

THE SPIRIT OF PROPHECY
THE
GREAT CONTROVERSY
BETWEEN
CHRIST AND SATAN

THE FIRST, SECOND & THIRD ANGEL'S
MESSAGE
THE THIRD MESSAGE REJECTED &
THE SNARES OF SATAN

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CHAPTER 14
THE FIRST ANGEL'S MESSAGE

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The prophecy of the first angel's message, brought to view in Revelation 14, found its fulfillment in the Advent movement of 1840- 1844. In both Europe and America, men of faith and prayer were deeply moved as their attention was called to the prophecies, and, tracing down the inspired record, they saw convincing evidence that the end of all things was at hand. The Spirit of God urged his servants to give the warning. Far and wide spread the message of the everlasting gospel, "Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his Judgment is come." Rev. 14:7.

Wherever missionaries had penetrated, were sent the glad tidings of Christ's speedy return. In different lands were found isolated bodies of Christians, who, solely by the study of the Scriptures, had arrived at the belief that the Saviour's advent was near. In some portions of Europe, where the laws were so oppressive as to forbid the preaching of the Advent doctrine, little children were impelled to declare it, and many listened to the solemn warning.

To Wm. Miller and his co-laborers it was given to preach the message in America, and the light kindled by their labors shone out to distant lands. The testimony of the Scriptures pointing to the coming of Christ in 1843, awakened widespread interest. Many were convinced that the arguments from the prophetic periods were correct, and, sacrificing their pride of opinion, they joyfully received the truth. Some ministers laid aside their sectarian views and feelings, left their salaries and their churches, and united in proclaiming the coming of Jesus. There were but few ministers, however, who would accept this message' therefore it was largely committed to humble laymen. Farmers left their fields, mechanics their tools, traders their merchandise, professional men their positions; and yet the number of workers

It is a terrible thing to lose faith in God or in his word. Unbelief strengthens as it is encouraged. There is danger in even once giving expression to doubt; a seed is sown which produces a harvest of its kind. Satan will nourish the crop every moment. Those who allow themselves to talk of their doubts will find them constantly becoming more confirmed. God will never remove every occasion for doubt. He will never work a miracle to remove unbelief when he has given sufficient evidence for faith.

God looks with displeasure upon the self-sufficient and the unbelieving, who are ever doubting his promises and distrusting the assurance of his grace. They are unproductive trees that spread their dark branches far and wide, shutting away the sunlight from other plants, and causing them to droop and die under the chilling shadow. The life-work of these persons will appear as a never-ceasing witness against them. They are sowing seeds of doubt and skepticism that will yield an unyielding harvest.

The followers of Christ know little of the plots which Satan and his hosts are forming against them. But He who sitteth in the heavens will overrule all these devices for the accomplishment of his deep designs. The Lord permits his people to be subjected to the fiery ordeal of temptation, not because he takes pleasure in their distress and affliction, but because this process is essential to their final victory. He could not, consistently with his own glory, shield them from temptation; for the very object of the trial is to prepare them to resist all the allurements of evil.

Satan is well aware that the weakest soul who abides in Christ is more than a match for the hosts of darkness, and that, should he reveal himself openly, he would be met and resisted. Therefore he seeks to draw away the soldiers of the cross from their strong fortification, while he lies in ambush with his forces, ready to destroy all who venture upon his ground. No man is safe for a day or an hour without prayer. Especially should we entreat the Lord for wisdom to understand his word. Satan is an expert in quoting Scripture, placing his own interpretation upon passages by which he hopes to cause us to stumble. We should study the Bible with humility of heart, never losing sight of our dependence upon God. While we must constantly guard against the devices of Satan, we should pray in faith continually, "Lead us not into temptation." [Mt.6:13]

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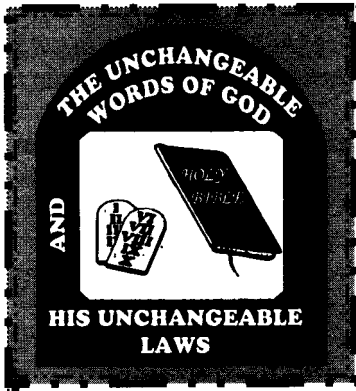
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*why do you
Choose Sunday
The first day of
the week over
God Seventh-day
Sabbath (Sa turday)*

The bible teaches in Romans **6:23** for the wages of sin is death but the gift of god is eternal life through Jesus Christ. You may ask what is sin 1 John **3:4** Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law.

And Exodus **20:1-17** tells you about the law's of the Lord that reveals sin, it tells us when we lie, when we kill, when we steal, when we commit adultery and when we even break the seventh-day Sabbath. The bible makes it plain in Romans 512. Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:

In order to be saved from our sin we have to accept Jesus Christ. For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. John **3:16** . . .**And** this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He that hath the Son hath life; [and] he that hath not the Son of God hath not life. 1 John 511, 12. For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: [it is] the gift of God: Ephesians 2: 8

It is a sad thing my friend's to live in this world with no hope and with out Christ in your lives.

Now all you have to do according to Acts **8:36-38** And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him.

Now since we have been justified freely by faith in Jesus Christ, by accepting His perfect life. Do we then make void the law through faith? God forbid: yea, we establish the law. Romans **3:31!**

The bible says in Romans **7:12** Wherefore the law [is] holy, and the commandment holy, and just, and good. And God Promise to put His Law's in our Heart and in our minds. Heb **10:16** (And that include His **Seventh-day Sabbath**).

Tell me, Lord, do you have a special day of rest for your followers or is every day alike?

"I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day." Rev.1 : 10.

But which day is the Lord's Day? Which day are you Lord of?

"The Son of man is Lord even of the *Sabbath* day." Matt.12.8.

There are seven days in the week. Which day is the Sabbath day?

"The seventh *day* is the Sabbath of the Lord thy God." Fourth Commandment (Ex. 20:8.)

Which day, according to our reckoning, is the seventh day, Saturday or Sunday?

"And when the Sabbath was *past*, Mary Magdalene and Mary, the mother of James, . . . very early in the morning *the* first day of *the* week, they came unto the sepulcher at the rising of the sun . . . And entering into the sepulcher, they saw a young man . . . And he saith unto them, be not affrighted; Ye seek Jesus of Nazareth, which was crucified; *He* is risen." Mark **16:1-6**.

Note. Everybody know that Sunday was the resurrection day. The Sabbath was past when it dawned. Thus it is evident that the Sabbath is Saturday, the day before Sunday.

But, Lord didn't you abolish the law which contains the Sabbath Commandment?

"Think not that I am come to destroy the **law** or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfill." Matt. **5:17**

Well, at least, didn't you change one of the Commandments so that today your followers may keep another day?

"For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one **title** shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled." Matt. 5.18

But, Lord, isn't Saturday a Jewish Day? Isn't the seventh day the Sabbath of the Jews?

"The Sabbath was made for man." Mark **2:27** (The Sabbath was made and given to man 2500 years before the existence of a Jew. See Gen. **2:1-3**.)

Someone told me that after your crucifixion, your followers no longer kept the seventh day Sabbath, according to the Commandment. Is this true?

"And that day was the Preparation day and the Sabbath drew on. And the women also, which came with him from Galilee, followed after, and beheld the Sepulcher, and how His body was laid. And they returned and prepared spices and ointments; and rested *the* Sabbath day according *to the* commandment." Luke **23:54-56**.

But didn't the Apostle Paul always meet with the early Christians on Sunday in honor of the Resurrection?

"And Paul, as his manner was, went in unto them, and three **Sabbath** days reasoned with them out of the Scriptures." Acts **17:2**.

Perhaps he met with the Jews on the Sabbath and the Gentiles on Sunday.
What about that?

"And he reasoned in the synagogue every Sabbath, and persuaded the Jews
and the Greeks." Act 18: 4.

What did Paul teach in regard to Sabbath keeping?

"There therefore remaineth a keeping of Sabbath (margin) to the people of
God. For he that is entered into his rest, he also hath ceased from his own
works as God did from His." Hebrews 4:9, 10.

But, which day did Paul mean when he spoke of resting as God did?

"For He spake in a certain place of the seventh day on this wise, And God did
rest the seventh day from all His works." Hebrews 4:4. (In the New Testament
there are no less than 59 references to the Sabbath. The book of Acts records
84 Sabbaths on which the Apostle Paul and his associates held religious
services. Yet there is not one word in the entire Bible authorizing Sunday
keeping.)

**Why do so many people keep Sunday instead of Saturday? If the Bible
teaches Sabbath keeping, how and by whom was Sunday keeping
started?**

"And he (the 'little horn' power) shall speak great words against the Most High.
and think to change times and laws." Daniel 7:25.

**The Roman Catholic Church is the Little Horn of Daniel 7. Does it think it
has the power to change the law of God?**

"Had she not such power, she could not have done that in which all modern
religionists agree with her; she could not have substituted the observance of
Sunday, the first day of the week, for the observance of Saturday, the seventh
day of the week, a Change for which there is no Scriptural authority." Stephen
Keenan, a RC priest, *Doctrinal Catechism*, p. 174.

When was this change made?

"We observe Sunday instead of Saturday because the Catholic Church in
the Council of Laodicea (364 A.D.) transferred the solemnity from Saturday
to Sunday." Peter Geirmann, *The Converts' Catechism*, page 50. (This
catechism received the pope's blessing on Jan. 25, 1910.)

What differences does it make which day I keep? A day is a day, isn't it?

"Know ye not that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his
servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of *obedience*
unto righteousness?" Romans 6.16.

**Then what shall I do, obey the Sabbath of God's Commandment or
keep the Sunday of man?**

"We ought to obey God rather than men." Acts 5:29.

Well, lord, What do you think of Sunday keeping?

"Thus have ye made the commandment of God of none effect by your
tradition But in vain they do worship Me, teaching for doctrines the
commandments of men." Matthew 15:6, 9.

**But surely the millions of people who keep Sunday can't be wrong, can
they?**

"Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate and broad is the way that

leadeth to destruction and many there be which go in thereat: because strait is the gate and narrow is the way that leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it." **Matt.7:13, 14.** (Only a few obeyed God in the days of Noah, in the days of Lot, in the days of Christ. The majority were lost.)

But Dr. So-And-So is a very wise man: Why doesn't he and all the great preachers keep the Sabbath?

"For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called; but God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty." 1 Cor. **1:26,27.** (Note: The great religious teachers in Christ's day rejected the truth also. His followers were of the common people.)

But I have accepted Jesus. He has accepted me and I have been keeping

Sunday. Surely I would not be lost if I did not keep the Sabbath now, Would I?

"The times of this *ignorance* God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent." Acts **17:30.**

I know you, Lord, you wouldn't condemn me for breaking the Sabbath, would you?

"He that saith, I know Him, and keepeth not His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him." 1 John **2:4.**

But isn't it sufficient that I love the Lord and live by the law of love?

"If ye love Me, keep My commandments." John **14:15.**

Does that mean all ten of them?

"For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all." James **2:10.**

Well, I think that if we try to follow Jesus, that is all that is necessary. Isn't that right?

"He that saith he abideth in Him, ought himself also so to walk, even as He walked." 1 John **2:6.**

What was your custom regarding the Sabbath?

"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." Luke **4:16.**

But, lord, that was over 2000 years ago. Wouldn't you keep some other day than Saturday if you should come to earth today?

"I am the Lord, I change not." Mal.3: 6. "Jesus Christ, the same yesterday, and today, and forever." Hebrews **13:8.**

Does my salvation depend upon my obedience to your Commandments?

"And being made perfect, He became the author of eternal salvation unto all *them that* obey him." Hebrews **5:9.**

Is it absolutely necessary to keep the Commandments to receive Eternal Life?

"If thou wilt enter into life, keep the commandments." **Matthew 19:17**

But I still can't see why you insist on the seventh day, Lord. Isn't Sunday as good as Saturday?

"God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it." Gen. 2:3. "He hath blessed and I cannot reverse it." Num. 23:20. "For Thou blessest, O Lord, and it shall be blessed for ever." 1 Chron. 17:27.

Well, it seems to me that if I keep one day, regardless of which one, that ought to be good enough.

"There is a way that seemth right unto a man; but the end thereof are the ways of death." Prov. 16:25. "Spiritual things . . . are spiritually discerned." 1 Cor. 2:13, 14.

But, lord! Can't I do something else? Won't my prayers and my profession get me to heaven? "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." Matt. 7: 21.

But I pray.

"He that turneth away his ear from hearing the law, even his prayer shall be abomination." Proverbs 28:9.

But, Lord, look at the people who work miracles. Some heal the sick, others talk in tongues; yet they do not keep the Sabbath. What about them?

"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? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: Depart from me." Matthew 7:22,23.

Yes, I know the Sabbath is right; but my business would suffer if I closed on Sabbath. I might lose my job.

"For what shall it profit a man if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?" Mark 8:36.

Well, for myself I wouldn't care; but what about my family? Wouldn't it be better for me to work on the Sabbath than to let my family starve?

"Your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things; but seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." Matt. 6:32,33. "I have not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread." Psalms 37:25.

My friends will laugh at me and ridicule me.

"Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely for My sake; rejoice, and be exceeding glad, for great is your reward in heaven." Matt. 5:11,12. "If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you." John 15:18.

But suppose my own family does not agree with me. Should I cause a division in my home?

"He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: And he that loveth son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of me: And he that taketh not his cross, and followeth after Me is not worthy of me." Matt. 10:37,38. "So likewise, whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple." Luke 14:33.

I am afraid I won't be able to withstand all these trials. I am too weak.

"My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. When I am weak, then am I strong." 2 Cor. 12:9, 10.

"I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me." Phil.4: 13.

Then, Lord, what is the reward for being faithful to you and the Commandments?

"There is no man that hath left house, or parents, or brethren, or wife, or children, for the kingdom of God's sake, who shall not receive manifold more in this present time, and in the world to come, life everlasting." Luke 18:29,30.

"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." Rev. 22:14.

Lord, I'm looking forward to a home in the earth made new, will we keep the Sabbath there, too?

'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; 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. Isa.66:22,23.

Then, Lord, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. With your help, I will keep the Seventh-day Sabbath.

"Well done, good and faithful servant." Matthew 25.21.

WHICH MARK WILL YOU RECEIVE?

'The Catholic Church for over one thousand years before the existence of a Protestant, 'by virtue of her divine mission, changed the day from Saturday to Sunday.' -- Catholic Mirror, September, 1893.

'Of course the Catholic Church claims that the change was her act. And the act is a MARK of her ecclesiastical power and authority in religious matters." - C F. Thomas. Chancellor of Cardinal Gibbons.

"The observance of Sunday by the Protestants is an homage they pay in spite of themselves to **the** authority of the Catholic Church." - Plain **Talk** for Protestants, page 213.

'And hallow My Sabbaths; and they shall be a SIGN between you and Me that ye may know that I am the Lord your God.' Ezekiel 20:20.

For more information

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We are

Seventh-day Adventist

"Weighing The Evidence"