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AMBASSADOR COLLEGE **Bible** LESSON 30

CORRESPONDENCE COURSE

BEWARE of the DAY OF THE SUN!

PERILOUS TIMES *are ahead* — even AT YOUR VERY DOOR! The world-wide *danger* signals are up, just as Christ *said* they would be.

Unparalleled VIOLENCE FROM fierce, SATANIC MEN—men HAVING AN *OUTWARD* FORM OF GODLINESS—is just ahead! These men will soon diabolically attempt to ENFORCE OBSERVANCE OF *SUN*DAY upon the people of this earth. They will use every means at their disposal to do so — including sheer brute *force!*

But *why* will these men be so insistent in forcing SUNday worship? Your Bible warns these men will be inspired of the very Devil himself! *That's why!!*—"Woe to the inhabitants of the earth, for the DEVIL has come down unto you, HAVING GREAT WRATH, because he KNOWETH that he HATH BUT a SHORT TIME"!

God warns *you and me:* "We wrestle not with flesh and blood [human beings], but against . . . *spiritual* wickedness [WICKED *SPIRITS*] in high places" (Rev. 12:12; Eph. 6:12).

What does all this mean? What is the *plan* of these spirit beings?

You need to *know*—and quickly!

IT IS vitally IMPERATIVE that YOU KNOW! We are already *entering* the time of CRISIS at the close of this age (Matt. 24:3).

You must know—and *know* that you know—in order to really discipline yourself to resist this soon-to-be enforced mark of *SUN*DAY, whatever the cost!

You can't afford to put it off—*now* is the time you must come to understand.

Why Satan is Active!

SATAN was there in the Garden of Eden at once to DECEIVE the very first human beings. He has been just as BUSILY ENGAGED IN the same work from that time on! Understand.

1. There were many people on the earth before the great flood of Noah's time. Had the people become very *disobedient* to their Creator, God? Gen. 6:5. Of all this great number of people, how many were able to escape from the great destruction by water which followed?—that is, NOAH'S FLOOD. Gen. 7:7.

COMMENT: Only eight of the great number of people who lived at that time escaped death!

2. Did Satan have a guiding hand in causing the people to *sin?* To save the people from further sin and suffering did God have to destroy these people? I Pet. 3:19-20.

Satan and his demons were so very active prior to the flood in deceiving and causing mankind to become extremely wicked, that they succeeded in completely deceiving the whole world at that time! It was for this reason that Christ, while He was still God and had not yet come to this earth in human flesh, "went and preached unto the spirits [these fallen angels] in prison: [confined to this earth, having a spirit of error] which sometimes were disobedient . . . while the ark was a preparing" (I Pet. 3:19, 20). God was warning the fallen angels of the punishment they would receive for aiding the Devil in his deceptions of the earth's inhabitants even while the ark was being built!

Satan the Destroyer

Satan knew if he could influence all mankind to sin, God would necessarily have to destroy them all, for sin—*disobedience*—brings destruction from God (Rom. 6:23)! Satan was—and is to this very day—extremely successful in causing man to sin! *Satan is preventing, to his utmost, additions to the family of God!!*

1. When Christ, one of the two divine mem-

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bers of the Kingdom of God, became human mortal flesh and subject to death just as you and I, did Satan see a golden "opportunity" to be rid of one of these two great Beings who were holding him back in his quest for dominion? Rev. 12:4 and Matt. 2:3-4, 16.

COMMENT: Remember, the great red dragon is revealed to be Satan in verse 9 of Rev. 12, and we see here in Matthew that the child is Christ. Satan tried to destroy Christ.

2. Are people warned that Satan the Devil goes about like a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour? I Pet. 5:8.

3. Will Satan SEEK TO DESTROY God's *SABBATH*-KEEPING TRUE CHURCH—the Church which keeps the *seventh* day of the creation week which God commanded be kept, and which He has consistently reminded man must be kept? Rev. 12:12-14. Also read verses 15 through 17.

COMMENT: The Bible uses the symbolism of a "woman" to indicate a *church*. God's True Church is pictured as a chaste young virgin—*pure, undefiled* by the world. The true Church *refuses* to keep "this present evil world's" first day of the week—tagged by the pagans *SUN*-day—the observance of which shows express *disobedience!*

Note in verse 12 that it is THE DEVIL who is being spoken of, and that it is he who is variously referred to as "the DRAGON," and "the SERPENT."

You see here that Satan will try, with all his might, to DESTROY the "woman"—the collective members of God's true Church—who are at the verge of being born again at the resurrection as the very sons of God—very God. But that these members—*un*like those not in God's true Church—will *escape* Satan's wrath for they will have God's *divine* protection: note the words "the earth *helped* the woman . . ." (Verse 16). A *blessing* for keeping God's Sabbath! But the REST OF the INHABITANTS OF the WORLD—POTENTIAL MATERIAL TO BECOME SONS OF GOD, from SATAN'S VIEWPOINT — will suffer great violence at the hands of Satan. Note the words, "for the DEVIL is come DOWN unto you having *GREAT WRATH*" Verse 12.

Know HOW Your Enemy Works!

But *how* can SATAN, as A *SPIRIT* BEING, INFLUENCE PEOPLE? Just because we cannot see him does not mean that he is *not* there and working actively against us. He is diabolically wise — and *WILY* — and is our ARCH ENEMY.

Satan is a spirit. And spirit must be *REVEALED* TO US BY GOD. Satan is invisible to the *human* eye.

SATAN is a REAL, an ACTIVE being. Make no mistake in that!

Now understand *how* Satan works.

KNOW YOUR ENEMY! And AVOID HIS TRAP! Satan is a *very real* person! And his demons—vast in number—are also very real!

1. If a person allows it, can demons enter a person and cause such a one to be dumb—unable to talk? Mat. 9:32.

2. Can they enter a person, if that individual allows it, and cause such a one to have an infirmity—become a cripple. Luke 13:11.

3. May a demon enter a person and cause such a one to become SUPERHUMANLY STRONG? Mark 5:2, 3. May many demons enter a person at the same time? Mat. 12:43, 45.

4. Can entry of a demon into a person cause such a one to do frightful things? Acts 19:16. When a demon is in a PERSON does he BECOME SATAN'S VERY OWN POSSESSION? —note the word "*POSSESSED*" in Matthew 8:28. Also verse 16, note the same word.

5. Can such a possessed one become destructive? Mat. 17:15-18. Luke 9:42.

COMMENT: Such a possessed one can do great bodily injury to himself and to others.

6. May demons CONGREGATE HEAVILY IN ONE PLACE? Luke 8:30. And can a group of them SPREAD OUT and SIMULTANEOUSLY ENTER a GROUP OF INDIVIDUALS? Mat. 8:28, 32.

COMMENT: Here we see that mass groups can be influenced by demons at the same time. This is important to remember regarding *people*, as you will later see. For Satan plans to use his demons mightily, soon, to influence people in high position to force others to disobey God. In this way he hopes—and has reason to believe—he can bring destruction on great numbers. This time is now almost upon us!

Satan Supernaturally Sways Men's Minds To HIS Will

There is a great war now going on. It is *not* between God and Satan. God won that war before Adam was created. The battle now going on is between Satan and those whom God is calling into His Kingdom.

We — mankind — of ourselves, would know nothing of this battle. For neither Satan nor his demons are fleshly beings as we are. They are, unless supernaturally manifested, *un*detectable to any of our five senses: sight, touch, hearing, etc.

But GOD *does* REVEAL THIS BATTLE TO US. IT is REAL! VITAL!

1. Does God warn us against this unseen but nevertheless very real and deadly enemy of ours whom we are very apt to forget entirely, as there is nothing to remind us of his presence? Does God solemnly warn us that SATAN, *like* a ROARING LION, is OUT TO DEVOUR US *SPIRITUALLY* — an event which WOULD MEAN *our ETERNAL DEATH?* I Pet. 5:8. *NOTHING* could be WORSE than *that!!*

2. Are we WARNED *NOT* TO LOVE THIS "WORLD" of the Devil's—THIS, THE *DEVIL'S AGE*—Satan's time of dominion? I John 2:15. Why is this? Is it not because we MAY "give place to"—weaken and BE MISLED BY —some DEATH-DEALING TRAP of the Devil? Eph. 4:27. Isn't Satan the serpent, *subtle*—creeping in smoothly and gradually and coming to deceive man, often completely WITHOUT OUR EVEN SUSPECTING it? Gen. 3:1.

3. The Devil and his demons are *spirit* beings. Aren't we warned not to receive into our minds another spirit than the Holy Spirit of God? II Cor. 11:4.

COMMENT: The influence of the Devil can mislead men's minds by supernaturally suggesting customs opposed to the commandments of God. For example, Sunday!

4. Are we commanded to *TRY* THE SPIRITS whether they are of God (or the Devil)? I John 4:1.

COMMENT: We do this by CHECKING IN OUR *BIBLE* to see IF what is taught is of God or is MOTIVATED BY the spirit of the DEVIL. The Devil hates the *true* commandment of God.

5. What does Satan appear to be to those in the world? II Cor. 11:14. And therefore what do his ministers — his preachers — appear to be? Verse 15. Does Satan work in those that are disobedient? Eph. 2:2.

6. Aren't we warned that all *true Christians* will have to wrestle with—WORK HARD TO obtain and live by—the true way to SALVATION?—GAIN SALVATION IN *SPITE OF* the DEVIL? Eph. 6:12.

COMMENT: "NARROW IS THE WAY, which leadeth INTO [ETERNAL] LIFE, and *FEW* there be that FIND it" (Mat. 7:14). FOR *SUN*DAY is the day OBSERVED BY the VAST MAJORITY of this world—"this present *evil* world."

Satan's Government Influences the Nations!

Do you recall how determinedly Satan fought God in his attempt to rise and seize God's throne? From that time SATAN has been CONSTANTLY *PERFECTING* his METHOD and plan FOR DESTROYING MAN both PHYSICALLY and SPIRITUALLY — perfecting it so there will be no more sons of God added to the family presently composed of God the Father, and God the Son.

Learn now of Satan's world-wide ORGANIZATION which has EXISTED DOWN THROUGH the CENTURIES. This Satanic ORGANIZATION instituted Sunday in honor of the sun. It cloaked this pagan custom in the name of Christ and called it "Christian." God condemns it in no uncertain terms in the book of Revelation:

"If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark [to be explained in the next two lessons] in his forehead, or in his hand—[forehead for what you *think*—hand for what you *do*]—the same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of His indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb" (Rev. 14:9-10). This is what will happen. So says *your* Bible!

God tells us to be careful, for MANY FALSE MINISTERS are in the world—and are *INSPIRED by the DEVIL and his demons.*

It is high time—yes, and extremely necessary that you familiarize yourself now with the satanically inspired forces which are *behind* the awesome and fearful events which are soon to cascade upon this hapless earth. Forewarned is forearmed for escape! Are you ready?

1. Does SATAN have SPECIAL "RELIGIOUS" SEATS OF POWER in some localities? —where was one of these in the time of Christ? Rev. 2:13.

2. Does SATAN HAVE *his* CHURCH—*his* synagogue? Rev. 2:9.

COMMENT: Satan supernaturally influences people to form "churches" TO SPREAD HIS *DEATH*-DEALING DOCTRINE OF *SUN*DAY KEEPING and other damning practices which

may rid him forever of potential Sons of God.

3. Does SATAN'S CHURCH *LOOK* AS THOUGH it REPRESENTS *CHRIST* — the *Lamb* of God? BUT does it actually SPEAK the DECEPTIONS OF the *DEVIL*—the *dragon?* Rev. 13:11.

COMMENT: This great universal church here spoken of has existed for centuries and soon it will forge ahead with great *power!*—with the power of *military might* of a "Hitler" behind it to impose Satan's will! Hitler—a leader of great military might—was undoubtedly demon possessed and through him Satan swayed millions of people.

SATAN can INFLUENCE humans to do his will and commit murderous acts BY SUGGESTING these actions TO the MIND, OR by actually POSSESSING an INDIVIDUAL through literally entering his body. An *example* of this is when Satan personally entered into and possessed *Judas Iscariot* just before he caused him to betray, and thereby *kill,* Christ — "*Satan entered into* him [Judas]" (John 13:27).

Gigantic Military Might to Enforce SUNday Mark

Why is Sunday suddenly going to surge forward into this "present evil world's" most "popular day? Why is it soon to become the most kept "religious" day on the face of the earth? There is a *REASON*, and a very powerful one! It is not going to "just happen." Let us understand!

1. Did Christ identify SATAN as the RULER OF this PRESENT EVIL WORLD—identify Satan as the *prince* of this *world?* John 14:30.

2. Did Christ say that He and Satan are at diametric odds—have nothing in common? John 14:30. Isn't SATAN identified as the *PRINCE* who works in the disobedient people of this earth? Eph. 2:2.

3. Is Satan called the *GOD* OF THIS WORLD? II Cor. 4:4. And what does he concentrate on doing? Same verse.

COMMENT: As "*god*" of this world, SATAN has great power and he uses it to his utmost to blind people to the true way to salvation. Especially in respect to the keeping of the key test of obedience, the seventh day—by *substituting for* it the first day, *Sun*day! He deceives, in this manner, vast numbers into *voluntarily* observing this wrong day.

4. But what about those who *will not voluntarily* "keep *Sun*day"? AS "*GOD*" of this world, has HE MEANS BY WHICH he CAN *FORCE* the PEOPLE OF the WORLD TO KEEP *SUN*DAY?—Has he a vast human source of military might which he can use? Rev. 13:2.

COMMENT: The symbols here in verses 1 and 2 represent A SUCCESSION OF several WORLD EMPIRES—one, the last, to climax its world rule right now in our day—now just before the very end of this age. The OUTSTANDING FEATURE OF EACH of these?—their TREMENDOUS MILITARY MIGHT.

Note in verse 2 *WHO will* GIVE *SUPERNATURAL STRENGTH* AND CUNNING TO this beast power—"*the DRAGON*"!!—whom we know to be very *SATAN the Devil!!* And we *know* what he will do. He will enforce by military *might* the branding of the people of the world with *Sun*day observance—the *mark of the beast!*

Why Satan Is Worshipped on SUNday

Now we see the true supreme glory of God transcend by far the radiance of the sun. But just how, then, does the *inanimate sun* come to have a day named in its honor—*Sun*day! A day observed *in the place of* God's commanded Sabbath Day. It is *not* God's commanded Sabbath Day! And its observance, if persisted in, leads to eternal death—*Satan's goal* for man. Let's understand now how this strange day—*Sunday*—came to be instituted.

1. Had Satan been, in his former position as Lucifer, a bright and shining cherub, radiant like the morning star? Isa. 14:12; Ezek. 28:17.

COMMENT: LUCIFER, a name which means "LIGHT-BRINGER" (L. lux—*light*, and fero—*to bring*), was called "son of the morning"—that is, a herald of light like the morning star. He was the light-bringer to this earth when he was sent by God to rule here before his rebellion. His spirit body radiated light to the angels under him just as the presence of God the Father and God the Son will do on the coming new refashioned earth (Rev. 21:22, 23).

COMMENT: While bright and full of wisdom and perfect in beauty (Ezek. 28:12) Lucifer, now Satan, had been looked up to. He RECEIVED A DEGREE OF *ADORATION!*

2. But when Lucifer REBELLED against God did not Lucifer *LOSE* his BRIGHTNESS? Rev. 12:3.

COMMENT: Yes, Lucifer, the Light-bringer—for that is what the word "LUCIFER" means—had now LOST HIS brightness. He CAME TO POSSESS merely a dull red SERPENTINE BODY.

3. And did not this earth also become darkened? Gen. 1:2; Jude 6.

COMMENT: Remember that between verse 1 and verse 2 of Genesis chapter 1, the great fight between God and Lucifer, now Satan, took

place. In the resulting disruption, this EARTH became dark and remained so—verse 2: "DARKNESS"—for an untold period of time, until God commenced the week of re-creation.

The angels and Lucifer did not "keep their first estate" (Jude 6)—their rule of this earth over which God first assigned them. They were inordinately ambitious — they arose to seize God's rulership, too. They were cast back down to this darkened earth and remained in *spiritual* darkness from the time of their rebellion to this day.

4. What did SATAN THE SERPENT then do — ASSOCIATE HIMSELF WITH THE *SUN?*

COMMENT: Satan wanted to be like God—to radiate with God's glory—which is brighter than the sun. So Satan had himself identified as the sun and palmed himself off as the sun god. That's how the sun, from the beginning of this earth, became a favorite object of worship. Because of the light and heat it gives and for its beneficial action on food-producing vegetation, it was regarded as "the giver of all good gifts." That the serpent was with the first of mankind was well known to the people of the early world. Satan the serpent supernaturally influenced the leaders, and their followers, already possessed of a carnal mind which "is [at] enmity against [or toward] God" (Rom. 8:7; Jer. 17:9) to believe that he, the *serpent* in the Garden of Eden, was the *true friend* of man. It was *he* that gave to the woman the advice that man acted upon. Thus the sun and the serpent, the two "enlighteners," became associated together. That's why *one of the commonest* SYMBOLS of the SUN or sun-god was a disk (the *sun*) WITH A SERPENT AROUND it. (Bunsen's *Hieroglyphics*, Vol. I.)

Of this occasion your Bible says, "When they [the people of early times] *knew God* [for archaeological records show the world did know God immediately after the flood — and they did know of the Garden of Eden] they . . . changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image like unto corruptible man, and to birds, and four-footed beasts, and *creeping things* [the *serpent mainly*—for it had the Devil's *super*natural influence on man to make it seem *more* attractive than the *others*] . . . and worshipped the creature [thing created — the *sun*, for it has Satan's backing] more than the Creator" (Rom. 1:21-25).

In this sort of perverted fashion Satan the serpent second-handedly received the worship and adoration he craved. But of most use and advantage to Satan was the fact that he increased the *importance* of the great, fiery lifeless *sun* in the eyes of mankind! Satan was gradually and steathily laying the foundation for the introduction of the *day* of the sun, *Sun*day!

The SABBATH—which word means "*REST*"—depicts the kind of eternal *REST from sin* which *God* has in mind for man. But ironically, Satan by deluding man into keeping the fiery day of the sun — *SUN*DAY — causes man to *commemorate* the kind of "rest" Satan has in mind for man — the "rest" of *eternal death* brought about *by sin.*

As far as God is concerned, this world actually has six *ordinary* days. These are *only simply numbered* — "the *first* day," "the second day," etc.—(Gen. 1:5, 8, 13, 19, 23, 31—last two words in each case). AND, set apart from these, God has His HOLY SABBATH, the *SEVENTH* DAY—which is both numbered *and* named (Gen. 2:2). In this manner God *doubly* points out the extreme importance of the *Sabbath Day* to man!

Because of the *greatness* of God, God has set apart one-seventh of man's *time* to keep especially in man's mind the true, real, living, all-supreme God!! An *exact* time—the *seventh* day, and an *exact* name, the *Sabbath. WOE* TO those WHO allow themselves to be deceived into OBSERVING *ANOTHER* DAY OF the WEEK on which to worship another "god" which is *NO GOD AT ALL!!*

How then did "this present evil world" come to rename all *seven* days of the week—with *no mention of God's Holy Sabbath Day?* Clearly it is not from *GOD.* He *NEVER* CHANGED *HIS* WEEK with its Sabbath. This *NEW* WEEK WITH ITS *FIRST* DAY—CALLED *SUNDAY*—ORIGINATES from elsewhere. It is *from Satan* himself with the intent to confuse and trick man to suffer the penalty of eternal death!

Let us now understand how Satan gradually brought his counterfeit week into being with *his* all-important day, *SUN*DAY, FOLLOWING ONE DAY *LATER* THAN GOD'S COMMANDED SABBATH DAY!

SATAN Institutes the Day of The SUN

Just *how* did *Sun*day—yes, *Sun*day—come into being?

Sunday came into being basically through a succession of mighty world empires to which your Bible shows Satan, the dragon (Rev. 12:3, 9), has given *and is giving* great power and military authority! Rev. 13:2. Yes, Satan has seen to it that Sunday is accepted by this world.

The ancient heathen countries of Babylonia and Assyria knew of *God's* seven-day week with its *seventh day*—the Holy *Sabbath Day.* But Babylon was the place in which Satan started his perversion of God's week!

Here is how the Devil began counterfeiting the week *God* had introduced. In ancient Baby-

lon "evil days" which were observed on the 7th, 14th, 21st, and 28th days of the month, were gradually set apart (Webster's *Rest Days*, p. 230). The seventh day of EACH Babylonian week was *called a shabattum—the pagan corruption of the Sabbath.* Thus the Sabbaths of God—times when men might *enjoy spiritual pursuits*—were SOON CALLED PERIODS OF "ILL OMENS" or "EVIL DAYS" (*Rest Days*, p. 232). Satan, at once, was giving God's Holy Sabbath Day, a bad reputation!

On these "evil days" the pagans had to afflict themselves — they had to do penance. They could not eat flesh cooked upon coals, nor change garments, nor could the physician lay hand upon the patient. At night, the king was to bring his gifts before the images [of pagan gods] and offer sacrifice to them (*Rest Days*, p. 232).

Satan HAD ALREADY CORRUPTED the TRUE SABBATH AT THIS EARLY DATE and thereby the true week of God.

1. How did the pagans, under Satan's influence, formulate Satan's week which he uses to mask God's true week from man, and in which he puts his *Sun*day to mask God's key test Sabbath day from man?—this, the planetary or astrological week which the world still retains today?

COMMENT: Here is *the answer:* "The planetary week presents itself as a curious amalgum [or mixture] of ideas derived from different sources. Babylonia, the motherland of divination, provided the doctrine of the influence of the stars ["stars," are symbolic of angels (Rev. 1:20). Stars worshipped in paganism are *fallen angels* — Satan's demons!] upon human destinies: Greece furnished the mathematical astronomy which groups the planets according to their distance from the earth . . . upon these foundations astrologers of the Hellenistic (Greek) era, familiar with the cult of seven and with the division of days into twenty-four hours, built up what was, at the outset, an entirely pagan [Devil-inspired] institution."

Notice from the words just quoted the origin of the present week—a *pagan* institution!

Continuing — "This seven - day week, in its astrological form . . . probably first appeared . . . [in] Syria, certainly not before the second century B.C. had passed . . . thence to Alexandria (Egypt) . . . and about the age of Augustus (31 B.C.-14 A.D.) . . . into the Occidental (Roman) land" (Webster's *Rest Days*, pp. 218-19). So today's pagan week was born from *MOTHER BABYLON!* A name which suggests to God every hateful thing! "Babylon . . . the habitation of *devils* [demons] . . . foul spirit . . . unclean and hateful bird" (Rev. 18:2).

2. How did the pagans, under the guidance of Satan, name the days of this counterfeit week —*today's* week?

COMMENT: As we have seen, old Babylonia provided the false doctrine of the influence of the stars on human destinies.

Guided by old Babylonian influences, the pagans of a later time named the days of this new planetary week for ancient heroes who became honored as gods: *SUN*DAY was at first SET APART FOR THE SUN, THE "GOD" OF THIS WORLD—SATAN, the SUN-GOD. Monday was set apart for the moon; Friday for Venus or Frigga; and Saturday for Saturn.

The other days of the week received their names in similar fashion. Each received its name from a heavenly body which had been associated with some old Babylonian god or goddess. THIS IS NOT THE WEEK THAT GOD HAS GIVEN US—a week with *only* the seventh day bearing a name, *the Sabbath,* and its other days bearing only *numbers.*

SUNday Becomes Fixed as Day On Which the World Worships

So we see that HERE IS A STRANGE WEEK! Here is a week whose days bear the names of pagan gods. The "Sabbath" day nowhere appears in our strange week of today. But *SUNDAY,* the day of the *SUN*—the sun around which the pagans symbolically entwined the Serpent (the Devil)—*does appear!* It is the one day which is most observed by all the earth today! (Of course, God's weekly cycle with its Sabbath on the seventh day has never been altered, as Mr. Armstrong's free booklet "Has Time Been Lost?" thoroughly explains.)

SATAN was again INSPIRING HIS AGENTS. He had SUNDAY instituted on the first day of God's true week—PLACED NEXT TO God's (seventh-day) SABBATH—FOR a purpose! This close proximity causes great CONFUSION! Satan was influencing them to set apart a day—Sunday—on which he could unwittingly be worshipped by them instead of God!

1. When, after Christ came, did the Babylonian-Samaritan conspiracy introduce the practice of keeping Sunday? When was the planetary week adopted by the professing Christians who were turning away from Christ's teachings?

COMMENT: Here is the answer! "The EARLY [TRUE] CHRISTIANS had at FIRST ADOPTED the seven-day week [GOD'S] with its numbered WEEK days, BUT BY the CLOSE OF THE THIRD CENTURY A.D. this began to give way to THE PLANETARY WEEK [of Satan]. The use of planetary names [Monday, Tuesday, etc.] attests to the growing influence of astrological speculations introduced by the converts from paganism" (Webster's *Rest Days*, p. 252).

The use of the planetary week by the early

Christians was a yardstick which measured how much they were being affected by paganism. Satan's plan was beginning to bear *real fruit* for him—the professing Christian world was SWITCHING *from* God's *Sabbath* week TO SATAN'S *SUNDAY* WEEK!

2. What was RESPONSIBLE FOR the later *WIDE-SPREAD* RISE OF SUNDAY or "day of the Lord" worship which prevails *today?*

COMMENT: CONSTANTINE, a civil—not ecclesiastical—ruler of the Roman Empire, HAD THE MOST TO DO WITH the ascendancy of Sunday as the day of worship. "CONSTANTINE'S famous EDICT (321 A.D.) definitely enrolled Sunday among the holidays of the Roman State religion. The change from Saturn's day [Saturday—the space of *time* on which *God's* true *Sabbath* lies] to Sunday must have further commended the planetary week in Christian circles, where the Lord's day . . . beginning the week, had long been observed as the day on which Christ, the Son of Righteousness, [supposedly] rose from the dead. THUS A PAGAN INSTITUTION [Sunday observance] WAS ENGRAFTED ON CHRISTIANITY" (Webster's *Rest Days*, p. 222).

Do you grasp this? A *human* civil ruler—not God—established the custom of observing Sunday as a time of "Christian" worship instead of observing God's key test *Sabbath* Day! Here are the words of powerful Constantine's famous edict of 321 A.D.: "ON THE VENERABLE DAY OF THE *SUN* LET ALL magistrates and PEOPLE . . . REST." (Schaff-Herzog *Encyclopedia of Religious Knowledge*, article "Sunday Legislation.")

3. What was Constantine's own religion?

COMMENT: Gibbon, the authoritative historian, in his *Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*, Vol. 1, pp. 636-38, tells us: "Constantine . . . persevered till he was near 40 years of age in the practice of the established religion [of paganism]. But the DEVOTION OF CONSTANTINE WAS more peculiarly DIRECTED TO the genius of THE *SUN* . . . the *sun* was universally celebrated as the invincible guide and protector of Constantine."

Notice that Constantine became a "Christian" after he was about forty years of age. But it was also after he was about forty years that he, by his legislation, brought his Sun-god—the "lord Baal"— and *SUN-DAY* INTO the SO-CALLED "CHRISTIAN" CHURCH [which was by then apostate] *TO STAY*. Today, the vast majority of "Christians" are still blindly following in Constantine's Satanically inspired footsteps.

Comment: Don't YOU be misled into keeping any other day than the Sabbath Day OR into keeping the Sabbath Day with any other group than God's ONE true church—the Radio Church of God, with headquarters in Pasadena, California. Remember! God has always had but ONE Church. While a few other "churches" now may keep this day, they do NOT live by every word of God. "NARROW is the way . . ." (Mat. 7:14)—denoting a comparatively SMALL Church—this church! Yet we are carrying the true gospel of the Kingdom of God worldwide!

Four Military Successions Carry SUN-day Through Ages

We've just seen how Satan instituted his diabolical day—*Sun*day—for the destruction of all mankind. Now let's understand the human *military might* he has supernaturally caused to be associated with *Sun*day so its observance would be continued.

1. Did Satan inspire at once after the flood of Noah a *MIGHTY ONE* in his cause to delude man? Gen. 10:8. Was not the beginning of this mighty one's—Nimrod's—kingdom the city of Babel?—a word which means "*confusion.*"

COMMENT: Remember that the *planetary* week is confusion. It masks God's commanded week with its seventh-day Sabbath and ordinary six numbered days. It originated in Babylonia, the country of Nimrod.

Tradition and records show that NIMROD was A MIGHTY AND PRESUMPTUOUS ONE "*BEFORE* THE LORD" (Gen. 10:9)—a mighty hunter whose name is heard even to this day. He was a military conqueror whose victories ranged even to Africa from his home city of Babylon on the far Euphrates River in the east. He was priest of the sun—thus furthering the cause of the *Sun.*

A church, in the Bible, is symbolized by a woman. Nimrod's beautiful and licentious wife became, after his death, the priestess of the Sun. She is the *original* of the prophetical woman—"*Church*"—of Revelation 17:1-5 with whom the kings—rulers—of the early days committed fornication — intercourse. They were familiar with her for mutual "benefit" of each: they aided the spread of her doctrine of sun worship —thus furthering the cause of *Sun*day. In return for which she rewarded them with her patronage "favors." And for the same reason today the present rulers of the world have "mutually satisfactory relations" with her counterpart (verses 1 and 2)—the present great universal ("*Catholic*" means *universal*) church. Rulers to this day use their civil office to aid her —the "Church"—to spread her seductive doctrines of *sun* worship.

2. What are the four great world empires

to which Satan, the *dragon*, gave "*power* . . . and seat, and authority" to further his diabolical work of deceiving man through sun worship? Rev. 13:1, 2. Let's EXAMINE HERE *ALL FOUR* EMPIRES AND FIND the *WHOLE* PICTURE:

COMMENT: Here is a beast having *seven* heads —the first head representing the CHALDEAN EMPIRE *(BABYLON)* of 625-538 B.C. The second representing the *PERSIAN* EMPIRE (558-333 B.C.). The third beast—composing the 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th heads—was *GREECE* under Alexander the Great—and the four divisions which began 333 B.C. The last head, the *ROMAN EMPIRE*, beginning 31 B.C. and EXTENDING by its 10 consecutive "horns"—10 successive governments—THROUGH TO THE END OF THIS AGE. This then is the great *BEAST SYSTEM to which Satan gives his might.*

There are many of this world's "greats" in this list of empires to which the Devil gives *power*. MEN OF *VIOLENCE*—NIMROD of ancient *Babylon*, "*mighty one before* the Lord;" CYRUS "*the Great*" of ancient *Persia*, a mighty warrior whose very name means *sun;* ALEXANDER "*the Great*" of *Greece*. And of the "Holy" *Roman* Empire which projects itself into *our* age—JUSTINIAN "the Great," CHARLEMAGNE "the Great," OTTO "the Great," CHARLES "the Great," and NAPOLEON "the Great." MIGHTY ONES ALL! (Send for the *free* booklet, *Who Is The Beast?*)

Of Alexander the Great and others, it has been said that they seem to have been *possessed of the Devil himself*, because of their fervor for destruction. Soon mightier and fiercer men than ever before are to arise at this age end in Satan's cause for *SUN*DAY "WORSHIP"!

3. Will the Devil soon personally possess and influence the Great "religious" leader of his false church (the "false prophet") and the military leader (the "beast") of the resurrected Roman Empire to such an extent that they will force the people of the world, at the threat of torture and death, to accept the dreaded "mark of the beast"—force them to observe Satan's day of rest—Sunday—the day of the Sun-god? II Thes. 2:3-4, 9 and Rev. 13:15-17. Will Satan even cause these two men to gather the nations of the world to fight against Christ at His second coming? Rev. 16:13-14.

Extreme Peril at Our VERY DOOR

Don't you be deceived by Satan into participating in this dreadful—yet deceptively innocent-looking custom of *SUN*DAY OBSERVANCE, the mark of the beast! There is much, much more DYNAMITE in the observing of this day than is apparent on the surface. Those observing it CAN SUFFER *ETERNAL* DEATH! Satan is a serpent — hidden, but deadly. A red flying dragon who would deceive all mankind in this world into *dis*obedience and damnation. Satan would like this whole earth, which is finally to become a fiery red molten mass (II Pet. 3:10), TO CONTAIN ALL MANKIND ever created—LEAVING NOT A SINGLE HUMAN BEING who could ever become a very son of God and be raised to a position greater than the ambitious Lucifer—now Satan —and his now fallen angels!

You can avoid this fate!

Satan has plotted the overthrow of God's government ever since the beginning. But Satan's schemes can be thwarted by Jesus Christ!

Jesus Christ can defeat Satan—your arch-enemy!

Almighty God promises that He will *protect* you from Satan and his demons.

1. How can *you* escape the wiles of Satan? James 4:7. In what way should you *submit* yourself to God? Verse 8. How can you draw close to God, and by doing so be protected from evil spirits? Same verse.

2. Does this mean that God expects you to turn from disobedience to His law—observing Sunday—and begin to properly KEEP God's seventh-day Sabbath? Rom. 6:16. If you do repent of breaking God's law and begin to KEEP it, does He promise to help you? James 4:10. But does God *warn* that if you know to KEEP His holy Sabbath, and do not—if you continue observing Sunday—it is sin? James 4:17.

God has led you to KNOW HIS TRUTH. He wants to know what you are going to DO ABOUT IT!

WHY THE AMBASSADOR COLLEGE BIBLE CORRESPONDENCE COURSE HAS NO TUITION PRICE

So many ask: "How can you publish a Correspondence Course without tuition price?"

The answer is simple. The GOSPEL must go to the whole world, and it must go FREE. It must not be sold like merchandise. "Freely ye have received," Jesus said to His disciples whom He was sending to proclaim the Gospel, "freely GIVE." Without money and without price, is God's way. We proclaim a FREE salvation. Therefore, we cannot put a tuition PRICE upon The AMBASSADOR COLLEGE BIBLE CORRESPONDENCE COURSE.

We have been called of God to conduct this work. It is not our work, but God's. We have set out to conduct God's work God's way. We rely, in FAITH, upon God's promises to supply every need.

God's way is the way of LOVE—and that is the way of *giving*, not getting. God expects every true child of His to GIVE of tithes and offerings that His work may go FREE—that His true ministers may GIVE the precious Gospel to others. We simply TRUST GOD to lay it on the minds and hearts of His people to give of their tithes and offerings that we may be enabled to GIVE the good things of God's Word to the hundreds of thousands who hear the Message over the air, and the scores of thousands who read The PLAIN TRUTH and study this Course.

Many times our faith has been severely tried, but God has never failed us. We must not fail HIM!