

Daniel & Revelation End-time Prophecies Sermon Series
Study #63: Sunday Law Enforcement Is Imminent
Bible Sermon Study Notes by Cary Rodgers, pastor

Review: **Mark of God vs. Mark of the Beast**

Mark of God

The seventh-day Sabbath of the fourth commandment is the seal of God that authenticates the Ten Commandments.

Those who truly live in Christ keep the seventh-day Sabbath holy with all the commandments of God.

Keeping the seventh day Sabbath is a sign of loyalty between you and God.

Mark of the Beast

The mark of the beast is the counterfeit “sabbath”, Sunday, that reveals that those who follow it reject the commandments of God and follow the tradition and commandments of men.

The Mark of the Beast crisis is the enforcement of Sunday laws that forces others to reject the true Sabbath and accept the false sabbath of the beast, Papal Rome. This will happen on a national/international level very soon.

What is true worship to God?

Deuteronomy 13:4

4 Ye shall walk after the LORD your God, and fear him, and **keep his commandments**, and **obey his voice**, and ye shall serve him, and cleave unto him.

True worship to God is humbling yourself before God in perfect obedience to His word.

What is false worship to God?

Matthew 15:8-9

8 This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me.

9 But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.

Those in **apostate churches today want to have praise and worship without the forsaking of all sins and without obedience to all that God commands.** They believe their outward acts and offerings of worship are enough to receive the benefits and blessings of God. **They want to worship God on their terms and imaginations, not obedience.**

In our previous study we saw the historical quotes about Papal Rome’s claim that they are above the Bible and given ecclesiastical rights to change God’s seventh-day Sabbath to Sunday. We also saw quotes that they believe that all churches who keep their Sunday sabbath are under the authority of the papacy.

Papal Rome says, “Sunday is our Mark of authority...The church is ABOVE the Bible, and this transference of Sabbath observance is proof of that fact.” - Catholic Record, September 1, 1923

In our previous study we also learned about the history of Sunday laws that were past in several states. In 1888 the United States Congress wanted Sunday laws at the federal level. That bill was defeated. But in 1961 the Supreme Court ruled in four landmark cases the Sunday laws are constitutional.

The fulfillment of Bible prophecy of current events reveals that the Mark of the Beast Crisis is imminent. Let's look more at the Sunday Law Evidence.

Sunday Unifying Doctrine

The Sunday counterfeit Sabbath is the main unifying doctrine that brings the beast, Papal Rome, and the image of the beast, apostate Christian churches, together. This unifying doctrine of Sunday sacredness will ignite and inflame the mark of the beast crisis in America and around the world.

Let's examine some excerpts from their "Catechism Of The Catholic Church" which is online at their official website, www.vatican.va/archive/ccc_css/archive/catechism/p3s2c1a3.htm, concerning "ARTICLE 3 - THE THIRD COMMANDMENT" referring to the sabbath commandment:

"2177 The Sunday celebration of the Lord's Day and his Eucharist is at the heart of the Church's life.

'Sunday is the day on which the paschal mystery is celebrated in light of the apostolic tradition and is to be observed as the foremost holy day of obligation in the universal Church.' "

"2181 The Sunday Eucharist is the foundation and confirmation of all Christian practice... Those who deliberately fail in this obligation commit a grave sin."

Based on these two excerpts, Sunday holiness and the Eucharist (Mass) are two key components "at the heart" of Papal Rome's "Lord's Day" sabbath. They believe that ALL Christians, not just Catholics, are obligated to keep their day of worship and the Eucharist. If not, it is a "grave sin."

Another excerpt:

"2187 Sanctifying Sundays and holy days requires a common effort. Every Christian should avoid making unnecessary demands on others that would hinder them from observing the Lord's Day... **In spite of economic constraints, public authorities should ensure citizens a time intended for rest and divine worship.** Employers have a similar obligation toward their employees."

The Lord's Day Alliance of the U.S., a coalition of Christian Protestant, evangelical, and Catholic churches, confirms that the Sunday "sabbath" is what unifies all Christians.

Sunday Magazine Spring 2015 edition by the Lord's Day Alliance of the U.S. front cover is entitled:

"Sunday as a Mark of Christian Unity and a Call to Holiness." Article by Scott Brill

"I also believe that our communal Sunday practices are a sign of unity (something we share as fellow believers) that what unites us is stronger and more profound than what divides us."

According to Deseret News National poll in 2016, sixty-two percent of Americans agree that it is important for society to have one day a week set aside for (spiritual) rest. Only eleven percent disagreed. - Deseret News Sabbath Day Observance Survey

According to a United Kingdom poll in 2005, NOP Consumer Poll, "87% of people think it is important for family stability and community life to have a common day off each week." - UK NOP Consumer Poll, 2005

Are both Papal Rome and modern apostate churches promoting Sunday as a day of rest that will lead to the mark of the beast crisis? If so, how are they promoting it?

Pope John Paul II: APOSTOLIC LETTER, DIES DOMINI, May 31, 1998:

"The coming of the Third Millennium, which calls believers to reflect upon the course of history in the light of Christ, also invites them to rediscover with new intensity the meaning of Sunday: its 'mystery', its celebration, its significance for Christian and human life."

"Therefore, also in the particular circumstances of our own time, Christians will naturally strive to ensure that civil legislation respects their duty to keep Sunday holy."

Pope Francis believes that Sunday needs to be recovered – in keeping with John Paul II “Dies Domini”:
 “Pope Francis replies: ‘Together with a culture of work, there must be a culture of leisure as gratification. To put it another way: people who work must take the time to relax, to be with their families, to enjoy themselves, read, listen to music, play a sport. But this is being destroyed, in large part, by the elimination of the Sabbath rest day. More and more people work on Sundays as a consequence of the competitiveness imposed by a consumer society.’ In such cases, he concludes, ‘work ends up dehumanizing people.’

Francis promotes Sunday rest and the Eucharist in his Encyclical Letter on climate change: “On Care For Our Common Home.” May 25, 2015: “On Sunday, our participation in the Eucharist has special importance... And so the day of rest, centered on the Eucharist, sheds it light on the whole week, and motivates us to greater concern for nature and the poor.” - Ibid, Section 237, p. 172-173.

The promotion of Sunday rest and the Eucharist was weaved into Francis’ letter to address “climate change. Leaders, legislators, and policy makers from around the world have applauded Francis’ letter and have used it to develop policies and “environmental laws worldwide. Francis’s Encyclical on climate change is the catalyst and framework behind the “Climate Change Paris Agreement” in which all nations of the world have signed.

The following are examples of organizations from various denominations are promoting Sunday false sabbath:

Lord’s Day Alliance of the U.S.

Purpose: “The Lord’s Day Alliance of the United States exists to encourage Christians to reclaim the [Sunday] Sabbath—the Lord’s Day—as a day of spiritual and personal renewal, enabling them to impact their communities with the Gospel.” - www.idausa.org/lda/about/

Day One Christian Ministries in the United Kingdom

Purpose: “Day One Christian Ministries campaigns for Sunday to be a day of worship and rest particularly as it is increasingly under threat from retail businesses, sports events and entertainment and as people seek to use Sunday as just another day to make money.” - dayone.co.uk/pages/about-us

National Back to Church Sunday Movement

“Back to Church Sunday is a campaign strategically designed to help churches reach out and invite everyone to try church again. This powerful movement encourages church attendance by inspiring and empowering church members to invite their neighbors, friends and loved ones to a special Sunday service designed just for them.” According to their website, approximately 30,000 churches in America and 1,500 churches worldwide from various denominations and traditions have joined the campaign. It is promoted by many church leaders, pastors and celebrities. - backtochurch.com/about

There are also labor and trade unions, businesses, and government and church alliances who are also pushing for Sunday’s off for worship and rest.

Example:

European Sunday Alliance: “In Brussels, dozens of religious groups -- including the Catholic Church -- unions and business associations from 27 countries have formed the ‘European Sunday Alliance’ to lobby the European Union to keep Sunday as a continent-wide day of rest, at least in principle. Johanna Touzel, the alliance’s spokeswoman, said that setting Sunday aside is not necessarily a religious issue, and not discriminatory towards Jews and Muslims. ‘We need one day when everyone can rest -- this is the origin of Shabbat. And in fact, even Muslim organizations support us.’” - Speciale, Alessandro. “Vatican Works To Stop Sunday Shopping In Italy.” Huffington Post, December 20, 2012.

Keep Sunday’s Special: This is an United Kingdom alliance of trade unions, churches, political parties, business, and other religions that operates as a conventional secular civil society organization to campaign “to

retain the existing Sunday Trading regulations” and promote Sunday as “a special day, allowing families and communities to spend time together.” - www.keepsundayspecial.org.uk/

European Trade Union Confederation - Pushes for Sunday law in Europe:

“The protection of a work-free Sunday is of paramount importance for workers’ health, and has a greater impact on workers health and well-being compared to any other work-free day. Sunday work impacts negatively on work-life balance, and results in higher levels of stress, ill-health and absenteeism than other work-free days.” - ETUC. “Fact Sheet: Working Time In The Commerce Sector.” - petition.etuc.org/IMG/pdf/A_TT_secteur_com_EN.pdf

“The trades unions will be one of the agencies that will bring upon this earth a time of trouble such as has not been since the world began.--Letter 200, 1903. {Ellen White, Country Living p. 10.2}

Examples of the Trade unions’ success:

England and Wales stores that are over 280 square metres are allowed to open for six continuous hours, between the hours of 10am and 6pm (for example 10am – 4pm). Large stores (over 280 square metres) are not permitted to open at all on Easter Sunday and Christmas Day. Full details of the legislation are available on the Gov.uk website here: <https://www.gov.uk/trading-hours-for-retailers-the-law>

Sunday workers don't actually have to work Sundays - what your employer isn't telling you, Mirror News, March 30, 2019 - <https://www.mirror.co.uk/news/uk-news/sunday-workers-dont-actually-work-11098945>

Sunday workers' rights: Sunday workers in certain industries don't actually have to work on Sundays - and can opt out if they so choose. **According to gov.uk , they can opt out of Sunday working at any time - even if they agreed to it in their contract.**

Italian government seeks to keep shops closed on Sundays, September 10, 2018, The Local - <https://www.thelocal.it/20180910/italy-shops-closed-on-sundays>

Sunday trading is "destroying Italian families" and must be restricted, according to Minister of Labour Luigi Di Maio, who has announced a plan to order most shops in Italy to stay closed on the traditional day of rest.

Returning to the Bible, Poland Reclaims Sunday as a Day of Rest, November 28, 2017, CBN News - <https://www1.cbn.com/cbnnews/2017/november/poland-reclaims-day-of-rest-by-slowly-phasing-out-sunday-shopping>

“Polish lawmakers voted last week to reclaim Sunday as a day of rest by slowly phasing out Sunday shopping by 2020. The bill, which was backed by trade unions, passed with a vote of 254 to 156.”

How is one of the world’s largest population treating Sunday in a mostly Hindu country?

Sunday sabbath? No, 'Fun-day' tasks, The Telegraph, May 29, 2018 - <https://www.telegraphindia.com/india/sunday-sabbath-no-fun-day-tasks/cid/1346529>

Haryana chief minister M.L. Khattar on Monday night released a video of himself on Twitter calling upon people to treat Sundays as a "Fun-day".

"Put an end to stress. Sunday is Fun-day. There are three letters in Fun-day. F - forgive others, whatever they may have done to you or said to you. U - untie yourself. Open yourself, identify your strength. There are several options to do this. N - no criticism, no negativity, only positivity. If ever negativity strikes you, then you will never be able to be happy," Khattar says in an 87-second video.

Nyandarua bans Sundays as market days, April 9, 2019, The Standard Digital -

https://www.standardmedia.co.ke/article/2001320278/nyandarua-bans-sundays-as-market-days?fbclid=IwAR2kMTeFryOoOx_cLhhIF0zaQ66oCTWALzz2oUSuPeBU6dk9djTcrzJ-R_o

“The Nyandarua county government has banned Sunday market days amid protests by traders. Governor Francis Kimemia (pictured) yesterday said the day should instead be dedicated for church services. ‘Sundays should be dedicated to thanking God and not for trade. Personally, I see it as ungodly for some people to take the advantage of the day not to go to church but to the market. My administration will not encourage this,’ he said.

He claimed that this could be one of the reasons the county was lagging behind in development.

‘Maybe God is angry with us for not dedicating the day to thank him. From now henceforth, we want to put God first and it starts with dedicating Sundays as the day to attend church,’ he said.”

Sunday Sabbath for “Climate Change”

A Modest Proposal for a Day of Rest, Zac Johnson, CEO World Magazine, January 29, 2018 -

<https://ceoworld.biz/2018/01/29/a-modest-proposal-for-a-day-of-rest/>

“Dr. Smadja’s daring plan calls for an international day of rest (about 53 days per year) plus approximately 15 “holidays” where cumulatively there would be a cessation of all productive activity for approximately 70 days, or about 20% of the year. These days of “non-activity” would help achieve the shared goal outlined in the Paris Climate Conference (COP21) of a 20% reduction of pollution globally by 2050, with the aim of keeping global warming below 2°C.”

Sunday laws under the disguise of human freedom or “religious liberty”:

Go back to the beast’s “Catechism Of The Catholic Church” : How do they connect religious liberty to Sunday laws?

“2188 In respecting **religious liberty and the common good of all**, Christians should seek recognition of Sundays and the Church’s holy days as legal holidays. They have to give everyone a public example of prayer, respect, and joy and defend their traditions as a precious contribution to the spiritual life of society.”

“Sanctifying Sundays and holy days requires a common effort” is a call for governments to legislate Sunday “sabbath” laws for “**religious liberty and the common good of all.**” “Public authorities should ensure a time off intended for rest and divine worship.” These public authorities include the legislators or judges who make and interpret the law and law enforcement who ENFORCE the law. For Sundays to be recognized as “legal holidays” also requires the government to legislate a religious doctrine. Papal Rome believes that a Sunday holy day legislation will not only benefit Christians but all people including non-Christians. It will be a time to “defend their tradition” and contribute to the “spiritual life of society.” This is extremely dangerous and a violation of the true freedom of religion. But the legalization and enforcement of Sunday “sabbaths” is the goal of Papal Rome.

Pope Benedict: “Sundays must be a day of rest dedicated to God, family, pope says,” Catholic News Service, June 6, 2012:

“ ‘The demands of work can’t bully people out of needed time off,’ Pope Benedict XVI said. ‘Sunday must be a day of rest for everyone, so people can be free to be with their families and with God,’ the pope said, ‘**By defending Sunday, one defends human freedom.**’ The pope said when he met government representatives in Milan, he reminded them of the importance of policies and laws that protect the family. The most essential is the right to life, ‘whose its deliberate suppression can never be allowed.’ ” - Carol Glatz, “Sundays must be a day of rest dedicated to God, family pope says.” Catholic News Service, June 6, 2012.

Notice that the papacy believes that in “defending Sunday [worship], one defends human freedom.” Is that really “freedom”?

Force is never freedom, but the papacy believes it is “freedom.” You will see the same emphasis on “freedom” in the next quote.

Pope Francis: “Keeping stores open on Sunday is not beneficial for society” NY Daily News, July 6, 2014:

“Pope Francis lamented Saturday the abandoning of the traditionally Christian practice of not working on Sundays, saying it has a negative impact on families and friendships.

While he said poor people need jobs to have dignity, he indicated that opening stores and other businesses on Sundays as a way to create jobs wasn’t beneficial for society. ‘Maybe it’s time to ask ourselves if working on Sundays is true freedom,’ the Pope said.” - www.nydailynews.com/news/world/pope-francis-sundays-article-1.1856433

“Religious Liberty”, “Religious Freedom”, “Human Freedom” are buzz words for the enforcement of Sunday laws, according to Papal Rome.

America already has religious freedom through its constitution, 1st amendment, but the Trump’s Department of Justice has recently formed a “religious liberty task force” to promote “religious liberty” nationally and internationally.

- In February 2018 Sam Brownback was appointed by Trump and confirmed as U.S. Ambassador for International Religious Freedom. Brownback converted from an evangelical Protestant to Catholicism in 2002.
- On July 28, 2018, Crux reported that while speaking at a religious freedom meeting in D.C., Brownback insisted that he sees an “Iron Curtain moment” right around the corner. “It’s like we busted through the gate, we’ve busted the barrier down, but now you’ve got to keep running,” Brownback said. “We just have to keep the pressure up.” The “iron curtain” that Brownback is talking about is the separation between church and state. - Allen Jr, John L., *“Brownback sees ‘Iron Curtain moment’ looming on religious freedom,”* July 28, 2018, Crux
- On July 30, 2018 U.S. Attorney General, Jeff Sessions and the Department of Justice established a “religious liberty task force.” One of their “expert” advisers on “religious liberty” was Archbishop Joseph Kurtz. He was one of the main speakers during the task force’s media public announcement. He says, “At the heart of all the Church’s [Catholic] efforts is a vision that we uphold that serves the common good. We propose this vision with passion for the good of individuals and of the nation, and religious freedom means that we are free to propose this vision.” - Larkin, Steve, *“Religious liberty ‘rooted in dignity of human person,’ says archbishop,”* July 31, 2018, Crux

Trump Fulfilling His Pledges: What The World Will Look Like When the U.S. Becomes a Religious State, August 18, 2018, The Liberty - <http://eng.the-liberty.com/2018/7252/>

As Jeff Sessions says, “Under this administration, the federal government is . . . actively seeking, carefully, thoughtfully and lawfully, to accommodate people of faith.”

Faith leaders urge Trump, other U.S. leaders to uphold religious liberty, April 8, 2019, The Record (Catholic Newspaper)

“More than 140 religious leaders, including the chairmen of three U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ committees, called on President Donald Trump, Vice President Mike Pence and congressional leaders to uphold principles of religious freedom following a series of attacks on people of faith, clergy and houses of worship.

In an April 4 letter, the leaders urged Trump and the other U.S. leaders to recognize that ‘individuals of all faiths and none have equal dignity, worth and rights to religious freedom.’

Among those signing the letter were Archbishop Joseph E. Kurtz of Louisville, Kentucky, Bishop Joseph C. Bambera of Scranton, Pennsylvania, and Archbishop Timothy P. Broglio of the U.S. Archdiocese for the Military

Services. They are the chairmen of the committees for Religious Liberty, Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs, and International Justice and Peace, respectively.

Others adding their signature included Muslim, Jewish, Baptist, mainline Protestant and evangelical leaders as well as academics, former government officials, three former U.S. ambassadors, including two to the Vatican, and heads of faith-based organizations.”

Envoy Says Trump Willing to ‘Stand Up and Push’ for Global Religious Freedom, December 14, 2018, The Daily Signal - <https://www.dailysignal.com/2018/12/14/envoy-says-trump-willing-to-stand-up-and-push-for-global-religious-freedom/>

“Brownback said Trump has made international religious freedom a focus of his administration.”

Revelation 13:15-17

15 “And he (United States) had power to **give life** unto the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both **speak**, and **cause** that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed.
16 And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads:

17 And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name.”

Revelation 13:15-17 prophetically records the mark of the beast crisis. Look at its key components starting with verse 15. “He” representing America has authority to give “life” to the apostate Christian churches.

How is “life” given to the image of the beast when the principle of the U.S. Constitution is the separation of church and state and liberty for all? Notice in the middle of verse 15 it says that “the image of the beast should both SPEAK and CAUSE.” “SPEAK” reveals that the apostate Christian churches who have become a reflection of Papal Rome, have gained significant political power in the United States’ legislative systems. In addition to the papacy’s “agents” who are already in legislative and judicial positions, the image of the beast will add even more. As a result, America with the approval of the majority of its citizens gives **legislative “life”** to the apostate Christian churches, like Papal Rome. With the merging of church and state, they have power to legislate **“religious” laws for the “common good” and “liberty.”** These laws with the political influence of the image of the beast “CAUSE” or make people “worship” them. How? It is through **ENFORCEMENT.**

Those who refuse to worship as they have legislated are characterized as a small minority of “trouble-makers”, “extremist”, “terrorist”, and “hateful.” They are not able to buy or sell and eventually receive the death penalty. These “religious” laws are passed in the midst of MAJOR economic, social, political, moral, environmental, and violent crises.

The mind of Cain:

During the Mark of the Beast crisis, those who persist in keeping the Sunday false sabbath have the same attitude of Cain, the world’s first murderer. They worship God like Cain.

Cain did not want to obey God by giving a sin offering unto the Lord that requires the blood and death of animal. He only wanted to give a thank offering to the Lord with no sin sacrifice and obedience. He wanted the blessing and benefits of God without forsaking sin. So instead of first sacrificing a lamb that pointed to the cross of Christ, he just wanted bring his fruit of the land as a thanksgiving offering unto the Lord. It was as if Cain was saying to God “Look at all my fruit!” But Cain did not want the conditions of the covenant which requires a “cutting of the flesh” and being clothed with the righteousness of Christ. Cain wanted to worship God on his terms not God’s.

Cain’s younger brother, Abel obeyed God’s commands. He brought a sin sacrifice as God required as an atonement for sin. Abel forsook sin! Abel worshiped God as God commanded.

What was God's response?**Genesis 4:3-5**

3 And in process of time it came to pass, that Cain brought of the fruit of the ground an offering unto the LORD.

4 And Abel, he also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of the fat thereof. And the LORD had respect unto Abel and to his offering:

5 But unto Cain and to his offering he had not respect. And Cain was very wroth, and his countenance fell.

God accepted Abel's worship because he was obedient to God's will. He brought a sin sacrifice and forsook sin.

Cain wanted to make an appearance of righteousness by only presenting a thank offering without a sin sacrifice.

The sin sacrifice pointed to the ten commandments of God and the testimonies of Jesus Christ. The ten commandment reveal sin, but testimonies of Jesus gives us the solution to sin. Cain rejected both the law of God and the testimonies of Jesus Christ.

All those who reject the seventh-day Sabbath also reject the true Jesus Christ of the Bible. They worship a false Christ based on the imaginations of men. They worship a false humanistic Christ that bases its worship on the standard of human flesh, not the Word of God.

Those who have the attitude of Cain in the last days will be wroth at those who are obedient to God's word and keep the seventh-day Sabbath Holy.

What did God tell Cain that he needs to do in order for God to accept his offering?**Genesis 4:6-7**

6 And the LORD said unto Cain, Why art thou wroth? and why is thy countenance fallen?

7 If thou doest well, shalt thou not be accepted? and if thou doest not well, sin lieth at the door. And unto thee shall be his desire, and thou shalt rule over him.

In other words, "Cain if you accept the law and testimonies, turn from sin (symbolized in the sin sacrifice) and by faith accept the testimony of salvation, you will do well. Your younger brother will respect you as the older brother.

What was Cain's, response?**Genesis 4:8**

8 And Cain talked with Abel his brother: and it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother, and slew him.

First notice that Cain, does not respond to God's plea. It is as if Cain put his hand in God face and said "I am not listening to you! You are not fair! Why do I need a sin sacrifice. Just love me and accept me the way I am. I don't need to change. You NEED to change, God. Just do that and I will continue to thank you for it."

Those who reject the true Sabbath and receive the mark of the beast will kill God's people like Cain killed Abel! What did Abel do to Cain? Nothing. Cain hated the truth! The same will be true in the last days! Abel's sin sacrifice was true worship. Cain made professions that he worshiped the God of heaven, but Cain's worship was false worship.

The seventh-day Sabbath is a sign or “mark” of true worship. The Sunday counterfeit sabbath is a “mark” of false worship. Those who believe in the false sabbath will make professions of Christ but their actions reveal that, like Cain, they do not want to be obedient to God. This reveals who they really worship.

All those who worship the beast and his image and receive the mark of the beast in their forehead or hand will have the attitude of Cain. They will reject the true Sabbath and accept the false. They will also persecute those who “keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.”(Revelation 14:12)

The Mark of the Beast Crisis is upon us; Are you ready? Have you made your decision yet? Or Are you still wavering?

Appeal