
DISCOVERING THE BIBLE

LESSON 52 THE CHANGE OF THE SABBATH

Traditionally, the church has taught that the change of the Sabbath to Sunday was part of a great apostasy instigated by the Roman Catholic Church. The edict of Constantine (AD 321) enforcing Sunday worship was seen as a key step in the change. The recovery of the true biblical Sabbath only became possible after the Reformation, and would be a mark of the Remnant Church.

In 1977 Samuele Bachiocchi published From Sabbath to Sunday, documenting the historical transition from the Saturday Sabbath to Sunday in the early Christian church, and also the decline of standards of practice for the Sabbath. It had quite an impact in the academic community and was well received by many. Subsequent to his work, Adventists have emphasized that the move from Sabbath to Sunday was a gradual process, beginning early and still unfinished centuries after Christ, and have relatively downplayed the level of Constantine's impact"

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sabbath_and_Seventh-day_Adventism

"Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill"

Matthew 5:17

1. Jesus outlines his aim in life—to build up
2. We ought to understand that the Law and the Prophets refers to two of the main sections of the Old Testament
3. Is Jesus suggesting that he is open to modifications or changes to the Old Testament?
4. What would it mean to 'fulfill the law'?

"Thus he said: 'The fourth beast shall be A fourth kingdom on earth, Which shall be different from all other kingdoms, And shall devour the whole earth, Trample it and break it in pieces. The ten horns are ten kings Who shall arise from this kingdom. And another shall rise after them; He shall be different from the first ones, And shall subdue three kings. He shall speak pompous words against the Most High, Shall persecute the saints of the Most High, And shall intend to change times and law. Then the saints shall be given into his hand For a time and times and half a time."

Daniel 7:23-25

1. The book of Daniel outlines earth's history from the perspective of a great battle between good and evil

2. In this passage a power in opposition to God also attacks God's people
3. This great power also attacks God's will and way
4. Change is on the mind. The aim is to try and change God's law
5. What law would be first to be changed?

"But the earth helped the woman, and the earth opened its mouth and swallowed up the flood which the dragon had spewed out of his mouth. And the dragon was enraged with the woman, and he went to make war with the rest of her offspring, who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ."

Revelation 12:16-17

1. Continuing the theme of war and controversy we note that the dragon specifically attacks God's people who keep His commandments and who have the testimony of Jesus Christ
2. Do you see this as a possible attack on God's character and nature? Why do you think this would happen?
3. Can we expect people to oppose God and His law and ways?

"Then Jesus said to him, 'Away with you, Satan! For it is written, 'You shall worship the LORD your God, and Him only you shall serve.'"

Matthew 4:10

1. Satan has sought to have people worship him instead of God
2. Jesus teaches that the worship of God is important

"Then I saw another angel flying in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach to those who dwell on the earth-- to every nation, tribe, tongue, and people-- saying with a loud voice, 'Fear God and give glory to Him, for the hour of His judgment has come; and worship Him who made heaven and earth, the sea and springs of water.'"

Revelation 14:6-7

1. In Revelation a key message for God's people is that we highlight the worship of God—and a particular view of God and His nature
2. In the context of the Great Controversy and the above verse would you think that any attempt to not worship God in the way He wants is an attack on God's character?

"And in vain they worship Me, Teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.'"

Matthew 15:9

1. What does the text say to you?
2. It is obvious that God's laws have been changed. Why do you think this has happened?