

“The Sabbath (6): A Test Very Simple and Highly Visible”

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- Benedict XVI, homily, St. Stephen’s Cathedral, Vienna—September 9, 2007:
“The early Christians celebrated the first day of the week as the Lord’s day, because it was the day of the resurrection. Yet very soon, the Church also came to realize that the first day of the week is the day of the dawning of creation, the day on which God said: ‘Let there be light’ (Gen 1:3). Therefore Sunday is also the Church’s weekly feast of _____ —the feast of thanksgiving and joy over God’s _____.”
http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/benedict_xvi/homilies/2007/documents/hf_ben-xvi_hom_20070909_wien_en.html
- ◆ The Fourth Commandment: “Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. . . . For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the _____ day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it.” (Exodus 20:8-11)
- ◆ Peter Geiermann, *The Convert’s Catechism of Catholic Doctrine*:
“Q.—Which is the Sabbath day?
“A.—Saturday is the Sabbath day.
“Q.—Why do we observe Sunday instead of Saturday?
“A.—We observe Sunday instead of Saturday because the Catholic Church, in the Council of Laodecia (A.D. 336), _____ the solemnity from Saturday to Sunday.” (2nd edition, 1910, p 50)
- ◆ James Cardinal Gibbons, *The Faith of Our Fathers*: “You may read the Bible from Genesis to Revelation, and you will not find a single line authorizing the sanctification of Sunday. The Scriptures enforce the religious observance of _____, a day which we [Rome] never sanctify.” (11th ed, p 111) (<http://www.openlibrary.org/details/thefaithofourfat00gibbuoft>)
- ◆ John A. O’Brien, *The Faith of Millions*: “But since Saturday, not Sunday, is specified in the Bible, isn’t it curious that non-Catholics who profess to take their religion directly from the Bible and not from the Church, observe Sunday instead of Saturday? Yes, of course, it is _____; but this change was made about fifteen centuries before Protestantism was born, and by that time the custom was universally observed. They have continued the custom, even though it rests upon the authority of the Catholic Church and _____ upon an explicit text in the Bible. That observance remains as a reminder of the Mother Church from which the non-Catholic sects broke away—like a boy running away from home but still carrying in his pocket a picture of his mother or a lock of her hair.” (pp 400-401) http://www.sabbathtruth.com/documentation/faith_of_millions.asp
- **Revelation 14:6-16**
 - ◆ Just before the return of Christ, there will go forth an urgent and final appeal to the human race to return to the _____ and worship him.
 - ◆ The Greek of Revelation 14:7 is identical to the Greek of the _____ Commandment in Exodus 20:11 LXX.
 - ◆ Clearly the _____, the memorial of the Creator, is central to God’s final appeal to the human race.

- ◆ Babylon is the apocalyptic symbol of an endtime geo-religio-political _____ against the Creator God.
- ◆ God warns the world not to receive the “mark” of the beast, the _____ of Babylon’s claim to global authority.
- ◆ The “saints” (code word for God’s loyal friends on earth at the end) are those who “keep the _____ of God [including the _____ or fourth commandment] and hold fast to the faith of _____ [the Lord of both salvation and the Sabbath]”—v 14, NRSV.
- ◆ I.e., the final spiritual contest before Christ returns will be a David-and-Goliath showdown between the mighty power of Babylon and the _____ followers of God.

□ **Revelation 13:15-18**

- ◆ A crisis over _____ will define the final moral battle between the two camps.
- ◆ Nearly every line in the Apocalypse is borrowed from the Old Testament, and this narrative comes straight out of _____ 3.
 - Three young Hebrew men refused to bow down to the king’s image in spite of his death decree: “Let it be known to you, O king, that we do not serve your gods, nor will we _____ the gold image which you have set up” (Daniel 3:18).
 - Revelation 13’s linkage to Daniel 3 declares that _____ is at the heart of the final spiritual crisis on earth: the human _____ to worship vs the divine _____ to worship.
 - The divine day of worship is the _____ .
 - The human day of worship is _____ .
 - And in the end the whole world will have to choose whose _____ they will accept—God’s or man’s.
- ◆ Sakae Kubo: “In one sense [the Sabbath] is somewhat of an arbitrary day. Ultimately the keeping of the Sabbath on the seventh day is an act of obedient and self-renouncing faith in the recognition of God’s _____ over us.” (*God Meets Man* 41)
- ◆ Marvin Moore, in *Could It Really Happen?*, observes that whenever God has given a test in sacred history the test has always been defined by these two characteristics: very _____ and highly _____.
- ◆ The simple, final test of one question . . .

“Will you follow Me?”

creation, creation, seventh, transferred, Saturday, inconsistent, not, Creator, Fourth, Sabbath, confederacy, sign, commandments, Sabbath, Jesus, obedient, worship, Daniel, worship, worship, command, commandment, Sabbath, Sunday, authority, sovereignty, simple, visible