

"Warning — Danger Ahead"

On December 17, 1967, Prime Minister Harold Holt of Australia disappeared while swimming near Cheviot Beach near Portsea, Victoria. His body was never recovered. According to Clint Hill, the head of the Secret Service Presidential Detail for President Lyndon Johnson during that time, during a search for the prime minister's body a large shark was spotted in the waters near where he had been swimming and it is suspected that he died of a shark attack. Were there warning signs on the beach that might have warned of the presence of



Pastor Darrell Chilson

the season of

"We are living in Christ's return."

Jesus said, "Watch and be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect."

The mission of West Valley Ministries is to help Christ's followers recognize the signs of His approaching return and be prepared for that Great Day.

sharks in the water? Probably not. The suspected attack came without warning and suddenly Prime Minister Holt was gone!

The Apostle Paul writes, "You know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. While people are saying, "Peace and safety," destruction will come on them suddenly, ... and they will not escape. 1 Thessalonians 5:2, 3.

God has given His Church a detailed account of that which is ahead for the world and how to be prepared for the events that are certain to come. He has not left His people without warning, nor has He left us to figure out what to expect before He returns.

This week we are dedicating our Bible study discussion to a brief examination of the things God has told us to look for that we may be prepared for that great day! In this special edition of our newsletter, I simply want to whet your appetite for a more in-depth investigation of the road ahead for the people of God.

On the next page, I have listed several major events the Bible tells us will take place during that final lap of time for your review — things we will discuss during our Sabbath afternoon study tomorrow. In addition, we continue our prophecy segment on "The Worship of the Beast" Part 2.

If you haven't been joining us for our afternoon study sessions, please join us! In Him,



SOME MONUMENTAL THINGS THAT WILL OCCUR ON EARTH BEFORE JESUS RETURNS

- 1) The First Set of Warning Judgments (The Seals All literal events!) Revelation 6:8
 - "Sword (bloodshed)
 - " Famine

AFFECTING 1/4 OF THE EARTH!

- " Pestilence
- 2) The Second Set of Warning Judgments (The Trumpets Literal events) Revelation 8:7-12
- 3) The Final Set of Punitive Judgments (The Plagues Literal events) Revelation 16:1-11
- 4) The Papacy (Church of Rome) rises to unprecedented religious and political power over earth Revelation 13:3, 4; 17:8
- 5) America leads the world to receive the Mark of the Beast Revelation 13:11-18
- 6) The followers of Christ receive the "Mark of the Lamb" ("seal of God") Ezekiel 9:4; Revelation 7:2, 3; 14:1; 9:4
- 7) The special messengers of God proclaim the saving Gospel in the context of the Judgment hour Revelation 14:6, 7; 11:3-6
- 8) The devil and his agents perform spectacular, supernatural signs and wonders to deceive the world Matthew 24:24; Revelation 13:13, 14; 16:14; 19:20
- 9) The followers of Christ will be betrayed and persecuted some will flee to remote areas for refuge and some will be martyred Matthew 24:9, 10, 15-22; Revelation 6:9-11; 11:7
- 10) The kings of the earth will "reign with the Beast" for a short time, then will turn on her and hate her Revelation 17:16, 17
- 11) Satan himself will appear on the earth for his final efforts of deception and appeal Revelation 9:1-3, 11; 17:8-11; 20:1-3
 - NOTE: In Revelation 12, the Dragon (Satan) is described as having 7 heads and 10 horns. In Revelation 13, the Dragon gives his power and authority to the Beast (the Papacy) who is described as having 7 heads and 10 horns. The Beast becomes a human surrogate of the Dragon to execute his purposes against Christ and His Church. In Revelation 17, the Beast takes on the personification of the Dragon again as Satan appears to take over the final act of rebellion against God and His Son, now becoming the "eighth" head of the Beast and appearing as the Beast to finish his work of destruction before he is cast back into the "bottomless pit"!
- 12) The voice of God will be heard in the earth Revelation 10:1-3; Job 37:2-5; 40:9; 2 Samuel 22:14; Ps 18:13; Matthew 3:16, 17; 17:3-6; John 12:27-30
- 13) The sun will be darkened, the moon will become as blood, the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken Joel 2:30, 31; Matthew 24:29; Revelation 6:12, 13

"THE WORSHIP OF THE BEAST" Part 2

"In the beginning, God created the heavens of the earth" Genesis 1:1. He created light and the bodies in the heavens, the plants, the animals, and mankind. When He was done with all of His creation, He created holy time – the seventh day as a holy day. The Sabbath was a part of God's creation in the beginning.

Then, when God delivered Israel from Egypt, He took them to the wilderness where they could **worship** him. And on Mount Sinai, he gave them the Law of Ten Commandments, including the fourth commandment which called Israel to remember that day that God had made holy as a day of "**worship** and convocation." Throughout the hundreds of years of Old Testament history, the Sabbath was a memorial of God's creation — a perpetual weekly day of rest, and a day commemorating His creative power and one's allegiance to the God of heaven. The Sabbath became a <u>sign</u> between God and His followers that He was their God.

And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, "Speak also to the children of Israel, saying: 'Surely My Sabbaths you shall keep, for it [is] a <u>sign</u> between Me and you throughout your generations, that [you] may know that I [am] the LORD who sanctifies you [sets you apart]. You shall keep the Sabbath, therefore, for [it is] holy to you ... Work shall be done for six days, but the seventh [is] the Sabbath of rest, holy to the LORD ... Therefore the children of Israel shall keep the Sabbath, to observe the Sabbath throughout their generations [as] a <u>perpetual covenant</u>. It [is] a <u>sign</u> between Me and the children of Israel forever; for [in] six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, and on the seventh day He rested and was refreshed.' "Exodus 31:12-17.

When Jesus came to this earth, He kept the Sabbath and declared it a gift to mankind, not just a duty for the Jew. And the Apostles continued to keep the seventh day Sabbath, even after Jesus' resurrection. And throughout the ensuing centuries, there have been followers of Christ who continued to "Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy," as God had commanded.

Paul indicates in Hebrews that the Sabbath is also a symbol of God's grace – a memorial of His saving acts on our behalf – a <u>sign</u> of our rest in His grace!

There remains therefore a rest for the people of God. For he who has entered His rest has himself also ceased from his works as God [did] from His. Hebrews 4:9, 10.

Thus, the Sabbath is a **sign** between God and man of man's allegiance to his Creator. It is a **sign**, a symbol, of the perpetual relationship of God and the saved of His creation, and a weekly opportunity to **worship** one's Creator. Further, the **Sabbath and worship are closely connected throughout Scripture**, and will continue to be important to the redeemed throughout eternity.

"For as the new heavens and the new earth which I will make shall remain before Me," says the LORD, "So shall your descendants and your name remain. And it shall come to pass [that]

from ... one <u>Sabbath</u> to another, all flesh shall come to <u>worship</u> before Me," says the LORD. Isaiah 66:22, 23.

Worship and the **Sabbath**, the day God made holy, go together; they are inseparable – just as **grace** and **faith** go together and are inseparable! And today, just as in the past, God continues to call His people to **worship** Him, keeping holy the Sabbath day He set apart as holy.

But a terrible thing happened in 321 AD. When Emperor Constantine declared Sunday to be a day of rest, in his efforts to unite an empire of pagans and Christians, he began a trend in the Roman Empire which would cause the Sabbath to ultimately be forgotten. Soon, Sunday would take its place in the tradition of the developing Church of Rome. And so it did. Note the two versions of the Ten Commandments below — the first, the Bible version, and the second, that of the Catholic Church.

	Bible Ten Commandments
1st	"I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. "You shall have no other gods before me. (Exodus 20:2-3 ESV; Deuteronomy 5:6-7)
2nd	"You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. You shall not bow down to them or serve them, for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and the fourth generation of those who hate me, but showing steadfast love to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments. (Exodus 20:4-6 ESV; Deuteronomy 5:8-10)
3rd	"You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not hold him guiltless who takes his name in vain. (Exodus 20:7 ESV; Deuteronomy 5:11)
4th	"Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labor, and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, you, or your son, or your daughter, your male servant, or your female servant, or your livestock, or the sojourner who is within your gates. For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy. (Exodus 20:8-11 ESV; Deuteronomy 5:12-15)
5th	"Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you. (Exodus 20:12 ESV; Deuteronomy 5:16)
6th	"You shall not murder. (Exodus 20:13 ESV; Deuteronomy 5:17)
7th	"You shall not commit adultery. (Exodus 20:14 ESV; Deuteronomy 5:18)
8th	"You shall not steal. (Exodus 20:15 ESV; Deuteronomy 5:19)
9th	"You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor. (Exodus 20:16 ESV; Deuteronomy 5:20)
10th	"You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his male servant, or his female servant, or his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is your neighbor's." (Exodus 20:17 ESV; Deuteronomy 5:21)

Catholic Ten Commandments		
1st	I am the LORD your God: you shall not have strange Gods before me.	
	Deleted.	
	(There is idolatry in the Papal system so the second Commandment has been deleted or sometimes it has been absorbed into the first. All remaining Commandments are therefore shifted along one count.)	
2nd	You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain.	
3rd	Remember to keep holy the LORD'S Day. (The Sabbath is the fourth Commandment by normal count. The day to be kept is no longer mentioned since they changed the Sabbath to Sunday, and they called it the "LORD'S Day" which they declared to be Sunday) (Note that God had more to say about the fourth Commandment than all others and with good reason. It is very important.)	
4th	Honor your father and your mother.	
5th	You shall not kill.	
6th	You shall not commit adultery.	
7th	You shall not steal.	
8th	You shall not bear false witness against your neighbour.	
9th	You shall not covet your neighbour's wife. (The Tenth Commandment is split into two to get back to Ten Commandments.)	
10th	You shall not covet your neighbour's goods.	

In the second list of Ten Commandments, the second commandment is eliminated — the commandment that forbids the making and worshipping of images! This requires that the tenth commandment be split into two different commandments in order to make up for the one eliminated! The fourth commandment, the Sabbath commandment, is abbreviated so the "seventh day" language and the account of creation in "six days" is also eliminated! These changes by the "little horn" power (the Papacy) were all prophesied in the book of Daniel! Daniel indicated that this power, born of Rome, would "intend or think to change the times and laws" — and not just any law, which can be changed by any human tribunal, but verily the Law of God" (Daniel 7:25)! And lest anyone reading this think that the significance of these changes are trivial, the Catholic Church has actually admitted to doing what the Bible predicted and has claimed the authority to do so! It is incredible! In the following quotes from Catholic sources, the Church of Rome verily admits to transferring the solemnity of the Sabbath from Saturday to Sunday — a sign or mark of their authority, recognized by most of Christendom! Such a claim of authority over God himself is blasphemous and fits the description of Antichrist just as the Bible has indicated. Note the following pompous words of admission of blasphemous declarations!

Question: Which is the Sabbath day? **Answer:** Saturday is the Sabbath day.

Question: Why do we observe Sunday instead of Saturday?

Answer: We observe Sunday instead of Saturday because the Catholic Church, in the Council of

Laodicea (A.D. 336), transferred the solemnity from Saturday to Sunday."

The Convert's Catechism of Catholic Doctrine, Reverend Peter Geiermann

"The Catholic Church for over one thousand years before the existence of a Protestant, by virtue of her divine mission, changed the day from Saturday to Sunday. The Christian Sabbath is therefore to this day the acknowledged offspring of the Catholic Church as spouse of the Holy Ghost, without a word of remonstrance from the Protestant world." *Catholic Mirror*.

"It was the Catholic Church which, by the authority of Jesus Christ, has transferred this rest to the Sunday in remembrance of the resurrection of our Lord. Thus the observance of Sunday by Protestants is an homage they pay, in spite of themselves, to the authority of the [Catholic] Church. Plain Talk About the Protestantism of Today, Monsignor Segur.

So, in this segment of our study of prophecy, I want to draw your attention to a parallel between the mandate of Revelation 13 to **worship** the Beast, the Papacy, giving it the allegiance and the authority it claims, as it is contrasted with the call of the messengers of God in Revelation 14, calling the inhabitants of the world to **worship** the God of heaven who created the heavens and the Earth – using the very language of the fourth commandment ...

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 – saying with a loud voice, "Fear God and give glory to Him, for the hour of His judgment has come; and <u>worship Him</u> who made heaven and earth, the sea and springs of water." Revelation 14:6, 7.

At the end of time, **worship**, **and the allegiance it demonstrates**, is going to be the determining factor of one's eternal destiny. Those who **worship** the Beast, will suffer the same fate as the Beast. And those who **worship** the God of heaven, the Creator of heaven and earth, the One who established the Sabbath "as a perpetual covenant," will spend eternity with Him in heaven and the new earth. **And** they will continue their practice of worship every Sabbath day throughout eternity! (Isaiah 66:22, 23).

This contrast in the Book of Revelation, chapters 13 and 14, between the **worship** of the Beast vs the **worship** of the Creator is significant. Further, the "sign" of authority claimed by the Beast vs the authority of the Lamb will also play an important part in how the loyalties of the world are divided between the two objects of **worship**. The Sabbath is going to be a part of the controversy between the followers of Christ and the followers of the Beast at the end of time. **Worship** will be an issue, and **the day** on which the followers of Christ **worship** Him will be **the sign** of their allegiance to Him, just as **the day** on which the followers of the Beast **worship** him will be **the sign** of their allegiance to him! GO FIGURE!

Stay tuned!