which prevails today? _____.

Question 13: YEHOVAH's TRUE Sabbath Day can occur on _____ of the planetary week in use today.

Question 14: What CHURCH has Satan used to spread PAGAN sun worship throughout the world? _____

The answers will be found in the next lesson. Approximately 3 weeks after receiving Lessons 5 through 8, you will receive a mail-in test that covers these four lessons. The test will be returned to you after grading. Following the completion of the Hope of Israel Bible Correspondence Course you will receive a **Certificate of Completion**. If you complete the course with a grade of 75% or better you will also receive an **Outstanding Student Award**.

