

JUST WHO WAS IT THAT SANCTIONED

SUNDAY WORSHIP?

Yahweh commanded His people to set aside the seventh day of the week for a special rest day and holy convocation. Yet, millions of people are setting aside a different day of the week for this purpose. Who was it that changed the day from the Sabbath to Sunday?

By Jerry Healan

The Catholic Church admits: “Sunday is a Catholic institution, and its claims to observance can be defended only on Catholic principles...**From beginning to end of Scripture there is not a single passage that warrants the transfer of weekly public worship from the last day of the week to the first.**” (*The Catholic Press, Sydney, Australia*, August, 1900. Emphasis ours throughout.)

“Protestants...accept Sunday rather than Saturday as the day for public worship after the Catholic Church made the change...But the Protestant mind does not seem to realize that...in observing the Sunday, **they are accepting the authority of the spokesman for the church, the Pope.**” (*Our Sunday Visitor*, February 5, 1950.)

“It was the Catholic Church which, by the authority of Jesus Christ, has transferred this rest (from the Bible Sabbath) to the Sunday...Thus **the observance of Sunday by the Protestants is an homage they pay, in spite of themselves, to the authority of the (Catholic) Church.**” (*Monsignor Louis Segur, Plain Talk about the Protestantism of Today*, page 213.)

Isn't it interesting that the church thought it had the authority to change one of Yahweh's commandments when the Savior never did, for He said, “Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil. For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled. Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven: but whosoever shall do and teach *them*, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven,” Mt. 5:17-19.

We all know and understand where the command came from to observe the Sabbath day. A quick look at Gen. 2:1-4, Ex. 16; Ex. 20:8-11, 31:12-17, Lev. 23:1-3, etc. should be proof enough. But just who was it that commanded Sunday to be observed and why?

CONSTANTINE THE SUN WORSHIPPER

Here is what is admitted in the revised *International Standard Bible Encyclopedia (ISBE)*, Vol. 3, p. 160, article “Lord's Day” — “The next step (toward Sunday observance) came with the accession of Constantine and his recognition and favoring of the Christian Church. Hitherto the Roman empire had had no firmly established week, although Mithraism had observed the first day as the day of the sun and the seventh had often been made a special day for feasting. In C.E. 321 Constantine, **who also had some attachment to the sun-god**, made the first day a regular public holiday, decreeing that all ‘judges, city-people, and craftsmen’ should ‘rest on this VENERABLE DAY OF THE SUN,’ but allowing farmers to attend to agriculture when natural conditions made it advisable. This law naturally facilitated Christian worship, and Christians not only hailed the day as the day of the true SUN of righteousness but also claimed that its observance as a day of worship rested not on compliance with a state decision but on apostolic tradition.” (end of quote.)

It is important and interesting to note that the *ISBE* admits that Constantine had some attachment to the sun-god. Such was absolutely the case for Constantine, as Caesar and Augustus of the Roman Empire, also held the office of Pontifex Maximus over all paganism.

The Immense Majesty — A History of Rome and the Roman Empire by Thomas W. Africa, under the heading of *The Christian Revolution* also reveals, “His (Eusebius, a supposed early church historian) apologetic works are crammed with references to authors now lost, and he welded Christianity to classical culture by claiming that Plato and other sages were either inspired by Biblical truth or had somehow intuited it. The Pax Romana had been divinely designed to make the world safe for Christianity, which was the culmination of all that was good in the past. THE HERO WHO COMPLETED THE DIVINE PLAN, CONSTANTINE, WAS GLORIFIED IN A PANEGRICAL BIOGRAPHY THAT CONTAINS MUCH USEFUL MATERIAL...The Roman Emperor was as divine as he could be while still remaining a Christian...**The widespread solar cult was incorporated by Constantine, whose views of Christ WERE ALLOYED with his old devotion to Sol Invictus.** In 321 the emperor reserved Sunday as a holiday for Christians, and in 336 the birthday of Sol Invictus, December 25, was arbitrarily chosen as Christmas. A mosaic still survives under Saint Peter’s in Rome which shows Christ as a solar deity in Apollo’s chariot.” (Chapter 9, pp. 356-357)

How is it that Constantine is considered to be the “hero who completed the divine plan?” I thought that it was the Messiah Yahshua Who did such! Notice also that Constantine alloyed his views of the Messiah with those of Sol Invictus.

Why would Constantine seek to do such a thing? The answer is found in the *Encyclopedia Britannica*, 14th Edition, Vol. 15 under the article *Mithras*, “Mithras, identified with Sol Invictus, thus became the GIVER OF AUTHORITY AND VICTORY TO THE IMPERIAL HOUSE...the sanctification of Sunday and December 25th were involved in his worship...Some icons in his worship were Mithras and Helios (the sun, or Apollo) banqueting together; Mithras and Helios mounting the chariot of the latter and riding over the ocean.” (pp. 620-621)

The *Encyclopedia Britannica* also admits, “Constantine’s claim to greatness rests mainly on the fact that he divined the future which lay before Christianity, **and determined to enlist it in the service of his empire.**” (14th Ed., Vol. 6, pp. 298-299)

Constantine was seeking his own power, his own authority, his own glory. He was more than willing to take that which was holy, precious and pure, blend it with abject paganism and then lead the public into this deceitful form of worship.

Upon his death, Constantine was declared to be a god by the pagan senate at Rome while the Byzantine Church in the east declared him a saint “equal to the apostles.”

THE ROMAN BEAST

Just who was Constantine specifically? Constantine was emperor of the Roman Empire. Rome was the prophesied fourth kingdom of Daniel 2 and the fourth beast of Daniel 7.

King Nebuchadnezzar had dreamed a dream which he couldn’t remember (Dan. 2:1). He called for all of his counsellors, astrologers, etc. inquiring of them what it was that he had dreamed and its significance (Dan. 2:2-3). When they admitted that they couldn’t explain the dream to him he threatened their lives and the lives of their families (Dan. 2:4-12).

Yahweh revealed the dream to Daniel who informed the king that he had dreamed of a great image whose head was gold, chest and arms of silver, belly and thighs of brass, legs of iron and feet part of iron and part of clay (Dan. 2:17-33).

Nebuchadnezzar was informed that he was the head of gold and that other kingdoms would also follow his which would be inferior to his (Dan. 2:36-40). History reveals that Nebuchadnezzar’s kingdom of Babylon was followed by Persia which in turn was followed by Greece, which also in turn was followed by Rome. It was stated that the reason that the feet were part of iron and part of clay was because the kingdom of Rome would become divided (Dan. 2:41). History also records that Rome was divided between east and west.

But now notice in Dan. 7 that there is another description of these same kingdoms. While the

kingdoms are given metals for specific symbolism in Dan. 2, Dan. 7 gives an animal-istic nature.

In order to clarify that these are the same kingdoms, we are given a geographic location wherein these kingdoms ruled. That geographic location is the “great sea” (Dan. 7:2). The “great sea” was known to the ancients as the Mediterranean Sea.

These kingdoms all had their turn in ruling over that geographic location. Rome was the fourth kingdom to bear absolute rule over that area. The influence of all of these four kingdoms are evident and prominent in our world today, but the influence of the fourth kingdom, the terrible beast called the Roman Empire is more prevalent than them all!

THE CHANGE OF TIMES AND LAWS

One of the most important things to notice about this fourth kingdom is found in verse 25 of Dan. 7, “ And he (the little horn of the fourth beast) shall speak great words against the Most High and shall wear out the saints of the Most High, **and think to change times and laws:**and they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and the dividing of time.” Notice it again! This fourth beast will make war against the saints of the Most High and **THINK TO CHANGE TIMES AND LAWS!**

Such has happened! Under the influence of Rome, many changes have taken place in this world. A day was originally observed as beginning and ending around sunset. Under Rome midnight begins and ends the day. A month was originally governed by the moon (from whence comes the word “month”). When the first visible crescent of the new moon appeared, the next month began, the old month had ended. Today the moon isn’t even given consideration as having any influence toward monthly calculation. The year originally began and ended with the new moon closest to the vernal equinox. Under Roman influence, the year ends on Dec. 31 and begins on Jan. 1, in the dead of winter.

Yahweh had commanded annual festivals to be observed by His people (Lev. 23), but today the world is taken up with pagan festive “holidays” introduced by the Roman Emperors and Popes.

Finally there is the week. While the seven day week continues to stand in exactness to the seven day week of creation and the week given to the Hebrews by Yahweh, the commanded day of observance has been changed. Yahweh commanded that the seventh day Sabbath be observed (Ex. 20:8-11, Lev. 23:1-3, etc.). However, under the command of Constantine, the successive emperors of the Roman Empire who followed him, the Greek Orthodox (Catholic) Church of the east and the Roman Catholic Church (the Popes) of the west, Sunday, the first day of the week, has been embraced instead. If you are observing these things in the manner of Rome, then you are under the influence and authority of the dreaded beast of Dan. 7 and Rev. 13 while also being influenced by MYSTERY BABYLON THE GREAT of Rev. 17 and 18.

It is our admonition that you repent (Acts 2:38) and come out of her (Rev. 18:4).