

HOPE FOR HUMANITY

REVELATION TODAY

PRESENTATION 6 • PROPHECY'S DAY OF HOPE

We like days.

SLIDE • LEMONADE. You might not have known that in the United States, May 1 is National Lemonade Day.

SLIDE • Skin check May 2 is Melanoma Monday, established by the American Academy of Dermatology.

SLIDE • OFFICE WORKER. June 2 is National Leave the Office Early Day.

SLIDE • UNDERWEAR. August 5 is National Underwear Day.

SLIDE • GUMBO. October 12 is National Gumbo Day.

SLIDE • PIG. It's also National Pulled Pork Day, with the compliments of the barbecue industry. I didn't check, but maybe October 13

SLIDE • STETHOSCOPE is national heart attack day.

SLIDE • CONGRESS. I don't know who all establishes or declares these days, and you can be sure they weren't voted by an act of Congress.

Of course, there are other important days.

SLIDE • WEDDING anniversaries.

SLIDE • BIRTHDAY. Birthdays.

SLIDE • JULY 4. Fourth of July

SLIDE • THANKSGIVING. Thanksgiving.

SLIDE • JUNETEENTH. The newest Public Holiday is Juneteenth, National Independence Day, commemorating when the last enslaved African-Americans were informed that they were free, is now an official federal holiday, as of 2021. June 19.

All of these days are commemorations. Reminders. They speak to us.

SLIDE • NIGHT SKY. Question for you. If you were God, what day would you want commemorated? Christianity has entered this discussion by celebrating

SLIDE • RESURRECTION. Easter, and (**SLIDE • CHRISTMAS**) Christmas, and depending on the faith, various other days and events, but what would God want celebrated? Wouldn't it be interesting if God had a public holiday?

Well, look at something with me. We're going to make an interesting discovery tonight. Although, let's be careful with that word "discovery." It's (**SLIDE • SHIP**) like talking about Columbus

discovering the New World. Of course he didn't discover it. It was here all along and it was inhabited by people who very much knew it was here.

SLIDE • EGYPTIAN MUMMY. Howard Carter discovered the tomb of Tutankhamun in 1922.

SLIDE • MACCHU PICCHU. Macchu Picchu.

SLIDE • GRAVE. Richard III's grave.

SLIDE • DEAD SEA SCROLLS. Dead Sea Scrolls.

So like most discoveries, we're going to look at something that was there all the time, hidden in plain view, known to some, certainly now to God, and definitely interwoven with the prophecies of the Bible and relevant for us late in the history of the world. In fact, it's part of the final gospel message to go to the world.

SLIDES (2) • REVELATION 14:6–7. 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.

Here's the everlasting gospel, the final gospel message to go to the world. For you and me. In these verses, modern man called to worship God, his Creator. Message for whole world before second coming, remind man of his origin, Creator.

There's a conflict in Revelation about who to worship. That's significant. Recall Isaiah 14?

SLIDE • ISAIAH 14:13–14. Satan said in his heart, "For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High. Satan wanted to sit in God's place. Still does. What he wants is allegiance. He wants worship.

So how does God respond to that?

SLIDE • CREATION. The Bible tells us that Jesus is the Creator.

SLIDE • JOHN 1:1–3. "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made."

SLIDE • HMS BEAGLE. Since Charles Darwin sailed around the world on the HMS Beagle in the 1830s, the idea of evolution has become more and more popular. With it, the concept of God as Creator and even of God as God has really been damaged.

SLIDE • REVELATION. The heart of the book of Revelation leads us to a wonderful discovery, one that speaks of the love of God, that shows us how interested God is in blessing us and helping us to get the most out of life.

The Bible tells us the world was created in six days.

SLIDE • Light On the first creation day, God said, Let there be light, and there was light. Each day for five days God created, adding to the beauty of the world and preparing this place for the people He would make on day six.

It was then that God said, Let us make man in our image. According to the Bible we are not the result of an evolutionary process. I know that many intelligent, thinking people are committed to that idea, but the Bible states we were designed, purpose-built, carefully crafted by a God of love.

SLIDE • PSALM 33:6, 9. The Bible says, “By the word of the Lord were the heavens made, and all the host of them by the breath of His mouth. For he spoke, and it was done. He commanded, and it stood fast” (Psalm 33:6, 9).

SLIDE • SKY AND SEA. Day two—the sky and the sea.

SLIDE • LAND AND VEGETATION. Day three—land and vegetation.

SLIDE • SUN MOON STARS. Day four—sun, moon and stars.

SLIDE • SEA CREATURES AND BIRDS. Day five—sea creatures and birds.

SLIDE • DAY SIX. Animals and people.

But even though Adam and Eve had been created, creation was not yet finished.

SLIDE • GENESIS 2:2. And on the seventh day God ended his work which he had made; and he rested on the seventh day from all his work which he had made.

God wasn't tired, but ceasing from that work and enjoying His completed creation. He gave us a memorial of His creative power. An eternal sign of His power to create and recreate.

SLIDE • GENESIS 2:3. And God blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it: because that in it he had rested from all his work which God created and made.

SLIDE • CREATION. 7th day Sabbath, given at creation, was to be an eternal sign, a reminder that we were made by God in His image, and made for an eternal purpose. And God blessed that day. Then He sanctified it—set it apart as a forever reminder of who God is and who He made us to be.

SLIDE • CALENDAR. In fact, the only reason we have a 7-day week is Creation!

There are three specific things God did on the seventh day.

1. **SLIDE •** God blessed it.
2. **SLIDE •** God sanctified it.
3. **SLIDE •** God rested on it.

He made it an eternal sign of His powerful creation and infinite love. Keep in mind that the only day God blessed was the 7th day.

SLIDE • COMMANDMENTS. At Mt Sinai God wrote commandments on stone with own finger. On stone because they were to endure forever. And when God gave the commandments He spoke a little differently about this one. There wasn't a “thou shalt” or a “thou shalt not.” God started this one by saying “Remember.”

SLIDES (2) • EXODUS 20:8–10. He said, “Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the LORD your God. In it you shall do no work: you, nor your son, nor your daughter, nor your male servant, nor your female servant, nor your cattle, nor your stranger who is within your gates.”

So clearly this wasn't new. They couldn't remember something they weren't familiar with. God said Remember.

SLIDE • “SABBATH OF...” Notice, it's the “Sabbath of the Lord thy God”—not the Sabbath of the Jews. The originator of the Sabbath is the Creator Himself. The Sabbath wasn't reserved for just one race of people. It's not a Jewish institution. “Thou shalt not kill” wasn't reserved only for Jewish people. The same with “Thou shalt not commit adultery.” The Sabbath was created by God 2,300 years before existence of the Jewish race.

SLIDE • EXODUS 20:11 says, “For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day. Therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it.”

SLIDE • EZEKIEL 20:12. Moreover I also gave them My Sabbaths, to be a sign between them and Me, that they might know that I am the Lord who sanctifies them.

SLIDE • JESUS. How did Jesus relate to the Sabbath?

SLIDE • LUKE 4:16. So 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 to read.

And remember, He was the Creator. He made the Sabbath. And it was Jesus who gave the law in the first place. And the Bible shows us clearly which day is the 7th day.

SLIDE • LUKE 23:52–53. This man went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then he took it down, wrapped it in linen, and laid it in a tomb that was hewn out of the rock, where no one had ever lain before.

SLIDES (2) • LUKE 23:54–56. That day was the Preparation, and the Sabbath drew near. And the women who had come with Him from Galilee followed after, and they observed the tomb and how His body was laid. Then they returned and prepared spices and fragrant oils. And they rested on the Sabbath according to the commandment.”

SLIDE • LUKE 24:1. “Now on the first day of the week, very early in the morning, they, and certain other women with them, came to the tomb bringing the spices which they had prepared.”

SLIDE • Friday/Saturday/Sunday

Jesus died on the Preparation Day—Good Friday

He rose on the first day—Easter Sunday

He rested on the Sabbath—Saturday. The day in between Friday and Sunday is the Sabbath day, and that's the day we call Saturday.

SLIDE • DICTIONARY. A dictionary will tell you—Sunday = First day of the week, while the Sabbath is the 7th.

SLIDE • LANGUAGES. In Spanish, Saturday is “Sábado”. In Russian, “Subbota.” About 105 languages of the world use the word for “Sabbath” as “Saturday.”

SLIDE • VIDEO–STARS.

Astronomers will tell you there's never been a break in the continuity of the weekly seven day cycle.

SLIDE • CALENDAR. Look at a calendar and you'll see..

On that first Sabbath Jesus rested from creation, then redemption.

SLIDE • MATTHEW 5:17–18. In fact, Jesus said in Matthew 5:17–18, “Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill. For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled.”

SLIDE • 10 COMMANDMENTS. It’s so important to God He wrote it with His own finger on tables of stone. Not something He wants us to forget. These are **10 Commandments**, not 10 suggestions.

It’s interesting that God even wired us in harmony with the seven days of creation week. It’s fascinating that each of us has a (**SLIDE • CLOCK**) circadian clock that uses basically a 24-hour rhythm that coordinates with the Earth’s light-dark cycle.

SLIDE • “CIRCADIAN”. The word “circadian” comes from two Latin words—“circa,” meaning “about,” and “diem” meaning “day.” Light sensitive cells in your (**SLIDE • EYES**) eyes send information to your brain’s (**SLIDE • BRAIN**) master clock, which readjusts daily. That master clock regulates temperature, eating patterns, all sorts of things going on in your body, and then cellular clocks throughout your body react so they can be in tune with the master clock phase. When you continually mix that up, the result can be chronic, degenerative diseases. So, apparently, getting enough rest is important for people. And take this further. Science tells us that not only do our bodies run on a circadian rhythm, but that we also function on a circaseptan rhythm. That is, we operate on a 7-day cycle, as evidenced by many of the biological processes of the body.

The Sabbath is a memorial of creation, just like the 4th of July is a memorial. And you can’t change that. You could celebrate on July 5, but it doesn’t change July 4th.

We know Jesus kept Sabbath. Did it change after died? We’ve seen Jesus’ example. Let’s look at the example of His followers.

SLIDE • ACTS 17:2. Then Paul, as his custom was, went in to them, and for three Sabbaths reasoned with them from the Scriptures.

SLIDE • ACTS 16:13. And on the Sabbath day we went out of the city to the riverside, where prayer was customarily made; and we sat down and spoke to the women who met there.

SLIDE • ACTS 13:42. So when the Jews went out of the synagogue, the Gentiles begged that these words might be preached to them the next Sabbath.

SLIDE • ACTS 13:44 says, “On the next Sabbath almost the whole city came together to hear the Word of God.”

The 7th day Sabbath is mentioned over 50 times in the New Testament, yet no mention is made of a change. And in fact, Jesus referred to keeping the Sabbath specifically in the New Testament.

Every now and then someone will say to me, I don’t think I should keep the Sabbath because the New Testament doesn’t say it is important. Look at this with me.

SLIDE • MATTHEW 24:19–20. But woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days! And pray that your flight may not be in winter or on the Sabbath.

Jesus was talking about what would happen in the future, in the year 70 A.D. Looking ahead to the future, Jesus was saying, the Sabbath will be important to you, and to Me, long after I’m gone from this world.

So then what happened when Jesus died on the cross? He brought an end to the system of types and ceremonies which for thousands of years had pointed to His death. A transition took place, away from the ceremonies and towards eternal realities.

SLIDE • SANCTUARY. The ceremonial law was no longer to be kept. No more animal sacrifices, no more annual feast days. But thou shalt not kill? Thou shalt not steal? Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy? Still important to God.

So WHEN do you keep the Sabbath?

SLIDE • VIDEO-SUNSET. Bible says Sunset to Sunset. You read that in Leviticus where it says the Sabbath is to be celebrated from “even to even”, which Mark 1:32 tells us is sunset.

SLIDE • FIELD. We’ve seen Sabbath before Christ, during His life, after His death.

SLIDES (2) • ISAIAH 66:22–23. 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 New Moon to another, and from one Sabbath to another, all flesh shall come to worship before Me,” says the LORD.

The Sabbath day will even be kept in the New Earth, long after we go to heaven. Jesus said, Thy will be done on earth, as in heaven. If we’re going to worship God as Creator throughout eternity, it seems logical we should worship Him as Creator here. We recognize God as God because He is the Creator. This is what separates the true God from false Gods. In the beginning God created. He gives us the Sabbath day to remember that, to live in relation with Him based on that principle.

We don’t want to just know THAT God has given this to us. It’s important to know WHY He has given it to us. I am thankful Jesus hasn’t changed Sabbath. He intended it as a release valve from the pressures of life, as a time we could connect with each other, and a time we can connect with God. It is a safeguard...

Workaholics get a chance to take a break. Families get a chance to regroup. God says, This busy life is going to push you to overdo it, but take a deep breath, step back, rest a little... This is Quality Time. Time with God. Time for worship. Time with family. Quality time, uninterrupted by regular work and our secular concerns. Time made holy by the Creator, for us to enjoy His presence and grow in His love.

Think of what this says about God! He wants to enhance our lives. He wants to bless us with more of His presence. He wants us to be happier than we’ve ever been. He wants to be the focus of our lives like never before. God wants you to get the most out of life.

Now, I know someone might say, “I’ll just keep every day holy!” Well, that’s not what God has asked. We can only keep holy something that He has made holy. We ought to follow God and worship Him and serve Him every day, but God hasn’t called us to keep every day holy.

SLIDE • FOURTH COMMANDMENT. I don’t want you to think the 4th commandment is more important than others. But it’s not less important either. If you’re breaking one, hurts the Lord as much as if breaking another.

SLIDE • JAMES 2:10. For whoever shall keep the whole law, and yet stumble in one point, he is guilty of all.

SLIDE • JOHN 14:15. And let’s remember that Jesus said, “If you love Me, keep my commandments” John 14:15.

God is wanting to add to your experience with Him. You don't want to make the mistake of saying, "That's not what I've done all my life and I'm not about to change now!" Instead, pray and ask God to make clear His will for your life. The Christian who loves the Lord wants His will to be done.

When smart phones were introduced, not many people said they WANTED to stick with the rotary phone on the wall of their home. Some of you may have had an agitator washing machine with a wringer. You probably don't have an agitator washing machine today. You move with the times. You make progress.

Does God want us to make progress spiritually? Of course He does. Sometimes He shows us new things because He wants more for us. We're happier when we grow in our faith in God.

SLIDE • PAINTINGS. In 1975, a man who worked on the assembly line at the FIAT auto factory in Turin, Italy, stopped on his way home at a police auction, where items found on city trains were sold to the highest bidder. He spotted two paintings he thought would look nice on the wall above his kitchen table. The auctioneer told him they were garbage, found on a train that ran between Paris and Turin, in Italy's northwest. He outbid another man and paid around \$30. After he retired, his son—who was taking an art appreciation class—discovered one of the paintings was by the French painter Pierre Bonnard, and the other was by Paul Gauguin. They were originals, and are worth around \$50m. And because insurance has paid out, and the original owners have no heirs, the retired auto worker gets to keep his paintings, bought at an auction for \$30, now worth \$50m.

They were there on his wall all those years, but unappreciated for what they really were. He didn't know the value of what he had.

The Sabbath has been there all the time, but many people have never realized the value of what they have. But now we do—a special day, blessed by God. Quality time—time God wants you to spend with Him.

And you've got something precious in Jesus....

SLIDE • JESUS.



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