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AMBASSADOR COLLEGE **Bible** LESSON 31

CORRESPONDENCE COURSE

The "MARK of the BEAST" BRANDS SATAN'S FOLLOWERS!

DO YOU REALIZE THE "MARK OF THE BEAST" BRANDS the VAST MAJORITY today who believe themselves to be CHRISTIANS? Unbelievable, but true!

You must BE SURE this BRAND is NOT UPON YOU!—for it CAN MEAN your ETERNAL DEATH! *Very soon*, Satan the Devil will inspire his agents to enforce again — by the sheer brutality of military might — the "Mark of the Beast" upon the whole Western World as he did during the Middle Ages!

WHY Sunday Worship Called "Mark of the Beast"

SUNDAY WORSHIP IS the "MARK OF the BEAST"! Sunday is the day on which the ancient *pagans* assembled at sunrise, faced the east, and worshipped the rising sun.

It was CONSTANTINE "THE GREAT," a *PAGAN* SUN-WORSHIPPER and EMPEROR OF the ROMAN EMPIRE, who MADE *SUNDAY* the *OFFICIAL* national weekly DAY OF *REST* IN the ROMAN EMPIRE!

when Sunday was observed

Here are the words of 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"). Notice that CONSTANTINE was A *CIVIL* RULER — NOT a PRIEST. Thus, a *CIVIL* ROMAN GOVERNMENT — *NOT ECCLESIASTICAL* — IMPOSED SUNDAY as the accepted day of rest and WORSHIP upon the subjects of the kingdom.

IN your Bible, the ancient ROMAN SYSTEM is PICTURED AS a wild animal — a WILD "*BEAST*." It was the '*BEAST*' which ENFORCED ITS MARK — *Sunday observance*, the "MARK OF the *BEAST*" — UPON the ANCIENT WORLD!

Roman system as a beast

Millions ORDERED Killed by Roman Church

Once Sunday was established as the day of worship by Constantine, a *religious* power — a CHURCH — a church other than the *true church* Christ had established — TOOK OVER the FURTHERANCE OF SUNDAY observance. This great church has continued to be the champion of this day on down through the centuries into our times. It is a tremendous ecclesiastical power which is prophesied to *vigorously continue* the furtherance of Sunday keeping DOWN TO the END OF THIS AGE.

This church — the CATHOLIC *CHURCH* — became RESPONSIBLE FOR CAUSING the *CIVIL* GOVERNMENT OF the EMPIRE even to PUT PEOPLE TO DEATH IF THEY REFUSED TO KEEP SUNDAY. "Christians must not Judaize by resting on the Sabbath, but must work on that day, resting rather on Sunday. But, if any be found to be Judaizing [keeping God's Sabbath], let them be declared anathema from Christ" (*A History of the Councils of the Church*, p. 316). This decree was passed by the Roman Catholic Council of Laodicea, in about 365 A.D.!

Laws became so strict *no man could* even *hold a job*, or engage in any kind of business, *unless* he worked on Saturday and *rested on*

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Herbert W. Armstrong, *publisher and editor*
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Sunday. And when the Church declared one "anathema" (accursed as an heretic), the state police of the now Catholic Church-dominated Roman Empire (symbolically represented in the Bible as a "beast" being ridden by a fallen "woman" — Rev. 17) began torturing him. Unless he recanted of his "heretical Sabbath keeping," he was tortured to death!

Yes, it was for obeying the Fourth Commandment — for observing the Sabbath and refusing to keep Satan's Sunday — that MILLIONS (many of them true Christians) were TORTURED AND KILLED DURING the MIDDLE AGES.

Universal compulsory Sunday observance was caused to be enforced later by the Roman Catholic Church which finally gained political dominance over the "beast"—the Roman Empire!

Greater Tribulation Just Ahead!

This tribulation of the Middle Ages was *only a small forerunner* of "the *great* tribulation" which is yet to come! God shows this *SAME* Satanically inspired RELIGIOUS-POLITICAL SYSTEM is to be in existence at the close of this age — NOW — in just a few short years! And THROUGH IT, the DEVIL WILL ONCE AGAIN ENFORCE the "MARK of the Beast" *with more fiendish brutality than ever dreamed possible!*

Notice the grim warning from your Bible! — "*Woe* to the inhabiters of the earth and of the sea! for the Devil is come down unto you, having *great* wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time" (Rev. 12:12). This is for the days now just immediately ahead of us!

Millions will suffer through this gruesome time of *Satan's wrath:* "I beheld, and lo, a *great* multitude, *which no man could number,* of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes . . . These are they which came out of *great tribulation,* and have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb" (Rev. 7:9, 14).

Yes, MILLIONS are TO SUFFER through this terrible period of GREAT TRIBULATION that is *JUST AHEAD!* Multiplied thousands of them will be the ones who are SPIRITUALLY *ASLEEP* AS THEY HEAR the *WARNING* MESSAGE OF God's true servants *TODAY!* They could have *avoided* this terrifying, calamitous experience had they acted in time by beginning a personal spiritual exodus to God *beforehand* — by observing *now* His key test Sabbath Day, and His other commandments. They COULD HAVE been spared all of this suffering had they turned to God and come under His DIVINE PROTECTION now — heeding the warning of these very Bible lessons about observing Sunday.

But you see here — you have *God's* very *word* for it here — that hundreds of thousands of a *great* multitude, a multitude that "no man can number," will *neglect* this warning! They will *voluntarily* take the dreadful *Mark of the Beast!*

LESSON 31

Roman Empire Preceded by Three Prophetic "Beasts"

GOD WARNED there WOULD CONSECUTIVELY ARISE FOUR great WORLD-DOMINATING destructive KINGDOMS. He PICTURED these four kingdoms BY a huge TERRIBLE-LOOKING four-sectioned IMAGE.

To make it even clearer, God ALSO PICTURED these same kingdoms BY *FOUR* fearful DESTRUCTIVE BEASTS.

The first of these four kingdoms was Nebuchadnezzar's Babylonian Empire. Nebuchadnezzar's kingdom was located in the same geographical location as the ancient "Babylonian" kingdom of pagan Nimrod, on the River Euphrates. His kingdom continued the same old Satan-inspired system of Nimrod! The following three world-ruling kingdoms continued to be satanically inspired. Its rulers were the tools of the devil. Now we are ready to study God's warning!

1. What did the "terrible image" with its

four contiguous sections look like? Dan. 2:28, 31-33, 36-40. What four "terrible" kingdoms were they to be?

COMMENT: Here is symbolically described the four consecutive world-ruling Gentile empires. The *FIRST* KINGDOM, or empire, WAS Nebuchadnezzar's then-existent kingdom. Since God expects us to look into this world's history books to learn additional related facts about fulfilled prophecies, we find that Nebuchadnezzar's kingdom — THE CHALDEAN EMPIRE, CALLED "BABYLON" after the name of its capital city — existed from 625-538 B.C.

We also know from history that the next kingdom — the following, *SECOND* kingdom — was to be the PERSIAN EMPIRE (558-333 B.C.), often called Medo-Persian because it was composed of the Medes and Persians. The *THIRD* world-ruling kingdom was to be GREECE (333-31 B.C.), under Alexander the Great who conquered the Persian Empire.

And the *FOURTH* kingdom was to be THE ROMAN EMPIRE (31 B.C.-476 A.D.).

2. What was the DESCRIPTION OF THE FOUR "BEASTS" God showed Daniel? Dan. 7:3-7.

COMMENT: Note that the FIRST beast was like a *"LION"* (Dan. 7:4), the SECOND was like a *"BEAR"* (v. 5), the THIRD like a *"LEOPARD"* (v. 6), and the FOURTH beast was SO *DREADFUL* and terrible LOOKING (v. 7), that it COULD NOT BE COMPARED to any wild beast that inhabited the earth!

3. Did these four beasts clearly represent the four bestial-minded world-ruling kingdoms that were to arise consecutively? Dan. 7:17, 23.

COMMENT: The word "king" is synonymous with kingdom, as clearly shown in Verse 23. Therefore, Daniel 7 reveals that these "beasts," these wild animals, symbolize consecutive world governments — world empires.

4. Why was the *FOURTH* BEAST — THE *ROMAN EMPIRE* — so "dreadful and terrible [looking] and STRONG EXCEEDINGLY; and . . . diverse [different] from all of the [three] beasts that were before IT"? Dan. 7:7, 23; 2:40. Notice the words "devour the *whole* earth" in Dan. 7:23.

COMMENT: The Roman Empire, which the fourth beast represents, began at Rome, then spread out and gradually absorbed — "DEVOURED and BRAKE IN PIECES" — all the remnants of the other preceding kingdoms, occupying all their territory. It became extremely powerful because it EMBODIED the STRONGEST PHYSICAL and MILITARY CHARACTERISTICS OF ALL its PREDECESSOR KINGDOMS.

Truly, the fourth beast was a very strange and mysterious-looking animal, for "dreadful and terrible and strong exceedingly" was the Roman Empire *to become!*

The Roman Empire to Become EXCEEDINGLY Destructive!

So important was the fourth beast — the last beast, the Roman Empire — to become, that God deals in great detail with its fearsome destructive power. For it is the beast which is to forge again to the front in *our* time!

God shows the *great culminative* destructive power of this Roman *"religious"* dominated fourth world "empire"— an "empire" at this very moment arising *again* in Europe—by means of a great *composite* "beast." It is comprised of the most powerful parts of each of the three successive previous beasts, or world empires. It is thus to possess the *combined strength* of *all* the other three. Yes, a world "empire" with *power* like this earth has *never* seen before!!

So GOD WARNS us, THROUGH this weird-looking COMPOSITE BEAST, that *TODAY'S exceedingly* great ROMISH RELIGION is once again to DOMINATE a political revival of the Roman Empire. It will be none other than THE *CLIMACTIC AGE-END* APPEARANCE OF the prophesied destructive FOURTH BEAST to WHICH the *fiery "red dragon"* (Satan — Rev. 12:3, 9) *has given his power down through the centuries.*

At this very moment, Satan is preparing the grand *climax* of his destructiveness through this great "Beast" — for *it* is the "Beast" which WILL soon *ENFORCE* ITS "MARK" AGAIN upon the entire world!

Understand fully!

1. What was the description of the COMPOSITE BEAST GOD SHOWED JOHN approximately 650 years after Daniel's vision? Rev. 13:1-2.

COMMENT: Here, again, is described a very strange and mysterious-looking animal! God showed John a symbolic beast which LOOKED AS THOUGH it HAD *SWALLOWED UP* three different animals — A LION, LEOPARD, AND a BEAR — which in turn manifested parts of themselves in such a way as to make up the total body of the beast. THEREFORE, JOHN'S TOTAL BEAST (Rev. 13:2) IS A *FOURTH* BEAST COMPOSED OF the MOST *POWERFUL* PARTS — is a composite of —

each OF the OTHER THREE BEASTS.

2. Then doesn't John's total beast and Daniel's fourth beast each symbolically represent the Roman Empire? Dan. 7:7. Each does!

COMMENT: Daniel's and John's visions both actually PORTRAY a SUCCESSION OF WORLD KINGDOMS WHICH CLIMAX IN the ROMAN EMPIRE! To fully understand this, we must notice the point of view of both visions.

Daniel's vision — about 650 years *before* John's vision — was mainly prophetic. Three of the four empires Daniel's four beasts pictured had not yet existed. Only the Babylonian Empire, pictured by the first beast—a lion—was in existence at the time of Daniel's vision.

But BY the TIME OF JOHN'S VISION of a composite beast — about 96 A.D., 650 years *after* Daniel's vision — John was living in the days of the *fourth* kingdom, which was the Roman Empire. The preceding three great empires had already risen to power and fallen. By that time, the ROMAN EMPIRE HAD OVERSPREAD — SWALLOWED UP AND ABSORBED — ALL VESTIGES OF the PRECEDING THREE KINGDOMS. THEREFORE IT HAD all the royal splendor and *power* of Nebuchadnezzar's kingdom of Babylon — so it had the HEAD, the *strongest* part OF the "LION." Also, it had all the huge massiveness given by the *numerically powerful* army of the Persian Empire — symbolized by the LEGS, the *most powerful* part OF the "BEAR." And the Roman Empire was the greatest war-making machine the world had ever seen, for it possessed the *swiftness*, the *cunning*, and the *cruelty* of Alexander's army, symbolized by the BODY OF the "LEOPARD."

Now we can see *why* God showed John a beast which was composed of the first three animals Daniel saw, for John's total beast — the Roman Empire — had thus embodied all of the major characteristics of the other three kingdoms.

SO John's total beast plainly pictured the *fulfillment* of Daniel's prophetic beasts! It is very clear that *BOTH* JOHN'S TOTAL BEAST AND DANIEL'S FOURTH BEAST REPRESENT the ROMAN EMPIRE! *An extremely voracious, predatory, destroying beast!* (If you haven't done so already, then *send for Mr. Armstrong's free booklet "Who Is the 'Beast'?"* for additional information about the identity of the prophetic "beasts.")

3. Was the DEVIL the lethal MOTIVATING *force* directing and *empowering* this *BEAST*—the ROMAN EMPIRE? Rev. 13:2 and 12:9.

COMMENT: Satan the Devil was the real power behind the "beast"—the Roman Empire—the political instrument through which he has worked in deceiving the world. It is he who has inspired and guided the formation of the greatest and most powerful political government this world has even known — a satanically inspired system which has its root beginnings in the ancient "Babylon" of Nimrod! *And has for its purpose the eternal destruction of mankind!*

Roman BEAST Instituted Sunday Law

The Satan-dominated, "Holy Roman Empire," during the Middle Ages, exterminated all known Sabbath-observing Christians! And it is for this very same purpose that at the close of this age, Satan is now reviving again this powerful Romish system!

Let's learn how Satan, in the past, through this diabolical political instrumentality — the ROMAN EMPIRE — BEGAN TO FORCE UNDER THREAT OF *DEATH*, his own SUNDAY-KEEPING UPON millions of people in the Roman WORLD. For it is A TYPE OF WHAT is JUST AHEAD!

The Schaff-Herzog Encyclopedia of Religious Knowledge, Vol. IV, pp. 2259-60, art. "Sunday," informs us: "Sunday (dies solis, of the Roman Calendar, 'day of the sun,' because dedicated to the sun), the first day of the week, was adopted by the early [apostatizing] Christians as a day of worship . . . It was called the 'Lord's Day' [Satan is the "Lord" — the god of this world — II Cor. 4:4] . . . No regulations for its observance are laid down in the New Testament, nor indeed, is its observance even enjoined [by the *true* God — it is a day of observance furthered by the Devil and his servants!]. . . ."

IN 321 A.D. Sunday observance began to be *enjoined* by Roman state *decree!* History reveals that it was the *ROMAN* EMPEROR CONSTANTINE "THE GREAT," who MADE the DECREE *TO FORCE* the WORLD TO KEEP SUNDAY, AND THEREBY BREAK the TRUE SABBATH OF GOD.

CONSTANTINE'S EDICT reads as follows: "ON the venerable DAY OF the *SUN* [*SUN*-DAY] LET the magistrates and PEOPLE residing in cities REST, and let all workshops be closed" (Codex Justinianus, lib. 3, tit. 12:3; translated in *History of the Christian Church*, by Schaff, Vol. III, p. 380).

What was Constantine's specific reason for making this decree? It was his *mode of harmonizing the discordant religions* of the empire *under one common institution* (*Lectures on the History of the Eastern Church*, by Dean Arthur P. Stanley, Scribner's printing of 1884, p. 184). (Isn't there *a move by a great Roman church*

today *to "harmonize" discordant religions?)*

So SUNDAY OBSERVANCE BECAME the "MARK OF THE BEAST," FOR IT WAS the *state* — the beast or ROMAN *EMPIRE* — WHICH DECLARED SUN-DAY to BE OBSERVED as an imperial holiday.

DEATH For Not Observing SUNDAY!

Very soon after 321, Constantine FORCED SUNDAY-KEEPING upon the world WITH armed *MILITARY MIGHT!* — using a decree issued in 325 A.D. as legal authority.

History tells us *DEATH* RESULTED FOR THOSE WHO steadfastly OPPOSED the SUNDAY OBSERVANCE dictates of the Roman government! (Send for the *free* booklet, *"The Mark of the Beast,"* to learn more details about the Beast's enforcement of its Sunday-"Mark").

The ROMAN CONSTANTINE WARNED the *true* followers of God, the SABBATH-KEEPING Christians who *refused* to keep *Sunday* and insisted on observing God's key-test commanded Sabbath day instead:

"To speak of your *criminality* as it deserves [Constantine inferred Sabbath-keeping was a CRIMINAL thing to do] demands more time and leisure than I can give . . . Why not at once *strike*, as it were, at the root of so great a mischief [keeping God's true *Sabbath* day] by a *public manifestation* of *displeasure?* Forasmuch, then, as it is no longer possible to bear with your pernicious errors [of obeying God's Sabbath commandment], we give warning by this present statute that none of you henceforth presume to assemble yourselves together. We have directed, accordingly, that you be deprived of all the houses in which you are accustomed to hold your assemblies: and [we] forbid the holding of your superstitious and senseless meetings [on the Sabbath day], not in public merely, but in any private house or place whatsoever . . . We have commanded . . . that you be *positively* deprived of every gathering point for your superstitious meetings, I mean all the houses of prayer . . . that any other places be confiscated to the public service, and no facility whatever be left for any future gathering [on God's Sabbath] in order that from this day forward none of your unlawful [in the sight of the Roman government] assemblies may presume to appear in any public or private place" (from Eusebius' *Life of Constantine*, book III).

This same Eusebius, a *Catholic* historian who lived in the time of Constantine, sums up the work of Constantine by declaring: "And the credit of having achieved this mighty work [of beginning the organized effort to *stamp out* all known Sabbath keeping] our heaven-protected Emperor alone, of all who had gone before him, was able to attribute to himself" (book III, chap. 66).

Satan Formed CHURCH to RULE Roman BEAST

Satan has his destructive *civil* government on earth which is doing his will. Satan gives it "his power, and his seat, and great authority" (Rev. 13:2).

But the DEVIL ALSO HAS an *ecclesiastical* organization — A GREAT *CHURCH* — which is his *religious* instrumentality in deceiving the world. God uses *wild* beasts to picture *destruction.* So GOD USES *ANOTHER* "BEAST" TO PICTURE this great destructive false church. It, too, is a ruling devouring government!

Here is God's astounding revelation, from His Word, which positively identifies the "second beast" of Revelation 13 as THE PAPACY — POLITICAL government of the ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH which ruled the Roman Empire during the Middle Ages.

1. Did God, in vision, show John another "beast"? Rev. 13:11.

COMMENT: Do *not* confuse this beast with the first beast which you have proven to be the civil Roman Empire.

2. Does this second beast APPEAR "LIKE A *LAMB*"? Rev. 13:11. What does the word "lamb" symbolize in the Bible? John 1:29 and Rev. 17:14. *But* is not this beast's TRUE CHARACTER OF the *DEVIL* himself? Rev. 13:11 and 12:9.

COMMENT: This two-horned "beast" appears as a lamb, *FALSELY* IMPERSONATING CHRIST and His true teachings of salvation. It actually speaks the lies of the Devil. This beast is not the United States as some claim.

3. Is this second beast — that is, this GODLY-APPEARING, BUT ACTUALLY DEVIL-INSPIRED false church — to utilize all of the power of the first beast — i.e. USE all the CIVIL GOVERNMENT'S MIGHT? Rev. 13:12. How and when did it begin to exercise the first beast's power? Verse 3.

COMMENT: It was when the *first* beast's deadly "wound" — the Roman Empire of the West's fall (476 A.D.) when the barbarians overran it, thus ending its government — was "healed" in 554 A.D. by Justinian's *restoration* of the Roman government that this *religious* government completely took over all the power

of the Roman civil government and exercised it to rule the Roman *Empire!*

Here is how it was accomplished. Prior to 554 A.D. JUSTINIAN, EMPEROR OF the EASTERN DIVISION OF the ROMAN EMPIRE, had written a letter to the Pope, acknowledging his supremacy. He, *as civil governor, was willing to be ruled by the ecclesiastical head.*

And when he ascended the throne in 554, he was ACCEPTED BY the *POPE*, whose authority the Emperor acknowledged. Church and state were now united. Here FOR the *FIRST* TIME in history, the *CHURCH* WAS RULING the *STATE*, instead of the state controlling the church! Truly, it was a new thing in the world—church over state. A pattern to be striven for again in our time!

We read in history that the popes were accepted as the Vicars of Christ, which means "in place of Christ"! The Catholic teaching was that the Second Coming of Christ had occurred — Christ had returned to earth, as King of kings and Lord of lords, *in the person of the Popes!* The millennium had (supposedly) begun. For the entire duration of the "healed" church-dominated beast's existence the EMPERORS ACCEPTED the POPES AS *RULING* IN *CHRIST'S* PLACE, RULING ALL NATIONS with a "rod of iron" as Christ is to do at His real coming! CONSEQUENTLY, the ROMAN EMPERORS GAVE over THEIR POWER TO THE POPES.

In the *Encyclopedia Britannica,* article "Millennium," you will find the history of this very event — of how the "Holy Roman Empire" came to be called the "Kingdom of God upon earth."

Roman Papacy Patterned After Roman Civil Government

1. Do the TWO "HORNS" OF the SECOND BEAST OF REV. 13:11 SYMBOLIZE TWO TYPES OF GOVERNMENT? Dan. 7:24.

COMMENT: A "horn" represents a king or *government.* There were *two* horns — *two* governments.

COMMENT: The CATHOLIC CHURCH was organized as a *dual,* TWO-FOLD GOVERNMENT. It embodied CHURCH GOVERNMENT, and it also was a state, or CIVIL GOVERNMENT, always occupying a certain amount of territory in Italy over which it, alone, ruled as an independent sovereign state — in addition to actually ruling over the vast *civil* kingdom called "The Roman Empire." Even today the Catholic Church is a separate, independent, sovereign state. Most nations send ambassadors to it, just as they do to the United States, to Italy, England, or Russia. SO this "SECOND BEAST" was—and IS TODAY—A CHURCH-STATE GOVERNMENT! But, with its power, it would expand its government and Sunday observance around the *earth!!*

2. Where else in Bible prophecies do we find described the same identical facts which represent this Catholic church-state government? Rev. 17:1-7, 15, 18. What does the symbol of a "woman" mean? II Cor. 11:2.

COMMENT: In II Cor. 11:2 Christ is comparing His Church to a *virtuous woman.*

COMMENT: But in Rev. 17:1-7 God pictures a *fallen* woman—an apostate church—as a great church called "the great whore," who is pictured as ruling over many nations! It is well known by those who understand Bible prophecy that the WOMAN IN the 17TH CHAPTER of REVELATION PICTURES the Roman CATHOLIC CHURCH RULING OVER SATAN'S CIVIL KINGDOM — THE blasphemously so-called "HOLY" ROMAN EMPIRE.

This great counterfeit Church — instead of becoming "engaged" to the true Christ, and keeping herself true to Him as coming world ruler — formed an illicit union with the governments of this world by ENTERING INTO WORLD GOVERNMENT POLITICS. The Church sought to *dominate* this world's governments by taking an active part in their affairs! Thus she committed spiritual "fornication" — illicit union prior to marriage.

In verse 18 she is also called "that great city [Rome] . . . which reigneth over the kings of the earth." And in verse 2, God says the INHABITANTS OF the EARTH have been DECEIVED BY THIS GREAT FALSE CHURCH! A *GREAT* RELIGIOUS GOVERNMENTAL WORLD-WIDE *SYSTEM* FOR PROMOTING *SUNDAY OBSERVANCE!*

Roman Church Supposed To Administer GOD'S Rule

1. Does the ROMAN Catholic CHURCH *DELUDE* its SUBJECTS INTO BELIEVING *IT* IS the GOVERNMENT OF GOD ruling ON this EARTH — what will their great ecclesiastical ruler soon openly do? II Thes. 2:3, 4.

2. Did the ROMAN CHURCH MAKE an "*IMAGE*" OF the first BEAST? Rev. 13:14. What is this "image" of the first beast?

COMMENT: According to the dictionary, an image is a "copy, representation, model, semblance, counterpart." It is a "likeness." So here is a great church saying to the people, "Let us make an *image* — a *model,* a copy of the civil Roman government"! They patterned their *ecclesiastical* government after the *most efficient* government they knew. They patterned it after the Roman *civil* government so they could administer their "*religious*" government more effectively.

COMMENT: "The first Pope, in the real sense of the word, was Leo I (440-461 A.D.)," says

the *Cyclopedia of Biblical, Theological, and Ecclesiastical Literature*, Vol. 7, page 629. To him the form of government of the Roman Empire WAS the most marvelous thing on earth. It became an obsession with him. Leo advocated the complete ORGANIZATION OF the CHURCH ON the *MODEL* OR *IMAGE* OF the ROMAN CIVIL GOVERNMENT, *with the Pope as its religious head.* He said that resistance to his will was worthy of "hell," and advocated the death penalty for heresy. He finally accomplished his goal by organizing the Church into a government, THUS FORMING THE "PAPACY."

Says Myer's *Ancient History*, "During the reign of Leo I, the Church set up, within the Roman Empire, an ecclesiastical state (government) which, in its constitution and its administrative system, was shaping itself upon the imperial model. This [counterfeit] spiritual empire, like the secular empire, possessed a hierarchy of officers" (p. 582). The Britannica calls it an "Ecclesiastical World Empire"!

The Papacy is called by Catholics the "Hierarchy of Jurisdiction." It is "the GOVERNING BODY OF the CATHOLIC CHURCH consisting of the Pope and the other bishops throughout the world." They possess, according to Catholic sources, "the POWER TO MAKE LAWS, to SIT IN JUDGMENT, AND to FIX *SPIRITUAL* PENALTIES when necessary."

Notice ITS CLAIMED ATTRIBUTES BELONG *ONLY* TO *GOD*. To attribute them to any organization of men is to SET that ORGANIZATION IN the PLACE OF GOD! — to commit idolatry — to worship the "image" of the beast!

COMMENT: So the Papacy, according to these historians, is a model, a counterpart — an image of the "bestial" pagan Roman Government. THIS ECCLESIASTICAL GOVERNMENT COMPELLED PEOPLE, AT the THREAT OF DEATH, TO WORSHIP the MAN-RULED CHURCH OF SATAN, organized by men into a worldly government. Although PALMED OFF AS the GOVERNMENT OF GOD, *it is in reality only an* IMAGE *of a* HUMAN government!

Devil's Church Caused Enforcement of "Mark"

By 365 A.D., there still were many Sabbath-keeping Christians who kept all of God's commandments. And by this time, the Catholic Church had gained considerable influence in the governmental affairs of the Roman Empire, especially after Constantine's professed conversion to the "Christianity" of Catholicism in later life.

See now how Satan, who is wroth with God's people, began stepping up his work of putting the pressure on to destroy God's true Sabbath observers through his political and religious organizations!

1. Did God prophesy that the satanically inspired Roman Church would change His divine laws and days of worship? Dan. 7:20, 25. What was one major "time" and "law" that was changed by this Church, and when was it changed?

COMMENT: Around 365 A.D., the Sabbath became an ecclesiastical issue. So the CATHOLIC COUNCIL OF LAODICEA was called to settle, among other matters, the Sabbath question! The most famous CANON from this council — the twenty-ninth — READS thus: "CHRISTIANS MUST *NOT* judaize by RESTing ON THE *SABBATH* [*God's* true day], BUT must WORK ON THAT DAY . . . and, if they can, resting then [on Sunday] as Christians. *But* if any be found to be judaizers [God's true Sabbath keepers], let them be anathema [ecclesiastically accursed] from Christ" (*Nicene and Post-Nicene Fathers*, Vol. XIX, p. 148).

It was the *Church* — the *"little horn"* — which sanctioned the pagan Roman *Sun*day as a day of rest and worship. Yes, and it also was the CATHOLIC CHURCH which claimed to "change" God's Law—*CLAIMING* it had authority from God to "OFFICIALLY" TRANSFER the TRUE SABBATH FROM SATURDAY TO SUNDAY! The Roman Sunday law now had the force of an *ecclesiastical* law.

2. Did the Devil's Church cause people of all classes to receive the "Mark" of the "beastial" Roman Empire — keep the Roman Empire's Sunday — under threat of *death* for disobedience? Rev. 13:15, 16.

COMMENT: The force of the Roman State had already been utilized in 325 A.D. by Emperor Constantine to confiscate the property and destroy the lives of any who obeyed God's commandments. But now, IN 365 A.D., the HEAVY HAND OF the ROMAN *CHURCH*-INFLUENCED *STATE* really BEGAN TO *FALL HARD* UPON THOSE WHO CONTINUED to be faithful in RESTING ON the *SABBATH as God commanded.*

A little later, around 400 A.D., Augustine declared: "The holy doctors of the church have decreed [*not* a decree of the Bible, but of *men*] that all glory of the Jewish [*God's*] Sabbath is *transferred* to it [*Sunday!!*]. Let us therefore keep the Lord's Day [*their* "lord's" day] as the ancients [the true worshippers of God] were commanded [by *God*] to do the Sabbath" (*Sabbath Laws*, p. 284). Yes, *men* presumptuously transferred God's commanded set time to worship Him on the *Sabbath* to *another* day — *Sunday!*

Pope Gregory of Rome, in the West, anathematized "Those who taught that it was not lawful to do work on the day of the Sabbath" (*History of the Popes*, Vol. II, p. 378). Sabbath keeping was completely obliterated from Rome by the sixth century (Andrews, *History of the*

Sabbath, p. 375). And the Eastern churches extirpated Sabbath observance in another four hundred years, about 1000 A.D.

COMMENT: This two-horned "beast," the church-state combine, *CAUSED* TO BE KILLED as many as would not worship the "*image*"—would not *worship* and *obey* the *Roman Catholic Church itself*, whose *government* is "*imaged*" after, formed in the likeness of, the Roman *civil* government. Note carefully that this false CHURCH DID NOT KILL THEM ITSELF, *such destruction would have been too limited*—IT *CAUSED* the mighty power of the *CIVIL GOVERNMENT* TO KILL them! History shows that the military of the civil Roman government martyred NEARLY 50,000,000—*fifty million* who were declared "anathema from Christ," called "heretics" by the Church!

Those millions of martyrs were killed because they would not worship *the* Roman Catholic *Church: conform to its idolatry*, its pagan beliefs, and its customs, or worship the so-called "Holy" Roman Empire. And *because they refused to receive the commanded "Mark of the Beast"!* — refused to keep *Sunday!!*

So SATAN, THROUGH HIS RELIGIOUS AND POLITICAL INSTRUMENTALITIES, successfully *STAMPED OUT* all known *SABBATH* OBSERVANCE AND *ENFORCED* the "*MARK OF THE BEAST*" — enforced *SUNDAY* KEEPING in the Empire. No wonder these were called the "*Dark Ages*," for God's truth was all but completely stamped out!

Beast Was To Continue

Indeed Sunday observance was *enforced!* The people were *branded* through the efforts of Satan's ecclesiastical and civil governments. "HIS [Satan, in this case] YE ARE WHOM YE *OBEY*" (Rom. 6:16). The world surrendered to Satan. The pagan Roman government *enforced* the "Mark of the Beast"—Sunday keeping — on all the civilized world! That is why the former SATANIC TRIBULATION occurred — TO *FORCE* MANKIND TO OBEY SATAN for THEN HE would *OWN* US TO DO WITH AS *HE* PLEASES — TO OUR *ETERNAL DESTRUCTION!*

Understand now how this *same* Satanic Roman system has actively continued on down into our times and for what *purpose!* Understand how it is laying its plans to *FORCE* man by a far greater tribulation — a great tribulation now almost upon us — to come under Satan's rule and acknowledge his SUNDAY IN SUCH VAST NUMBERS AND with such GREAT FERVOR THAT there WOULD BE NONE WORTHY OF ETERNAL SALVATION!!

1. Is THE ROMAN EMPIRE, which is also symbolized by the legs and feet of Nebuchadnezzar's great *image*, PROPHESIED to BE IN EXISTENCE at the end of this age — UNTIL the SECOND COMING OF CHRIST and the establishment of the Kingdom of God? Dan. 2:33-35. Who is the *stone?* — Does not the great "stone" clearly picture that it is *Christ* who will smash the empire? Acts. 4:10-11.

2. But didn't the BEAST John saw receive a deadly wound? Rev. 13:3. Wasn't it the *head* that specifically represented the *Roman Empire* that was wounded to death?

COMMENT: The first six of the seven heads of the beast John saw stood for the Babylonian Empire, Medo-Persian, and the Grecian Empire with its four divisions. The only "head" existing at the time John saw this beast in vision was the Roman Empire; and so, the *Roman Empire* is the "ONE OF HIS [SEVEN] HEADS" that was WOUNDED TO DEATH, in the vision!

The deadly wound, then, was the one administered to the Roman Empire by the barbarians who overran it in its last decaying stages, thus ending its government in 476 A.D.

3. When the seventh head — the Roman Empire — received its deadly wound in 476 A.D., was this the end of Satan's Beast, Satan's political system, or was its wound healed? Rev. 13:3.

COMMENT: Notice that the text does *not* say the *whole* Beast died — it says only *one* of his *heads* was wounded to death. THE *ONE HEAD* DIED. BUT the *BEAST ITSELF* CONTINUED, for his — the Beast's — "deadly wound was *healed*."

4. Do THE 10 HORNS OF the FOURTH BEAST OF DANIEL 7:7 AND the TEN HORNS OF the BEAST OF REVELATION 13:1-2 REPRESENT successive kingdoms, or governments, which were to rule in the territory of the Roman Empire after its fall? Dan. 7:23-24. Was the last horn or government to be in existence at the time of Christ's second coming and be given to Him? Verse 27.

COMMENT: These ten horns are TEN SUCCEEDING GOVERNMENTS — KINGDOMS — WHICH were to RULE the ROMAN EMPIRE AFTER ITS FALL IN 476 A.D. until the time when the "Stone," Christ, comes and destroys the last stage of the Roman Empire, and establishes His kingdom.

We know these are 10 *successive* — not contemporaneous — kingdoms because in actual history there have never been ten contemporaneous governments that have ruled the Roman Empire, side by side, down to the present. But SO FAR, there HAVE BEEN *NINE* SUCCESSIVE KINGDOMS ruling that territory from 476 A.D. to the present. *ONE MORE* is YET TO ARISE before Christ comes.

5. Which three governments comprise the FIRST THREE "HORNS"? See comment.

COMMENT: By 476 A.D., the Roman Empire was overrun by the VANDALS (represented by the FIRST horn), of Northern Africa, who

sacked Rome in 455 A.D. and ruled it for a brief space of time. Then Odoacer set up his government at Rome which was called the HERULI (the SECOND horn). It ruled in and over Rome 476-493 A.D., but it did not heal the deadly wound because it was only a barbarian—not a Roman—government.

Finally, there was the kingdom of the OSTROGOTHS, 493-554 A.D. (the THIRD horn), another outside foreign people who ruled in the territory. But they were shortly driven out of Italy and disappeared.

Though essentially independent and *non-Catholic*, these three nations did profess to carry on the Roman Empire by continuing the *principle* of Roman government and Roman law. These three kingdoms ("horns"), or governments sweeping into the Roman territory, filled the period known in history as the "transition age" — that is, a transition between the wound and its healing.

6. Did Daniel's prophetic vision include a separate "little horn" which came up among the other ten? Dan. 7:8. What was the description of this "little horn" and what did it do to the first three horns? Same verse, and verses 20, 24.

COMMENT: The Roman Catholic Papacy, which this "little horn" represents, was responsible for uprooting the first three "horns."

7. When and by whom was the beast's wound "healed"? Remember, it would have to be by a *Roman* government. See comment.

COMMENT: It was the *FOURTH* HORN, or government of Daniel 7, which, succeeding the fall of the Roman Empire, really "healed" the deadly wound, and RESTORED, or resurrected, the ROMAN EMPIRE. In 554 A.D., JUSTINIAN, from Constantinople and EMPEROR OF the EASTERN DIVISION OF the EMPIRE, SET UP his GOVERNMENT AT ROME, BRINGING ABOUT what is known in history as the "IMPERIAL RESTORATION" OF the ROMAN EMPIRE IN the WEST, and thus "healing the wound."

Beast Continues Into OUR TIME!

1. How long was the now "*church*"-*ruled* "Beast" to continue after its wound was healed? Rev. 13:5. Does God clearly show exactly how long this symbolic time period is? Ezek. 4:4-6 and Num. 14:34.

COMMENT: This is the well-known year-for-a-day principle which the Bible gives us in understanding many prophetic lengths of time. So "forty and two months" equals 1260 days (42 times 30) — the equivalent of 1260 years in Bible prophecy — the length of time the Catholic Church-dominated "healed" Beast was to continue.

2. What governments were the following four "horns" that reigned in the territorial Roman Empire AFTER the "IMPERIAL RESTORATION" of the Roman government? See Comment.

COMMENT: Following the "healing" in 554 A.D. by Justinian's government, CAME the *FIFTH* "HORN," the FRANKISH KINGDOM (FRENCH); then the "HOLY ROMAN EMPIRE"(GERMAN) was THE *SIXTH* HORN; the *SEVENTH* HORN was the HAPSBURG DYNASTY (AUSTRIAN); AND NAPOLEON'S KINGDOM (FRENCH) was THE *EIGHTH* HORN. But, when Napoleon was crushed in 1814, the HEALED BEAST'S EXISTENCE was suspended. And from 554 A.D. to 1814 A.D. — the duration of the church-ruled "healed beast" — was exactly 1260 years! "So closed," says West's *Modern History*, page 377, "a government that dated from Augustus Caesar" (from 31 B.C.).

3. What was to be the condition of the Beast after the 1260 years were fulfilled? Was its existence to be only *TEMPORARILY* SUSPENDED until its ninth and tenth "horns," or governments, would reign? Rev. 17:8. Remember that this great Beast which was ruled by the Roman Catholic Church is to be in existence at the return of Christ — the "Stone" — who will destroy it!

COMMENT: Eight of the "horns" having arisen and fallen, the "BEAST" then *TEMPORARILY* WENT INTO the NON-EXISTENT CONDITION SYMBOLIZED in Rev. 17:8 AS the "BOTTOMLESS PIT." BUT IN 1870, GARIBALDI had UNITED the many little divisions of the PENINSULA OF ITALY INTO ONE NATION, and the KINGDOM THUS ESTABLISHED BEGAN the *NINTH* HORN, WHICH CULMINATED IN the NAZI-FASCIST RULE OF MUSSOLINI-HITLER.

But take heed and not be caught in Satan's snare! THIS RELIGIOUS-POLITICAL "BESTIAL" SYSTEM OF SATAN the Devil IS REVIVING right NOW, arising once more out of the symbolic "bottomless pit" TO FORM the *TENTH* and FINAL "HORN"!! And THROUGH IT, the DEVIL WILL CAUSE the "MARK OF the BEAST" to BE RUTHLESSLY ENFORCED once AGAIN!

Sunday — "Mark of Beast" Brands Protestants!

1. Does God give a picture of the Devil's great Roman false counterfeit church? Rev. 17: 3-5. Does this church have harlot daughters? Verse 5. How did her *daughter churches* come out of her — in *protest?*

COMMENT: This Great Church which rules over these many nations and commits spiritual *fornication* by political relationships with civil

governments, is also a great *Mother* Church! She has "harlot" *daughters*. They have come out of her in "*protest*" of *some* of her doctrines.

But these Protestant protesting "daughters" have *retained many* doctrines of this one same Roman Catholic Church. *That is why God links* these churches *with* her.

COMMENT: The early *PROTEST*-ANT CHURCH CAME "OUT OF" the CATHOLIC CHURCH *protesting* against *some* of the Catholic Church's doctrines — BUT it DID NOT "PROTEST" GREATLY — FOR it still CONTINUES TO KEEP the *SAME* CATHOLIC *SUNDAY!! The key test day of dis-obedience!*

Protestants Admit SUNDAY Observance Not Commanded of GOD!

The modern PROTESTANT "daughter" CHURCHES of the Catholic Church FREELY ADMIT the reason they keep the Sunday "Mark of the Beast" is because THEY FOLLOW the CATHOLIC CHURCH IN THEIR SUNDAY-KEEPING PRACTICE.

THE PROTESTANTS RECOGNIZE that *SUN*DAY WORSHIP WAS MERELY the RESULT OF CATHOLIC TRADITION. They know it did *NOT* come FROM the BIBLE!

Here is a FRANK ADMISSION FROM the LUTHERAN CHURCH: "The observance of the Lord's day [meaning Sunday] is founded NOT on any COMMAND OF GOD, but on the authority of the [Catholic] Church" (the "Augsburg Confession," part 2, chapter 1, sec. 10).

The CHURCH OF ENGLAND (in one of its catechisms) makes the following FRANK STATEMENT regarding Sunday: "And where are we told in Scripture that we are to keep the first day [Sunday] at all? We *are commanded* to keep the seventh; *but* we are NOWHERE COMMANDED to keep the FIRST DAY . . . The reason why we keep the first day of the week holy instead of the seventh is for the same reason that WE OBSERVE many other things, not BECAUSE the Bible, but because the [CATHOLIC] CHURCH, HAS ENJOINED IT" ("Plain Sermons on the Catechism," by Mr. Isaac Williams, D.D., Vol. I, pp. 334-36).

That is quite an admission!

The following CONFESSION, by Dr. Edward T. Hiscox, author OF "The *BAPTIST* Manual," was *made before a New York Minister's Conference*, Nov. 13, 1893. "Of course, I quite well know that SUNDAY did COME into use in early Christian history as a religious day, as we learn FROM the Christian [Catholic] fathers and other sources. But what a pity that it [Sunday] comes branded with the mark of PAGANISM and CHRISTENED WITH the NAME OF the *SUN GOD*, when ADOPTED and sanctioned BY the PAPAL APOSTASY, and BEQUEATHED as a sacred legacy TO PROTESTANTISM!"

WHAT A REVELATION!

Yes, the Catholic Church bequeathed this pagan first day of the week, all wrapped up in a Sunday wrapper, to the Protestant churches — her daughters. They have followed Satan-inspired Mother Rome TO THIS VERY DAY!

From the beginning, the PROTESTANTS were NOT INTERESTED IN OBEDIENCE TO GOD, or in the Gospel of the Kingdom. Exactly as the early Catholics, they were seeking to convert the kingdoms of this world to their own religions. THE TRUTH that was open to them PASSED THROUGH THEIR FINGERS! This is why Protestants observe Sunday today! They have *VOLUNTARILY* ADOPTED the "MARK OF the BEAST" — the Roman Empire's national holiday — the day which the Roman Catholic Church voluntarily accepted and later caused to be enforced by the might of steel!

BEWARE!!

1. What is God's warning to *you* regarding this entire satanically inspired and empowered Babylonish religious-political system of the Devil? Rev. 18:4.

2. What will be the just punishment of all those who persistently follow the Devil's false teachings? Rev. 20:15 and II Pet. 3:10.

COMMENT: Today, CATHOLICS AND PROTESTANTS ALIKE are voluntarily taking the "Mark of the Beast" — even to this hour. Therefore, they unknowingly, but PERILOUSLY, OBEY *SATAN* the Devil — not the true God and Creator of all things! "His servants ye are to whom ye obey . . ."! (Rom. 6:16).

And just as the Sabbath is the "*sign*" which distinguishes the true worshippers of God and pictures their destiny of eternal, restful spirit bodies in the Kingdom of God; *SUN*DAY is the "*MARK*" or "brand" which IDENTIFIES the worshippers and FOLLOWERS OF SATAN the Devil! THEY are KEEPING A DAY IN COMMEMORATION OF THEIR eternal DESTINY too, unless they repent — ETERNAL DEATH IN the "LAKE OF FIRE" (Rev. 20:15) — a time WHEN the surface of this EARTH shall BURN AS the surface of the SUN, CONSUMING ALL the DISOBEDIENT upon it!

THIS is THE IRONIC DESTINY OF THOSE WHO KEEP SATAN'S SUN-DAY! DON'T *YOU* KEEP *Sun*day — the Mark of the Beast!

(To be continued in Lesson 32)