



## LESSON #15 - MARK OF THE BEAST—PART 2

### Sequence of Powers in Daniel 7

- Lion (Babylon: 605-539)
- Bear (Medes and Persians: 539-331)
- Leopard (Greece: 331-168)
- Dragon (Pagan Rome: 168-476)
- 10 horns (Divided Rome: 476-538)
- Little horn (Papal Rome: 538-1798)

**Daniel 7:25:** “He shall speak pompous words against the Most High, shall persecute the saints of the Most High, and shall intend to change times and law. Then the saints shall be given into his hand for a time and times and half a time. ”

Until his recent death, the **most respected and admired** man on the planet, **hands down**, was **Pope John Paul II**.

**On May 31, 1998** he published the Apostolic Letter *Dies Domini* which was written primarily for the religious leaders of the Roman Catholic Church. What did he have to say about Sabbath and Sunday?

What I am going to share with you now has **nothing to do with John Paul II as a person**. I am simply going to **compare** what he says in his **Apostolic Letter** with what the **Bible** says. We will keep the discussion on a **theological level**, nor a **personal one**.

**According to the Bible, which day did God bless and sanctify and which day is the Lord's Day?**

The Bible says that God blessed the seventh-day Sabbath and made it Holy. It also says that Jesus is the Lord of the seventh-day Sabbath

The Sabbath was established before there was any Jew and before there was any sin. It is part of God's original plan for the human race.

**Genesis 2:2, 3:** “And on the seventh day God ended His work which He had done, and He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had done. <sup>3</sup> Then God **blessed the seventh day and sanctified it**, because in it He rested from all His work which God had created and made.”

**Exodus 20:8-11:** “Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. <sup>9</sup> Six days you shall labor and do all your work, <sup>10</sup> but **the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord your God**. In it you shall do no work: you, nor your son, nor your daughter, nor your male servant, nor your female servant, nor your cattle, nor your stranger who is within your gates. <sup>11</sup> For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day. Therefore the Lord **blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it**.”

**Mark 2:27-28:** “And He said to them, “The Sabbath was made for man, and not man for the Sabbath. <sup>28</sup> Therefore the Son of Man is also **Lord of the Sabbath**.”

**Isaiah 58:13-14:** “If you turn away your foot from the Sabbath, from doing your pleasure on **My holy day**, and call the Sabbath a delight, the holy day **of the Lord** honorable, and shall honor Him, not doing your own ways, nor finding your own pleasure, nor speaking your own words, <sup>14</sup> Then you shall delight yourself in the Lord.”

**Samuele Bacchiocchi, Paragraph # 14:** “In the first place, therefore, **Sunday** is the day of rest because it is the day ‘**blessed**’ by God and ‘**made holy**’ by him, **set apart** from the other days to be, among all of them, ‘the **Lord’s Day**.’”

“... if Paul or any other apostle had attempted to promote the abandonment of the Sabbath, a millenarian institution deeply rooted in the religious consciousness of the people, and the adoption instead of Sunday observance, there would have been considerable opposition on the part of Jewish-Christians, as was the case with reference to the circumcision. The absence of any echo of Sabbath/Sunday controversy in the NT is a most telling evidence that the introduction of Sunday observance is a post-apostolic phenomenon.” Samuele Bacchiocchi, “**Pope’s Call for Observance of Sunday**” **Issues**, Friday, August 7, 1998.

Which is the day that stands at the heart of all worship?

**Revelation 14:6-7:** “Then I saw another angel flying in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach to those who dwell on the earth — to every nation, tribe, tongue, and people — <sup>7</sup> saying with a loud voice: “Fear God and give glory to Him, for the hour of His judgment has come; and **worship Him who made heaven and earth, the sea and springs of water**.”

**Exodus 20:11** “For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day. Therefore the Lord **blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it**.”

**Paragraph # 19:** *“The intimate bond between Sunday and the Resurrection of the Lord is strongly emphasized by all the Churches of East and West. In the tradition of the Eastern Churches in particular, every Sunday is the anastasimos hemera, the day of Resurrection, and this is why it stands at the heart of all worship.”* Samuele Bacchiocchi, **“Pope’s Call for Observance of Sunday, Issues ,** Friday, August 7, 1998.

**What is the distinguishing mark of God’s people?**

The Bible says that the Sabbath is the distinguishing sign between God and His people

**Ezekiel 20:12:** *“Moreover I also gave them My Sabbaths, to be a sign between them and Me, that they might know that I am the Lord who sanctifies them.”*

**Ezekiel 20:20:** *“ . . . hallow My Sabbaths, and they will be a sign between Me and you, that you may know that I am the Lord your God.’*

**Paragraph # 21:** *“The book of Revelation gives evidence of the practice of calling the first day of the week ‘the Lord’s Day (1:10) [even though this name is never applied to Sunday until the end of the second century in the Apocryphal Gospel of Peter. This cannot be read back into Biblical times]. This [Sunday observance] would now be a characteristic distinguishing Christians from the world around them.”* Samuele Bacchiocchi

**Paragraph # 30:** *“Given its many meanings and aspects, and its link to the very foundations of the faith, the celebration of the Christian Sunday remains, on the threshold of the Third Millennium, an indispensable element of our Christian identity.*” Samuele Bacchiocchi

**Paragraph # 7:** *“Sunday is a day which is at the very heart of the Christian life.*” Samuele Bacchiocchi,

**Where has God placed His seal?**

The Bible says that the **Sabbath is God’s seal**. It has the **three elements** necessary for a seal. It was also the **seal** [placed at the **end**, not at the **beginning**] that God placed on **creation week** to identify **who the Creator was**.

**Exodus 20:11:** *“For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day. Therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it.”*

**Paragraph # 23:** *“Saint Augustine notes in turn: ‘Therefore the Lord too has placed his seal on this day [Sunday], which is the third day after the Passion.’* Samuele Bacchiocchi,

## Which is the day above all other days?

The Bible says that the Sabbath stands over and above every other day of the week. It is the only day that has a name and a number and it's the only day that God calls His; and the only day God did not send manna thus putting it above every other day)

**Paragraph # 25:** *"In effect, Sunday is the day above all other days which summons Christians to remember the salvation which was given to them in baptism and which has made them new in Christ."* Samuele Bacchiocchi,

**Paragraph 55:** *"Blessed be he who has raised the great day of Sunday above all other days."* Samuele Bacchiocchi,

Did it bear any relationship with the pagan "**Day of the Sun**"?

**Ezekiel 8:16, 17:** *"So He brought me into the inner court of the Lord's house; and there, at the door of the temple of the Lord, between the porch and the altar, were about twenty-five men with their backs toward the temple of the Lord and their faces toward the east, and they were worshipping the sun toward the east. <sup>17</sup> And He said to me, "Have you seen this, O son of man? Is it a trivial thing to the house of Judah to commit the abominations which they commit here? For they have filled the land with violence; then they have returned to provoke Me to anger."*

**Paragraph # 27:** *"Wise pastoral intuition suggested to the Church the Christianization of the notion of Sunday as 'the day of the sun.'"* Samuele Bacchiocchi,

Is it the same thing to worship the sun as it is to worship on the day of the sun? In principle it is the same thing. In fact it can be historically proven that Sunday came into the Christian Church through paganism as many other church observances. In fact, Constantine called it "*The Venerable Day of the Sun.*"

Roman Catholic churches are filled with sun bursts everywhere—above the heads of saints in the form of halos, on altars, on glass stained windows, on works of art, on chalices, on vestments.

Should it be guaranteed by civil legislation? The first table of the law says we should render worship only to God. The government should neither establish the observance of a rest day nor forbid the free exercise thereof according to the first ammendment

**Matthew 22:21:** *"...And He said to them, "Render therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's."*

**Paragraph 66:** *"Pope Leo XIII in his Encyclical Rerum Novarum spoke of Sunday rest as a worker's right which the State must guarantee."* Samuele Bacchiocchi,

**Paragraph 67:** “Christians will naturally strive to ensure that civil legislation respects their duty to keep Sunday holy. Samuele Bacchiocchi,

### **Who changed it?**

In *Dies Domini* John Paul (presumably in order to build bridges with Protestants) made a valiant effort to prove that the New Testament already contemplated the change but he failed miserably in his attempt.

He quotes the verses that say that Jesus resurrected on the first day of the week, that he appeared to the two disciples on the Road to Emmaus, to the eleven gathered in the upper room and a week later to the disciples gathered in the upper room. The Day of Pentecost would have fallen also on a Sunday though the Bible does not explicitly affirm it. He refers to **I Corinthians 16:2** and **Acts 20:7-12** and to **Revelation 1:10**.

But nowhere does it say that the day was made holy and blessed by God or that we must keep it or that we are to go to church on that day.

A careful reading of the document reveals where he claims that the change came from:

**Paragraph # 6:** “It seems more necessary than ever to recover the deep doctrinal foundations underlying the Church’s precept . . . In keeping it “we follow in the footsteps of the age-old tradition of the Church.’ Samuele Bacchiocchi

**Paragraph # 27:** “Christian reflection” and “pastoral practice” changed it

**Paragraph # 63:** “Christians, called as they are to proclaim the liberation won by the blood of Christ, felt that they had the authority to transfer the meaning of the Sabbath to the day of the resurrection.” Samuele Bacchiocchi

**Paragraph # 81:** “The spiritual and pastoral riches of Sunday, as it has been handed on to us by tradition, are truly great.” Samuele Bacchiocchi

### **Ellen G. White in The Great Controversy:**

“The arch-deceiver had not completed his work. He was resolved to gather the **Christian world** under his banner and to exercise his power through his vice-regent, the proud pontiff who claimed to be the representative of Christ [Vicarius Filii Dei]. Through half-converted pagans, ambitious prelates, and world-loving churchmen he accomplished his purpose. Vast councils were held from time to time, in which the dignitaries of the church were convened from all the world. **In nearly every council the Sabbath which God instituted was pressed down a little lower, while the Sunday was correspondingly exalted. Thus the pagan festival came finally to be honored as a divine institution, while the Bible Sabbath was pronounced a relic of Judaism.**

*and its observers were declared to be accursed.” Ellen G. White, The Great Controversy, p. 53.*

### Remarks on Daniel 3 which is parallel to Revelation 13

- Babylon
- Beast
- Image
- All nations decreed to worship
- Death decree
- Fiery furnace seven times hotter
- Faithful remnant stood before the beast and his image
- Filled with fury against those who worship God and keep His commandments
- Deliverance
- The number and the sun are related to this

### The Great Number of the Sun

The dimensions of the image were 60 x 6 and this number is not coincidental

**Daniel 3:1:** *“Nebuchadnezzar the king made an image of gold, whose height was **sixty cubits** and its width **six cubits**. He set it up in the plain of Dura, in the province of Babylon.”*

- If what Herodotus says is correct, the image weighed 800 talents of gold which would be equivalent to over 30 tons (**Daniel 3:1**)
- Sexagesimal system originated in Babylon (60 seconds, 60 minutes, 24 hours, 360 days, 360 degrees)
- In inscriptions Nebuchadnezzar referred to himself as “**the chief worshiper of the Sun-god.**”
- If we multiply 60 x 6 the total is 360 which was a very significant number in Babylon
- 360 degrees and 360 days represent the full cycle of time and the full circle of space
- Each of 36 gods of the pantheon ruled each over **10 degrees of space** and **10 degrees of time**
- The sum of the numbers **1-36** is 666 and the number 666 was known as “**the great number of the sun.**” All the gods were thus included in this one summary number because it was thought that they emanated from the sun.

- In Babylon the sun god was called **Marduk**. He was thought of as the **absolute ruler** of **all time** and **all space**.
- The Babylonian **priestly system** expressed this concept and sought **protection from the gods** by wearing **amulets** or **medallions** around their necks
- The medallions were made of **pure gold** because gold is the **color of the sun**. In fact the ancients called gold “**the dew of the sun**.” It is no coincidence that in **Isaiah 14:4** Babylon is called the **golden kingdom** and that in **Daniel 2** Babylon is represented by the **head of gold**. The medallions or amulets were **circular** (like the sun) and had a **hexagon within the amulet**
- On the **obverse (front)** side of the amulet there was a **large square** with **36 smaller squares** within. In each square there was a number from **1-36** and beneath the large square was the **number 666**.
- On the **reverse side** of the seal or amulet there was a **raging lion with wings** (**yellow** in color like the sun) whose **mane** is portrayed as the **rays of the sun**. Babylon is portrayed as a **lion in Daniel 7** and also in **sphinxes** which were at each of the **entrances to the city**. Sometimes the **lion was amalgamated with a serpent**.
- In **astrology**, **Leo**, the lion, rules over the **hottest period** of the year (**July 23-August 22**)
- The **Romans** acquired **much of their religious system from Babylon** but they established a **different number system**. They chose **six letters** from their **Latin alphabet** and gave each a numerical value. The sum total of all six numbers is **666**.
- Thus the number **666** is to be identified with **Babylon** and with **Rome** (also called Babylon in **I Peter 5:13**)
- Thus those who worshipped the image would be **honoring Babylon** and worshipping the **sun god** whose **number is 666**
- The **symbol 6** is that of a **cobra rising from its coil** and in many alphabets the sixth letter is a direct descendant of the serpent hieroglyph.
- In **Greek** the **sixth letter** was the **stigma** which had the form of a **coiled serpent**.
- The word stigma is used in a negative sense by **Paul** when He says that he bears on his **body the stigmata** or wounds of Christ.



## Two Groups each with its Sign

The book of **Revelation** speaks of **two groups** and **two signs**. The two signs are the way in which we show **whose authority we accept**.

Our decision is a matter of life and death because those who receive the **mark of the beast** will also receive the outpouring of the **unmitigated wrath of God**.

At the beginning God placed a tree in the Garden that he forbade Adam and Eve to eat from. The issue was not **a tree**. The tree was the means whereby God could test the **loyalty** of Adam and Eve. If they disrespected God's tree they would show themselves **loyal to Satan**. If they respected God's tree they would show themselves **loyal to God**. The issue was whether they would accept God's **authority** or Satan's. The issue is whether they would be **loyal** to God or loyal to Satan.

**There are two possible ways** of serving the beast but only one way of serving God. The beast is willing to have service on the forehead **or** in the hand (**Revelation 13:16**). God accepts the service only of the forehead **and** the hand.

Study the difference between the sin of **Eve** (she was **deceived** by the serpent) and the sin of **Adam** (he partook of the fruit offered to him by Eve **willingly and deliberately**).