



2021 2Q The Promise: Lesson 9 Covenant Sign

by Tim Jennings (announcements last page)

Last week I mentioned that one of the founders of the SDA church, EG White, in aftermath of the 1888 General Conference where the leaders rejected the Design Law healing model of righteousness by faith and chose instead to stay with the imposed law view of penal substitution, she said that they would have treated Christ like those who crucified Him had He been there.

Someone asked for that reference. It is:

On many occasions the Holy Spirit did work, but those who resisted the Spirit of God at Minneapolis were waiting for a chance to travel over the same ground again, **because their spirit was the same**. Afterward, when they had **evidence heaped upon evidence, some were convicted**, but those who were not softened and subdued by the Holy Spirit's working, **put their own interpretation** upon every manifestation of the grace of God, and they have lost much. **They pronounced** in their heart and soul and words that this manifestation of the Holy Spirit was **fanaticism and delusion**. **They stood like a rock**, the waves of mercy flowing upon and around them, but beaten back by their hard and wicked hearts, which resisted the Holy Spirit's working. Had this been received, it would have made them wise unto salvation; holier men, prepared to do the work of God with sanctified ability. **But all the universe of heaven witnessed the disgraceful treatment of Jesus Christ, represented by the Holy Spirit. Had Christ been before them, they would have treated him in a manner similar to that in which the Jews treated Christ.** {1888 1478.2}

SABBATH

The lesson is about the Sabbath as a sign of the covenant. What is the covenant? The covenant of salvation—how would you state it?

- God provides everything necessary to save human beings through Jesus Christ the Messiah, we trust Him to do it corporately and individually and follow His instructions.

Did the Sabbath exist before or after sin? After Lucifer sinned in heaven.

Did the Sabbath exist before or after human sin? Before Adam and Eve sinned in Eden.

Did the Sabbath exist before or after the covenant with Adam? Before the covenant with Adam.



If the Sabbath was created before Adam sinned and before the covenant with Adam, how is it part of the covenant of salvation?

Is the Sabbath part of the evidence necessary to defeat the father of lies? What is that evidence?

Was the Sabbath made for man or man for the Sabbath?

What was the purpose of the Sabbath in Eden before humans sinned?

- How did Adam and Eve begin their lives? They entered into Sabbath rest with God *before* they worked.
- Is your view that we work six days and then rest, or we rest and then work six day?
- What is the difference? What is the spiritual lesson?
- Can we do any good work for God if we don't rest in Him and what Christ has done for us first?
- So, is resting in the work of the Lord, the Sabbath of the Lord a legal work a legal test of obedience, or is it something else? What?

SUNDAY

The lesson points out that Jesus said that Sabbath was *made* for man not man for the Sabbath. The Sabbath was made—it had a beginning, at the end of Creation week—meaning the Sabbath did not exist back when Lucifer rebelled in heaven.

Why is this important—especially to SDAs who value the Sabbath?

SDAs have taught that the final conflict will involve the Sabbath in contrast to Sunday—SDAs have held this up as a test issue, a demarcation issue—but is it possible that SDAs have not accurately presented how and why these days are involved and have thereby misrepresented the real issue?

Consider these comments from one of the founders of the SDA church—and let's keep in mind the question of the Sabbath and how it fits in.

The last great conflict between truth and error is but the final struggle of the long-standing controversy concerning the law of God. Upon this battle we are now entering,—a battle between the laws of men and the precepts of Jehovah, between the religion of the Bible and the religion of fable and tradition. (GC 582.2)

There is no such thing as weakening or strengthening the law of Jehovah. As it has been, so it is. It always has been, and always will be holy, just, and good, complete in itself. It cannot be repealed or changed. To “honor” or “dishonor” it is but the speech of men. (PK 625.1)



Between the laws of men and the precepts of Jehovah will come the *last great conflict of the controversy between truth and error*. Upon this battle we are now entering—a battle **not between rival churches contending for the supremacy, but between the religion of the Bible and the religions of fable and tradition. (PK 625.2)**

If the last great conflict between truth and error is just the completion of the longstanding battle over God's law which began in heaven, then how does the Sabbath fit in since the Sabbath did not exist in heaven when the conflict over God's law began? So, while the Sabbath is involved because it is somehow connected to God's law, it cannot be simply about the Sabbath.

In order to understand the Sabbath question accurately, we must first understand God's law accurately, we must first understand how God's law was the issue with the angels in heaven. Once we identify this problem, then we can move on to understand the question of the Sabbath and any other question about God's law as we approach the final events leading up to Christ's return.

Satan attacks God's law in some way? How and why?

How did angels in heaven, before Lucifer rebelled, view God's law? Historic Adventism saw it this way:

But in heaven, service is *not rendered in the spirit of legality*. When Satan rebelled against the law of Jehovah, the thought that there was a law came to the angels almost as an awakening to something unthought of. (MB 109.2)

What kind of law *cannot* be weakened or strengthened, has always been, and will always be, and is in force but unthought of? None other than the design-laws upon which reality is built to exist! Imposed rules, like *humans* make—which require external enforcement—must be posted, beings must be informed or instructed about them in order to hold them accountable. But not design law.

Consider again the example of Isaac Newton telling his friends about the law of gravity, might they respond with “Wow, never thought there was a law, its just how things work.”

So, what did Satan do to attack God's law in heaven? From the book *The Desire of Ages* the author describes:

In the opening of the great controversy, Satan had declared that the law of God could not be obeyed, that justice was inconsistent with mercy, and that, should the law be broken, it would **be impossible for the sinner to be pardoned. Every sin must meet its punishment, urged Satan**; and if God should remit the punishment of sin, He would not be a God of truth and justice. DA 761.4

What kind of law requires God to inflict punishment for disobedience? Imposed law. This is the foundation of the long-standing conflict over God's law—is God's law the type of law that requires Him to inflict punishment or is God's law design law, the protocols of life that requires Him to heal



the damage done to the sinner, lest if He does nothing, they die from taking themselves out of harmony with life? All those who teach the inflicted punishment view are advancing Satan's attack on God's law, government and character.

So, if you are an SDA and you value the position of the founders of the SDA church, especially EGW, then the final issues will come to a head over the same thing the war in heaven began over, which is a question over God's law. And it is not primarily a question about the Sabbath; it is a question of how God's law functions, what kind of law it is and any Sabbath questions fall into this bigger issue.

Why is the question of God's law important to answer?

Consider what kind of God one believes God to be based on the law they accept as God's law?

If God's law functions like human law, requiring judicial oversight and infliction of external punishments and death by God—what kind of God is that?

In such a universe where the deity kills his own disobedient children:

- Is there real freedom?
- Without liberty can love exist?
- What happens in the hearts and minds of intelligent beings when they are threatened?
- From where does death originate in such a universe?
- Safety in such a universe is through restraints put upon the ruling authority—this is why the penal legal people cling so desperately the imposed law lie. It gives them perverse power over God claiming legal authority over His wrath by the blood of Jesus who paid the legal penalty for them therefore God has no legal right to kill them. The legal penal theologians live in fear of what would happen if Jesus wasn't there to restrain the Father from lashing out with punishment. It is exactly paganism, the worshipper, through some ritual, incantation, blood sacrifice controlling the power of the deity.
- What happens to trust, love, loyalty, development of individuality in an atmosphere without liberty?

Understand, Satan's original lie in heaven is that God's law requires God to punish rule-breakers. This represents God to be a being other than love, a being who is the source of pain, suffering and death, a dictator, power-monger, and one who cannot be trusted. Thus rebellion spreads and love and trust are destroyed.

The final issues will revolve around the question of law and authority. Those who value Satan's view of law and justice will use Satan's methods of imposed law and coercive enforcement to get people to comply with their views. This is the beastly system of Revelation. It may be through governments, it may be through big business (no one buying or selling or traveling or going to college or entering buildings), but the coercive pressure will be the same.



Here is the formula for Satan's methods:

- Lies that when believed break the circle of love and trust—
- This incites fear and selfishness—survival drives
- This results in seeing more threats which increase fear and the need to protect self
- which results in using power, might, force to control, compel, coerce or destroy others in order to make self feel safe

Examples:

- **Sadam Hussein**
 - Lies about weapons of mass destruction in Iraq were told
 - Increased fear in people which increased our need to protect self—survival drives
 - which resulted in the use of might and power to eliminate the threat and compel compliance
- **Nazi Germany**
 - Lies about Jews were told
 - Increased fear of economic and other injury
 - Increased need to protect self
 - use of might and power to coerce, compel and destroy—and it started with lies, then incremental laws that restricted liberties, and eventually genocide
- **Climate change**
 - Lies are told—lies that there no God, no future other than global warming and destruction of the planet, no new heaven and new earth
 - increased fear
 - increased desire to protect self—survival drives
 - increased use of compelling power to raise oil prices, restrict liberty, restrict scientific investigation, restrict free speech
- **COVID19**
 - real virus but lie after lie has been told and continues to be told
 - increasing fear
 - with increased survival drive
 - with increasing sense of threat when minimal to no threat exists, such as the lie that there is a 10% transmission rate in outdoor environment, so we must wear masks outdoors, when the transmission rate is actually less than 0.1% outdoors. Or the lie that you must be 6 feet apart to avoid transmission, but 6 feet doesn't provide any more benefit than 3 feet. But these lies incite fear, which cause people to see others who are not wearing masks or inside of 6 feet as threats.
 - use of governmental and economic coercion to pressure people to comply
 - Some are calling for forced injections of everyone? If people under the advice of their own doctor don't get the vaccine, because they survived the infection and have antibodies that give them better immunity than the injection, they are being threatened with travel restrictions, some are calling for laws to prohibit people from entering any public business or building unless they have a vaccine passport—but why? Think about it? Measles is much more contagious and deadly than COVID—why don't we make



people get a measles vaccine passport to travel or enter buildings or go to sporting events? Because once YOU have been vaccinated you are protected from measles—others are not a threat to you. What is the messaging that says even though you are vaccinated you are not safe if others are not vaccinated doing to the minds of people? There is a lie imbedded in here—either the vaccines don't work, which means the messaging about protecting yourself by getting it is a lie, or you being at risk if someone else doesn't get the vaccine is a lie.

How is this happening? It is Satan's methods at work. Note the process:

- A virus is released that causes disease, illness, death in some—viruses are not part of God's creation, they are infections to God's creation. Just like computer viruses are not part of the operating system of any computer software maker, the computer viruses are made by hackers intent on harming, so too viruses in nature are not part of God's original creation, but part of Satan's attack on it. And evidence now reveals that this COVID 19 virus is a bat virus that was purposely augmented by humans in a lab in China, with funding from the NIH.
<https://nicholaswade.medium.com/origin-of-covid-following-the-clues-6f03564c038>
- The virus and illness and deaths incite fear in people—fear is Satan's number one emotion that drives selfishness.
- Note in society today, we have a virus, but worse than the virus we have lies upon lies being told. The cure for lies is the truth, but the truth is not to be tolerated in our society today, free speech is censored, people asking legitimate questions are maligned, de-platformed, called names like “conspiracy nuts” or “antivaxxers” all designed to keep the lies from being exposed. These methods alone should warn people to the agenda of those who are practicing them.
- The lies incite more fear, fear causes people to become more self-centered, more survival driven, which causes people to be more threat sensitive—in other words, the more fearful the more easily people perceive others as threats, even when they are not.
- The fear and heightened sense of danger, the heightened drive to survive, the heighten sense of threat from others, damages love, incites actions to protect self at the expense of others. We need villains, enemies we can destroy, control, eliminate, imprison to make ourselves feel safe—it doesn't matter that these perceived enemies are not actually a danger to us, we still force our agenda to make us feel safe.
 - So we lie about the risk of outdoor spread which increases fear
 - We mandate community masks despite the evidence that they provide no protection and actually cause harm to many <https://www.mdpi.com/1660-4601/18/8/4344/htm>
 - We shut down houses of worship
 - We shut down schools
 - We deny families the ability to be with loved ones in hospice or in hospitals going through medical procedures despite overwhelming, long standing scientific evidence that all health outcomes are improved when people have their family with them and all outcomes are worsened when people are socially isolated—but truth doesn't matter, we must make people comply.
 - We shut down free speech, we can't have people asking questions



- We do human medical experimentation and use coercive tactics to pressure people to participate while we continue to lie about the dangers

What does fear cause people to do? And where does the Sabbath fit into all of this?

The memory text for this week is Exodus 31:16-17:

The Israelites are to observe the Sabbath, celebrating it for the generations to come as a lasting covenant. It will be a sign between me and the Israelites forever, for in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, and on the seventh day he abstained from work and rested.’ ” (Ex 31:16–17 NIV84).

How is the Sabbath a sign of the covenant of salvation, the covenant of grace? Remember sin began before the Sabbath—the issue in the long-standing struggle is over God’s law—and the Sabbath is part of that, but how?

I am going to read a quotation, used by some to make themselves feel good about their behavior, and too often used to accuse or condemn people who worship on Sunday. But let’s consider this quote carefully:

- 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}

What do you understand this statement to mean? What law lens to you read it through?

- 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?

Here is another quote from the same person as the previous quote, 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}

If God’s law is not imposed rules but design protocols, then how is the Sabbath a test question? How is the Sabbath, which didn’t exist when Lucifer rebelled in heaven, related to the conflict over God’s law that began in heaven? How is the mark of the beast to be presented in *some shape* to every



institution...Is it merely which day of the week, or is it what the day symbolizes, what the day signifies in regard to God, his character and method of governing?

FRIDAY

The lesson, the lesson points out that the Sabbath contains the name of God as Creator and the sphere of His influence i.e. heavens, earth, sea and all that is in them and “in these two aspects the Sabbath commandment has the characteristics that are typical of seals.”

The lesson is making the case that these elements make the Sabbath the seal of God—this understanding is a level four, human law understanding of the seal of God, name, territory, authority, it is understanding God’s law through human law model. Simply listing God as Creator and the entire universe as His is *not* the true seal of God, even though God is Creator and all reality is His.

What other Bible texts speak of God’s seal?

- “Do not harm the land or the sea or the trees until we put a **seal on the foreheads** of the servants of our God” (Rev 7:3 NIV84). –is this talking about the Sabbath? Maybe having the fourth commandment tattooed on our foreheads?
- “Now it is God who makes both us and you stand firm in Christ. He anointed us, set his **seal of ownership on us**, and put his Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come” (2 Co 1:21–22 NIV84).
- “And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were **marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit...**” (Eph 1:13 NIV84).
- And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were **sealed** for the day of redemption. (Eph 4:30 NIV84).

What is the seal of God? The character of God being reproduced in His people by the Spirit of God! Being so settled into the truth both intellectually and spiritually that we cannot be moved. The Spirit of God is the Spirit of Truth and Love—and we are settled intellectually when we are settled into the Truth about God and His design laws and character which win us to trust. We are settled spiritually when we die to selfishness and have love written into our characters such that we are those “who do not love their lives so much as to shrink from death.”

This is the seal of God. The mark of the beast is the opposite, it is being marked in mind/heart/character—symbolized by the mark on the forehead—to be beastly, to be selfish, to be fear driven, survival driven, willing to coerce and compel others in order to protect yourself, and especially if it is through legal action of governments. The mark in the hand represents those who don’t believe the methods are right, but go along with the laws that compel and coerce others, even participating as enforcers in order to protect themselves, to not lose their property, travel privileges, licenses, businesses etc.



And how does the Sabbath fit into this? Those who are renewed in heart to have the character of God live out God's law of love—they present the truth, in love and leave others free—which the Sabbath is a sign or flag or pennant or evidence of God's methods.

What is a mark or sign?

A symbol that stands for or signifies something else:

- The sign of the cross stands for what?
- The goat's head symbolizes what?
- What is a flag? Is the US flag a sign or symbol of the USA? Is the flag the same as the United States of America? And historically the flag stood for liberty, for freedom for all!
 - Thursday, I went to my grandchildren's elementary school musical program. The entire program was a patriotic presentation, songs like: *You're a Grand Old Flag*, *The Star Spangled Banner*, *My Country Tis of Thee*, *The Battle Hymn of the Republic*. They emphasized the land of liberty in which we live. And what was striking to me is how different my experience was this time than every other time in my life I have been to such programs. In every other time in my life such songs stirred up a sense of patriotic pride in America, a sense of happiness for the liberties and freedoms we have, a sense of joy. But this time I was struck by a deep sense of sadness—the contrast between the liberties we had throughout all of my life and the current infringement and restrictions of our freedoms.
 - If you remember the musical *The Sound of Music* when the family performed in the musical competition, Captain von Trapp sang Edelweiss, he called it a love song, it was just before the Nazi's took over Austria—he was mourning the loss of liberty and freedom that was falling upon them. That is exactly what I felt—are you aware? Do you recognize the evil powers that are at work taking away our God-given freedoms?
 - But note what the liars, the enemies of liberty have done—they have attacked the symbol of freedom in America—the US flag, by kneeling at sporting events and claiming the flag represents slavery, oppression, abuse, the exact opposite of freedom. The enemies of truth and liberty have taken the symbol of freedom and turned it into a symbol of slavery.
 - And what has happened in society as people have started to believe the lie that the US Flag is a symbol of slavery and abuse? Division, hostility, conflict, and an erosion of freedoms—how? By more lies, lies such as critical race theory, there is no male or female gender is your choice, that we are safer without police, that free speech is a threat to democracy and must be censored or silenced, all of these lies and more incite greater fear, which cause more survival drives, which cause people to feel more threatened, and this causes more legislation and rules that restrict liberty.
- The Sabbath is like the US Flag in this way—it is a sign of the freedom we have in God's government, under God's design laws. But it, just like the US Flag, has come under attack by Satan—by two primary ways:
 - Satan has misrepresented the Sabbath through imposed law and the flag of our freedom is taught as a test of obedience, a day of restricted liberty, a day of rule-keeping, a day of fear if you break it you will get punished.



- Or by replacing it with another flag, another day—Sunday, a worship day that came about through legislation, through imposed rule-making. Sunday was not made by God as a day set apart for freedom, for rest in God. It was made as a work day. But the church, in counsel, voted to make it a rest day. This is human law and thus Sunday symbolizes imposed law, it is a flag of a foreign power, foreign to God's government.
- There is another Commandment that God gave with a unique instruction—not a “thou shalt not” but an affirmation—“honor your mother and father”
 - But what are the liars in our society doing—the same ones who attack liberty?
 - Did you hear they want to change Mother's Day to “Birther person day”?
 - Every thinking person in the world knows a mother is more than just a birthing chamber—yet the haters of God want to destroy another institution of God—the family.
- Now could someone wave the US Flag and be working for another government?
- Can someone worships on Bible Sabbath and be working for Satan's kingdom and receive the mark of the beast?
- Can someone worships on Sunday and be advancing God's kingdom of love and be sealed of God?

If we accept that these two days are signs or marks of loyalty to one side or the other, does that actually inform us of whom is on which side?

These two days of worship are distinct **in their origin as days of worship**, and thus contain the very elements of the two types of governing – God's vs Satan's—design law that governs reality versus imposed rules that require infliction of punishment. This is the real issue in the war.

Here are some more quotes:

"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 to love God and others. This is the opposite of the world, the opposite of the methods that drive people to force others to comply to make themselves feel safe] 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.**¹ [The law as the last message? How? Because it is the truth of God's law being design law, which represents God as Creator and overthrows the lie that God is a cosmic dictator who inflicts punishment for disobedience.] **God's law is not a new thing. It is not holiness created, but**

¹ 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}



holiness made known. [Think about rules a parent has for handwashing, or exercise, or sleep etc. Those rules are not healthiness created, but healthiness 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. And last week we explored how the 3rd angel's message is the warning of what happens when one chooses to violate God's design law, one after the other—the natural, unavoidable destructive results when God stops artificially protecting people from the damage their choices naturally cause.] But this law has been disregarded and transgressed, **and is now being ignored by the churches. Human enactments are placed where God's law should be.** [Imposed rules take the place of designed reality] 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}

Understand it is not about worshipping on Sunday—get that clear, just like there is no wrong in worshipping on Wednesday night, or Tuesday or Thursday. It is what the Sunday, within the religious system represents!

And what is the implication of changing the Bible Sabbath to 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?

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.**

And this lie comes out in the rest of Christian doctrines, like God is required to punish; penal substitution theology; eternal burning hell; Jesus died to pay or legal debt; etc. etc.

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.
- **The Sabbath is evidence that Satan’s allegations about God, that God imposes rules, that God imposes punishments, that God abuses power are all lies.** This is why Satan hates the Sabbath, because rightly seen and understood it reveals Satan as a liar.
 - Satan hates the Sabbath in the same way Richard Nixon hated the Watergate tapes or Clinton hated Monica’s dress. Nixon would have loved to destroy the tapes, and in fact tried. Clinton would have loved to destroy the dress. And Satan tries to destroy the Sabbath, to distort and twist the evidence into something it isn’t. How? By replacing it or twisting it into an imposed law test.

Therefore, the Sabbath stands as evidence, 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.**

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 design laws 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—even if they worship on the Bible Sabbath!

Here is the problem regarding days of worship, of which Sunday is a sign:

But when the decree shall go forth **enforcing** the counterfeit sabbath, **and** the loud cry of the third angel **shall warn men against the worship of the beast and his image**, the line will be clearly drawn **between the false and the true.** **Then** those who still continue in transgression will receive the mark of the beast.--Ev 234, 235 (1899). {LDE 225.4}



Notice it is not about Sunday, but the “enforcing” worship, about the use of arbitrary power to coerce, this is beastly. This is Satan’s way.

But what if it is not enforcement of a day of worship, but enforcement of defilement of your Spirit temple? **If you were told that you couldn’t go to college unless you eat a piece of pork—as an SDA, Jew or Muslim what would you do?** But what if you are told you can’t go to college unless you get an experimental RNA based injection that will invade your cells and instruct them to start making a foreign protein what will you do?

Consider this quote from a book called *Prophets and Kings*:

The spiritual restoration of which the work carried forward in Nehemiah's day **was a symbol**, is outlined in the words of Isaiah: "They shall build the old wastes, they shall raise up the former desolations, and they shall repair the waste cities." "They that shall be of thee shall build the old waste places: thou shalt raise up the foundations of many generations; and thou shalt be called, The repairer of the breach, The restorer of paths to dwell in." Isaiah 61:4; 58:12. {PK 677.2}

The prophet here describes a people who, in a time of general departure from truth and righteousness, are seeking to restore the *principles* that are the foundation of the kingdom of God. They are repairers of a breach that has been made in God's law--the wall that He has placed around His chosen ones for their protection, and obedience to whose precepts of justice, truth, and purity is to be their perpetual safeguard. {PK 677.3} **[What are principles? Design laws—we are to restore the design laws—why do they need to be restored? Where do they need to be restored? What has caused the breach? Where is the breach?]**

In words of unmistakable meaning the prophet points out the specific work of this remnant people who build the wall. "If thou turn away thy foot from the Sabbath, from doing thy pleasure on My holy day; and call the Sabbath a delight, the holy of the Lord, honorable; and shalt honor Him, not doing thine own ways, nor finding thine own pleasure, nor speaking thine own words: then shalt thou delight thyself in the Lord; and I will cause thee to ride upon the high places of the earth, and feed thee with the heritage of Jacob thy father: for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it." Isaiah 58:13, 14. {PK 678.1} **[If we identify the Sabbath as an arbitrary test of obedience and teach people that if they refuse to accept it they will be breaking God’s law and God will be required to punish them—are we repairing the breach or doing just the opposite, make the breach bigger?]**

In the time of the end every divine institution is to be restored. **The *breach made in the law at the time* the Sabbath was changed by man, is to be repaired.** **[Notice, the breach is not the change of the Sabbath, the breach was made in the law at the time the Sabbath was changed—what was the breach? The concept of law changing from design law to imposed, which resulted in the change of the Sabbath. No committee votes to change the law of gravity, so the change of the Sabbath is evidence of the breach, but not the breach itself. The breach we must repair is how we understand God’s law and government, which is design law, not imposed law.]** God's



remnant people, standing before the world as reformers, are to show **that the law of God is the foundation of all enduring reform** [why? Because it is the law of life, the principles upon which life is established and operates. One cannot have health in violations of the laws of health] and that the Sabbath of the fourth commandment is to stand as **a memorial of creation, a constant reminder of the power of God.** [What do you hear when you hear this? Do you think might and power? If so, why does Zechariah say not by might nor by power but by the Spirit says the Lord? What power did God display on the 7th day of creation week? Is the Sabbath a memorial to physical power of to another power—the power of truth and love and freedom, the power of God’s character, the power of the gospel, of design law. What did Paul say, “I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile.” Romans 1:16 NIV84. What kind of power is the gospel? What kind of war has Satan waged? A war of ideas, words, not a war of power. Then what kind of power is necessary to defeat Satan? The power of truth and love. Do we see the Sabbath as a memorial of truth, love and freedom? Or to we misrepresent it by promoting the idea of imperialism and force?] In clear, distinct lines they are to present the necessity of obedience to all the precepts of the Decalogue. Constrained by the love of Christ, they are to co-operate with Him in building up the waste places. They are to be repairers of the breach, restorers of paths to dwell in. See verse 12. {PK 678.2}

What was the breach made in the law **when** the Sabbath was changed? It was not the mere change of the day of worship—the breach was the idea that God’s law is imposed law—this is the breach we are to repair.

Isaiah not only prophecies that God’s people will be repairers of the breach but also **raise up the foundations of many generations.** What does this mean, the foundations of many generations?

What are the foundations of God’s government that Satan has torn down in the minds and hearts of people that we are to raise up?

What is the foundation of any government? It is the law upon which it is built. So, would the foundation of God’s government be God’s law? And what type of law would that be, design law or imposed law? And how has Satan torn down the foundation and how do we raise it up?

Consider these historic quotes from one of the founders of the SDA church:

The law of love is the foundation of God's government, and the service of love the only service acceptable to heaven. ST December 15, 1914, par. 1

Love must be the principle of action. Love is the underlying principle of God's government in heaven and earth, and **it must be the foundation** of the Christian's character. This alone can make and keep him steadfast. This alone can enable him to withstand trial and temptation. COL 49.1



The law of love being the foundation of the government of God, the happiness of all created beings depended upon their perfect accord with its great principles of righteousness. [why? Because happiness is a by-product of healthiness in all domains, and healthiness is only possible in harmony with the laws of health—the laws upon which life is constructed to operate. So again, this statement reveals that God’s law is design law, not imposed rules like humans make.] God desires from all His creatures the service of love—homage that springs from an intelligent appreciation of His character. **He takes no pleasure in a forced allegiance, and to all He grants freedom of will, that they may render Him voluntary service. [What kind of law forces and compels? Imposed law!]** GC 493.2

What is the foundation that we are to raise up? It is the same as the repairing of the breach, which is restoring the truth about God’s design laws, which are all expressions of God’s character of love.

Do you see the issue in the war has always been over God’s character and Satan has always attacked God’s character by attacking how we conceive of law, either design law or imposed law.

We will not repair the breach by getting every person in the world to go to church on Saturday while teaching that God’s law is imposed and God, in order to be just, must inflict punishment upon sinners.

So what does it mean the Sabbath was made for man? For what purpose? A gift, a gift of what—a rule we must keep or a resource for our healing, for our protection? How?

Remember the Sabbath to keep it holy? What does this mean?

- If you commit sin on Sabbath have you made the Sabbath less holy?
- If you do righteousness on Sabbath have you made it more holy?
- Is it about keeping the Sabbath holy or keeping ourselves holy?
- Can we keep ourselves holy one day in seven?
- Then, what about “Remember the Sabbath” is the Lord telling us that this day, given for man, is a resource to help us all week long remember something that will work to help us live holy lives? What?
- Could it be to Remember God’s design law, God’s methods, of truth presented in love leaving others free. So that all week long we practice those methods in how we deal with others?

Consider this quote:

All through the week we are to have the Sabbath in mind and be making preparation to keep it according to the commandment. **We are not merely to observe the Sabbath as a legal matter. We are to understand its spiritual bearing upon all the transactions of life.** All who regard the Sabbath as a sign between them and God, showing that He is the God who sanctifies them, **will represent the principles of His government. They will bring into daily practice the laws of His kingdom.** Daily it will be their prayer that **the sanctification of the Sabbath may rest upon them.** Every day they will have the companionship of Christ, and will



exemplify the perfection of His character. Every day their light will shine forth to others in good works. 3TT 20.3

MONDAY

Sabbath before Sinai—the lesson points out that the Israelites were given manna to collect six days each week, but on Friday they collected double portion and none fell on Sabbath. This occurred before the law was given at Sinai, an evidence that the Sabbath existed before the written law was given.

WEDNESDAY

The lesson states:

“The Sabbath as a *sign of knowledge*
The Sabbath as a *sign of sanctification*”

What kind of knowledge? What does it mean “This is life eternal that they might know you the only true God and Jesus Christ whom you have sent” John 17:3?

So, if we have the right Sabbath day, does that mean we know the Lord and are sanctified? Did the Pharisees who crucified Christ have the right Sabbath day?

Did having the right Sabbath day function as a sign that they knew God and were sanctified? Why not? What about us today?

When we have the right Sabbath day, but the wrong law lens, i.e. believe the right day under the imposed law understanding, then we remain in Satan’s kingdom and still don’t know God and end up rejecting Jesus, while we claim we are advancing the gospel of Jesus.

THURSDAY

The lesson points out that those who Remember the Sabbath to keep it holy will be blessed by God.

What about those who do this on Sunday instead?

Bubba and Cindy Cathy, owners of Chick-fil-la close their stores every Sunday because they love Jesus and want to honor Him. Are they blessed?



ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Vision for Come and Reason: In February Come and Reason Ministries board met and prayerfully considered our vision, how to reach more people with this life changing message. We decided that our ability to do more is limited by our lack of space and facilities and we have decided to begin looking for a permanent facility for our Ministry—whether renovating a property or building on. The goal will be to build a professional recording studio with auditorium for our weekly class and other events, where we can begin producing more materials—possibly more live programming and live call in or interactive programming.

It is not our way to do fundraisers and we will not do a fundraiser or send out donation requests, however, several people have recently approached us and asked if our ministry has any needs and recommended that we make our vision and plan to have our own facility public so that anyone who want to support us in this endeavor can do so. We also are resistant to going into debt, so we are quite cautious and have already turned down a couple of options because the cost would have required significant debt.

So, please keep us in your prayers that the Lord will lead us to find the right property and bless the process that any resources we use will be spent wisely and most economically.

New Member's Section is now open: This is FREE but will require a sign in and will contain member's only content.

The Remedy Audio and *Could It Be This Simple?* Audio are both available in the members section to stream or download and listen.

Our goal, as a ministry, is to continue to enhance your growth and experience with the wonderful, life-changing message of God's design and healing plan.

SHARING campaign May: *Fundamental Focus: A Closer Look At God*

BE SURE TO USE OUR WEBSITE STORE TO PLACE YOUR ORDER—DON'T SEND AN EMAIL.