

Study for the Month of January 2016

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The 'Man of Sin' of Bible Prophecy and his activities and career - Part IX

Idolatrous fanaticism, not fundamentalism is a disease of all religionists'- Part II

Contrary to what Pope Francis declared recently, fundamentalism, that is, in the *Biblical sense*, is not “a disease of all religions.” Neither is it “always a tragedy,” “not religious” [for] “it lacks God, and is certainly not “idolatrous.” (See News.yahoo.com/pope-says-fundamentalism-disease-religions-041229589.html). It is *counterfeit* fundamentalism that is the disease of all *religionists*, and not only lacks God but in fact, serves *another* god, and therefore is idolatrous. “By their fruits you shall know them.” A religious person is not automatically a spiritual person but a truly spiritual person is Biblically religious for he practices the religion of Christ while religionists practice the religion of man. They have “a form of godliness but deny its power.” 2 Tim. 3: 5. Moreover, “spiritual things are spiritually discerned.” 1 Cor. 2: 14; cf. Heb. 5: 14 (12, 13).

Idolatry and the Idol Sabbath

The sin which the Creator defined as *idolatry* is specified in detail as the second commandment. The Papal Church expunged the whole second commandment in its own interpretation of *their* ten commandments. The second commandment is the longest-worded (Exo. 20: 4-6) after the fourth (verses 8-11)—the latter being the only one introduced with “Remember” (vs 8-11) which, as to be expected, is located in the very bosom or middle of the Decalogue. The other nine commandments form, as it were the firewall guarding the fourth, indicating its centrality in importance for it alone of all the ten clearly identifies who this *God* is—the Creator of the heavens and earth! It is plain enough therefore that before one attempts to break the fourth or Sabbath commandment, he has to break through by disobedience all the others before and after it. So that when he *intentionally* breaks the fourth he breaks all the others for he disobeys the clearly identified Creator and Author of this law—the Lord God.

God, “who changeth not,” is a God of order, not confusion, deception, or duplicity. There is “no variableness in Him nor shadow of turning.” He is “the same yesterday, today, and forever.” Jesus calmly declared, “Before Abraham was, I AM.” I AM simply means unbound by time, has always been in existence, the uncreated One.

That the Sabbath commandment is the fourth is by divine design. Number four in the Bible denotes universality. The Sabbath day commandment, the appointed *holy memorial day of a six-day creation week*, was not and can never be confined to the Hebrews or Jewish people alone as the antinomian, apostate Christian churches assert, but for all mankind. The fact is, the Papacy, the church government of the Church of Rome does not say that the fourth commandment and the whole Ten Commandments were “done away with” at the cross. What they plainly say is that they had the power and authority, that is, usurped from God himself, to “transfer the sanctity of the seventh day to the first day of the week”—clearly identifying itself as that power that would “*think* to change times and laws.” Dan. 7: 25; cf. 2 Thess. 2: 3, 4; Rev. 13: 5-8; 17: 1-9. That is the Church of Rome’s fundamentalism. They think they can, and appears in the sight of a deceived world that they have succeeded, for, “the whole world wondered after the beast.” Rev. 13: 2 (last part).

The fourth commandment is the only one that has a “time” element in it as it denotes at the beginning or “generation” or “genealogy” of “all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created *by* Him, and *for* Him” (Col. 1: 16), the fundamental *time divisions* of the day of 24 hours and the week of seven days. Note the following authoritative Roman Catholic sources:

“Q,— Have you any other way of proving that the [Catholic] Church has power to institute festivals of precept?

“A. — Had she not such power. . . .she could not have substituted the observance of Sunday, the first day of the week for Saturday, the seventh day, a change for which there is no scriptural authority.” —*Doctrinal Catechism*, p. 174 (Roman Catholic)

“Prove to me from the Bible alone that I am bound to keep Sunday holy. There is no such law in the Bible. It is a law of the holy Catholic Church alone. The Bible says, ‘Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy.’ The Catholic Church says, ‘No. By my divine power I abolish the Sabbath day and command you to keep holy the first day of the week.’ And lo! *The entire civilized world bows down in reverent obedience to the command of the Holy Roman Catholic Church.*” — *Thomas Enright, CSSR, President, Redemptorist College, Kansas City, Missouri, February 18, 1884 (Roman Catholic)*

“Romanists declare that ‘the observance of Sunday by the Protestants is an homage they pay, in spite of themselves, to the authority of the (Catholic) Church.’ — *Mgr. Segur, Plain Talk About Protestantism Today*, p. 213.

Jehovah Creator, the great **I AM** of the Old Testament and New Testaments is the One who both spoke and wrote with His own finger the commandment: “Remember the Sabbath *day* to keep it holy. *Six days* shalt thou labor and do all thy work. But the *seventh day* is the Sabbath of the Lord thy God. In it (*the seventh day*) thou shalt not do

any work. . . . For in *six days* the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea and all that in them is and rested the *seventh day*. Wherefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath *day* and hallowed it (the *seventh day*).” The day was, and still is, a 24-hour period divided into night and day or evening and morning, the dark part and the light part. The week was, and still is made up of seven days.

The “Eighth day” as “the Lord’s Day”

According to the Bible, the Word of God, “the law and testimony,” “the law and the prophets,” there is absolutely no such thing as the “eighth day.” So where did the idea of an “eighth day?” come from? Who originated it? For what purpose?

Wikipedia and other websites describe the eighth day of the week as “the Lord’s Day.” Incredible, isn’t it! Question: who is this “Lord”? He certainly can’t be the Lord Jesus, the Lord of the Sabbath, which certainly is not the “eighth day” but the seventh day. He therefore must be another “lord,” a false god for, as the first commandment says, “Thou shalt have no *other gods* before Me.” That clearly reveals from the beginning the existences of “other gods,” “other lords,” and yes, “other Christs,” all false. Jesus himself repeated this warning in His mini apocalypse: “Then if any man shall say unto you, Lo, here is Christ, or there; believe it not, for there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall show great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect. Behold, I have told you before. Wherefore if they shall say unto you, Behold he is in the desert; go not forth; behold, he is in the secret chambers [as in caves and places of séance, etc.]; believe it not.” Matt. 24: 23-26, K.J.V.

The Christian Protestant churches once generally claimed *sola scriptura* (until their prophesied falling away or “*the Bible and the Bible only as the rule of faith*” and that Jesus Christ is the Creator and their Lord and Savior. Now we read in the first three Gospels of the New Testament Jesus Christ plainly declaring this truth of Himself and we quote all three:

“For the Son of man is Lord even of the Sabbath day.” Matt. 12: 28, K.J.V.

Read the whole chapter for fuller context regarding the issue over the Sabbath manufactured by the tradition-obsessed, fanatical fundamentalism which underwrote the motives, plots, and plans the religious leaders of the Jewish nation, to accuse Jesus, the Lord of the Sabbath of breaking *their* legalistic interpretation of the nature of the Sabbath and how to keep it “holy.” What rendered it doubly odious, confusing, deceiving, and blasphemous, leading the chosen people themselves and generations after to regard the Sabbath as one of the “Jewish fables” and day to be hated, not a “day of rest and gladness,” venerated and loved was that they kept the *literal* seventh day. They thus preserved, albeit corrupted, the truth and knowledge that the seventh day

Sabbath of creation was not lost by the change of the calendar—another false claim used by the antinomians, infidels, and enemies of Christ and His followers .

Wikipedia says: “The Julian calendar, introduced by Julius Caesar in 46 BC, was a reform of the Roman calendar. It took effect in 45 BC, shortly after the Roman conquest of Egypt. It was the predominant calendar in the Roman world, most of Europe, and in European settlements in the Americas and elsewhere, until it was refined and gradually replaced by the Gregorian calendar, promulgated in 1582 by Pope Gregory XIII.”

While the dates changed with the change of the calendar(1) *the weekly cycle did not* (2) the continued existence of the Jewish people, although they forfeited their original “chosen people” status with the rejection and crucifixion of Jesus Christ, as prophesied in the 70-week prophecy of Daniel 9: 24-27, is a literal living testament and witness to the preserved originality of the seventh day Sabbath, (3) and the God-controlled movements of the earth, moon, and sun determining the days, months, years, times and seasons.” Gen. 1: 14-18. Moreover, the incontrovertible historical and ecclesiastical fact that the Church of Rome as well as all mainstream Christian churches (except Seventh-day Adventists, the remaining Seventh-day Baptists, and other smaller fellowships that keep the Bible Sabbath), assert in their official doctrines that *Sunday is the First day of the week* and celebrate it as “*the weekly memorial of Christ’s resurrection*” although the Bible nor Jesus never gave instructions before and after His resurrection that His resurrection day would be memorialized by a day, and certainly not to be called “the Christian sabbath or “Lord’s Day,” and worse, be made the reason to replace the weekly memorial day of creation which He rested on, blessed, and sanctified and declared to be “*the sign*” (“mark” or “seal”) between Him and *His* people.” Ezekiel 20: 12, 20.

So if they are so sure about Sunday being the First day of the septenary cycle of the week, never questioning themselves that it should also have been subject to change (as well as all the other days of the week) “because of the change of the calendar,” then by what separate logic, principle, or rule of *any* universally acceptable law do they question the uncertainty of Saturday being the seventh day of the week, thus the very Sabbath memorial of creation?

Lastly and most importantly, if they truly believe that God Creator is omniscient, omnipotent, and omnipresent they contradict themselves by doubting His ability to preserve the knowledge of the day He memorialized as the very sign of that power! So we continue reading what Jesus Christ, Lord Jehovah Creator declared of Himself:

“And He said unto them, The Sabbath was made for man, and not man for the Sabbath. Therefore the Son of man is Lord also of the Sabbath.” Mark 2: 27, 28. (Read the whole of chapter 2 and onto chapter 3, verses 1-7).

“And He said unto them, that the Son of man is Lord also of the Sabbath.” Luke 6: 5, 6.

Once more, read verses 1-11. Having embarrassingly failed to trip Him up and accuse Him on false premises and trumped-up charges of Sabbath-breaking, they, instead, by that deed exposed their real hypocrisy and vile nature. They were beside themselves in fury. "And they were *filled with madness*; and communed [conversed, plotted] with one another what they might do to Jesus." verse 11. Mark 3: 6 is more explicit as to what they planned to do with Jesus for healing the man with a withered hand on the Sabbath day: "And the Pharisees went forth, and straightway took counsel with the Herodians against Him, *how they might destroy Him.*"

The religious leaders of the nation, the professed spiritual guardians of the people--accused the Lord of the Sabbath of breaking *His* Sabbath for "doing good on *their* Sabbath day" by performing *merciful and miraculous works of healing* in fulfillment of the Old Testament prophecies regarding His work and mission (Isaiah and Malachi, etc.) Meanwhile, the fanatical traditionalist fundamentalist Pharisees, in temporary alliance with the Herodians, one of the three major sects of Judaism they despised (the other were the Sadducees), were the ones who were breaking the Sabbath they feigned to be safeguarding by planning to *kill* the Lord of the Sabbath on the very *Sabbath day*!

Can there be any greater contradiction and self-condemnation of a people and a nation called "His chosen people" than this?--an abomination that will be repeated in the final confrontation of truth and error in the coming test of mankind as warned by the third angel of Revelation 14. Jesus warned His first disciples, especially those living in the last days when the last remaining prophecies will be finally fulfilled:

"These things have I spoken unto you, that ye should not be offended. They shall put you out off the synagogues [condemned as "heretics"]; yea, the time cometh, that whosoever killeth you will think that he doeth God service. And these things will they do unto you, because they have not known the Father, nor Me. But these things have I told you, that when the time shall come, ye may remember that I told you of them. And these things I said not unto you at the beginning, because I was with you. John 16: 1-4, KJV.

Moreover they were also guilty of breaking the sixth commandment, "Thou shalt not kill" (Exo. 20: 13); the ninth commandment, "Thou shalt not bear false witness (v 16), and of course, the very first, "thou shalt have no other gods before Me" (v 3), the third, "Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain" (v 7), and the fourth, "Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy." Instead of replacing it with the first day of the week as the Church of Rome thought to do and did, the Jews *grossly desecrated and polluted* the day. See Isaiah 56: 1-8. It was to them firstly, then the Papacy after, then all churches following her example (as "daughters of "Mystery Babylon, the Mother of Harlots and the Abominations of the earth," Rev. 17), that these words of condemnation couched in prophetic language were addressed:

"All you beasts of the field, come to devour, all you beasts in the forest. His watchmen are blind, they are all ignorant; they are all dumb dogs, they cannot bark; sleeping, lying

down, loving to slumber. Yes, they are greedy dogs which never have enough. And they are [false] *shepherds* who cannot understand; they all look their own way, everyone for his own gain, from his own territory. 'Come,' on says, I will bring *wine*, and we will fill ourselves with *intoxicating drink*; tomorrow will be as today, and much more abundant." Isa. 56: 9-12, NKJV.

The "wine of the fornication" of spiritual Babylon are her false doctrines that she "has made all nations to drink," causing them to become spiritually inebriated, confused, entranced, and deceived. See Rev. 14: 8; 17:2; 18: 3. In His righteous and just vengeance God promises that upon mother and daughter, "the dragon, the beast, and his image" and "all who receive his mark or name or number *in* their foreheads" will He finally pour out "the wine of the of the fierceness of the wrath of God" "without mixture." Rev. 14: 10: 16: 19.

The Wikipedia entry says of the Eighth Day:

"The Lord's Day in Christianity is generally Sunday, the principal day of communal worship. It is observed by most Christians as the *weekly memorial of the resurrection of Jesus Christ*, who is said in the canonical Gospels to have been witnessed alive from the dead early on the first day of the week.

"According to some sources, Christians held corporate worship on Sunday in the first century. The earliest Bible example of Christian meeting on a Sunday for the purpose of 'breaking bread' and preaching is cited in the New Testament book The Acts of the Apostles chapter 20 and verse 7 (Acts 20:7). Second century writers such as Justin Martyr attest to the widespread practice of Sunday worship (*First Apology*, chapter 67), and by 361 A.D. it had become a mandated weekly occurrence. During the Middle Ages, Sunday worship became associated with Sabbatarian (rest) practices. Some Protestants today (particularly those descended from the Puritans) regard Sunday as [the] Christians sabbath, a practice known as first day Sabbatarianism. (Some Christian groups hold that the term 'Lord's Day' can only properly refer to the seventh-day Sabbath or Saturday. **"Sunday was also known in patristic writings as the eighth day."** (end of Wikipedia quote).

Our reply to the Wikipedia entry above is the scholarly work of Christian Edwardson, *Facts of Faith*, pp. 91-94, Published by Southern Publishing Association, Nashville, TN. 1943, that cites and carefully supports the following:

"The Lord's Day.—Some claim that 'the Lord's day' of Revelation 1: 10, refers to Sunday, but this text does not say which day is meant, and Sunday is not called the Lord's day in any other place in the New Testament. There is therefore no evidence that Sunday is meant here. *It is generally agreed that John wrote his Gospel two years after he wrote Revelation.* If the term 'Lord's day' had become the designation for Sunday, when John wrote in Revelation, then he would have used that name for it two years later when he wrote the Gospel, but he simply calls it 'the first day of the week.' John 20:1. The only day which the Lord has designated as His day, is the seventh. (Exodus 20: 10; Isaiah 58: 13; Mark 2: 28).

“Dr. Summerbell says: ‘Many suppose that they must denominate the first day of the week the *Lord’s day*’; but we have no certain Scripture for this. The phrase ‘*Lord’s day*,’ occurs but once in the Bible: ‘I was in the spirit on the *Lord’s day*’; and there probably refers to the day of which Christ said: ‘The Son of man is Lord even of the Sabbath day,’ as the whole book of Revelation has a strong Jewish bearing.’ – ‘*History of the Christian Church*,’ p. 152. Cincinnati: 1873.

“W. B. Taylor says: ‘If a current day was intended, the only day bearing the definition, in either the Old or New Testaments, is Saturday, the seventh day of the week.’ – ‘*Obligation of the Sabbath*,’ p. 296.

“Dr. Peter Heylyn remarks: ‘Take which you will, either of the Fathers, or the Modernes, and we shall find no *Lord’s day* instituted by any *Apostolic Mandate*, no *Sabbath* set on foot by them upon the *first day of the weeke*, as some would have it; much less than any such Ordinance should be hence collected, out of the words of the apostle.’ – ‘*History of the Sabbath*,’ (original spelling), Part 2, p. 27. London: 1636.

“THE CONCLUSION. Dr. William Smith, LL.D. after carefully examining all the texts in the New Testament usually adduced in favor of the first day, comes to this conclusion:

“Taken separately, perhaps, and even all together, these passages seem scarcely adequate to prove that the dedication of the first day of the week to the purposes above mentioned was a matter of apostolic institution, or even of apostolic practices.’ – ‘*A Dictionary of the Bible*, art. ‘*Lord’s Day*,’ p. 356. Hartford: Burr and Hyde, 1871.

“The learned Dr. John Kitto sums up those texts in the following words: ‘Thus far, then, we cannot say that the evidence for *any particular observance* of this day amounts to much; still less does it appear what *purpose* or object was referred to. We find no mention of any *commemoration*, whether of the resurrection or any other event *in the Apostolic records*.’ – ‘*Cyclopedia of Biblical Literature* (2-vol. ed.), Vol. II, art. ‘*Lord’s Day*,’ p. 209. New York.

“‘But,’ say some, ‘it was *changed* from the seventh to the first day.’ Where? when? And by whom? No man can tell. No, it never was changed, nor could it be, *unless creation were to be gone through again* [emphasis mine]: for the reason assigned must be changed before the observance, or respect to the reason, can be changed!! It is all old wives’ fables to talk of the change of the Sabbath from the seventh to the first day. If it be changed, it was that august personage changed it who changes times and laws *ex officio*---I think his name is DOCTOR ANTICHRIST.” – ‘*Alexander Campbell*, in ‘*The Christian Baptist*,’ revised by D.S. Burnet, from the Second Edition, with Mr. Campbell’s last corrections, page 44. Cincinnati: D. S. Burnet, 1835.

NOTE: So a prominent Baptist author (and most of the godly Reformer before the falling away of the Protestant churches) calls the one who changed the seventh day Sabbath to the first day Sunday as “Dr. Antichrist.” And it is the Papacy that openly claims that it did exactly that. And so the Antichrist, the antichristian Babylon church is the Papacy, the Church of Rome. So declared Daniel, Paul, and John.

Edwardson continues:

“A tract widely circulated *against* those who keep the seventh days as the Sabbath [corporately identified today as Seventh-day Adventists] has this to say in its fourteenth proposition: ‘If Christians are to keep the Sabbath day, how do you account for the fact that the apostles preached the gospel in Jerusalem, Samaria, to Cornelius the Gentile, and to many others, without commanding a single individual to keep it. Did they under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit fail to properly instruct their converts?’

‘We answer: *The Christians everywhere were keeping the seventh-day Sabbath, and there was an acknowledged law enforcing its observance. There was therefore no occasion for giving any commandment on this point.* (Luke 23: 52-56; 16: 17; Matthew 5: 17-19; Romans 3: 31.) And the apostles by their example and teaching had educated both Jewish and Gentile believers to keep the seventh-day Sabbath. (Acts 13: 42-44; 18: 1-4; 17: 2; 16: 12, 13; 1 Corinthians 7: 19; Romans 7: 12; 3: 31.)”

The first celebrants of the first Sabbath day of creation were Adam and Eve, the father and mother of mankind, who, joined by “the mornings stars” (the angels) who shouted for joy” and worshipped the Creator in the midst of His perfected work of creation. *They were not Jews!* The first Jew was Abraham who was born 1,500 years after the fall in Eden. How important then is the study of the Old Testament, beginning with *Genesis*—the very book of beginnings! If more *Christians* did, they would not be deceived and become *religionists* and politically militant and fanatical crusaders—the apostate Christian counterparts of the Muslim *ihadists*! They condemn the latter but spare the former just because they *profess* to be “Christians.” Review the true history of the Church during over a thousand years of the Dark Ages! History will repeat itself.

The apostle James says the Ten Commandments, God’s covenant, is a *unit*. “*For whoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all.* For He that said, ‘Do not commit adultery,’ said also, Do not kill. Now if thou commit no adultery [literally and spiritually], yet if thou kill, thou art become a transgressor of the law. So speak ye, and so do, as they that shall be judged by the law of liberty.” James 2: 10-12, K.J.V.

The Ten Commandment is *the law of God*, not “the law of Moses” as erroneously repeated by those who hate (the Sabbath in particular) it even as they hate its Author for it singularly reveals: the wise, loving, *merciful yet righteous and just* character of God which Satan maligned from the beginning; the foundation of His throne and authority in heaven and throughout the universe; the true nature of “Satan, the Devil, that old serpent,” “the master deceiver,” “murderer from the beginning,” “father of lies,” “prince of this earth,” and “prince of the power of the air” as well as his agencies on earth; the exceeding sinfulness of sin so that its eternal wages is death.

In his Gospel, John records Christ's own words regarding Himself as the Son of God, the Light of the world:

"For God sent not His Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world *through Him* [not through Mary, the popes, or the dead saints] might be saved. He that believeth on Him is not condemned: *but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name on the only begotten Son of God. And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For everyone that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved. But he that doeth the truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God.*" John 3: 17-21.

Both divine commandments, and thus all have been brazenly trampled upon either by total elimination or changed by the Roman Catholic Church that unabashedly claims to have the power and authority to have done so in blatant and open defiance of God's first and last fearful warnings in the Bible that states:

"For I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book; if anyone *adds* to these things, God will add to him the [seven last] *plagues* that are written in this book; and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part from the Book of Life, from the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book." Rev. 22: 18, 19, N.K.J.V.

"Now, O Israel, listen to the statutes and the judgments which I teach you to observe, that you may live, and go in and possess the land which the Lord God of your fathers is giving you. *You shall not add to this word which I command you, nor take anything from it, that you may keep the commandments of the Lord your God which I command you.*" Deut. 4: 1, 2, N.K.J.V.

The Bible plainly states what God's covenant is: "So He declared to you *His covenant* which He commanded you to perform, that is, *Ten Commandments*; and He wrote them on two tables stone." Deut. 4: 13, KJV.

Ellen G. White, God's humble servant and last-day messenger in same the spirit of the message and work of Elijah and John the Baptist in their closing stages, wrote:

"The law was not spoken at this time exclusively for the benefit of the Hebrews. God honored them by making them the guardians and keepers of His law, but it was to be held as a sacred trust for the whole world. The precepts of the Decalogue are adapted to all mankind, and they were given for the instruction and government of all. *Ten precepts, brief, comprehensive, and authoritative, cover the duty of man to God and to his fellow-man; and all based upon the great and fundamental principle of love.* 'Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind; and thy neighbor as thyself.' Luke 10: 27; Deut. 6: 4, 5; Lev. 19: 18. In the Ten Commandments *these principles are carried out in detail*, and made applicable to the condition and circumstances of man.

‘Thou shalt have no other gods before Me.’ Exo. 20: 3-17. - “Jehovah, the *eternal, self-existent, uncreated One*, himself the source and sustainer of all, is alone entitled to supreme reverence and worship. Man is forbidden to give to any other object the first place in his affections or his service. Whatever we cherish that tends to lessen our love for God or to interfere with the service due Him, *of that we do make a god*.

“Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of anything that is in the heavens above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them.” –

‘The second commandment forbids the worship of the true God by images or similitudes. Many *heathen* nations [and the Church of Rome] claimed that their images were mere figures or symbols by which the Deity was worshipped; but God has declared such worship to be *sin*. [No wonder Paul calls the Papacy “the man of sin, the son of perdition,” 2 Thess. 2: 3, 4]. The attempt to represent the Eternal One by *material objects* would lower man’s conception of God. [“Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things *unseen*.” Heb.11:1]. The *mind*, turned away from the infinite perfection of Jehovah, would be attracted to the *creature* rather than to the Creator. And as his conceptions of God were *lowered*, so would men become *degraded*.

‘I the Lord thy God am a jealous God.’ – The close and sacred relation of God to His people is represented under the figure of marriage. *Idolatry being spiritual adultery*, the displeasure of God against it is fitly called jealousy. . . . [Note that: God considers idolatry as spiritual adultery. The seventh commandment say: “Thou shalt not commit adultery! So those who worship images and relics and worship on the idol sabbath, Sunday, are not only idolaters but adulterers as well in the eyes of a “jealous God” and in the “balances of the sanctuary” in heaven!].

‘Showing *mercy* unto thousands of them that love *Me and keep My commandments*.’ – In prohibiting the worship of false gods, the second commandment *by implication* enjoins the worship of the true God [the highest form of worship is obedience!] And to *those who are faithful in His service, mercy is promised*, not merely to the third and fourth generation as is the wrath threatened against those who hate Him, but to *thousands of generations*.’ – Ibid, *Patriarchs & Prophets*, pp. 305-307, Pacific Press Association, Mountain View, CA 1890, 1930.

The similarity of the Church of Rome Similar to the Jewish Church

“There is a striking similarity between the church of Rome and the Jewish church at the time of Christ’s *first advent*. While the Jews *secretly* trampled upon *every principle* of the law of God, they were *outwardly rigorous* in the observance of its precepts, loading it down with exactions that made obedience painful and burdensome. As the Jews professed to revere the *law*, so do Romanists claim to reverence the *cross*. They *exalt the symbol* of Christ’s sufferings, *while in their lives* they deny Him whom it represents.” – Ellen G. White, *Vol 4 Spirit of Prophecy*, p. 384 (ed. 1884), Pacific Press, Oakland, CA. NOTE: If we profess to exalt Christ’s supreme sacrifice at Calvary but in our lives we committing sin that caused His death, then we “crucify Him afresh”!