



## Origins Lesson 11 1Q 2013

### Sabbath: A Gift From Eden

Before we begin this lesson I wanted to follow up from last week on a quote regarding sugar and meat. This is from *Councils on Health* 152:

I frequently sit down to the tables of the brethren and sisters, and see that they use a great amount of milk and sugar. These clog the system, irritate the digestive organs, and affect the brain. Anything that hinders the active motion of the living machinery affects the brain very directly. And from the light given me, sugar, when largely used, is more injurious than meat. {CH 150.2}

Processed sugar is highly oxidizing, which means it increases the production of molecules that cause oxidative damage to the body and brain. Studies show that people who eat high sugar diets, fast foods, boxed foods, doughnuts, muffins, cookies, cakes etc. have a 40% higher rate of depression than people who don't eat such a diet.

High oxidation increases inflammation which increases risk of cardiovascular disease and accelerates aging. In our DVD set *Modern Medicine, Biblical Technology and The Brain* there is a lecture, The Aging Brain. In that lecture I document the science of aging and how oxidizing factors accelerate the aging process, including the impact sugar has on aging.

### SABBATH

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The lesson this week is on the Sabbath – what are the questions, issues, concerns, relevance of the Sabbath?

Any questions about which day of the week is the Sabbath?

Have any of you received emails or other correspondence targeting SDAs, using a variety of Bible texts and EGW quotes to allege that the Sabbath of the Bible is not every Friday sunset to Saturday sunset, but that the Bible Sabbath is based on the lunar calendar rather than solar?

If you haven't been subject to this yet, don't get concerned. The arguments are based on a faulty integration of disparate pieces of information, while ignoring evidence that reveal the conclusion is false.

For instance, in the Bible there are annual festivals, like Passover etc. which were called Sabbaths, and were calculated based on the lunar calendar, and Judaism also had new moon Sabbaths which were observed with each new moon.



However, there is also a weekly Sabbath, laid out in Genesis 2, at the end of seven-day creation week, confirmed in Exodus 16 during the wandering in the wilderness when Manna was being supplied for six days followed by the Sabbath for decades, and written down in the 10 Commandments. Yet, those who argue the Sabbath isn't every seventh day on Saturday attempt to use Scriptures that refer to festivals and new moon Sabbaths and apply them to the weekly Sabbath in an effort to suggest the weekly Sabbath is of no importance, or even some suggest a false Sabbath.

Further, they argue that the Bible teaches that the Sun, Moon and stars were given to determine times and seasons, therefore the Sabbath must be determined by the phases of the moon. This again misapplies Scripture and undermines the significance of the weekly Sabbath. One of the powerful evidences of the Sabbath is that its existence is not determined by astronomical factors, but as an evidence of God's character of love. To argue it is determined by phases of the moon undermines the truth of God's character and the evidences he has provided.

They also argue that the current Sabbath is based in the Gregorian calendar, not the Jewish calendar. This argument fails to realize that the Gregorian calendar is concerned with the dates of the year, not the weekly cycle, so when the calendar went into place the "date" changed but the day of the week did not. For instance, Thursday October 4, 1582, was followed by Friday October 15, 1582. The dates changed, but the weekly cycle was not affected.

Evidences for a weekly Sabbath from sunset Friday to sunset Saturday:

- Genesis 2:2
- Exodus 16
- Exodus 20 the 10 Commandments
- The Jewish people who generation after generation, in an unbroken chain of human history worship on the same Sabbath each week since Exodus 16.
- Jesus worshipped on the same Sabbath as the Jews today
- The New Testament has many Sabbath controversies, but none revolved around which day was Sabbath. All were about what activities were appropriate for the Sabbath.
  - The point being is that if the Jewish leadership was upset because Jesus healed on Sabbath, or the disciples picked grain on Sabbath – how much more conflict would have occurred if any attempts to change the day the Sabbath was observed was taking place?
- The languages of the world, many of which have Sabbath for the name of the seventh day of the week.

Arabic: *Sabet*

Armenian: *Shabat*

Bosnian: *Subota*

Bulgarian: *Sabota*

Corsican: *Sàbatu*

Croatian: *Subota*

Czech: *Sobota*

Georgian: *Sabati*

Greek: *Savvato*

Indonesian: *Sabtu*

Italian: *Sabato*

Latin: *Sabbatum*

Maltese: *is-Sibt*

Polish: *Sobota*

Portuguese: *S ábado*

Romanian: *Sambata*

Russian: *Subbota*

Serbian: *Subota*

Slovak: *Sobota*

Slovene: *Sobota*

Somali: *Sabti*

Spanish: *Sabado*

Sudanese: *Saptu*

Ukrainian: *Subota*



- Documents of history which record the historical accuracy that Saturday is the day the Jews observed when Christ was on earth, and the early Christians observed.
- The seven day weekly cycle in history – all cultures regardless of religion operate on a seven day weekly cycle – why? Because of creation week, not astronomical events.
- The admission of the Catholic Church that the Sabbath of the Bible is Saturday. “The church after changing the day of rest from the Jewish Sabbath or 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.” Catholic Encyclopedia, Vol. 4, p. 153.

So, if you get hit with this idea that the Bible Sabbath is based on lunar cycles, don’t be distressed, you can certainly take the time to investigate it yourself, but you will find that the arguments are convoluted, confusing, contradictory, and filled with much hyperbole, like “truth is unfolding, we should not let tradition hold us to any view” etc. which are true, but which provide no evidence for the position they are advocating.

So, moving on.

Is the Sabbath important at this time in earth’s history? Why? What difference does it make?

The Seventh-day Adventist Church has held a certain view of the importance of the Sabbath. I will read a view often promoted and would like your response. There are longer versions of this, but this gets the point across:

- The sign, or seal, of God is revealed in the observance of the seventh-day Sabbath, the Lord's memorial of creation. . . . The mark of the beast is the opposite of this--the observance of the first day of the week.--8T 117 (1904). {LDE 224.3}

Thoughts?

Any concerns or questions about these statements?

Questions:

- Is the issue in our salvation, in our preparation to meet Jesus, in our being ready to translate into heaven without seeing death as simple as which day of the week a person worships upon?
- If a person absolutely insists on worshipping on the Bible Sabbath does that guarantee they won’t get the mark of the beast?
- Those who crucified Christ 2000 years ago wanted Him off the Cross by sunset why? So they could keep the Sabbath – does that mean they had the seal of God?
- Does Satan care if a group of people worships on Sabbath as long as they worship him?
- How should we understand the statements above that we just read?

What is a mark or sign?



A symbol that stands for or signifies something else:

- The sign of the cross stands for what?
- The mark of the fish stands for what?
- The goat's head symbolizes what?
- A pentagram is a mark of what?

So:

- If someone wears a cross are they saved because it is the sign of our crucified Savior?
- If someone has a fish sticker on their car does that mean they are saved because it is a sign of Jesus?
- If someone has a goat ornament hanging on their Xmas tree, does that mean they are condemned because a goat's head symbolizes Satan?
- Or, if someone has a pentagram on their car does that mean they are lost because pentagrams can represent the demonic?
- If someone worships on Sabbath are they saved because it is a sign of God?

So, the passages we read state that the Bible Sabbath and its observance, is a sign or seal of God, whereas Sunday and its observance is a mark symbolizing the beast.

Question, are these days themselves the reality, or symbols, signs, marks of some other deeper reality, just as a fish, cross, pentagram or goat's head?

Could a person wear the flag or uniform of one country, which marks them as being a member of that country; the uniform being an external visible sign of whom they serve, but could the person actually be a traitor and fighting for the other side?

US Army Major Nidal Hasan, shot and killed 13 people at Ft Hood November 2009. Whose uniform was he wearing? Whose side was he on?

Even if we accept that the day upon which one worships can be a mark of loyalty to one side or the other, does that actually inform us of whom is on which side?

Is it possible the days mentioned are signs because they symbolize something that demarcates God's government from Satan's? Could they stand as signals, signets, of the mode of governing each side uses? Could these days, in their origin as days of worship, contain the very elements of the two types of governing – God's vs Satan's?

Keep that idea in mind and let me read a few more quotes from the same person we read earlier about the seal of God and the mark of the beast.

The third angel is to go forth with great power. Let none ignore this work or treat it as of little importance. The truth is to be proclaimed to the world, that they may see the light. {Christ Triumphant 350.3}



This is our work. The light that we have upon the third angel's message is the true light. **The mark of the beast is exactly what it has been proclaimed to be. All in regard to this matter is not yet understood, and will not be understood until the unrolling of the scroll, but a most solemn work is to be accomplished in our world.** The Lord's command to His servants is "Cry aloud, spare not, lift up thy voice like a trumpet, and shew my people their transgression, and the house of Jacob their sins." {CTr 350.4}

Thoughts? Are we open to expand our understanding of this topic, or do we rigidly cling to a very concrete application, the literal two days of the week and fail to comprehend the deeper reality these two days signify?

Here are some more quotes:

Why are men not interested to know what constitutes the mark of the beast? Exodus 31:12-17. The Sabbath question will be the issue in the great conflict in which all the world will act a part. [How does the entire world act a part? Will Muslims give up Friday and start worshipping on Sunday? What about agnostics and atheists? Or, is it these two days stand as signs of something more, and everyone will choose one or the other of two methods, of which these days stand as symbols?] Revelation 13:4-17. {RH, April 27, 1911 par. 3}

"Christ died to save sinners, not in their sins, but from their sins. [Imposed law constructs all teach that we are saved in our sins, from the legal penalty, but not saved from our sins, that we continue live sinfully until Christ returns. The truth is that God actually transforms us here and now and we stop living for self, and live loving God and others more than self] The warning given in Revelation shows us the terrible consequence of transgression. By lips that will not lie, God's law is declared to be holy, just, and good. **Our duty to obey this law is to be the burden of the last message of mercy to the world.**<sup>1</sup> **God's law is not a new thing. It is not holiness created, but holiness made known. It is a code of principles expressing mercy, goodness, and love. It presents to fallen humanity the character of God, and states plainly the whole duty of man.** {RH, April 27, 1911 par. 4}

"'Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength.' This command contains the principles of the first four precepts. And 'thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself.' Upon these two great principles, the Word of God declares, hang all the law and the prophets. {RH, April 27, 1911 par. 5}

"These **principles** are made known by the third angel's message, which declares that **the Creator has always required and always will require obedience to his royal law.** [Why does the Creator require obedience? Why does the Creator require we breathe? Because that is how life is built to operate. Remember the law is not holiness created but holiness made known. The commandments did not impose a law, but made the law known] But this law has

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<sup>1</sup> It is the darkness of misapprehension of God that is enshrouding the world. Men are losing their knowledge of His character. It has been misunderstood and misinterpreted. At this time a message from God is to be proclaimed, a message illuminating in its influence and saving in its power. His character is to be made known. Into the darkness of the world is to be shed the light of His glory, the light of His goodness, mercy, and truth... The last rays of merciful light, the last message of mercy to be given to the world, is a revelation of His character of love. The children of God are to manifest His glory. In their own life and character they are to reveal what the grace of God has done for them. {COL 415}



been disregarded and transgressed, and is now being ignored by the churches. **Human enactments are placed where God's law should be.** Sunday, a child of the Papacy, has taken the place of God's holy Sabbath. As Nebuchadnezzar made a golden image, and set it up to be worshiped by all, so Sunday is placed before the people to be regarded as sacred. This day bears not a vestige of sanctity, yet it is held up to be honored by all. {RH, April 27, 1911 par. 6}

Thoughts?

What is the implication of changing the Bible Sabbath for Sunday? What does this act mean in regard to how God and his government are understood? How can a church vote to change the day of worship? What must first happen concerning God's law? What church committee has ever voted to change the law of gravity, or the law of thermodynamics, or the law of respiration? Why don't they vote to change these?

So what does it mean if an ecclesiastical board votes to change the Sabbath? That they believe God's law is imposed, and therefore believe God is like a Roman emperor a cosmic dictator. And accepting this change in the law is the root to the beast system.

So let's review – what makes the Sabbath holy?

- What significance is it that the Sabbath was “made” or created?
  - It is not “legislated” any more than any other aspect of God's creation. The earth was made, the animals were made, angels were made, mankind was made, and the Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath.
- What significance is it that the Sabbath was “made”?
  - When was the Sabbath made?
  - What was happening in the universe?
- What did God do? He RESTED – what does that mean?
  - If he RESTED what was God not doing? He was no longer prosecuting His war, his case. He wasn't pressing his agenda. He wasn't intimidating. He wasn't using his power to force his way!
- It is God's Sabbath – the day He rested, the day He revealed by action how He handles opposition, how He treats enemies, how He deals with allegations and rebellion. He gives us freedom!
- What does it reveal that God created the Sabbath in the context of an assault on his right to rule?
- The Sabbath was “made” as further evidence of God's character of love, truth presented in love leaving us free. The first six days of creation week we learn God has power, but the Sabbath reveals God does not coerce or pressure or threaten with His power, but leaves us free. The Sabbath is evidence of God's character of love, established upon the principles of truth, love and freedom.
- What is the significance that the Sabbath points us to remember our Creator – could it be to remember how creation is built to operate, upon what law?



- What do we learn of God when we realize Jesus rested in the tomb during the Sabbath?
  - Do we learn the Sabbath exists because God is not like Satan alleges, that God presents truth, in love and leaves us free. Thus the Sabbath is invested with God's character of love, and it can never be removed or changed, only obscured by lies and misrepresentations.

Therefore the Sabbath stands symbolic, as a sign, of those who value God's law of love, and practice his methods of presenting the truth in love and leaving others free.

Then what is the mark of the beast?

The time has come for the true light to shine amid moral darkness. The third angel's message has been sent forth to the world, **warning men against receiving the mark of the beast or of his image in their foreheads or in their hands. To receive this mark means to come to the same decision as the beast has done, and to advocate the same ideas, in direct opposition to the word of God.** {RH, July 13, 1897 par. 5}

What decisions did the beast make and what ideas did it advocate that are in direct opposition to the word of God?

That God's law is imposed, and as an imposed law it can be changed, amended, abrogated, altered, thus, under the imposed law construct Sabbath can be changed to Sunday. And, imposed laws require judicial proceedings, investigation, records, judgments, imposed punishments. Therefore, coercive pressure is used to punish law breakers and ensure obedience.

Sunday, being established upon the basis of imposed law becomes a sign or insignia or mark of those who practice such methods. So:

- Muslims, who would kidnap and kill people who believe differently, who would gain governmental power to enforce their religious law, but never worship on Sunday, are still practicing the methods of the beast and thus will receive the mark of the beast.
- Seventh-day Adventists who worship on Sabbath but teach the Sabbath is an arbitrary test of obedience, that God's law is imposed, and God is an imperial dictator who must impose punishment, will like the Pharisees 2000 years ago, oppose the kingdom of love and receive the mark of the beast – which is what? Coming to the same conclusions about God and his law and advocate the same ideas about God!

The Sabbath, being established in the context of an assault on God's rulership, as a day filled with evidence, leaving beings free, stands as a symbol or sign of God's character of love, pointing to creation reminds us of the natural law God built life to operate upon, and pointing to the Cross reminds us of God's selflessness and his use of power.

Thus the issue in the end, of which the two days stand as signs, is the issue of God's law of love, versus Satan's imposed law construct; God's rule of love versus Satan's rule of fear and selfishness;



God's natural law versus worldly imposed laws. It comes down to the methods one practices and the two days are symbolic of two systems.

Here is another quote from the same founder who wrote the others we have read:

In striking contrast to the wrong and oppression so universally practised were the mission and work of Christ. Earthly kingdoms are established and upheld by physical force, but this **was not** to be the foundation of the Messiah's kingdom. **In the establishment of his government no carnal weapons were to be used, no coercion practised; no attempt would be made to force the consciences of men. These are the principles used by the prince of darkness for the government of his kingdom. His agents are actively at work, seeking in their human independence to enact laws which are in direct contrast to Christ's mercy and loving-kindness.** {RH, August 18, 1896 par. 2}

**Prophecy has plainly stated the nature of Christ's kingdom. He planned a government which would use no force; his subjects would know no oppression. [no arrests, no detainments, no imposed punishments, no force]** The symbols of earthly governments are wild beasts, but in the kingdom of Christ, men are called upon to behold, not a ferocious beast, but the Lamb of God. **Not as a fierce tyrant did he come, but as the Son of man; not to conquer the nations by his iron power, but "to preach good tidings unto the meek;" "to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound;" "to comfort all that mourn."** He came as the divine Restorer, bringing to oppressed and downtrodden humanity the rich and abundant grace of Heaven, that by the power of his righteousness, man, fallen and degraded though he was, might be a partaker of divinity. **[which is healing and restorative, an expression of the law of love, the law life is built to operate upon]** {RH, August 18, 1896 par. 3}

Those who promote a god who acts like a Roman emperor, who imposes law, who inflicts punishment, are actively promoting the system of the beast.

Scripture is clear God's law is the law of love, an expression of God's character not an imposed law:

- Love does no harm to its neighbor. Therefore **love is the fulfillment of the law.** Romans 13:10
- The **entire law** is summed up in a single command: "**Love** your neighbor as yourself." Galatians 5:14
- If you really keep the **royal law** found in Scripture, "**Love** your neighbor as yourself," you are doing right. James 2:8
- Jesus replied: "**Love** the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: '**Love** your neighbor as yourself.' **All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.**" Matt 22:37-40
- In the **way of righteousness there is life**; along that path is immortality. Pr 12:28
- He who pursues **righteousness and love finds life**, prosperity and honor. Pr 21:21



- The **law** of the Lord is perfect, **reviving** the soul. Ps 19:7

History supports the change in the law of God was a change from the natural law of love to an imposed law construct:

Peter Leithart, in his book, *Defending Constantine*, documents that Constantine used imposition of law to support the church:

[Constantine's] rhetoric against both pagans and Jews was forceful, sometimes vicious, and this, along with the *legal restrictions*, created an atmosphere that discouraged but did not destroy paganism. He Christianized public space in Rome, funded the restoration of sacred sites in Palestine and founded Constantinople... When disputes arose in the church, Constantine believed it was his right and duty as Roman emperor to guide the warring factions toward a resolution... Once the bishops had arrived at a decision, Constantine accepted it as a divine word and backed up conciliar decisions with *legal sanctions*, mainly exile for those found guilty of heresy.”<sup>1</sup>

Notice that the church was supportive of Constantine's use of state power to promote its position and agenda in society. Where was Romans 14, “let every person be fully persuaded in their own mind.”

But even more telling is the first church historian, Eusebius:

“There are no reserves in the stilted encomium with which Eusebius closes his history, no wistful regret for the blessings of persecution, no prophetic fear of imperial control of the Church. His heart is full of gratitude to God and Constantine. And it is not only his feelings that are stirred. He is ready, with a theory, indeed a theology, of the Christian Emperor. He finds a correspondence between religion and politics... With the Roman Empire monarchy had come on earth as the image of the monarchy in heaven.” S.L. Greenslade, *Church and State from Constantine to Theodosius* (London: SCM Press, 1954).

So what is the mark of the beast?

Regarding God as the beast does and using the methods of the beast – which is teaching God imposes laws, and as an imposer of law must impose penalties, and therefore must be appeased. And using power to coerce and punish those who disagree.

Examples:

- Inquisition
- Burning people at the stake, both Catholic and Protestant
- Salem witch trials
- Islamic Sharia Laws enforced by governments

Here is another quote from one of the founders of our church, consider it in light of what we have presented:



Be sure the Sabbath is a test question and how you treat this question places you either on God's side or Satan's side. The mark of the beast is to be presented **in some shape** to every institution and every individual.--Ms 6 1889, p. 6. (Written Nov. 4, 1889.) {3MR 189.2}

Thoughts about this?

How is the Sabbath a test question? It is to be presented in some shape to every institution... Is it which day merely, or is it what the day symbolizes, what the day signifies in regard to God, his character and method of governing?

Now in light of what we have thus far studied, consider these quotes:

As I was preparing the lesson for this week, reading many sources, I came across this, what do you think?

**As the work of God's people moves forward with sanctified, resistless energy, planting the standard of Christ's righteousness in the church, moved by a power from the throne of God, the great controversy will wax stronger and stronger, and will become more and more determined. Mind will be arrayed against mind, plans against plans, principles of heavenly origin against principles of Satan.** Truth in its varied phases will be in conflict with error in its ever-varying, increasing forms, and which, if possible, will deceive the very elect. . . . {CTr 361.3}

What is the Great Controversy over? Have we seen this played out in our own experience? Do we see a battle over God's character ongoing right now?

## WEDNESDAY & THURSDAY

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Read Wednesday third paragraph, "The scoffers..." and Thursday fourth paragraph, "Also, look at the theme..." thoughts?

What do you understand the judgment taking place before Christ comes to be?

Read Daniel 7:20-22, 25

I also wanted to know about the ten horns on its head and about the other horn that came up, before which three of them fell—the horn that looked more imposing than the others and that had eyes and a mouth that spoke boastfully. <sup>21</sup> As I watched, this horn was waging war against the saints and defeating them, <sup>22</sup> until the Ancient of Days came and pronounced judgment in favor of the saints of the Most High, and the time came when they possessed the kingdom... He will speak against the Most High and oppress his saints and try to change the set times and the laws.



Who is the little horn? What does it mean he will war against the saints? What law does he try and change? How has he succeeded? And he succeeds until when?

The above rendering is from the NIV which many, who assume the legal model, prefer. But does the meaning of the passage change when we read from the King James Version?

Until the Ancient of days came, and judgment **was given to the saints** of the most High; and the time came that the saints possessed the kingdom. Daniel 7:22

Which translation is more accurate? The Hebrew word translated “pronounced” actually means “to give” or “to impart” and thus the KJV would be more accurate in this context. Why do the saints of God need judgment (another word for **discernment**) imparted to them? The Daniel text tells us the horn warred against the saints and was defeating them. What kind of warfare was going on?

For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ. 2 Cor 10:3-5

What kind of war? Where is it being fought? This is a war between truth and lies, centering on God’s character, and being fought in our minds! Amazingly, Paul makes the connection to the cleansing of the Temple even closer and shows how the Temple is connected to this war going on in our minds:

Concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered to him, we ask you, brothers, not to become easily unsettled or alarmed by some prophecy, report or letter supposed to have come from us, saying that the day of the Lord has already come. Don’t let anyone deceive you in any way, for that day will not come until the rebellion occurs and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the man doomed to destruction. He will oppose and will exalt himself over everything that is called God or is worshiped, so that he sets himself up in God’s **temple**, proclaiming himself to be God. 2Thes 2:1-4

Paul is describing the exact same events as Daniel 7 in which evil powers war against the saints and oppose God. In the aftermath of Christ’s death, resurrection, and ascension into heaven, did this man of lawlessness ride into heaven overthrow God, set himself up in God’s temple in heaven, and proclaim himself to be God? No, where did this happen? In the Spirit Temple! In our minds! **Therefore, the cleansing of the temple, as described in the Bible, is the cleansing of our minds from the lies about God**, which wins us back to trust and results in our cleansing from sin.

And what is kept in the Most Holy Place? Consider this description written by Ellen White:

The temple of God was opened in heaven, and I was shown the ark of God covered with the mercy-seat. Two angels stood one at either end of the ark, with their wings spread over the



mercy-seat, and their faces turned toward it. This... represented all the heavenly host looking with reverential awe toward the law of God which had been written by the finger of God. Jesus raised the cover of the ark, and I beheld the tables of stone on which the ten commandments were written. I was amazed as I saw the fourth commandment in the very center of the ten precepts, **with a soft halo of light encircling it.** Said the angel, **‘It is the only one of the ten which defines the living God who created the heavens and the earth and all things that are therein. When the foundations of the earth were laid, then was also laid the foundation of the Sabbath.** ... The man of sin who exalted himself above God, and thought to change **times and laws,** brought about the change of the Sabbath from the seventh to the first day of the week. In doing this he made **a breach in the law of God.** Just prior to the great day of God, **a message is sent forth to warn the people to come back to their allegiance to the law of God** which antichrist has broken down. Attention must be called to the breach in the law by precept and example. **I was shown that the third angel proclaiming the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus, represents the people who receive this message and raise the voice of warning to the world, to keep the commandments of God and his law as the apple of the eye,** and that in response to this warning many would embrace the Sabbath of the Lord.” {LS80 236.3}

What do you hear? Do you hear this through imposed law or natural law?

Do you hear that this is a symbolic description of a people who have embraced the law of love, who have surrendered to God, who practice his methods of Truth, Love and Freedom and thus have the law written on their heart – the Most Holy Place of the Spirit Temple – and this is symbolized by the Sabbath, which God made to reveal his methods. Thus the cleansing of the Temple, is the establishing of God’s law in the heart of believers, when they make the right judgment about God and his law of love. And the man of sin fights against this with imposed law constructs, even if the law imposed is the Sabbath of the Bible.

## MONDAY

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Read Deuteronomy 5:12-15:

“Observe the Sabbath day by keeping it holy, as the Lord your God has commanded you. <sup>13</sup>Six days you shall labor and do all your work, <sup>14</sup>but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord your God. On it you shall not do any work, neither you, nor your son or daughter, nor your manservant or maidservant, nor your ox, your donkey or any of your animals, nor the alien within your gates, so that your manservant and maidservant may rest, as you do. <sup>15</sup>Remember that you were slaves in Egypt and that the Lord your God brought you out of there with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm. Therefore the Lord your God has commanded you to observe the Sabbath day.

Why the difference here than Exodus a memorial of Creation?



In the setting of the Great Controversy, over two forms of governing, what would be the purpose of emphasizing the deliverance from Egypt?

What governmental type of system did Egypt employ? And what happened to the decedents of Jacob in Egypt under this type of government?

Does delivery from this form of governing play into the purpose of the Sabbath and reveal anything about the two kingdoms?

Read Exodus 31:13:

Then the Lord said to Moses,<sup>13</sup> “Say to the Israelites, ‘You must observe my Sabbaths. This will be a sign between me and you for the generations to come, so you may know that I am the Lord, who makes you holy.’”

How is a Sabbath a sign that God makes us holy? What is a sign? What does the Sabbath reveal? What type of law is being described when God says he will “make us holy”? Do you notice it doesn’t say “I will declare you holy”?

The “declare holy” idea stems from the beast system, the system in which we have an imposed law by a supreme dictator, who, when appeased, declares holiness which does not actually exist.

But, under God’s natural law of love view, we realize we are actually out of harmony with God and his design protocols for life. When we come back to a knowledge of God, and surrender to him freely, he actually gives us new motives, desires, attitudes, a new heart and right spirit, he “makes” us holy – literally, such that we are in harmony with him. We love God and others more than self.

## **TUESDAY**

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The lesson focuses on Jesus and how he observed the Sabbath. It contrasts how the religious leaders criticized the disciples for picking grain on Sabbath, but Jesus found no fault.

Do you see two different law constructs underlying the response of the Pharisees and that of Jesus? Who was operating on imposed law? Who was operating on natural law?

When Jesus healed on Sabbath did he heal only emergencies? Why did he heal conditions that had persisted for decades on Sabbath? What was the point?

To expose that the falsehood of imposed law constructs, rules that must be enforced are revealed to be wrong. That the Sabbath is a day made to live in harmony with God’s kingdom of love – and love works to heal, save, and restore is revealed to be right.

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<sup>i</sup> Leithart, Peter, *Defending Constantine*, Intervarsity Press 2010, p. 302-303.