

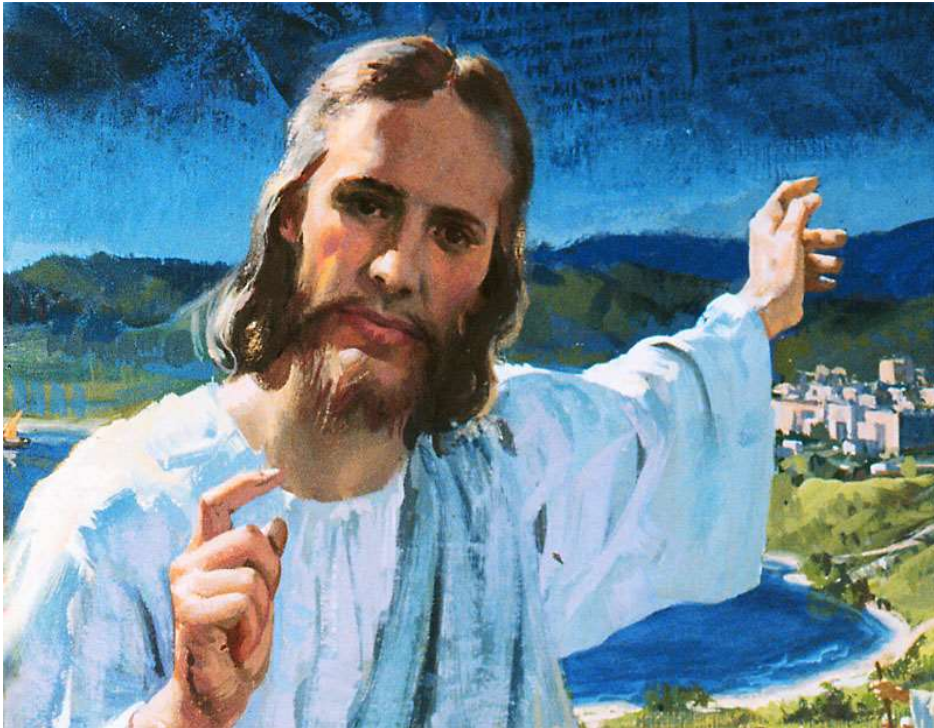
Lesson 14 – The Sign of Allegiance to God



Introduction: In our last lesson we saw that we will be judged according to God's law. Keeping the law does not save us, but it shows whether we have been born again. In Revelation, the keeping of God's law is also what distinguishes God's people from those who follow the Beast. In this lesson we will learn why.



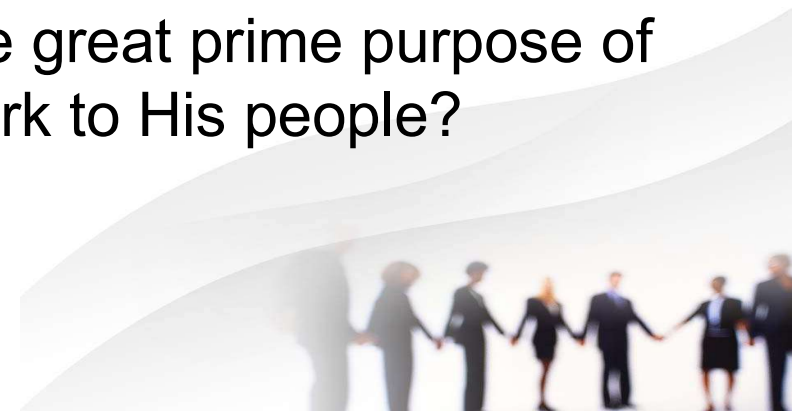
Two Things God Cannot Do



- Lie - Hebrew 6:18
- Change - Malachi 3:6



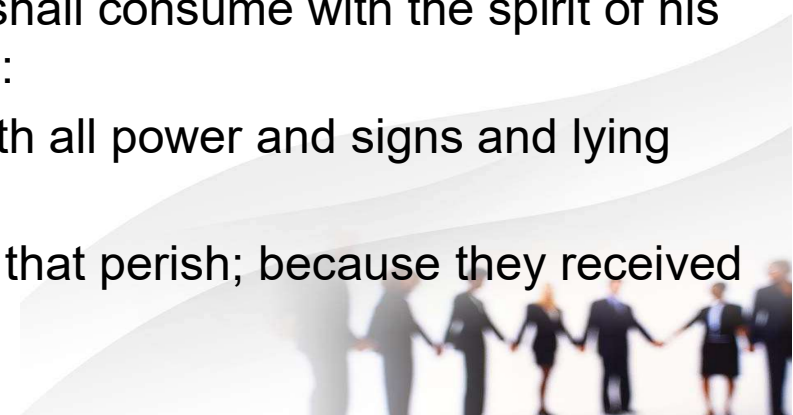
- Would you be surprised that God has a special sign, seal or mark that He places upon his people?
- Would you be startled to learn that unless a person bears this mark at Jesus' return, he cannot enter God's kingdom?
- Would you be shocked to discover that most people today are unaware of God's mark, and thus ignore it?
- Would you be amazed to suddenly realize that God is much displeased that men are ignoring His mark?
- Would you be disillusioned to find out that one great prime purpose of Revelation is to identify and restore God's mark to His people?



1. How is the “man of sin” (sometimes called the “Beast” power in Scripture) described by Paul? 2 Thess. 2:3, 4, 7-10 [Ans: “The lawless one” (NKJV) The Further-study verse is Dan. 7:25]

2 Thess. 2:3, 4, 7-10

- ³ Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;
- ⁴ Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.
- ⁷ For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way.
- ⁸ And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming:
- ⁹ Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders,
- ¹⁰ And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved.



2. We will study about the Beast in our next lesson. There we will learn that most of the world will receive his mark of authority. These people who receive the mark of the Beast (unknowingly, of course,) will actually think they are saved through faith in Jesus and will be astounded to find, too late, that they are lost! How did Jesus describe these professed Christians in the last days who follow the “lawless” Beast power? Matt. 7:21-23

Matthew 7:21-23

- ²¹ Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.
- ²² Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works?
- ²³ And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.

Revelation 22:14

¹⁴ Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city.

[Answer: Like the Beast, they practice lawlessness. Rev. 22:14]



3. How many commandments may we disregard without being considered “lawless” by God? James 2:10-12 [Matt. 5:17-19]

James 2:10-12

- ¹⁰ For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all.
- ¹¹ For he that said, Do not commit adultery, said also, Do not kill. Now if thou commit no adultery, yet if thou kill, thou art become a transgressor of the law.
- ¹² So speak ye, and so do, as they that shall be judged by the law of liberty.

Matthew 5:17-19

- ¹⁷ Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil.
- ¹⁸ 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.
- ¹⁹ Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven: but whosoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.



4. What commandment in God's law do most Christians disregard? Ex. 20:8-

11 [Note: By looking at the calendar we find that the seventh day of the week is Saturday, not Sunday! According to the Ten Commandments, "the seventh day [not the first day] is the Sabbath of the Lord [not of the Jews]." The Jews kept this day simply because until they rejected Jesus, they were God's people. Our Further-study verse also makes it clear that the Sabbath is for Gentiles who are God's people. Is. 56:1-8]

Exodus 20:8-11

- ⁸ Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy.
- ⁹ Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work:
- ¹⁰ But the seventh day is the sabbath of the LORD thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates:
- ¹¹ For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it.



5. When does the Biblical Sabbath begin and end? Lev. 23:32;

Gen. 1:5; Luke 23:54-56]

Leviticus 23:32

- ³² Neither shall ye profane my holy name; but I will be hallowed among the children of Israel: I am the LORD which hallow you,

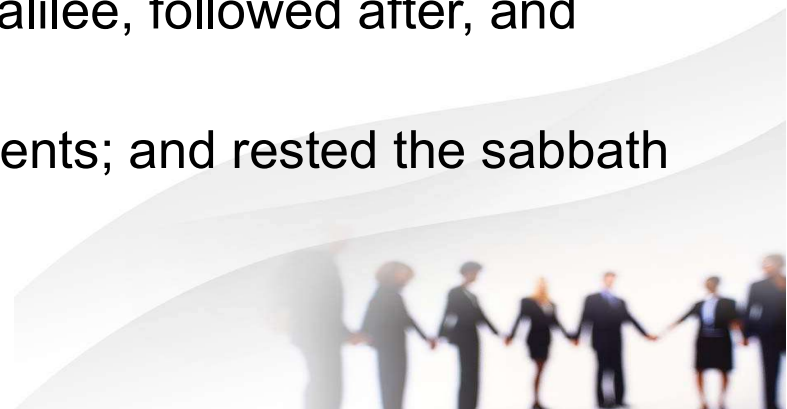
Genesis 1:5

⁵ And God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And the evening and the morning were the first day.

Luke 23:54-56

- ⁵⁴ And that day was the preparation, and the sabbath drew on.
- ⁵⁵ And the women also, which came with him from Galilee, followed after, and beheld the sepulchre, and how his body was laid.
- ⁵⁶ And they returned, and prepared spices and ointments; and rested the sabbath day according to the commandment.

Answer: It begins at sundown Friday and ends at sundown Saturday



5A. When did God make the Sabbath?

Genesis 2:1-4

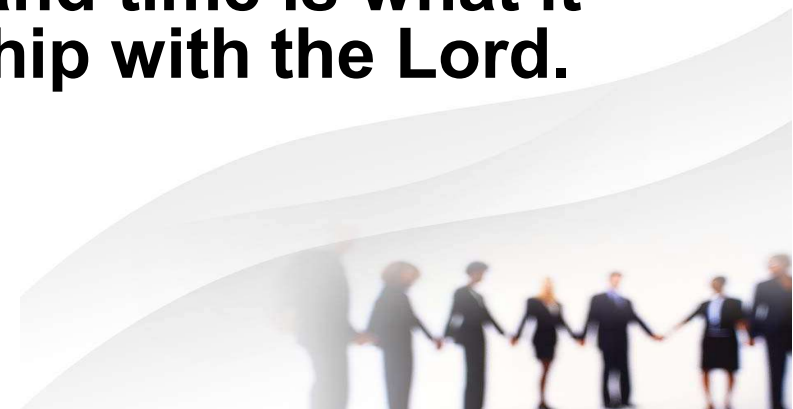
- **Gen 2:1-4 Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. And on the seventh day God ended His work which He had made; and he rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had made. And God blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it: because that in it He had rested from all His work which God created and made.**
- **“When... the Lord God made the earth and the heavens, during creation week”**



5B. From what did God make the Sabbath? Exodus 20:10

The seventh **day is the Sabbath of the Lord thy God!”**

- **God made the Sabbath from a 24 hour day – the seventh day. It is made of time, and time is what it takes to develop a warm friendship with the Lord.**



6. What day does Jesus claim as His day, the Lord's day? Mark 2:27, 28 [Matt. 12:8]

Mark 2:27, 28

- ²⁷ And he said unto them, The sabbath was made for man, and not man for the sabbath:
- ²⁸ Therefore the Son of man is Lord also of the sabbath.

Matthew 12:8

- ⁸ For the Son of man is Lord even of the sabbath day.

[Ans. The Sabbath]





**The Lord Thy God
Creator Heaven & Earth**

7. What right does Jesus have to claim a day as His? Col. 1:16

Colossians 1:16

- ¹⁶ For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him:

John 1:3

- ³ All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.

[Ans. Because He made it. He is the Creator. John 1:3]



**7A. Revelation is clear: we worship God because He is our CREATOR, Revelation 4:10,11, and REDEEMER, Revelation 5:9. What has God provided for His people as a sign, seal or mark of His CREATING and REDEEMING power?
Exodus 31:16,17; Ezekiel 20:12**

- **The Sabbath**

Read text



8. When did Jesus make the Sabbath? Gen. 2:1-3

Genesis 2:1-3

- ¹Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them.
- ²And on the seventh day God ended his work which he had made; and he rested on the seventh day from all his work which he had made.
- ³And God blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it: because that in it he had rested from all his work which God created and made.

[Note: Our Further-study verses show that God's people kept the Sabbath before Sinai; When you study history it wasn't any Jews around until over 2000 years later. There is still, after Jesus' death on the cross, a Sabbath rest to be kept. It was not just for the Jews and it has not passed away. There were, however, old-covenant yearly, ceremonial sabbaths (such as the Passover) which were given at Sinai and which, as "shadows of things to come," pointed forward to Christ and were fulfilled and done away with at the cross. Ex. 16:21-30; Matt. 24:20; Col. 2:16, 17 cf. Lev. 23:23-44]



9. How did Jesus relate to the Sabbath when He was on earth? Luke 4:16 [Matt. 24:20; Isa. 42:21; Heb. 13:8]

Luke 4:16

- ¹⁶ And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up: and, as his custom was, he went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and stood up for to read.

Matthew 24:20

- ²¹ The LORD is well pleased for his righteousness' sake; he will magnify the law, and make it honourable..

Hebrews 13:8

- ⁸ Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever.



10. On what day did Paul, long after the crucifixion, worship with both the Jews and the Gentiles? Acts 13:42-44 [Acts 13:14; 16:13; 18:4, 11]

Acts 13:42-44

- ⁴² And when the Jews were gone out of the synagogue, the Gentiles besought that these words might be preached to them the next sabbath.
- ⁴³ Now when the congregation was broken up, many of the Jews and religious proselytes followed Paul and Barnabas: who, speaking to them, persuaded them to continue in the grace of God.
- ⁴⁴ And the next sabbath day came almost the whole city together to hear the word of God.



11. Was this Paul's custom? Acts 17:2

Acts 17:2

- ² And Paul, as his manner was, went in unto them, and three sabbath days reasoned with them out of the scriptures,

Acts 20:7

- ⁷ And upon the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul preached unto them, ready to depart on the morrow; and continued his speech until midnight.

[Note: Paul was accused of many things by the Jews, but one thing he was never accused of was Sabbath breaking! The Bible contains a record of only one meeting that Paul held on the first day, and that was a farewell service that continued until after midnight. Also, Paul told the Corinthians to gather up their poor fund on the first day of the week. This was a weekday activity. Acts 20:7-11 (In this passage, the New English Bible says "Saturday night," instead of "the first day of the week."); 1 Cor. 16: 1, 2]



12. On what day did John, the last apostle, have a vision while in exile? Rev. 1:10

Revelation 1:10

- ¹⁰ I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and heard behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet,

Luke 23:56

⁶ And they returned, and prepared spices and ointments; and rested the sabbath day according to the commandment. ¹⁰ If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love..

[Note: The only “Lord’s Day” throughout Scripture is the Seventh-day Sabbath. Luke 23:56 (In this verse the followers of Jesus continued to recognize the binding claims of the fourth commandment after Jesus’ death on the cross. And Luke, writing decades after the crucifixion, continues to call the seventh day “the Sabbath.”)]



13. The Bible describes a people who will repair a broken-down law of God that has been trampled on for many generations. What commandment is it?

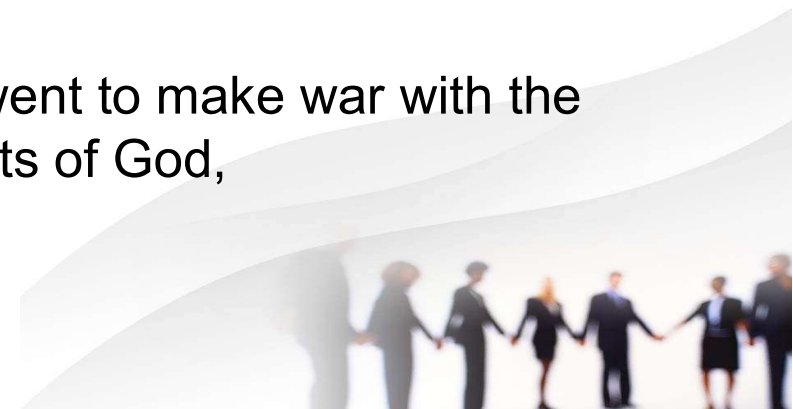
Isa. 58:12-14 [Rev. 12:17]

Isaiah 58:12-14

- ¹² And 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.
- ¹³ 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, honourable; and shalt honour him, not doing thine own ways, nor finding thine own pleasure, nor speaking thine own words:

Revelation 12:17

- ¹⁷ And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.



13A. In Isaiah 58:1, God says “cry aloud, spare not,” and show “my people” their sin. What sin is He specifically referring to in verse 13?

- **He said they were trampling upon His **Sabbath****



14. On what day will the redeemed worship God in the new earth? Isa. 66:22, 23 [Ps. 119:152]

Isaiah 66:22, 23

- ²² For as the new heavens and the new earth, which I will make, shall remain before me, saith the LORD, so shall your seed and your name remain.
- ²³ And it shall come to pass, that from one new moon to another, and from one Sabbath to another, shall all flesh come to worship before me, saith the LORD.



15. While all the commandments show our allegiance, which one is a special sign of allegiance that we may know that we are truly following God, as His people, and that He is our God? Eze. 20:19, 20 [Rev. 14: 12]

Ezekiel 20:19, 20

- ¹⁹ I am the LORD your God; walk in my statutes, and keep my judgments, and do them;
- ²⁰ And hallow my Sabbaths; and they shall be a sign between me and you, that ye may know that I am the LORD your God.

Revelation 14:12

¹² Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.



15A. How does Revelation show that a special message about the Sabbath sign or Seal will go to the world just before Jesus comes? Revelation 14:6,7,12,14

- “Worship **Him** that **made heaven and earth**” “they that **keep** the **commandments** of God, and the **faith** of Jesus”



Eight Texts on Sunday

1. Mark 16:9

2. Matthew 28:1

3. John 20:1

Do any of these scriptures suggest that the day is to be considered holy?

4. Mark 16:1,2

5. Luke 24:1

6. John 20: 19 Acts 1:1-3

Some say the disciples had gathered in this meeting to inaugurate the keeping of the first day of the week as a holy day. According to this passage, why had they gathered for the meeting? For fear of the Jews!

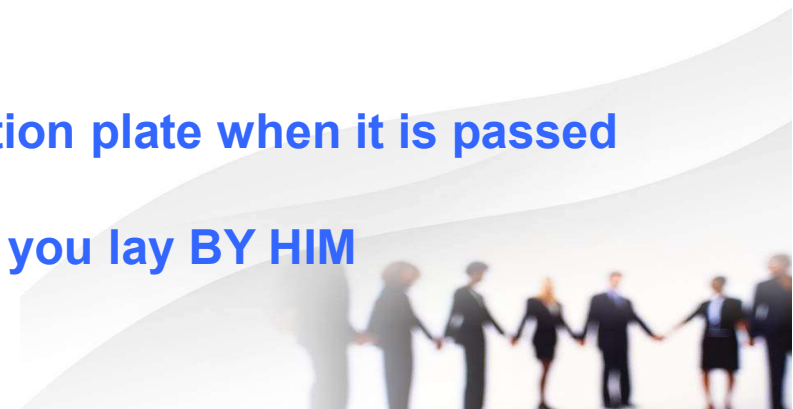
7. I Corinthians 16:1,2.

Does this passage say the day is holy? No

Does this passage say, “Drop money in the collection plate when it is passed in your church on the first day”? No

It says upon the first day of the week, let everyone of you lay **BY HIM** in store. What is the significance of “**BY HIM**”?

Do it privately, at home



8. Acts 20:7-12

Does this passage say to observe Sunday as a holy day? No

Does it say the Sabbath was changed to Sunday? No

Does it say they met every Sunday for worship? No

Do you believe, that if Jesus or the disciples had made Sunday a holy day, Paul would have told us? Acts 20:27 For I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God

• **Yes – he gave us all of God's counsel**

Could the disciples have changed the Sabbath command even if they had wished to do so? No: Matthew 5:18 and Deuteronomy 4:2

What does the Bible call Sunday? Ezekiel 46:1

One of the six working days



The Convert's Catechism

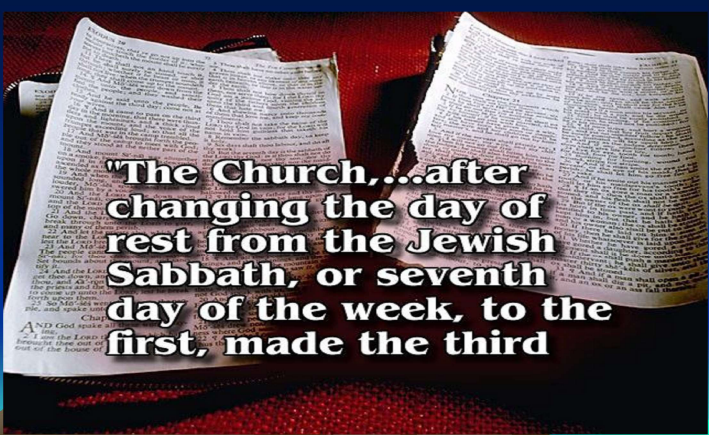
Q: Which is the Sabbath Day?

A: Saturday is the Sabbath Day.

Q: Why do we observe Sunday instead of Saturday?

A: Because the Catholic Church transferred solemnity from Saturday to Sunday."

**Peter Gieremean,
1948, p. 50**



"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 Ency.,
Vol. 4, p. 153**



The Catholic Church says it has that right to change the Sabbath from the 7th day of the week to the 1st day of the week because, the church is above the Bible.

"...fundamentalists meet for worship on Sunday, yet there is no evidence in the Bible that corporate worship was to be made on Sundays. The Jewish Sabbath, or day of rest, was, of course, Saturday.

**It was the Catholic Church that decided Sunday should be the day of worship for Christians, in honor of the Resurrection."
Karl Keating,
Catholicism and
Fundamentalism,
1988, p. 38**



- **Commitment:** The Sabbath is the one commandment we must accept solely by faith in Jesus' authority. Keeping it does not save us, but it demonstrates our true allegiance. Today, during the judgment, God is again bringing His people back to full obedience. Though we are not held accountable until we have an opportunity to know the truth (James 4:17), out of love for us God is again teaching us these forgotten principles, that we may not inadvertently become followers of the "lawless" Beast. Is it your desire to follow Jesus all the way? Will you show your allegiance and love to Jesus by keeping His day of worship?

