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# Babylon is Fallen!

*It is a fact that we have the truth, and we must hold with tenacity to the positions that cannot be shaken; but we must not look with suspicion upon any new light which God may send, and say, Really, we cannot see that we need any more light than the old truth which we have hitherto received, and in which we are settled. While we hold to this position, the testimony of the True Witness applies to our cases its rebuke, “And knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked.” Those who feel rich and increased with goods and in need of nothing, are in a condition of blindness as to their true condition before God, and they know it not. RH, August 7, 1894*

The more the luni-solar calendar is studied in the light of prophecy, the larger looms its import. The revelation of this calendar is an integral part of the repeat of the three angels' messages. These messages, given in Revelation 14, *have* been proclaimed, but they are to be repeated: “The fourteenth chapter of Revelation is a chapter of the deepest interest. This scripture will soon be understood in all its bearings, and the messages given to John the revelator will be repeated with distinct utterance.”<sup>1</sup>

The first angel's message is a call to repentance: to glorify God by worshiping Him on His holy Sabbath which can only be found when calculated off of His clock/calendar. This light on the calendar is the first angel's message. God is restoring the knowledge of His calendar so that those who love Him can truly keep His Sabbath day holy “and worship Him that made heaven (sun, moon and stars), and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters.”<sup>2</sup> As people accept this light and bring their lives into obedience, a flood of additional light will reveal the facts

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<sup>1</sup> RH Oct. 13, 1904 – Notice that by 1904 it was *not* “understood in all its bearings”. Complete understanding of the three angels' messages was yet future.

<sup>2</sup> Rev. 14:7

about the power that changed the original luni-solar Sabbath to a fixed weekly Saturday/Sunday and the result is profound: it brings down Babylon.

“And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people, saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters” (Rev. 14: 6, 7).

This message, if heeded, will call the attention of every nation and kindred and tongue and people to a close examination of the Word, *and to the true light in regard to the power that has changed the seventh-day Sabbath to a spurious sabbath.*<sup>3</sup>

When the truth about the original luni-solar calendar versus the pagan/papal calendar is accepted, along with it comes an in-depth understanding of the papal machinations that accomplished this change. The quote continues:

The only true God has been forsaken, His law has been discarded, His sacred Sabbath institution has been trampled in the dust by the man of sin. The fourth commandment, so plain and explicit, has been ignored. The Sabbath memorial, declaring who the living God is, the Creator of the heavens and the earth, has been torn down, and a spurious sabbath has been given to the world in its place. Thus a breach has been made in the law of God. A false sabbath could not be a true standard.<sup>4</sup>

Psalm 104:17 states that God “appointed” the moon for mo’eds (i.e., religious assemblies). The Gregorian calendar has no link at all to the moon, so where is the link to Creation? Furthermore, the quote begs the question: If a person is calculating his/her 7<sup>th</sup> day Sabbath from a completely arbitrary calendar, grounded in paganism and established in perpetuity by the Papal power, is he/she not keeping a spurious sabbath? How is the seventh day on the continuously cycling week of a pagan/papal calendar a memorial of creation?

Continuing on with the quote from *Selected Messages*, Vol. 2, there is an amazing prediction:

In the first angel’s message men are called upon to worship God, our Creator, who made the world and all things that are therein. They have paid homage to an institution of the Papacy, making of no effect the law of Jehovah, but *there is to be an increase of knowledge on this subject.*<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> 2SM 105

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*, 105 & 106

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid.*, emphasis supplied.

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The last generation is honored with an incredibly important role in the finishing up of the great controversy: they are called to be Repairers of the breach, Restorers of paths to dwell in. They are to stand before the whole world with a wonderful truth – the light of God’s true clock/calendar which also reveals the counterfeit. They boldly proclaim that He who changeth not *is* jealous for His holy day. His law has *never* been changed and that which He required of Adam and Eve, He requires of His creatures still – worship on His holy day, the memorial of Creation, and not just on any seventh day, but *the* seventh day by His method of calendation.

In the fifty-eighth chapter of Isaiah, the work of those who worship God, the Maker of the heavens and the earth, is specified: “They that shall be of thee shall build the old waste places: thou shalt raise up the foundations of many generations” (Isa. 58:12). God’s memorial, His seventh-day Sabbath, will be uplifted. “Thou shalt be called, The repairer of the breach, The restorer of paths to dwell in. If thou turn away thy foot from the Sabbath [no longer trample it under your feet], from doing thy pleasure on my holy day; and call the Sabbath a delight, the holy of the Lord, honourable; and shalt honour him, . . . I will cause thee to ride upon the high places of the earth, and feed thee with the heritage of Jacob thy father: for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it” (Isa. 58:12-14).

The history of the church and the world, the loyal and the disloyal, is here plainly revealed. The loyal under the proclamation of the third angel’s message have turned their feet into the way of God’s commandments, to respect, to honor, and glorify Him who created the heavens and the earth. The opposing forces have dishonored God by making a breach in His law, and when light from His Word has called attention to His holy commandments, *revealing the breach made in the law by the papal authority*, then, to get rid of conviction, men have tried to destroy the whole law. But could they destroy it? No; for all who will search the Scriptures *for themselves* will see that the law of God stands immutable, eternal, and His memorial, the Sabbath,<sup>6</sup> will endure through eternal ages, pointing to the only true God in distinction from all false gods.

Satan has been persevering and untiring in his efforts to prosecute the work he began in heaven, to change the law of God . . . But if in one jot or tittle the law of God has been changed, Satan has gained on earth that which he could not gain in heaven. He has prepared his delusive snare, hoping to take captive the *church* and the world. But not all will be taken in the snare. A line of distinction is being drawn between the children of obedience and the children of disobedience, the loyal and true and the disloyal and untrue. *Two great parties are developed, the*

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<sup>6</sup> “When there shall be a ‘restitution of all things’ . . . the creation Sabbath, the day on which Jesus lay at rest in Joseph’s tomb, will still be a day of rest and rejoicing” (DA 769-770).

*worshippers of the beast and his image, and the worshippers of the true and living God.*<sup>7</sup>

The purpose of the Sabbath is to restore in mankind the image of his Creator. It is spelled out clearly in the second book of the Bible:

And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, Speak thou also unto the children of Israel, saying, Verily my sabbaths ye shall keep: for it is a sign between me and you throughout your generations; that ye may know that I am the LORD that doth sanctify you. Ye shall keep the sabbath therefore; for it is holy unto you . . . Six days may work be done; but in the seventh is the sabbath of rest, holy to the LORD . . . Wherefore the children of Israel shall keep the sabbath, to observe the sabbath throughout their generations, for a perpetual covenant. It is a sign between me and the children of Israel for ever: for in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, and on the seventh day he rested, and was refreshed.<sup>8</sup>

The first angel's message provides the knowledge of how and when believers are to be sanctified – on God's holy Sabbath, by His omnipotent, creative power. If this light on the calendar is rejected by God's people, they reject the means which Heaven has provided for their restoration. In *Great Controversy*, Ellen White makes this sobering statement: "In refusing the warning of the first angel, they rejected the means which Heaven had provided for their *restoration*."<sup>9</sup>

Those who heed the warning of the first angel's message, accept also the second angel's message:

In Revelation 14 the first angel is followed by a second proclaiming: "Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication." Revelation 14:8. The term "Babylon" is derived from "Babel," and signifies confusion. It is employed in Scripture to designate the various forms of false or apostate religion. In Revelation 17 Babylon is represented as a woman – a figure which is used in the Bible as the symbol of a church, a virtuous woman representing a pure church, a vile woman an apostate church.<sup>10</sup>

Instruction has been given by the Spirit of Prophecy that preaching truth is itself the best way to combat error. This can be clearly seen in the great calendar controversy. The truth about God's calendar reveals the deception upon which the counterfeit calendar is based. The heavenly

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<sup>7</sup> *Ibid.*, 106 & 107, emphasis supplied.

<sup>8</sup> Exodus 31:12-17

<sup>9</sup> GC 380, emphasis supplied.

<sup>10</sup> GC 381

message is established on a rock solid foundation and it is upon this immovable stone that the 144,000 will stand firmly, unmoved by anything earth or hell can sling against them.

By contrast, Babylon, that huge monolith of mystery, intrigue, deception and paganism, is precariously balanced on one little lie: that Christ was crucified on a Friday and resurrected on a Sunday. Anyone who is willing to suspend his/her unreliable *feelings* and rationally consider the evidence will concur that while Jesus was indeed crucified on the sixth day of the Biblical week, His crucifixion fell on a Julian Wednesday and His resurrection occurred on a Julian Friday.

The Roman Catholic Church has based its authority on what it has done to the Sabbath.

Satan, working through unconsecrated leaders of the church, tampered with the fourth commandment also, and essayed to set aside the ancient Sabbath, the day which God had blessed and sanctified . . . and in its stead to exalt the festival observed by the heathen as “the venerable day of the sun.”<sup>11</sup>

The reason given for changing the Sabbath to Sunday, the pagan festal day, was “to honor . . . the resurrection of Christ.”<sup>12</sup>

When it is revealed that Christ was *not* resurrected on Sunday, their entire foundation is destroyed. The exposure of that one lie brings the downfall of the entire monstrosity, Satan’s “masterpiece of deception.”<sup>13</sup>

The first and third angels’ messages implicitly warn against calendars that are in opposition to God’s calendar: the first message is given in warning *before* the Sunday law. It reveals the original calendar – the luni-solar calendar established at Creation. The third message comes *after* the Sunday law, disguised as yet another change of calendar law, and warns of the dangers if one goes along with a false method of computation after the true calendar has been so widely proclaimed.

The second and fourth angel’s messages, likewise, are a repeat of each other – both reveal the deceptions upon which the counterfeit calendars are based. The day upon which one chooses to worship, reveals which God/god holds his/her loyalty.

All who would receive the seal of God must obey Him and worship Him on His Sabbath. When, in the face of inconvenience and even great loss, they choose to worship the Creator on the day He set up as the memorial of creation, they are showing their loyalty to the God of Heaven.

The seal of God’s law is found in the fourth commandment. This only, of all the ten, brings to view both the name and the title of the Lawgiver. It declares Him to

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<sup>11</sup> GC 52

<sup>12</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>13</sup> ST February 19, 1894

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be the Creator of the heavens and the earth, and thus shows His claim to reverence and worship above all others. Aside from this precept, there is nothing in the Decalogue to show by whose authority the law is given. *When the Sabbath was changed by the papal power, the seal was taken from the law.* The disciples of Jesus are called upon to restore it by exalting the Sabbath of the fourth commandment to its rightful position as the Creator's memorial and the sign of His authority.<sup>14</sup>

When God's people do this, they gratefully obey the warning of the fourth angel: "Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues."<sup>15</sup> If the light on God's true Sabbath is accepted, it will cause separation. Most people's lives are structured around their days off work, week-ends and vacations. Because the true Sabbath floats through the continuous weeks of the Gregorian calendar, all areas of life are greatly impacted.

It is not easy.

The great obstacle both to the acceptance and to the promulgation of truth is the fact that it involves inconvenience and reproach. This is the only argument against the truth which its advocates have never been able to refute. But this does not deter the true followers of Christ. These do not wait for truth to become popular. Being convinced of their duty, they deliberately accept the cross, with the apostle Paul counting that "our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory . . . (2 Cor. 4:17)."<sup>16</sup>

The light is advancing; the Lamb is leading His people higher.

Will He have a people to follow?

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<sup>14</sup> GC 452, emphasis supplied.

<sup>15</sup> Rev. 18:4

<sup>16</sup> GC 460