

Present Truth

2 Peter 1:12

Dear Readers,

April 2003

“Grace be to you and peace from God the Father, and from our Lord Jesus Christ.” (Galatians 1:3) Let these words speak to your heart, and accept them as the Word of God to you now. As the world is gearing up for war, God offers us grace and peace. Jesus said, “Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.” (John 14:27) Jesus wants us to have peace so that the things in this world will not trouble us or make us afraid. If you do not have this peace which is able to carry you through every trial that may come your way, please accept Christ as your Saviour, and learn to know God and His only begotten Son by reading the Bible and communicating with them through prayer.

THE MARK OF THE BEAST

by David Clayton

(In the lead article of last month's issue of *Present Truth*, we learned that the fourth beast of Daniel 7 is the same beast that is described as the first beast of Revelation 13. We also discovered that this beast is Rome, first pagan Rome, then papal Rome, the Roman Catholic Church, which ruled over the earth during the dark ages. Please refer to the March 2003 issue for further details. If you did not receive this issue, please contact us and request it. This month we would like to focus on the second beast of Revelation 13 and the implementation of the mark of the beast. *Editor*)

In the book of Revelation, in chapter 13, God tells us about two great beasts which would arise. The first, coming up out of the sea, had the body of a leopard, the feet of a bear, the mouth of a lion, and had seven heads and ten horns. The other, coming up out of the earth, had two horns like a lamb, but spoke like a dragon. God gives us some identifying marks which help us to clearly, unmistakably, identify these two beasts and to understand the kind of work which each one will do.

When we turn back to the book of Daniel, which is very similar to Revelation, being also a book full of beasts and other symbols, we find in chapter 7 and verses 17 and 23 that God gives us the interpretation of the symbol of a beast and tells us what this symbol means. Verse 17 says, “These great beasts, which are four, are four kings, which shall arise out of the earth.” So we see that *a beast* represents a king. But in verse 23 it says: “The fourth beast shall be the fourth *kingdom* upon earth...” So, it is clear that a beast is not meant to represent just a king, but *the kingdom itself*. Therefore, we can begin with the understanding that when

we see a beast, we are to understand that God is talking to us about a *kingdom*. In Revelation it is plain that we are dealing with two kingdoms; two great kingdoms which Satan would use in the end of time to make war against God's people.

When we take a careful look at the identifying marks of these two beasts, it is fairly easy for an open-minded person to identify the kingdoms, or powers, which they represent.

The second beast, which is found in Revelation 13:11, came up out of the earth. Now if waters represent multitudes of people (Revelation 17:15), then, clearly, the earth represents the opposite, for earth is the opposite of water. So, then, the earth must represent an area of the world in which there are relatively *few people*.

The Bible says that this second beast had two horns like a lamb. Remember that Jesus is the Lamb in the book of Revelation, but this beast spoke like a dragon. Keep in mind that Satan is the dragon in the book of Revelation. You can read all of this for yourself; simply take up your Bible and turn to Revelation chapter 13. It is all there. Do not take my word for it, but check it out for yourself.

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Make sure that what you believe is based on what you read in the Bible. It says that this second beast—the one which arises from the earth and has two horns like a lamb but speaks like a dragon—begins to do many marvelous things. In fact, he performs miracles, even calling down fire from heaven on the earth. These miracles are similar to some of the greatest miracles performed by God’s servants during Bible times.

The Bible says furthermore that he commands the people who dwell on the earth to make an image of the first beast—that is the papacy—and that they should give life to that image of the beast. Then this second beast commands everybody to receive a certain mark in the forehead or in the right hand, and that no man might be able to buy or sell except he has the mark, or the name, or the number of the beast. And more than that, he goes on to command that anybody who does not receive this “mark of the beast” should be killed! Revelation 13 finishes by saying that the number of the beast is the number of a man, and that number is six hundred and sixty-six.

You should be able to help me to identify this second beast:

What great power exists on the earth today which seems to have the characteristics of a lamb? That is, it seems to embrace the principles of Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God; it seems to present the appearance of a Christian power, and yet the Bible says that it speaks like a dragon. Underneath it is working with Satanic principles, but on the surface it seems to be a Christian country. Which great nation, a nation with influence all over the earth, will influence the whole world to worship the first beast? Which nation has that kind of power and influence,

which looks like a “Christian” nation? In fact, this country appears to be such a good Christian country with such freedom, such godly principles, that when people go there they don’t even want to return to their own country. Which country is that? I am sure that you have already concluded that this must be the United States of America. This is the power which is represented by the second beast. A great political power, which is able to persuade the



whole world to give in to its demands. If this is true, then what God is trying to tell us is that the United States of America will one day influence the whole world to

“worship” the papacy, or the Roman Catholic institution.

Now let me briefly sum up what I have been trying to say thus far: The first beast of Revelation 13 represents the Roman Catholic institution, otherwise called the papacy, and the second beast represents the United States of America. Now how do these two powers work together to bring about the last great crisis on the earth? Let us see what the Bible says in Revelation 13.

Verse 12 says that the second beast, which is the United States of America, “exerciseth all the power of the first beast before him, and causeth the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed.”

It says, furthermore, that he, the second beast “doeth great won-

ders, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men, and deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by means of those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast.” (Verses 13, 14)

Now, I have been talking about the United States of America when referring to this second beast, and here it says that this beast will perform *miracles*, calling down fire from heaven on the earth. Now, when we talk about miracles we know that we are talking about religion. The United States as a secular power will not be performing miracles! But we are talking here about the religious element in the United States: a powerful religious force within the United States of America, which will perform supernatural acts as a means of convincing the secular government to carry out its wishes. This is why, later on in chapters 16 and 19, this same two-horned beast, in cooperation with apostate Protestantism, is referred to as “The False Prophet.”

Today, among the religious bodies of the United States of America, there is a growing emphasis on miracles. The charismatic movement is sweeping through all the churches and many

His number is 666 (Revelation 13:18)

The pope has been given the title, “Vicar of the Son of God.” In the Latin (which is the official language of the Roman Catholic Church), this is written as, “VICARIUS FILII DEI.” Most of us learned in school that letters are used to represent numbers, in “Roman Numerals.” When we evaluate the title of the pope, using Roman numerals, we come up with the exact number 666, as demonstrated in the following figure.

V	5		
I	1		
C	100		
A	0	F	0
R	0	I	1
I	1	L	50
U	5	D	500
S	0	E	0
		I	1
	112		53
			501
			666

people are seeing this as the mighty moving of the Holy Spirit. We need to be very careful what we believe and what we get involved in, for it is through these religious bodies in the United States of America that the mighty miracles will be performed, which will deceive the whole world. The Bible prophesies that these religious powers will perform miracles as a means of convincing the people that they should make an image of the first beast. What this means is that in the United States of America a system will be set up, which will be exactly like the papacy. That is what the image of the beast is—a system which is just like the beast!

What are the main features of this first beast, the papacy? If we can identify these main features, then we know that when we see these same features duplicated in the United States, America will have formed an “image of the beast.”

Now, basically, the papacy is a religio-political system. This means that it is partly a church and partly a political state. Both secular and religious authority are combined in one. It is not so yet in the United States. At the moment, there is still a very strong, but weakening separation between church and state, and the Constitution of the United States of America even has a clause in it which guarantees this separation. However, there are powerful people in the United States who, even at this moment, are using all their influence to break down this separating wall between church and state, and the prophecy tells us that they will succeed. At the moment, the separation remains, but the mighty miracles which will be performed by these religious forces will be the ultimate persuasion. This will be seen as the hand of God at work, and it will be seen as the will of God that the church should have an input in deciding the policies which run the country. In other words,

that there should be a union between church and state. When this happens in the United States, then we may know that America has formed an “image of the beast.” Inevitably, just as in the case of the papacy, this image of the beast will become a persecuting power seeking to destroy all those who are not in harmony with its decrees; all who will not worship in the way that it demands.

If you are in touch with what is happening today, by listening to the news or reading the newspapers, then you already know that there are strong movements afoot to bring about this religio-political union. There is a great cry among the churches today that they ought to have, and that they will have, a bigger input in the governing of the various countries, and in the way that the world is run. Today, the World Council of Churches has become a very influential institution with the power to influence many of the policies which govern the world. According to the prophecy, the unholy marriage between these two powers, church and state, will soon be a reality in the United States. The image of the beast will be fully formed. What a time of testing that will be for God’s people! Who will then dare to stand up and say that God ought to be obeyed rather than men? To take such a stand at that time will mean placing one’s temporal life in the greatest danger, but all who are truly His children will remain faithful to Him. All the powers of earth and hell combined cannot cause them to be disloyal to their Saviour.

THE MARK

Now that we have settled the question of who these two beasts are, the next question which we need to face is, “What is the mark of this beast?” Remember, please, that the mark is the mark of the first beast. There are some fundamental things which we need to understand before we can begin to deal with this topic. One of these is the truth

that ever since God created man, and placed him on this planet, the great issue has been loyalty to God; the question of whether a person would obey God or obey some other master. From the Garden of Eden when God said to man, “thou shalt not eat of the fruit of the tree...” and Satan persuaded him to eat, this has been the issue. If you read the Bible carefully, you will see that this has always been the separating line between God’s people and those who are not. Obedience! That was the critical issue, and that is what reveals whether we are God’s people or not. Yes, it is true that we only obey as Jesus is allowed to control our lives. We, of ourselves, can do nothing. Nevertheless, when Christ lives in us He will lead us to obey God, and this is how we may identify the person who is a true and sincere Christian. We may know him by his fruit—by his obedience. (Matthew 7:20) In dealing with this question of the mark of the beast, we need to bear this fact in mind.

Let me ask you a question; a simple question: Will God punish people for anything else apart from sin? Will God be displeased with men for anything other than sin? The obvious answer is no! The only thing which will bring God’s punishment down on men is the fact that men commit sin. Sin is what causes separation between man and God and makes man deserving of death. God says, “The soul that sinneth, it shall die.” (Ezekiel 18:20) The next question is this, “What is sin?” The Bible gives us a clear answer in 1 John 3:4. It says, “Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for *sin is the transgression of the law.*” So then a man commits sin when he breaks, or transgresses, the law. Paul confirmed this when he wrote, “What shall we say then? Is the law sin? God forbid. Nay, I had not known sin, but by the law: for I had not known lust, except the law had said, Thou shalt not covet.” (Romans 7:7) This

law refers specifically to the Ten Commandments.

Consider then: Is it a sin to receive the mark of the beast? Is the mark of the beast sin? Is the receiving of this mark something which God will punish? In Revelation 13 verses 9-12 God promises that those who receive the mark of the beast will receive the most dreadful punishment ever meted out to any human being, so we may be certain that sin is involved in receiving the mark of the beast. Since sin is the transgression of the law, it must mean that receiving the mark of the beast will involve the breaking of the law of God. This has always been the basic issue from the beginning of time—the question of obedience to God’s law—and at the end of time it remains the key issue.

Revelation is a book of symbols. Many people are expecting that some day people will be going around with some kind of device by which they will place some kind of literal mark on the bodies of people. Some specify that this will be the number 666, but remember that the *number* of the beast is 666, which helps us to identify the beast. The *mark* of the beast is something else. Revelation is a symbolic book. Things are not always the way they appear on the surface. When we see that people are to receive a mark, are we to believe that this is to be a literal mark? Some kind of tattoo which we can see with our physical eyes? Something which is to be engraved on people’s bodies? Why do we look at it in such a simplistic way?

It is interesting to note that the book of Revelation speaks about two marks. One group of people will receive a mark which is called “the seal of God.” (Revelation 7:1-3) The rest of the world will receive a mark which is called, “the mark of the beast.” Now in order to help us to understand what these two marks are, I’m going to go right back to the very

beginning. You see, this is not something new, which crops up at the end of time. The controversy between God and Satan began before this world was created and has continued up until the present time. The principles involved, the issues at stake, are basically the same from beginning to end. God does not change and Satan’s strategies have not changed very much either. The issues have come to us in a different context, but in the Garden of Eden, the key question was that of obedience to the law of God, and Satan convinced Adam and Eve to disobey God. He deceived them into believing that disobedience was a trivial thing, but with God, obedience is always a crucial test in determining our loyalty to Him, and this is still the issue here at the end of time.

GOD’S SIGN

From the very beginning God has had a mark which He has specifically stated is a sign between Himself and His people. Of course, we need to understand that one of the devil’s key strategies is that whenever God establishes something which is of importance, Satan tries to set up a counterfeit, an alternative which looks similar but is not quite the same. This he does in order to deceive people and to lead them into something which is contrary to the will of God; something which seems to be okay to the person who is not a careful student of God’s Word and who is not led by the Holy Spirit. So as we look at God’s mark, or God’s sign, let us keep this in mind.

Let us go back to the very beginning. In Genesis chapter one we are told that God made this world in six days. Of course, He took six days because He chose to, because a God of infinite power could have created it in one second. God chose to take six days for reasons which He knows best. However, since God took six days to create the world, then each week should have had just six days,

because the week came into existence because of the time which God took to make the world. The creation week was the first week, and every other week since then has been patterned after that first week of this world’s history. So the week should have had six days! But in Genesis 2:1-3, the Bible says that when He had finished His creation, God rested.

God entered into an experience on the seventh day which the Bible describes as “rest.” In Exodus 31:17, we are told that God was “refreshed” by that experience. It was such a beautiful experience for Himself that God blessed that day. He sanctified it and He set it apart. To “sanctify” means to set apart for a holy purpose. To “bless” means to put something in that day that cannot be found in any other day. God blessed the Sabbath and sanctified it *because* He rested on that day. Notice that all this happened before there was any sin in this world. It was a part of God’s perfect plan. When God’s work of creation was completed He set a seal upon it by placing the seventh day at the end of the week as a perpetual reminder of the fact that He is the Creator and that He created the world in one awesome week; as a reminder that He is the Almighty God, the One who does not require endless ages of evolution to create a perfect thing out of nothing. The seventh-day Sabbath stands, therefore, as a seal, as a mark, as a perpetual witness to the truth that this world was created in six days. So this day was added to the week, and this is why, even today, the week has exactly seven days; no more, no less.

I want you to notice that the seventh day was added to the week for one purpose, and one only. That it came into existence as a part of the week as a memorial of God’s experience of rest. More than that, however, it was set apart for a holy purpose; the same holy purpose for which it was used on the very first Sabbath when God was

refreshed. That holy purpose was that man and God should have uninterrupted communion together just as God had with Adam and Eve on that first day after they were created, that first Sabbath when the fellowship “refreshed” the Spirit of Jehovah. This is the only reason for which this day has been attached to the week.

Later, when God called the Jews to be His peculiar people, when God took them out of Egypt and made a covenant with them, He instructed them to keep the Sabbath. This is the sign which God places upon what belongs to Him—the Sabbath, the seventh-day Sabbath. This is made quite clear in Ezekiel 20:12, where, speaking of the Jews, God says, “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.”

“I gave them my Sabbaths, to be a sign between me and them.” It was, and is, God’s Sabbath, but He gave it to the Jews, and to all men (Mark 2:27)—a sign between God and His people that they could know that He was the One who was their God, their Sanctifier; the One who made them holy, the One who had set them apart to be a peculiar people. Not that it was the Sabbath of the Jews. It was “the Sabbath of the LORD thy God,” given to the Jews because they had now become God’s people; they now entered into a special, peculiar relationship with God and this, the keeping of the Sabbath, was the sign of that relationship.

Some people say that this relationship was only between God and the Jews, but the Bible does not support this idea. In Isaiah chapter 56 God says that the stranger (and the word “stranger” there means “gentile”) who joined himself to the Lord, and who would take hold of the Sabbath, would also receive a place and a name better than that of sons and daughters. So this

privilege of sonship, of entering into a covenant relationship with God, was always available to the gentiles. But, as you will read here in Isaiah 56, it was dependent on the gentiles also accepting the Sabbath, the sign of God’s covenant relationship. Friends, God never broke that covenant. God never changed that sign. Though many people try to tear down the law of God and to say that the Sabbath was abolished, the Bible does not teach that doctrine, and we have to look somewhere outside of the Bible to find authority for that belief. Later on in this study we will see exactly where this change came from and how it came about.

Jesus made it perfectly clear that all of God’s Ten Commandments were to continue forever. In Matthew 5:17-19 He said, “Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil. 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. Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, the same shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven.”

Colossians 2:16, 17 says that certain sabbaths were a shadow of things to come, but if we think carefully we will see that this could not include the seventh-day Sabbath. The Jews had many sabbaths which they observed, for the word “sabbath” really means “rest.” (See Leviticus 23: 24, 32, 39; 25:4.) But the seventh-day Sabbath was peculiar because it was God’s Sabbath, intended to commemorate God’s rest. These other sabbaths, like the Passover, the Day of Atonement, Pentecost, and many others, were shadows, or types, which pointed forward to some great event in God’s plan of redemption. The seventh-day Sabbath was not one of these types. You see, these types were instituted after man sinned. They were to be

lessons, or parables, which were intended to teach the Jews about God’s plan to redeem man from sin. But the seventh-day Sabbath was from *before* man sinned. It was a part of God’s perfect plan. It was no afterthought; not something put in as a result of sin, but there from the beginning—a part of God’s perfect plan for sinless man.

The true value of the Sabbath lies in understanding and appreciating what God intended it should be from the beginning. The Bible says God was refreshed on the Sabbath day. He “rested,” though God could not be tired. God spent that first Sabbath day with Adam and Eve, His two newly-created creatures; His son and His daughter. As God spent that day with them, and God got to know them better, they also began to know Him, and it was such a beautiful experience for them all that the Bible describes it by saying that God “rested” and was “refreshed.” (Exodus 31:17) No doubt it was a beautiful experience for Adam and Eve also.

God “sanctified” the day. He set it apart forever, and in this He was saying, “I want this experience to come back over and over again. Every seventh day I want to enter into this experience again.” The Sabbath became a memorial of that “rest” experience which God had enjoyed. A memorial of that first seventh day when God and man had enjoyed total oneness. God is inviting man to continually enter this experience which He had with Adam and Eve on that first Sabbath day, and the sign of this relationship is the observance of the seventh-day Sabbath. Outside of this, the Sabbath loses its meaning. It is the experience which the day is intended to foster and to commemorate, which means something. Apart from this, the Sabbath can deteriorate into dry, empty legalism. But, truly understood and truly appreciated as God intended that it should be, it is one of the most beautiful gifts which God has given to man.

SATAN'S COUNTERFEIT

But, as stated before, Satan always tries to counterfeit whatever God establishes. This is especially true in the case of something like the Sabbath, which God set aside as a particular sign to be an identifying mark between Himself and His people. Satan set himself to counterfeit this; to destroy in people's minds the reverence for the Sabbath, which God had ordained that it should have.

Satan set out to destroy the Sabbath, and I am going to now give some history as to how Sunday observance, which is the opposite thing, came into existence. I am aware that some of you who read this article have a long tradition of Sunday observance. Your grandparents, your parents, you yourself, may have been born into a home where Sunday observance was the normal way of life. Please understand that I do not mean to attack you or to hurt you. My only purpose, by God's grace, is to help us to see things in the true light of the Scriptures so that we may have the option of choosing to walk in the light of God as we see more clearly the way that He would have us to take.

I am going to turn now to *Collier's Encyclopedia*, and I am going to quote from the article entitled, "Sunday."

To understand the meaning and the significance of Sunday as the first day of the week, it is necessary to consider the five contributions that have been made to its place in the calendar, and to its manner of observance.

1. The worship of the SUN among ancient peoples. [What this is saying, is that Sunday observance began when, in ancient times, people began to worship the sun. I am going to deal with this point a little more closely, but let us just read the other four points first.]

2. The popularity of Mithraism among the Romans. [This was also a form of sun worship.]

3. The Roman observance of the day of the sun.

4. The early Christian dedication of the first day of the week as a memorial of the resurrection of Christ.

5. The Scottish Presbyterian conception of Sunday as a day of rest.

So we see that according to *Collier's Encyclopedia*, Sunday observance began when pagans started worshipping the sun in ancient times.

Now let's take a look at a little history. You will be able to find many of these facts in the books, *Babylon, Mystery Religion*, by Ralph Woodrow and *The Two Babylons*, by Alexander Hislop.

The Bible speaks in Genesis chapters 10 and 11 of a man named Nimrod. You will remember that when God destroyed the world by a flood He commanded Noah to build an ark in which he and his family found refuge and escaped that terrible destruction because they trusted in, and believed, God. Some years after the flood this man Nimrod began to become a person of renown in the earth. The Bible says that he became "a mighty hunter before the Lord." Or as some commentators have rendered it, "a mighty hunter instead of the Lord." What we are made to understand is that Nimrod began to set himself up as a mighty person, as one who was to be looked up to instead of Jehovah. He was the first man on the earth who made war on his neighbors.

Up to this time, there had been no governments, no nations. People had lived in scattered family groups with the head of each family being the highest authority, but with no central authority or organized social structure. Nimrod decided to gather people together into cities and to bind them together under one central government with himself as the ruler, the ultimate authority. The Bible says that the beginning of his kingdom was Babel. Nimrod made war on his neighbors, established a kingdom for himself and

proceeded to set himself up as the greatest man on earth.

Nimrod was such a powerful man, such a skillful warrior, and so successful in the hunt and in warfare, that the people eventually elevated him to the place where they actually regarded him as a god. They began to look to him as their protector and provider. His wife, Semiramis, who was said to be a very beautiful woman, rose in the shadow of Nimrod to become the most powerful woman in the world.

Nimrod was eventually killed (it is believed by Noah's son Shem who remained alive for a period of five hundred years after the flood and who led an expedition against him because of his blasphemous acts against God), but Nimrod's wife, Semiramis, managed to convince the people (in order to maintain her influence as queen) that Nimrod, in dying, had merely moved on to a different sphere and that his spirit was now in the sun, and that day by day, as the sun passed by overhead, Nimrod's spirit was watching over them all. This was the beginning of sun worship, with the corresponding Sunday observance.

Eventually, Semiramis died and they came to believe that her spirit was gone to live in the moon! So they also started to worship the moon and called it the queen of heaven. You may read in Jeremiah 7:18 where God rebuked the people of Israel for copying the heathen nations in worshipping this queen of heaven. The pagans worshiped the sun, the moon, and eventually they even worshiped the planets and the stars. Since they regarded the sun as the most important god, they dedicated the first day of the week to the sun and called it the day of the sun. This is where the name "Sunday" came from. The second day was called Moon's day in honor of the moon and the other days were dedicated to various other gods.

So this is really where Sunday observance began. Heathen sun worship on the first day of the week, was Satan's counterfeit of what God had established. God had consecrated the seventh day of the week and set it aside for His honor and worship. Satan led men to substitute the opposite, the first day of the week. This deception has continued right down through the ages. Almost every heathen nation has had a history of sun worship, with the corresponding observance of Sunday.

In Egypt they worshiped the sun under the name of Ra; in Babylon he was worshiped as Bel; in Medo-Persia he was worshiped as Mithra. The Romans also embraced this form of sun worship called Mithraism, while the Greeks adored him under the name of Apollos. Also, as you read the Bible, you will find that the Israelites had a great deal of conflict with heathen sun worshipers, whom they encountered in Palestine, and who worshiped the sun under the name of Baal. At one time, during the days of Elijah, sun worship filled Israel and there was eventually a great confrontation on Mount Carmel between Elijah and these worshipers of Baal. You may read about this in 1 Kings 18:20-40.

Ezekiel had a vision in which God showed him a group of men who professed to be God's people but who turned their backs to the temple of God and worshiped the sun toward the east. This story can be found in Ezekiel 8:16.

THE CHANGE

The foregoing is the true story of how Sunday observance began, and the Bible states, "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." (Daniel 7:25) This is a startling text which many people have

never read. It says that the beast kingdom would "think to change times and laws." Please make a note of this text and read it carefully! This is what God showed to Daniel in a vision.

Think about this: Whose times would he change? Whose laws? There is nothing unusual about changing the laws or the times of men. That happens all the time. So when God warns us that the little horn on the head of the beast would try to change "times and laws," it must be clear that He is talking about *God's times and God's laws*! Somewhere in God's law, in the Ten Commandments, there is a law which deals with time, and the Bible tells us here that the little horn, which is the papacy, would try to change it. Now if we go through the Ten Commandments from beginning to end we will find that there is only one commandment that deals with time. All the other commandments begin, "Thou shalt," or "Thou shalt not," but this one begins with the word "Remember." The peculiar thing is that this is the one which people are most neglectful of and are most willing and anxious to forget. God says, "Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy." (Exodus 20:8) He says, "The seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord thy God." (Exodus 20:10) Friends, in last month's issue of *Present Truth*, we saw clearly that the beast represents the Roman Catholic church-kingdom. It is this beast-kingdom which has tried to change God's times and laws.

Let us now read from the writings of the Roman Catholic Church itself to prove to you that this church is the one which has tried to change the Sabbath from the seventh to the first day of the week. Roman Catholics are not ashamed of, or embarrassed by, this change. They boast about it! They claim that their church has the authority to change even the laws of God! They claim that the pope has received

this authority from God, and the statement has been made that it is a *mark* of the power of the church that it has been able to change even the laws of God. Do you see the significance of this? The Roman Catholic Church says: I changed the Sabbath. God gave me that authority. Everybody else has accepted this change and now acknowledges Sunday as a day to be observed as holy. Therefore, this means that everyone accepts that God has given us, the Roman Church, this authority. So you see, Sunday observance is a *mark* of our authority! Let me read to you from the *Catholic Encyclopedia*, Volume 4, page 153.

The church, after changing the day of rest from Sabbath, or the seventh day of the week, to the first, made the third commandment refer to Sunday as the day to be kept holy as the Lord's day...

Now you will notice they refer to it as "the third commandment," although, in reality, the Sabbath commandment is the fourth commandment. The reason for this is that the Catholic Church has removed the second commandment, which forbids the worship of images. This second commandment says, "Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image," nor "...bow down thyself to them..." However, in the Catholic Church it is a common practice for the people to bow to the images of Mary and dead saints. In order to make this practice acceptable, they have simply cut out the second commandment and done away with that part of God's Word. Then the third commandment is regarded by them as the second and the fourth has become the third. To preserve the number ten, the last commandment is divided into two. So we see that the Roman Catholic Church claims that it was their work to change the Sabbath day from the seventh day to the first day. Let us read from an article entitled, "The Christian Sabbath," which was published by *The*

Catholic Mirror of Baltimore in the year 1893:

The Catholic Church, for over one thousand years before the existence of a protestant by virtue of her divine mission, changed the day from Saturday to Sunday. But the Protestants say, "How can I receive the teachings of an apostate church?" "How," we ask, "have you managed to receive her teachings all your life in direct opposition to your recognized teacher, the Bible, on the Sabbath question?"

Now these are plain words, and they are written by Catholics. A reasonable question is asked. If the Protestant claims to believe the Bible and the Bible only, then how does he come to be observing Sunday instead of the seventh-day Sabbath? Where does he get this authority from? Who can find this change in the Bible? It is not there! There is not a single hint in the Bible that God ever blessed the first day of the week or that it is any different from the other five days that come after it. Yet millions of people who are not Roman Catholics are, at the present time, observing Sunday, setting it aside as a special day of worship every week, while they trample upon the day which the Bible says is holy and make it a day of business and recreation. Where has this authority come from? It has come from the Catholic Church! From the Catholic Church alone, and those who observe Sunday and defend it are acknowledging that the Roman Catholic Church has been given the right by God to change the Sabbath. Do you see more clearly how Sunday observance is the mark of the authority of the Roman Church? Look at the following statement, which actually appeared in a Catholic publication:

Sunday is the **mark** of our authority. The church is above the Bible, and this transference of Sabbath observance is proof of the fact. (*The Catholic Record*, London, Ontario,

September 1, 1923—emphasis supplied)

For hundreds of years Christians all over the world have observed the first day of the week instead of God's Sabbath. Many of them have done this in ignorance, sincerely believing that they were doing the correct thing. God has accepted their worship because they did not know better, and has counted them as His children because they were sincerely seeking to please Him even though, in their lack of understanding, they were disobeying Him. But God desires that we should worship Him not only in spirit, but also in *truth*! (John 4:24) And, as we come to the end of time, the truth and the glory of God must go to the ends of the world. It is impossible for a person's life to glorify God in the way that God wants as long as he continues to hold on to error and falsehood. How can a man truly glorify God if there are elements of paganism in the way that he worships God?

God speaks to us through His Word and He calls us up higher, to a more pure and perfect worship! And those who hear and yet refuse to obey the Word of God place themselves in a position where they are in rebellion against God and are in danger of being eternally lost! Having read this, you have an obligation to obey God. You cannot, after this, claim that you are ignorant and that you do not understand. Your own conscience will ever after trouble you, and give you no rest, until you make up your mind to surrender completely to the will of God or else grieve away God's Holy Spirit by continual disobedience, and so end up with the devil and his angels in the lake of fire!

THE APPROACHING CRISIS

Now what does all of this have to do with the mark of the beast? Have you seen the direction in which this study is heading?

Some time ago, back in the year 1977, as a young Christian, I was feeling a bit discouraged one day and I prayed to God and asked Him to show me a sign; just to give me a little encouragement. To show me something to help me to be reassured that the end of time was indeed very near. Now that I am a more mature Christian I would not ask God for such a thing, for I realize that the Word of God shows us very clearly where we are, and we are to base our faith upon that Word, rather than upon signs. Nevertheless, I was a baby in Christ and God understood this, and He will sometimes give something to a child that He would not give to an adult. Later that day, I saw God's answer. An article appeared in the local newspaper, *The Gleaner*, which had the caption, "Methodists Concerned Over Misuse of Lord's Day." When I read the article, it struck me with tremendous force. It stated that the Methodist Church in Jamaica was concerned about the "misuse" of the "Lord's day" (which they interpreted as Sunday). They were concerned that there were too many sporting events being held on that day, too much recreation, and too little regard for the sanctity of the day. One particular statement caught my attention. They said that "Christian corporate worship," or in other words, unity among Christians, could only be achieved if it was based on a greater regard for Sunday as a holy day.

This is the direction in which Satan is leading the world. He wants it to be established by law that Sunday should be treated as a holy day! It is Satan's plan! He means that the whole world shall embrace his form of worship rather than God's! This has been his plan from the very beginning. Whatever God has ordained, Satan has tried to counterfeit. Unhappily, even those who call themselves the children of God, who go by the name

of Christians, have allowed themselves to be deceived by the father of lies and have not only accepted pagan Sunday observance, but are demanding that the governments of the world should force every person, by law, to give the same honor to the false Sabbath that they have given to it.

Jesus said that the way to eternal life was straight and narrow and that only a few people would find it. He stated that many would one day come with the claim that they had served Him faithfully, and had done many miracles in His name, but His answer to them would be, "I never knew you!" (Matthew 7:13, 14, 21-23) This is exactly what is happening. People are claiming to be Christians when, in reality, they are serving Satan.

Let us beware of blindly following the majority. Let us not simply walk in the footsteps of the crowd. Let us follow the teachings of God's Word no matter how unpopular it makes us or what the consequences may be. This is our only safety. Satan is trying to bring the world to the place where, by a decree of law, all mankind will be compelled to disobey God and to serve the great deceiver.

Just as in the days of the Tower of Babel, men are trying to work out their own salvation; to establish a religious system of their own choice rather than what God requires. This is

why God calls the religious systems of the day "Babylon the Great," the religious prostitute which commits fornication with the kings of the earth. But God will not accept false worship and, as He destroyed that tower of ancient times, so He will again destroy this present-day attempt to defy His word.

There are several organizations in the world today, most of them located in the United States of America, which are trying very hard to get Sunday officially set aside by law as a day of rest

and worship! Among these are: The National Reform Association; The International Reform Association; The Lord's Day Alliance of the United States; The New York Sabbath Committee; The Federal Council of The Churches of Christ in America, among others. To get an idea of the direction in which these people want to go, let us read a quotation from a representative of one of these groups. This quotation was taken from a publication entitled, *Special Alert No. 29*, edited by Howard B. Rand, and published in May 1982.

It is not the duty of any particular group of people, it is not the duty of any church, it is the duty of the government of His people to thus proclaim a day as the Sabbath to be uniformly observed throughout the length and breadth of our land... **opposition to Sunday, nationally declared the Sabbath, must cease.** There will be no relief from mounting economic disaster until the seventh day, following six days of labor, is strictly enforced by government decrees and action.

Of course, when this man says, "the seventh day, following six days of labor," he means that we should start the week from Monday so that the seventh day will fall on Sunday.

As far back as 1904, Dr. Bascom Robins gave a lecture in which he made the following extraordinary statement:

• METHODISTS CONCERNED OVER 'Misuse of Lord's Day'

By Desmond Allen
The Christian Citizenship Committee of the Methodist Church has expressed concern over the "increasing misuse of the Lord's Day." Sunday is described as an alteration in the traditional view of the day for keeping the day holy. The statement prepared for the initiative of the January Synod of the Church, the Committee said that in the committee, political rallies and other events were taking place, and even business transactions were being held. Many individuals have come to regard the day as one of rest or recreation rather than a day of worship.

The statement said that government legislation could not bring about the desired attitude to the day and it called on Christians standstill to recognize the importance of the day. "The appeal for Sunday observance is positive. We are asking what will break the Sabbath, but what will keep it. Every Christian must decide for himself, and the Church whose duty it is to make explicit what it believes in the Spirit's guidance."

"We believe that the day is rightly kept when, freed from limitations imposed by duties and claims of other days of the week, it is devoted to the complete fellowship with Jesus in worship and meditation, and works of service, righteousness and love," the statement added.

Declaring that Christian corporate worship and the Christian Sunday were inseparable, the Committee warned that if the Church, assembled as a particular unit and place, could receive from God and offer to God what was impossible in any other way, and what was essentially connected with its very life and function, "the members will neglect such assemblies at their peril."

Cleve Grant raps selling on Sunday

THE increasing inroads into the observance of Sunday — The Lord's Day — has received strong condemnation from the Revd. Mr. Cleve Grant of the Church of God.

In his sermon on Sunday, the Revd. Mr. Grant deplored what he termed the rape of the Lord's Day which, he said, had reached new dimensions in business, sport and just about

Fiji bans fun on Sunday

SUVA: People breaching Fiji's new "wholly Holy" Sunday laws could be fined \$100 (\$A96) or jailed for a month under a government decree published yesterday.

In the Christian tradition, Nearly half the population is Hindu or Muslim. All Sunday sporting activity is banned, as are trading, public transport, cinemas, bars, night clubs, amusement halls and picnics.

Entertainment must stop at midnight on Saturday for 24 hours. The one activity permitted without penalty: church-going.

24—THE WEEKEND STAR, Friday, December 18, 1987

Rape of the Lord's Day continues

says Rev. Cleve Grant
RECALL another sign of the crumbling of moral and spiritual walls in our society is the continuing rape of the Lord's Day — the Christian Sunday.

Last year I again stirred up somewhat of a hornet's nest as ten of thousands of words were written to both the *Gleaner* and *The Star* throughout the year in response to

this article. At this time of the year when it is business as usual on the Lord's Day I again write on that subject.

The pity is that we have forgotten that there is a time for everything under the sun and have our priorities all mixed up. The awful greed and commercialism of the Christmas Season is one of the signs of our times. The spirit of the Lord's Day upon it

nation or any nation must not be minimised.

—Claims of God

The desecration of Sunday

Rev. C. L. THAMES
CONTRIBUTOR

IT IS NOW more than 1,800 years since Jesus Christ died for our sins. His death was a sacrifice for the sins of the world. His resurrection was a triumph over death. His ascension was a victory over the powers of evil. His return will be a final judgment on all who have lived on earth. His church is the body of Christ, the people who are united to Him by faith and baptism. His church is the people who are called to live a life of holiness and righteousness. His church is the people who are called to love one another as He loved us. His church is the people who are called to be witnesses to the world of His love and His grace.

But there is no doubt also, that under the New Testament, the day of rest was changed from the seventh day of the week to the first day of the week. This change was made by the apostles and was a part of the new covenant. The day of rest was changed from the seventh day of the week to the first day of the week. This change was made by the apostles and was a part of the new covenant. The day of rest was changed from the seventh day of the week to the first day of the week. This change was made by the apostles and was a part of the new covenant.

When the European Colonies were founded in the 17th century, the day of rest was changed from the seventh day of the week to the first day of the week. This change was made by the apostles and was a part of the new covenant. The day of rest was changed from the seventh day of the week to the first day of the week. This change was made by the apostles and was a part of the new covenant.

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LEADERS Never on a Sunday

Would the European Community really be so stupid as to ban Sunday working? Alas, yes.

God said everyone should have a day off a week. Muslims chose Fridays, Jews Saturdays, Christians Sundays. Now the European Community is pretending to be God. It is about to decide that everyone must take Sunday off. What business is it of the Community to decide such things? You may well ask. Sunday is a day when Christians are to worship God. It is a day when Christians are to rest. It is a day when Christians are to be with their families. It is a day when Christians are to be with their churches. It is a day when Christians are to be with their neighbors. It is a day when Christians are to be with their God.

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Fiji: never on Sunday

LAPSE in picnic in Fiji these days — especially on Sundays.

The military government has added picnic to the list of activities not permitted on the Sabbath. Sporting events, trading are also banned, and public houses and taxis do not operate.

Church-going is encouraged, but congregations are advised to go straight home afterwards. Colonel Siliveni Rabaka.

collegiate head of State and military commander, is understood to have 'told down' the new Sunday laws.

He is a lay preacher in the Methodist Church, which believes in keeping the sabbath holy.

The column is supported in this by his adviser on information, Methodist minister Rev. Thomas Ratu.

It was not clear yesterday what the penalty might be for someone

caught holding an illegal picnic in a park or at the beach.

When an 18m-to-20m curfew was imposed on September 25, curfew-breakers were at first admonished and escorted home.

Later, security forces said breakers would spend the night in a police cell.

The curfew has forced many restaurants to close.

There is a class of people in this country who will not keep the Christian Sabbath [meaning Sunday], unless they are forced to do so. But this can easily be done. If we will say, we will not sell anything to them, we will not buy anything from them, we will not work for them, or hire them to work for us, the thing would be wiped out, and all the world would keep the Christian Sabbath.

That is exactly what the Bible says will happen when the mark of the beast is enforced! Those who refuse to receive the mark of the beast will be unable to either buy or sell (Revelation 13:17). Can you see where we are heading? The religious powers will influence the governments of the world to pass laws which will compel everybody to treat Sunday as a holy day! This is the mark of the beast! The sign of apostasy will be the observance of Sunday! The observance of a man-made commandment in direct disobedience to the Word of God. Those who, at that time, continue to observe Sunday, instead of God's Sabbath, will, in this way, receive the mark of the beast. They will plainly demonstrate that they obey the beast rather than God.

POPE CALLS FOR SUNDAY LAWS

And now it has happened at last. On the 7th of July, 1998, in the most significant move of his whole career, Pope John Paul II sent out a 104-page "apostolic letter" in which he insists on the need for Sunday legislation.

The letter is entitled, *Dies Domini*, or, *The Lord's Day*. While it is addressed to "the bishops, clergy and faithful of the Catholic Church," we should not believe that these are the only persons who will be influenced by the letter. Not only is it a mandate to all Roman Catholics to personally observe Sunday in a more meaningful way, it is also a directive to them to do all in their power to ensure that the

whole society conforms to the pope's concept of Sunday observance. The following is a quotation from the pope's letter.

Therefore, also in the particular circumstances of our own time, Christians will naturally strive to ensure that civil legislation respects their duty to keep Sunday holy.

In an article which appeared in *The Sunday Times*, July 5, 1998, the following report appeared:

In Vienna last month, he told Catholics: "Do whatever you can to preserve Sunday. Make it clear that this day must not be worked, since it must be celebrated as the day of our Lord."

To put it bluntly and in more familiar terms, what the pope is pushing for is the passing of *Sunday laws*!

The man who has called for this Sunday legislation is the person who, above all others alive on planet earth, is considered the symbol of morality; the one whose voice is most authoritative on social issues. In this area, the pope is not just a figurehead. When he speaks, people in high places listen. His voice and influence helped to topple the mighty Soviet Union and brought about concessions in the attitude of the United States of America toward Cuba. When he calls for Sunday laws, we can expect things to happen.

THE SUNDAY TIMES - July 5, 1998

Pope launches crusade to save Sunday

THE Pope will issue a strongly worded appeal to Roman Catholics this week to restore the sacred nature of Sunday. Prompted by concern that the sabbath has been undermined by business and falling attendances at mass in the West, he will urge Catholics to defend it as a day of worship and recreation for families.

Final preparations are being made at the Vatican to distribute an apostolic letter - exhortation - on the subject from John Paul II. The document, *Dies Domini* (The Day of the Lord), is expected to be addressed to all "faithful Catholics" rather than only to bishops and priests.

Timed to coincide with the start of the summer holidays, when many people re-evaluate their lives away from the pressures of work, the exhortation is likely to form the subject of sermons over the next few weeks.

It is also expected to win support from other churches - particularly from evangelical Christians - who share the Pope's anxiety about the erosion of the Sabbath.

In Britain, Sunday opening at a growing number of shops has caused many people to work making a traditional family day impossible. While the trend is less marked in other large European countries, including France, Germany and Italy, church-going has nevertheless been in decline.

Vatican sources say the Pope has resolved to emphasise the physical and practical benefits of a day of rest. One said he was keenly aware that a day off had become a "rare luxury" in some developing countries.

The exhortation is understood to be divided into three sections, considering the subject from the biblical point of view, assessing the erosion of its observance and setting out a way forward.

by Christopher Morgan
Rome

ing of the day. In Vienna last month, he told Catholics: "Do whatever you can to preserve Sunday. Make it clear that this day must not be worked, since it must be celebrated as the day of our Lord."



The Pope: strong appeal

Make it clear that Sunday must not be worked, since it must be celebrated as the day of our Lord

The initiative is the latest in a series of such moves by the 78-year-old pontiff

into the new millennium. Two of his most recent visits overseas - to Cuba and Nigeria - have been taken up largely with human rights questions. In another apostolic letter last week, he denounced liberal Catholics for proposing to excommunicate those who persistently undermined orthodox teaching on a range of issues, including women, priests, saying the church could not alter a "choice made by Christ" that only men should be ordained.

The Pope's exhortation on the sabbath, however, is intended to unite Catholics around the idea that being fully human means having sufficient time for both work and leisure. He argues that the dignity of man depends on exercising a degree of control over his destiny that has been threatened by longer working hours and their encroachment on the sabbath.

Terence Phillips, a lecturer at the Allen Hall Seminary in London, said the notion of one day's rest came from the biblical account of the creation in the Old Testament and was reasserted in the Ten Commandments. "The Lord's command is first and foremost to rest," he said. "Because people are free, the most natural thing to do is to worship and praise God on that day of rest."

In a sign of the broad Christian support the Pope can expect to command on the issue, David Phillips, director of the Church Society - an influential grouping within the Church of England - praised the initiative this weekend. "Anything the Pope says in line with the Bible is to be welcomed," Phillips said. "In this country, Sunday has fallen by the wayside and Christians need to rediscover its sacred character."

Gary Lyagba, a moral theologian at St John's Seminary in Worcester, Surrey, also welcomed the forthcoming papal letter.

Note carefully that the pope is not just asking for a greater respect for Sunday on the part of Christians. He states that Sunday rest is "not merely a religious obligation," but is "a human right, which should be protected by appropriate legislation." Specifically, he wants laws to "protect" Sunday!

He wants his convictions, his standards of morality, his respect for Sunday, to be imposed, not just on all Roman Catholics, but on all societies; upon all persons living on the face of planet earth. He wants to ensure that the whole society, all the world, shall be persuaded to respect Sunday rest; not voluntarily, but *by law*.

In this letter the pope unveils his heart and shows us quite clearly where his focus is. He has devoted 104 pages exclusively to the subject of Sunday observance. He says:

The Sunday celebration of the Lord's Day and his Eucharist is at the heart of the church's life. (*Dies Domini*, Chapter 3)

For Christian families, the Sunday assembly is one of the most outstanding expressions of their identity... (*Ibid.*)

Sunday... stands at the heart of all worship. (*Ibid.*, Chapter 2)

Sunday is a day which is at the very heart of the Christian life. (*Ibid.*, Introduction)

Sunday observance has always been one of the key pillars of Catholicism. The Roman Church has hailed it as a "mark of her authority." In the past, she has endeavored to compel others to honor the day against their will, but in recent times she has had neither the influence nor the power to do so.

Why is it that she has now, once again, openly and unapologetically, undertaken to impose Sunday observance on the whole society? It is because she feels that the time is ripe. Pope John Paul II realizes that his time has come. Once again Rome is

mistress of the world and is pulling the strings. So, immediately, the pope turns to the subject which above all others is dear to his heart. The one practice which above all others supports Rome's claim of supreme authority in the religious world: the practice of Sunday worship.

Although the movement is pressing forward, unseen, unnoticed by the people of the world, this issue will soon be forced upon the consciousness of every man, woman and child who is alive upon the earth. The Bible says that those who choose God's way rather than the way of the beast will eventually be placed under sentence of death (Revelation 13:15). Yet, those who are true and faithful to God and keep His commandments at the risk of life itself will be the ones who receive the seal of God. Do you see how dreadful the deception is which now holds the world in darkness? May the Father of mercy help us to choose the way of light and truth.

Of course, I am not suggesting that all of those who worship on the Sabbath today are necessarily better Christians than those who worship on Sunday. It is true that, at present, many of those who go to church on the seventh-day Sabbath are just surface Christians, without a deep experience in the things of God. When the mark of the beast is enforced by law, hundreds of them will give up their faith. They will accept the mark of the beast when their lives are threatened because, although they went to church on Saturday, they never really knew the Lord of the Sabbath, Jesus Christ. Nevertheless, God wants all His children to keep the Sabbath holy. The fact that there are some hypocrites among Sabbath-keepers does not mean that the Sabbath is not ordained of God.

Some may think that it is just a matter of one day versus another, but the issue is far greater than that. It is a

matter of loyalty and obedience. The Bible tells us that we are the servants of the one whom we choose to obey (Romans 6:16). By choosing to observe the day commanded by the beast-power, the day ordained by Satan, we are really choosing to honor Satan above God. In reality, we are worshipping Satan rather than God! This is why Revelation 13:4 says that "...they worshiped the dragon which gave power unto the beast: and they worshiped the beast..." Are our eyes upon God alone? Are we loyal to Him? These are the real questions that we must answer. Do we love Him above everything else, even our lives? Will we obey Him even when the mightiest powers of earth demand that we do otherwise, or are the world and its influence upon us greater than our love for God? Is the approval of our friends, the praise of men and our slot in society so important to us that we cannot act independently of the crowd? This is really the heart of the matter.

Today there is still time to choose for God, still time to reject Satan's way. Will you wait until the crisis breaks upon you? It may then be too late! We gain strength by degrees, a little at a time, by obedience at each step of the way. As the truth comes to us we must accept it no matter what sacrifice is required. Do not wait! When we put God off and tell Him to wait, our hearts become harder and it is more difficult for God's Holy Spirit to help us. Let us face the facts now and immediately take our stand for God's truth, today.


Jesus says, "if ye love me, keep my commandments." (John 14:15) In 1 John 2:4 the Bible says, "He that saith, I know Him, and keepeth not His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him." Revelation 12:17 tells us that Satan goes to make war against God's people who "keep the

commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ."

Friends, the world respects and honors men. The world worships men. They idolize their political leaders, their religious leaders, their sports heroes. But in Revelation 14:6 and 7 an angel is seen flying in the midst of heaven and his message is "*Fear God*, and give glory to *him*; for the hour of his judgment is come." Worship God alone. Only God.

Do not allow man to encourage or to compel you to dishonor God. Search God's Word. Find the Truth and obey the Truth... all the Truth, no matter what it may cost you. That is the only way we can be saved from the mark of the beast when it is enforced. May God help us to choose His way now, while there is still time to choose.

PRAYER

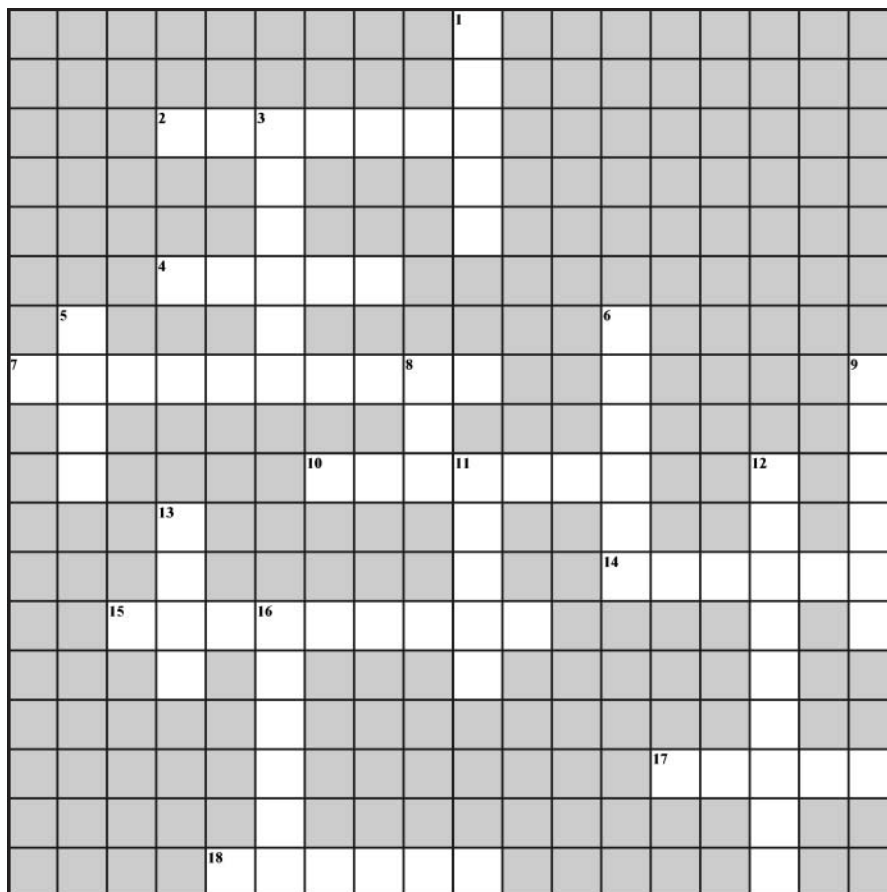
"Our Father and our God, as we have read this article we know that your Spirit has been present with us. Strengthen and teach us, Father, for we are only children. Teach us, for we have been steeped in error and false ideas. Only You can enable us to be true to You, and this we pray that You will do. Help us to be determined that though the heavens might fall, though the whole world should rise up against us, we will still stand loyally for You. Thank You for hearing our prayer and for answering, as we ask in Jesus' Name. Amen." 

(This article was taken from a booklet we publish entitled, *A Time to Choose*, by David Clayton. It has been shortened and edited to be used here in *Present Truth*. You may request copies of the booklet, *A Time to Choose*, for a suggested donation of \$1.00 per book plus shipping. If you wish to contact David Clayton, you can write him at PO Box 23, Knockpatrick, Manchester, Jamaica, West Indies. You can call him at (876) 904-7392. His e-mail address is david@restorationministry.com. *Editor*)

Something for the Young at Heart

We would like to give you an interesting and easy way to study the Bible, so we are including a crossword puzzle for you. Try it and see what you think. If you have any suggestions, please let us know. In order to maintain the flow of the study, this crossword puzzle is not split into Across and Down sections—Across or Down is indicated at the end of each line.

Christ Fulfilling the Psalms (Part 2)



Answers are on page 12

- Jesus said, "All things must be ____" that were written in the Psalms concerning Him. Luke 24:44—**15 Across**
- The Psalms say, My familiar ____ lifted up his heel against me. Psalm 41:9—**18 Across**
- This Scripture was fulfilled when ____ betrayed Christ. John 13:18, 21, 26—**1 Down**
- The Psalms spoke of a person who loves righteousness and hates _____. Psalm 45:6, 7—**7 Across**
- The book of Hebrews shows that this Psalm is a record of the Father speaking to the _____. Hebrews 1:8, 9—**8 Down**
- The Psalmist said, "God will redeem my ____ from the power of the grave." Psalm 49:15—**13 Down**
- God, the ____, raised Jesus from the dead. Galatians 1:1—**16 Down**
- The Psalmist said, "Into thine hand I commit my ____." Psalm 31:5—**6 Down**
- Jesus cried out to His Father, "Into thy hands I ____ my spirit." Luke 23:46—**2 Across**
- The Psalms say, "Thou hast led ____ captive." Psalm 68:18—**12 Down**
- This Scripture was fulfilled when Christ ascended up on _____. Ephesians 4:7, 8—**5 Down**
- The Psalmist said, "The zeal of thine house hath ____ me up." Psalm 69:9—**11 Down**
- This Scripture was fulfilled when Jesus drove merchants out of the _____. John 2:16, 17—**14 Across**
- The Psalms say, "Reproach hath ____ my heart." Psalm 69:20—**9 Down**
- The Psalms say, "My heart is ____ in the midst of my bowels." Psalm 22:14—**3 Down**
- When the soldier pierced Christ's side there came out ____ and blood. John 19:32-34—**4 Across**
- **Note:** The water and blood indicated that Christ's heart had literally burst from the weight of our sins.
- The Psalmist said, "In my thirst they gave me ____ to drink." Psalm 69:21—**10 Across**
- When Jesus tasted this He would not _____. Matthew 27:34—**17 Across**

Fearfully and Wonderfully Made (Part 15)

by George McDaniel

(This is the fifteenth in a series of health articles that are designed to help you gain a deeper appreciation for God's amazing handiwork of the human body and a better understanding of how it works and how it can be better maintained by simple methods. George McDaniel is my father-in-law, and has been a registered nurse for many years, which, along with much research, has taught him many useful health principles. I pray that you are being blessed by these articles. *Editor*)

Sunlight - 3

Sunlight and Vitamin D - The first evidence that sunlight is important to health was discovered when sunlight was found to have an effect on the occurrence of rickets. Rickets is a disease of children in which the bones become soft, due either to lack of calcium or lack of vitamin D. Symptoms include deformation of bones in the legs, chest and spine. A similar condition in adults is called osteomalacia. This disease had been described as early as 500 BC, but came to greater attention in England in the late 18th and early 19th centuries. This is the time known as the industrial revolution. Every year, more and more people moved from the farms to the cities to work in factories. Even young children spent all day working in the factories. They also lived crowded into tenements. Children raised in these conditions frequently developed rickets.

It was soon observed that a lack of sunlight was a common factor. However, it was not until the 1890s that sunlight was proved to be the specific cure for rickets. The reasons for its effect were not understood until the 1920s when vitamin D was discovered. A man by the name of Mellanby, who lived in London, provided the first experimental proof that rickets was a deficiency disease and could be cured by feeding cod liver oil to children with rickets. In the 1920s, many discoveries were made of elements essential to human health. These became known as vitamins. A substance was found in cod liver oil that prevented and cured rickets, so it was labeled a vitamin (vitamin D).

Vitamin D is almost totally absent in vegetable foods. It occurs mainly in fatty foods of animal origin, such as egg yolk, butter, liver and fatty fishes. Fortunately, humans can make their own vitamin D from exposure to sunlight. The skin has a high concentration of cholesterol. When ultraviolet light from the sun hits the skin some of the cholesterol is changed into previtamin D. Previtamin D stays in the skin. As the sun continues to act on it, some of the previtamin D is changed into two other products, tachysterol and lumisterol, which are used by the body to

form other important substances. Previtamin D is slowly changed into vitamin D by the normal heat of the body. This vitamin D is then absorbed into the blood and carried to the liver where it is changed into a more active form called 25-HCC. It then goes to the kidney where it is changed into 1-25-DHCC. This is the active form of vitamin D that is used by the body for various activities. Some of these include the formation of calcium-binding proteins in the intestines, which are necessary for the absorption of calcium from the food that is eaten; aiding in the production of enzymes that are involved in calcium transport and collagen formation in the bones; and regulating amino acid levels in the blood.

Vitamin D is actually more of a hormone than it is a vitamin. It is made from cholesterol just as are the other major steroid hormones, including pregnenolone, progesterone, DHEA, testosterone, cortisol and the estrogens. The body has the ability to store vitamin D in the liver, and it has a biofeedback mechanism that prevents absorption of vitamin D from the skin if the body's storage capacity is full. It is impossible to overdose on vitamin D that is derived from sunlight through the skin.

For many years, obtaining vitamin D from dietary supplements rather than from the sun has been considered more practical. The availability of ultraviolet light does vary with season, location, time of day, and individual lifestyle, so obtaining vitamin D by food supplementation has largely replaced educating people about the benefits of sunlight. Vitamin D is added as a supplement to many food products. This includes milk, other dairy products, imitation dairy products, margarine, prepared breakfast cereals, baby food, bread and many other items. In addition to this, many people take vitamin D supplements. Vitamin D is also added to animal feed. People who eat meat and eggs get additional amounts from this source.

Excess levels of vitamin D in the body can cause many harmful effects. Some of these are: magnesium deficiency of the heart, which can lead to heart attacks, elevated blood cholesterol levels, and calcium deposits in the joints and arteries.

Many studies have been done that show that vitamin D obtained from exposure to sunlight is superior to that obtained from the diet in maintaining normal levels of calcium and phosphorus in the blood. To obtain a protective level of vitamin D from the sun, one only has to expose a small amount of skin to the sun for a few minutes in the middle of the day. Even in the wintertime it is possible to obtain enough by exposing the face for 15 or 20 minutes. It

is also possible to build up a supply during the summer to carry one through the winter, as long as the supply is supplemented with frequent exposures of the face on sunny days during the winter. The body stores vitamin D in the liver. If the daily exposure is not consistent in the winter-time because of excessive cloudiness or long spells of very cold weather, the body will draw on the stores in the liver. Someone on a vegan diet, who eats nothing of animal origin, needs to remember to take advantage of sunny days to obtain vitamin D. The only other readily available source is fish liver oil. Most of the vitamin D fortified foods are refined or highly processed or, as in the case of milk and meat products, filled with hormones and antibiotics, and are not to be recommended as a source of nutrition.

There is so much information available on the benefits to health of exposure to the sun's rays that it can't be presented in detail. Here is a brief summary:

☞ Physical fitness - Sunlight produces a metabolic effect in the body similar to physical exercise. Tuberculosis patients treated by sunbathing have been observed to have well-developed muscles and little fat even though they had not exercised. The following benefits of sunlight are also gained by exercise:

- 1) Resting heart rate decreases.
- 2) Respiratory rate decreases.
- 3) Lactic acid accumulation in the blood during exercise decreases.
- 4) Cellular oxygen increases. A striking increase in the oxygen content of the blood has been shown to follow a simple exposure to ultraviolet light. This effect lasts for several days.
- 5) Energy and endurance increase.
- 6) Muscular strength increases.
- 7) Blood pressure decreases.
- 8) The heart's efficiency increases.
- 9) Blood sugar decreases. This effect is minimal in normal individuals, but is greater in diabetics.
- 10) Tolerance to stress increases.

In order to obtain this increase in physical fitness with sunlight, as with exercise, a gradual consistent program must be maintained over a period of several months. It should be possible to obtain an even greater benefit by combining the two therapies.

☞ Studies have been done that show that it is not the vitamin D produced in the body that is responsible for the increased strength. Animals deficient in vitamin D develop muscle strength just as rapidly as animals that are not deficient. There is some factor in sunlight that is unknown, that produces the increases in strength. One study was done that showed that sunlight could increase the energy level in human cells. Sunlight is the source of energy for

the plant kingdom. Man may also be able to derive energy directly from the sun.

☞ Sunlight regulates the hormonal balance of the body. Light coming into the eye sends nerve impulses that are transmitted to a small gland located at the base of the brain, called the pineal gland. This gland is intimately connected with the functioning of the pituitary gland and the hypothalamus. The pituitary gland is called the master gland, since its secretions regulate the activity of all the other glands of the body, including the adrenals and thyroid. The hypothalamus regulates autonomic responses—those that require no conscious control, such as body temperature, heart beat, respiratory rate, and hormone and enzyme secretions. The hypothalamus coordinates the activity of the endocrine system.

This activity all appears to be under the control of secretions from the pineal gland, which are coordinated according to the amount of light received through the eyes. This also regulates our wake/sleep cycles. If we want to sleep well, feel good and be in health, we need to spend time every day out of doors in the sunlight. Even if it is cloudy, the level of light available is much higher than being inside with artificial lights. Don't look directly at the sun. This can damage the eye.

☞ People who live in areas where winters are long and sunlight levels are low, can develop a condition known as "seasonal affective disorder." In extreme cases, it can be severely incapacitating. It causes depression, withdrawal, a craving for carbohydrates, weight gain, loss of energy, and a tendency to sleep longer. It can be treated by exposure to bright light.

A word of caution: ultraviolet light from so-called "sunlamps" can damage the chromosomes of cells. Ultraviolet light accompanied by the full spectrum of light from the sun does not do this. Something about full-spectrum light protects the chromosomes from damage. I do not know of any sunlamp that provides the protective full spectrum, which includes visible light, infrared light, and ultraviolet light.

☞ Light therapy is used in the treatment of jaundice in newborn infants. This is caused by a build-up of bilirubin in the skin and tissues and turns the skin yellow. It was discovered in 1956 that sunlight breaks down the bilirubin. It has since been discovered that blue light is the factor which reverses jaundice. Today, hospitals expose jaundiced infants to blue light.

☞ Sunlight has many other important benefits to health. It elevates the mood; it electrifies the air; it helps the body eliminate toxins; it relieves arthritic symptoms; and increases the body's resistance to infections. We all need to be sure we get enough exposure to sunlight. ✍

Lessons on Faith (Part 7)

by Alonzo T. Jones

When Abraham and Sarah had cleared themselves of all the scheme of unbelief which had produced Ishmael and had stood upon faith alone—dependence on the word of God alone—Isaac, the true child of the promise, was born.

In hearkening to the voice of Sarai (Genesis 16:1), Abram had swerved from the line of strict integrity to the word of God, from the strictness of true faith, and now that he had returned to the word only, to true faith, he must be tested before it could be certainly said of him that his faith was counted for righteousness.

He had trusted the naked word of God as against Ishmael and had obtained Isaac, the true child of the promise of God. And now, having obtained Isaac, the question must be determined whether he would trust the naked word of God as against even Isaac himself.

Accordingly, God said to Abraham, “Take now thy son, thine only son Isaac, whom thou lovest, and get thee into the land of Moriah; and offer him there for a burnt offering upon one of the mountains which I will tell thee of.” (Genesis 22:2)

Abraham had received Isaac from God by trusting the word of God only. Isaac alone was the seed promised by the word of the Lord. After Isaac was born, God had confirmed the word by declaring, “In Isaac shall thy seed be called.” (Genesis 21:12) And now came the word of God, Take thy son, thine only son Isaac, and offer him for a burnt offering.

God had declared to Abraham, Thy seed shall be as the stars of heaven for multitude. “In thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed.” “In Isaac shall thy seed be called,” and now, Offer Isaac for a burnt offering!

But, if Isaac is offered for a burnt offering, if Isaac is burned up, what will become of the promise of the blessing of all nations in him? What will become of the promise, Thy seed shall be as the stars of heaven innumerable? Yet there stood the word, Offer Isaac for a burnt offering. Abraham had trusted the word of God only, as against Ishmael, but this is more than trusting the word of God as against Isaac—it is trusting the word of God as against the word of God!

And Abraham did it, hoping against hope. God had said: Thy seed shall be as the stars of heaven; In Isaac shall thy seed be called. Offer Isaac for a burnt offering.

Abraham did not insist that God should “harmonize these passages.” It was all sufficient for him to know that the statements were all the word of God. Knowing this, he would trust that word, would follow that word, and would let the Lord “harmonize these passages,” or “explain these texts,” if any such thing were needed.

Said Abraham: God has said, Offer Isaac for a burnt offering. That I will do. God has said, “In Isaac shall thy seed be called.” And, Thy seed shall be as the stars of heaven for multitude. I interfered once in the promise and hindered it till I repudiated all that I had done and came back to the word only. Then, by a miracle, God gave me Isaac, the promised seed. Now He says, Offer Isaac, the promised seed, for a burnt offering. I will do it. By a miracle God gave him at the first, and by a miracle God can restore him. Yet when I shall have offered him for a burnt offering, he will be dead, and the only miracle that can then restore him is a miracle that will bring him back from the dead. But God is able to do even that, and He will do it, for His word is spoken, Thy seed shall be as the stars of heaven for multitude, and In Isaac shall thy seed be called. And even the bringing back of Isaac from the dead will be to God no more than He has already done, for, as to offspring, both my body and Sarah’s were as good as dead, and yet God brought forth Isaac from us. He can raise Isaac from the dead, and He will. Bless the Lord!

It was settled. He arose and took his servants and Isaac and went three days’ journey “unto the place of which God had told him.” (Genesis 22:3) And when on the third day he “saw the place afar off,” “Abraham said unto his young men, Abide ye here with the ass; and I and the lad will go yonder and worship and come again to you.” (verses 4, 5) Who will go? “I and the lad will go.” And who will come again? “I and the lad will go... and come again to you.” Abraham expected to have Isaac come back with him as certainly as that he went with him.

Abraham expected to offer Isaac for a burnt offering and expected then to see Isaac rise from the ashes and go back with him. For the word of God had gone forth, In Isaac shall thy seed be called, and, Thy seed shall be as the stars of heaven for multitude. And Abraham would trust that word only, that it could never fail. (Hebrews 11:17-19)

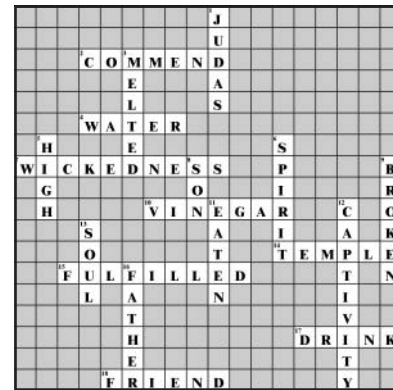
THIS IS FAITH. And thus “the scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness.” (James 2:23) But yet above this, “It was not written for his sake alone, that it was imputed to him, but for us also to whom it shall be imputed; if we believe on him that raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead; who was delivered for our offenses and was raised again for our justification.” (Romans 4:23-25)

To trust the word of God only, to depend upon the word of God only, to depend upon the word of God, even as against the word of God—this is FAITH. This is the faith which brings the righteousness of God.

This is what it is to exercise faith. This is “what the Scripture means when urging upon us the necessity of exercising faith. And understanding how to exercise faith, this is the science of the gospel. And the science of the gospel is the science of sciences. ✍

(This article was first printed in the January 31, 1899 issue of *The Review and Herald*. It is also found on pages 28-31 of the book *Lessons on Faith* by A. T. Jones and E. J. Waggoner. I added some verse references that were left out in the original. Editor)

Answers to “Christ Fulfilling the Psalms (Part 2)” Crossword Puzzle on page 12



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