

Revelation compels us to examine all of the ten commandments, including the fourth, in the light of the judgement and the visible, audible, glorious coming of Jesus Christ. God's people are spoken of as "those who obey God's commandments and hold to the testimony of Jesus." Revelation 12:17. Satan's final attacks are directed against the ten commandments and the people who obey them. Obviously, the fourth commandment concerning the memorial of God's power to create comes under attack. In this seminar we will consider the relationship between (1) the day of the Lord's second coming, (2) the ten commandments, and (3) the Lord's holy Day.

THE DAY OF THE LORD'S SECOND COMING



Q1 **When unbelievers see the glorious coming of Jesus, what will they recognize as having come?** Revelation 6:17 (Compare Romans 2:5,6.)

A

The day of Christ's return is called "that day," (Matthew 7:22) "the Day" (1 Corinthians 3:13) and "the great Day." (Jude 6.) It is also called "the great day of God Almighty." Revelation 16:14. It will be a "day of judgement" (Matthew 10:15) and devastation for those who have chosen to worship and obey the destroyer Satan. (Also see 2 Peter 3:7.) Jesus Christ also spoke of the day of His return

as "the last day." John 6:39. As well as being a day of destruction, it will be the day on which obedient believers will be raised to life and caught up to be with the Lord. (See John 6:39,40,44,54. Compare John 14:1-3; Revelation 20:4-6.) Paul looked forward to "the day of the Lord Jesus," (2 Corinthians 1:14) "the day of Jesus Christ" (Philippians 1:6) or "the day of Christ" (Philippians 1:10) as a very special time of reward for believers. It will be the day when believers meet Jesus Christ. It will be the day when the glorious kingdom of righteousness will be established. (See Matthew 25:31,34; 2 Peter 3:13,14.) It will be a time of blessing and salvation to those who have chosen to worship and obey God.

THE DAY OF THE LORD AND THE TEN COMMANDMENTS



Q2 **On the day of the Lord's coming, what is seen within the temple in heaven?** Revelation 11:19

A

In Old Testament times the ARK OF THE COVENANT was placed inside the Most Holy Place in the temple. It contained the ten commandments. (See Exodus 25:16; 31:18; 34:28,29; Deuteronomy 10:4,5; 2 Chronicles

5:7-10.) In Revelation we are viewing heavenly things. Some would like to suggest that the ten commandments are not important to believers in Jesus Christ. However, in this judgement scene of the Day of the Lord's return our attention is drawn to the character of God as revealed in the ten commandments.



Q3 **What will be the attitude of faithful believers to the ten commandments in the times just before the Day of the Lord's second coming?** Revelation 12:17; 14:12

A

The *TEN COMMANDMENTS IN REVELATION - STANDARD OF CHRISTIAN LIVING*: There are those who suggest that because we have been saved by the grace of God we need no longer keep the Ten Commandments. It is true that we are saved by the grace of God and not by law. However, our faith in Jesus Christ establishes the law of the ten commandments as the eternal standard of Christian living. (Compare Ephesians 2:8; Romans 3:31.) As well as the standard for Christian living, in Revelation, the ten commandments, or the Testimony, are also revealed to be the law by which we will be judged in the final judgement.



Q4 **What is the heavenly temple also called?**
Revelation 15:5

A

The *TEN COMMANDMENTS IN REVELATION - STANDARD IN THE JUDGEMENT*: When associated with the tabernacle or temple or



Q6 **On which day did John receive the visions of end time events?** Revelation 1:9-11

A

The *LORD'S DAY* must be understood in the light of Scripture. For many people today the Lord's Day is a

sanctuary, the *TESTIMONY* is the law of the Ten Commandments. (See Exodus 31:18; 34:28,29.) In the judgement of the Day of the Lord's second coming, the eternal ten commandments will be the standard. What men have trodden down on earth stands as a witness against them in heaven. The Greek word for "Testimony" in Revelation 15:5 means "witness as proof." (Compare the use of this word in Mark 6:11; Luke 9:5; James 5:3. Also see Genesis 31:44; Deuteronomy 31:26; Joshua 24:26,27.)



Q5 **By what law does James indicate we will be judged?** James 2:8-12 (Also read James 1:25; Psalm 19:7; Revelation 12:17; 14:12.)

A

The evils that will exclude people from the kingdom of God on the Day of the Lord's return are those exposed by the ten commandments. No person will be in the kingdom who knowingly violates these commandments.

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS AND THE LORD'S HOLY DAY

Because the ten commandments are specifically referred to in Revelation as the standard of Christian living in these last days before the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and because they are declared to be the standard in the judgement, it is important that we examine the fourth commandment concerning the Lord's holy Day.



Q6 **On which day did John receive the visions of end time events?** Revelation 1:9-11

A

The *LORD'S DAY* must be understood in the light of Scripture. For many people today the Lord's Day is a

term that refers to the first day of the week. However, this was not the case in Bible times. In fact, the records of history demonstrate that it was not until near the end of the second century after the time of Jesus Christ that the Lord's Day was associated with Sunday. (See Samuele Bacchiocchi, *From Sabbath to Sunday - A Historical Investigation of the Rise of Sunday Observance in Early Christianity*, p. 16.)



Q7 **Which day of the week does the Testimony, or the ten commandments, specify as the Lord's holy Sabbath?** Exodus 20:8-11

A



Q8 **How did Jesus relate to the seventh day Sabbath of the ten commandments?**
Mark 2:28

A

Jesus Christ is Lord of the Sabbath. The seventh day *SABBATH* is the day that is special to our Saviour Jesus Christ. It is the only weekly holy day referred to in the Bible. The Sabbath is the *LORD'S DAY*. The Sabbath represents the love and the power of the Lord Jesus. He was involved in every aspect of creation. It was Jesus Christ who blessed and set aside the seventh day as the holy Sabbath for His people. (See Genesis 2:1-3; Mark

2:27,28; John 1:1-3; Ephesians 3:9; Colossians 1:13-17.) It was Jesus Christ who commanded that we "Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy." Exodus 20:8. (See Hebrews 12:22-27.) When Christians realize that the Sabbath centres in Jesus Christ, it takes on new significance. Because our Lord has the power to *CREATE*, He has the power to *SAVE*.



Q9 **What is the Sabbath to the saved and obedient believer?** Ezekiel 20:11,12,20

A

THE LORD'S HOLY DAY AND THE DAY OF THE LORD'S RETURN



Q10 **In His discussion of the destruction of Jerusalem, end time events and His second coming, what day did Jesus Christ specifically mention as being very significant to His people?** Matthew 24:20

A

The fact that Jesus Christ spoke of the holy Sabbath, and its importance to His people in the years after His resurrection, indicates that the fourth commandment was not only significant up until the cross. God's last day people are known for their faithfulness to Jesus Christ and His Word, and by the fact that they "obey God's commandments." Revelation 12:17. (Compare Revelation 14:12.) The ten commandments include the fourth. The seventh day Sabbath is important to Jesus Christ and His faithful people at the end of time. In fact, according to Revelation, the controversy over the Sabbath becomes an issue of loyalty to God.



Q11 **Why does the Destroyer Satan hate and attack God's people?** Revelation 12:17

A 1

2

Satan attacks the *SCRIPTURES*, the gospel of *SALVATION* through Jesus Christ, the *STANDARD* of the ten commandments and the truth of the *SECOND COMING OF JESUS CHRIST*. His anger is directed at the people who have the seal of God, which is the *NAME OF GOD*. (Revelation 7:1-4; 12:17-14:1.) To have the name of God represents belonging to God and identifying with His character. The sanctuary was the place where the name of God was represented. (Deuteronomy 16:11; 2 Samuel 7:13; Jeremiah 7:10,11; 2 Chronicles 7:14-16.) In these last days Satan uses his agents to attack the dwelling place of God and to profane and

slander the name of God. (Revelation 13:6.) When Satan attacks the sanctuary or the name of God he attacks God's law of the ten commandments. God's character, or name, is expressed in the ten commandments or the Testimony. The worship of the dragon, the beast and the image of the beast implies rejection of the Creator. (See Isaiah 40:18-22,26,27; Jeremiah 10:1-16.) The one commandment that declares God to be the Creator is the Sabbath command. Obviously, Satan's attack upon the commandments has focused upon the Sabbath command for the Lord's holy Day honours our Lord Jesus Christ as Creator and Saviour.



Q12 Jesus warned that Satan's attacks and deceptions would be very clever. (Matthew 24:4,5,24.) From what source would the most dangerous deceptions originate and be promoted? Acts 20:29-31 (Also read 2 Corinthians 11:13-15; 1 Timothy 4:1; 2 Timothy 4:2-5; 2 Peter 2:1,2,21.)

A

History records the sad fact that attacks upon the ten commandments of God, and especially the seventh day Sabbath, have come from within Christianity.



Q13 What does the preaching of the eternal gospel in the last days call people to do? Revelation 14:6,7

A

The preaching of the gospel in the times just before the Day of the Lord's second coming will include the call to *WORSHIP THE CREATOR*. The commandment to remember the seventh day Sabbath, the Lord's holy day, is a call to honour and be loyal to the Creator-Saviour. Satan hates Jesus Christ, our Creator and Saviour, and so he has attacked the Sabbath, which is the memorial of *CREATION* and *SALVATION*.

REMEMBER THE SABBATH DAY

Everything about the Sabbath is positive. It was made for our benefit. If we are to receive the blessings promised in Revelation 1:3 we need to "take to heart" this command, along with the other nine. We need to make the changes that are necessary for us to "Remember the Sabbath day." Exodus 20:8 NIV. Consider these principles:

1 The SABBATH is a HOLY DAY

The seventh-day of each week is not just a holiday, God made it holy. (Genesis 2:1-3.) It is holy time for the worship of God and the realization of His power. Only God can make a day holy. The seventh-day Sabbath is God-given just as is holy matrimony and the holy Bible. And, in that the Bible indicates that each day begins and ends at sunset, each holy Sabbath day is from sunset to sunset. (See Genesis 1:5; Leviticus 23:32; Nehemiah 13:19; Mark 15:42.)

2 The SABBATH is a REST DAY

One of the main features of Sabbath-keeping is resting from our work or secular employment. God commands us to: (1) rest from our work on the holy Sabbath, and, (2) encourage others to rest by not employing them on the Sabbath day. (Exodus 20:8-11.) When we are the busiest we need the Sabbath the most. God directs us to take a complete break from all business activities such as negotiations, trading, buying and selling. (See Exodus 34:21; Nehemiah 13:15-19.) Obviously, there will need to be some preparations made in order to keep the Sabbath as a holy rest day. Arrangements need to be made so that we are free from our regular employment during the holy Sabbath hours. Preparation should be made in our hearts and our homes so that the Sabbath is not made a day of shopping and housekeeping. (See Exodus 16:1-30.) In the Bible the day before the Sabbath was designated as the "preparation day." Mark 15:42.

3 The SABBATH is a WORSHIP DAY

One of the highlights of Sabbath-keeping is worship. The Sabbath provides us with a special time for reading, Bible study, prayer, meditation and worship. It also provides us with a special time for public worship. Every Sabbath, Jesus Christ attended worship services. (Luke 4:16.) The disciples also enjoyed the Sabbath as a

special worship day. (See Acts 16:13; 17:2; 18:4.) In these last days many Sabbath-keeping Christians meet each seventh-day to sing, pray, study the Bible and worship. Plan to enjoy the blessings of this aspect of Sabbath-keeping. (See Hebrews 10:24,25.)

4 The **SABBATH** is a **FAMILY DAY**

The first full day that Adam and Eve spent together was the Sabbath. It was given to humanity. (Mark 2:27.) It is a family day. The Sabbath gives family time to worship and share together. It gives time to walk, talk, learn, rest, relax and laugh together. It

gives time to help and share with others. It offers refreshment to the family.

5 The **SABBATH** is a **FELLOWSHIP DAY**

The Sabbath is for fellowship. Jesus Christ spent much of the Sabbath with people. Out in the fields, beside the sea, along the streets, in the synagogues and in the homes Jesus Christ visited with, taught and enjoyed the fellowship of His relatives, disciples, friends, the Pharisees and the crowds. (For example, see Matthew 12:1-14; John 5:1-45.)

my response...

God commands us to "Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy." Exodus 20:8. He directs us to put aside the work activities, selfish ambitions and tensions of life. (Exodus 20:9-11.) He said, "If you keep your feet from breaking the Sabbath and from doing as you please on my holy day, if you call the Sabbath a delight and the *LORD's* holy day honourable, and if you honour it by not going your own way and not doing as you please or speaking idle words, then you will find your joy in the *LORD*." Isaiah 58:13,14. The Sabbath is a delight! The Sabbath is a blessing! The Lord's holy Day provides rest, blessing and peace to believers who wait for the promised return of Jesus Christ.



Write down some practical ways in which you will make the Lord's seventh-day Sabbath a holy, rest, worship, family and fellowship day? How could the Sabbath become a real blessing for you, your family and friends?

