# Semester 2 – Week 5 - Class 10 HISTORY'S GREATEST RELIGIOUS COVER-UP

Many years ago the Russian czar was walking through a beautiful park. As he walked along, he noticed a sentry standing guard, and he wondered, what is the sentry guarding? "Oh, your excellency," the sentry said, "I don't know what I'm guarding. I'm just told to come here every day to do guard duty in this part of the park." The czar said, "We're spending state money to have you guard something—and you don't even know what it is! I have to check into it."

So the czar checked into the archives, and this what he learned: A hundred years before, Catherine the Great was given a rosebush for her birthday. She sent a soldier to that spot to guard her young rosebush so no one would trample it and kill it. Each day the order was transferred into the ledger for the next day so a sentry would continue guarding the rosebush. And that tradition was passed down for over a hundred years. But by this time the rosebush had long since died, and the sentries were still standing guard in a remote part of the park over nothing! They didn't even know what they were guarding. They were standing guard over a mere tradition—something simply passed down by the hand of man.

Could it be possible that a man-made tradition has slipped into the Christian Church—a tradition whose foundations we really haven't examined? Could it be that century after century we've just followed what we've always been taught?

In our last class we took up the subject of the fourth commandment. And the question needs to be asked: Have we followed the example of our fathers and mothers, our grandfathers and grandmothers on this matter of which day is the Bible Sabbath without really investigating the reason for it ourselves? We saw last meeting that the true Bible Sabbath is the 7th day of the week, and not the first day of the week, as is so often believed.

Exodus 20:8-10 "Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work: But the seventh day is the sabbath of the LORD thy God..."

Now someone always asks, "What about those millions who didn't know the truth on this—are they all lost? The answer is, No, they're not. But the answer is also this: We're living in the end time just before Jesus returns, and we need to leave other people in the hands of God. We don't condemn anyone, but God does have a true standard, and the important thing is not, 'Will others be saved if they follow it or don't follow it?' The important thing is: When God reveals truth to me, He wants me to follow it. The important thing is that God chose you to learn these things. God knew you had an honest heart. God knew that this was your time to learn, your hour, so He's revealing it to you.

The Bible is very clear on the subject of the Sabbath. We need to accept the Word of God alone—not what man says or any church teaches.

Psalm 43:3 "O send out thy light and thy truth: let them lead me; let them bring me unto thy holy hill, and to thy tabernacles."

In our last class we learned in Genesis that God made the seventh day the Sabbath of the Lord.

The three things God did—He rested, He blessed and He sanctified the seventh day.

Exodus 20:11 "For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is."

Ezekiel 20:12 "Moreover also I gave them my sabbaths, to be a sign between me and them, that they might know that I [am] the LORD that sanctify them."

If God were to change one of His commandments, it would be clear in His word.

**Ouestion:** What is truth?

John 14:6 "I am the way, the truth and the life."

John 17:17 "Sanctify them through thy truth, thy word is truth."

Psalm 119:142 "Thy righteousness is an everlasting righteousness, and thy law is the truth."

Psalm 119:151 "Thou art near O Lord, and all thy commandments are truth."

**Question:** What is truth?

**Jesus** – John 14:6; The **Word** – John 17:17; The **Law** - Psalm:119:142, 151.

Keeping Sunday as a holy day is on trial today. You are the Jury and the Bible presents the evidence.

In the whole of the New Testament, the first day, which we recognize to be Sunday, is only mentiones 8 times. Somewhere in these 8 texts, proof of change must be revealed.

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Proof text #1

John 20:19 "Then the same day at evening, being the <u>first day of the week</u>, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled for *fear of the Jews*, came Jesus and stood in the midst, and saith unto them, Peace be unto you."

The disciples were not having a religious meeting, they were assembled behind closed doors, fearing for their lives, wondering if they would be next. No change of the Sabbath here.

#### Proof text #2

1 Corinthians 16:1, 2 "Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given order to the churches of Galatia, even so do ye. Upon the <u>first day of the week</u> let every one of you lay by him in store, as God has prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come."

This was not a religious meeting as Paul was writing them a letter. The church was suffering greatly in Jeusalem for lack of funds. Paul was calling for the church members to put aside some offerings when they were at home doing their accounting for the previous week on the first day Sunday, a working day. He did not want to have to hold special fund raising when he came, just gather what had been stored. No change of the Sabbath here.

Acts 18:1, 4 "After these things Paul departed from Athens, and came to Corinth." 4. "And he reasoned in the synagogue every sabbath, and persuaded the Jews and the Greeks." When Paul was in Corinth, religious meetings were held on Sabbath, not the first day.

#### Proof text #3

Acts 20:6, 7 "And we sailed away from Philippi after the days of unleavened bread, and came unto them to Troas in five days; where we abode seven days. And upon the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul preached unto them, ready to depart on the morrow; and continued his speech until midnight. The first thing we are taking note of here is that they are having an evening meeting on the first day. We have learned that the evening begins the day. Genesis 1:5. So the Sabbath had just ended and it was what we would call Saturday night. Acts 20:8 says, "And there were many lights in the upper chamber, where they were gathered together. The previous verse said Paul preached until midnight. This was a farewell meeting and most likely the people were never going to see Paul again. When the morning came Paul continued his journey, walking 20 miles to Troas to catch a ship. That was Sunday morning. Paul never traveled on the Sabbath. By the way, came together to break bread was a regular evening meal and not a communion service.

Acts 2:46 "...breaking bread from house to house, did EAT their meat with gladness."

New English Bible - "On the Saturday night;" Today's English Version - "On Saturday evening;" The Living Bible, footnote - "On Saturday night."

Now here is the reason why Luke recorded this whole incident:

Acts 20: 9-12 "And there sat in a window a certain young man named Eutychus, being fallen into a deep sleep: and as Paul was long preaching, he sunk down with sleep, and fell down from the third loft, and was taken up dead. And Paul went down, and fell on him, and embracing him said, Trouble not yourselves; for his life is in him. When he therefore was come up again, and had broken bread, and eaten, and talked a long while, even till break of day, so he departed. And they brought the young man alive, and were not a little comforted.

#### Proof text #4

Luke 24:1 "Now upon the <u>first day of the week</u>, very early in the morning, they came unto the sepulchre, bringing the spices which they had prepared, and certain others with them."

Luke 23:56 "And they returned, and prepared spices and ointments; and rested the sabbath day according to the commandment."

## Proof text #5

Mark 16:1, 2 "And when the sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome, had bought sweet spices, that they might come and anoint him. And very early in the morning the <u>first day of the week</u>, they came unto the sepulchre at the rising of the sun."

#### Proof text #6

Mark 16:9 "Now when Jesus was risen early the <u>first day of the week</u>, he appeared first to Mary Magdalene, out of whom he had cast seven devils."

#### Proof text #7

John 20:1 "The first day of the week cometh Mary Magdalene early, when it was yet dark, unto the sepulchre, and seeth the stone taken away from the sepulchre."

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## Proof text #8

Matthew 28:1 "In the end of the sabbath, as it began to dawn toward the <u>first day of the week</u>, came Mary Magdalene and the other Mary to see the sepulchre."

Therer are the only 8 texts giving the first day of the week. 6 of which pertain to the day Jesus rose from the dead. One of the other two does not pertain to a Sunday religious service and the other one was a Saturday night meeting which started after sundown of the Sabbath.

As was stated clearly in our last lesson, the Bible called the three successive days, Preparation Day (Friday), Sabbath Day (Saturday), and the First Day (Sunday).

From Sabbath to Lord's Day, p.85 (Published by Zondervan)

In his book arguing for Sunday worship D.A. Carlson admits, "There is not a hint anywhere in the ministry of Jesus that the first day of the week is to take on the character of the Sabbath and replace it."

Christianity Today, p. 42, Harold Lindsell, November 5, 1976

Harold Lindsell, in Christianity Today, writes, "There is nothing in Scripture that requires us to keep Sunday rather than Saturday as a holy day."

Question: What is truth? Jesus - John 14:6; The Word - John 17:17; The Law - Psalm:119:142, 151

Luke 4:16 "And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up: and, as his custom was, he went into the synagogue on the sabbath day, and stood up for to read."

Matthew 24:15 "When ye shall therefore see the abomination of desolation."

Matthew 24:20 "But pray ye that your flight be not in the winter, neither on the Sabbath day." Jerusalem was surrounded by the Roman armies and destroyed by Titus in AD 70. Why would Jesus encourage His disciples to ptay that there flight that there flight be not on the Sabbath if at that time they wouldn't be keeping it. That was 39 years in the future that Jesus was pointing to.

Acts 13:42 "And when the Jews were gone out of the synagogue, the Gentiles besought that these words might be preached to them the next Sabbath."

Verse 44 "And the next sabbath day came almost the whole city together to hear the word of God."

**Question:** Will all the saved keep the Bible Sabbath in heaven?

Isaiah 66:22, 23 "For as the new heavens and the new earth, which I will make, shall remain before me, saith the LORD, so shall your seed and your name remain. And it shall come to pass, that from one new moon to another, and from one sabbath to another, shall all flesh come to worship before me, saith the LORD."

SABBATH FACTS in ACTS – To those who believe that the Sabbath was only for the Jews and that the Gentiles kept Sunday after the cross, here are the facts from Acts. #1. Acts 13:42, 44 "And when the Jews were gone out of the synagogue, the Gentiles besought that these words might be preached to them the next sabbath. And the next sabbath day came almost the whole city together to hear the word of God." #2. Acts 16:13 (Contacts reveals they were Gentiles) "And on the sabbath we went out of the city by a river side, where prayer was wont to be made; and we sat down, and spake unto the women which resorted [thither]." #3. Acts 17:2-4 "And Paul, as his manner was, went in unto them, and three sabbath days reasoned with them out of the scriptures, Opening and alleging, that Christ must needs have suffered, and risen again from the dead; and that this Jesus, whom I preach unto you, is Christ. And some of them believed, and consorted with Paul and Silas; and of the devout Greeks a great multitude, and of the chief women not a few." #4. Acts 18:4 "And he reasoned in the synagogue every sabbath, and persuaded the Jews and the Greeks."

**The Bible Says**: The seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord – Exodus 20:10; The Sabbath... My holy day,... the holy of the Lord; – Isaiah 58:13; In the spirit on the Lord's day – Rev. 1:10 (Could only be the Sabbath)

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- 1. Sunday is the First day of the week (One of the six working days).
- 2. The first day mentioned 8 times in the N.T. but never showing any change in the Sabbath.
- 3. The first day was never set aside in honor of the resurrection.
- 4. The first day was never called "The Lord's Day".
- 5. The first day was never mentioned even once by Jesus.
- 6. Jesus always kept the seventh day Sabbath, over 1700 times in His life.
- 7. Jesus is "Lord of the Sabbath".
- 8. Jesus' followers "...rested on the Sabbath day according to the Commandment" after the cross.
- 9. The Sabbath was kept in Acts by both Jews and Gentiles.

Malachi 3:6 "I am the Lord, I change not."

Matthew 5:17 "Think not that I am come to destroy the law..."

God does not change and neither does His law.

Psalm 111:7, 8 "...all His Commandments are sure. They stand fast for ever and ever."

Psalm 119:151 "...All Thy Commandments are truth."

Psalm 19:7 "The law of the Lord is perfect."

Matthew 5:18 "For verily I say unto you, Til heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law."

#### **COVENANT- LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT**

Hebrews 9:16, 17 "For where a testament is, there must also of necessity be the death of the testator. For a testament is of force after men are dead: otherwise it is of no strength at all while the testator liveth."

Galatians 3:15 "Brethren, I speak after the manner of men; Though it be but a man's covenant, yet if it be confirmed, no man disannulleth, or addeth thereto."

Psalm 89:34 "My covenant will I not break, nor alter the thing that is gone out of my lips."

## 2 Questions: When did Sunday worship come into Christianity?

Who changed the Bible Sabbath? God the Father didn't.

Malachi 3:6 "I am the Lord. I change not..."

Who changed the Bible Sabbath? Jesus didn't change it.

Hebrews 13:8 "Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever."

Who changed the Bible Sabbath? His disciples didn't

Acts 5:29 "Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, We ought to obey God rather than men."

**Question:** Who did it?

Acts 20:29, 30 "For I know this, that <u>after my departing</u> shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them."

Romans 1:25 "Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator..."

Question: How did the change from Sabbath to Sunday actually occur?

It started with sun worship.

Egyptians, Babylonians and many ancient cultures, it was the same. You see the sun depicted in their art. Babylonian leaders got their authority from the sun god. They weren't Sabbath keepers.

Sun worship existed all through Bible times, and the day of the sun was very, very, important for the pagans. This is how it got its name "Sun day".

Webster's Dictionary - Sunday - So called because this day was anciently dedicated to the sun, or to its worship. The first day of the

Chamber's College Dictionary, 1985 edition - **Sunday**, n. the first day of the week, called this because in ancient times it was a day for worship of the sun.

Bible Encyclopedia, p. 561 John Eadie, D.D., LL.D. - Sabbath... A Hebrew word signifying rest... Sunday was a name given by the heathens to the first day of the week, because it was the day on which they worshipped the sun.

Ezekiel 8:14 "Then he brought me to the door of the gate of the Lord's house which was toward the north; and, behold, there sat women weeping for Tammuz." Tammuz was the illegitimate son of Semeramis, and she was the wife of Nimrod who after he died was worshipped as the sun god. So Tammuz was the supposed son of the sun god.

Verse 16 "And he brought me into the inner court of the Lord's house, and, behold, at the door of the temple of the Lord, between the porch and the altar, were about five and twenty men, with their backs toward the temple of the Lord, and their faces toward the east; and they worshipped the sun toward the east."

Satan's plan is to counterfeit God's plan

Ezekiel 20:20 "And hallow my sabbaths; and they shall be a sign between me and you, that ye may know that I am the LORD your God."

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**Question:** How did sun worship enter the church?

History of Civilization, vol.1, p.188 "Pagan ceremonies were established in Christian churches... until... Christianity exhibited so grotesque and hideous a form, that its best features were lost, and... its early loveliness altogether destroyed."

Wharey's Church History, p.54 "Christianity had now become popular, and a large proportion, perhaps a large majority of those who embraced it, only assumed the name... They are as much heathen as they were before. Error and corruption now came in upon the Church like a flood."

Instead of the church converting the heathen to Christ, the heathen converting the church to the world.

The Catholic World, p. 809, March 1994 "The sun was a foremost god with heathendom... There is, in truth, something royal, kingly about the sun, making it a fit emblem of Jesus, the Sun of Justice. Hence the Church in these countries would seem to have said, "Keep that old pagan name. It shall remain consecrated, sanctified." And thus the pagan Sunday, dedicated to Balder, became the Christian Sunday, sacred to Jesus.

In the fourth century after Christ, the Roman Emperor Constantine, who was raised a pagan, had a Christian mother and he converted to Christianity.

About this time, the Roman empire was falling apart There were two problems: \* Jewish revolts

\* Christians and Jews worshipped on the same Sabbath

Question: How could Constantine unite his empire? He made the attempt by the first Sunday law:

"On the venerable Day of the Sun let the magistrates and people residing in cities rest, and let all the workshops be closed." Constantine. 321 AD

And so it was, in the days of Constantine, church and state united. The church fathers, willing to compromise, chose to change the Sabbath to Sunday, and with the influence of the emperor, the pagans flooded the church.

Then from the Council of Laodicea, 325 AD, came this: "Christians shall not Judaize and be idle on Saturday, but shall work on that day; but the Lord's day they shall especially honour, and as being Christians, shall, if possible do no work on that day."

Gradually over the centuries Sunday was accepted in place of the Bible Sabbath.

Question: What is the basis of authority in spiritual matters? The church or God's will?

Who have you chosen to be your master? Jesus or church leaders?

Joshua 24:15 "And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve... but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD."

In the book of Daniel it was prophesied what a religious power would do:

Daniel 7:25 "And he shall speak great words against the most High, and shall wear out the saints of the most High, and think to change times and laws."

This is from the Roman Catholic Libraries, Canon and Traditions, p. 263 "The authority of the church could therefore not be bound to the authority of the Scriptures because the church had changed the Sabbath into Sunday, ... not by a command of Christ, but by its own authority."

American Catholic Quarterly Review, Jan. 1883 "Protestantism, in discarding the authority of the church, has no good reason for its Sunday theory, and ought, logically, to keep Saturday with the Jews."

Catholic Press "Sunday is a Catholic institution, and its claims to observance can be defended only on Catholic principles... From the beginning to the end of Scripture there is not a single passage that warrants the transfer of weekly public worship from the last day of the week to the first."

Catholic Mirror "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."

T. Enright, Catholic priest - There is but one church on the face of the earth which has the power or claims the power to make laws binding on the conscience, binding before God, and binding under penalty of hell-fire. For instance, the institution of Sunday. What right has any other church to keep this day?

You answer by virtue of the fourth commandment which says, "Remember that thou keep holy the sabbath day." <u>But Sunday's not the Sabbath.</u> Any school boy knows that Sunday is the first day of the week.

I have repeatedly offered a thousand dollars to anyone who will prove by the Bible alone that Sunday is the day we are bound to keep and no one has ever called for the money. It was the holy Catholic Church that changed the day of rest from Saturday the seventh day to Sunday the first day of the week.

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The Papal Controversy, by Dr. Ray, p. 179 (writing to Protestants),

From this same Catholic Church you have accepted your Sunday, and that Sunday as the Lord's day. She is handed down as a <u>tradition</u>. And the entire Protestant world has accepted it as a <u>tradition</u> for you have not an iota of Scripture to establish it.

Therefore, that which you've accepted as your rule of faith, and adequate, as of course it is, as well as your Sunday, you have accepted on the authority of the Roman Catholic Church.

Toronto Daily Star, Oct. 26, 1949

Reverend Philip Carrington, Anglican Archbishop of Quebec, sent local clergymen into a huddle today by saying outright that there was nothing to support Sunday being kept holy. Carrington definitely told a church meeting in this city of straightlaced Protestantism that tradition, not the Bible, made Sunday the day of worship.

Dr. Edward T. Hiscox, author of The Baptist Manual, made this candid admission before a New York Ministers Conference, Nov. 13. 1893:

There was and is a commandment to keep holy the Sabbath day, but that Sabbath day was not Sunday. It will be said however, and with some show of triumph, that the Sabbath was transferred from the seventh to the first day of the week. Earnestly desiring information on this subject, which I have stidied for many years, I ask, where can the record of such a transaction be found? Not in the New Testament - absolutely not. There is no scriptural evidence of the change of the Sabbath institution from the seventh to the first day of the week.

To me it seems unaccountable that Jesus, during three years' intercourse with His disciples, often conversing with them upon the Sabbath question.... never alluded to any transference of the day; also that during forty days of His resurrection life, no such thing was intimated.

Of course, I quite well know that Sunday did come into use in early Christian history as a religious day, as we learn from the Christian Fathers and other sources. But what a pity that it comes branded with the mark of paganism, and christened with the name of the sun god, when adopted and sanctioned by the papal apostasy, and bequeathed as a sacred legacy to Protestantism!

God gave man 3 special gifts back in Genesis: Life; Marriage; The Sabbath – Time with God.

Revelation 4:11 "Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created."

Exodus 20:8-11 "Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work: But the seventh day [is] the sabbath of the LORD thy God: [in it] thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that [is] within thy gates: For [in] six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them [is], and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it."

When A Church Compromises The Day That God Set Aside As A Memorial Of His Creation, That Church Will Eventually Forget The Creation.

In a USA Today Paper, the headline was: "Pope accepts evolution, creates furor:" Pope John Paul II says he sees no conflict between religious teachings and the theory of evolution.

Time, Nov. 4, 1996

"Did God create mankind in His image, as the Bible says, or did humans evolve from animals, as Darwin theorized nearly 150 years ago? According to Pope John Paul II, evolution may be a better explanation. "We may descend from monkeys."

US News and World Report, Nov. 4, 1996

In his message to a meeting of the Pontifical Acadey of Sciences which had taken the origin of life as its theme... the statement by John Paul reflects the church's acceptance of evolution.

The statement is unlikely to enfluence Catholic schools, where evolution has been taught since the 1950's. Indeed, reading the entire Bible literally has not been a dominant practice anong Catholics through much of the 20th century.

According to the Bible, is it possible to worship in vain?

Mark 7:7-9, 13 "Howbeit in vain do they worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men. For laying aside the commandment of God, ye hold the tradition of men, as the washing of pots and cups: and many other such like things ye do. And he said unto them, Full well ye reject the commandment of God, that ye may keep your own tradition." "Making the word of God of none effect through your tradition, which ye have delivered and many such like things do ye."

Matthew 15:3 "But he answered and said unto them, Why do ye also transgress the commandment of God by your tradition?

**Question:** What is truth? 1) Jesus – John 14:6; 2) Word of God – John 17:17; 3) Law; and therefore is not the truth – Psalm 119:142.

6

Sunday Sacredness: 1. Not found in the Word of God; 2. Never kept by the Lord Jesus; 3. Not found in God's Holy Law

Seventh-day Sabbath: 1. Found throughout the Word of God; 2. Honored by the Lord Jesus; 3. Anchored in God's Holy Law

Jesus - "I am the way, the truth, and the life" -- John 14:6

Satan - "...he is a liar, and the father of it." -- John 8:44

**Satan is the Dreat Deciever -** 1. He deceived 1/3 of all the angels in heaven; 2. He deceived Adam & Eve in the Garden; 3. He's deceived men and women all through the centuries since Eden, using all kinds of tricks.

Changing God's Sabbath to Sunday and getting almost the whole Christian world to honor the counterfeit is a crowning poing in his deceptive work.

Acts 17:30 "And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men everywhere to repent."

James 4:17 "To him that knoweth to do good and doeth it not to him it is sin."

John 3:19-21 "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 every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved. But he that doeth truth cometh to light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God."

<u>Story</u>: From the book, "Men at Work: by George Will, "When professional umpire Babe Pinelli called baseball great Babe Ruth out on strikes, Ruth made a populist argument. Ruth reasoned fallaciously (as populists do) from raw numbers to moral weight: "There's 40,000 people here who know that last one was a ball, tomato head.'

"Pinelli replied with the measured stateliness of John Marshall: 'Maybe so, but in this stadium, mine is the only opinion that counts.'

God is the Umpire of the universe, and no matter what the majority of the Christiand world chooses to believe regarding the day of worship, The Sabbath will always be God's holy, blessed and sanctified Day!.

The words of Jesus in Matthew 6:33 are our safety net, "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." By individual, family and corporate worship and Bible study we fufill His command.

In the early days of Christianity, God invited His people to take a stand.

In the dark ages, God invited His people to take a stand.

In the last days, God invited His people to take a stand.

Acts 5:29 "Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, We ought to obey God rather than men."

Revelation 14:7 "And worship him who made heaven and earth, the sea and the fountains of waters.

# End Semester 2 – Week 5 - Class 10 HISTORY'S GREATEST RELIGIOUS COVER-UP

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Next Class Semester 2 – Week 6 - Class 11 "The Subject Satan Hates"

# The Following Class Semester 2 – Week 6 - Class 12 "God's Way of Salvation"