

# HOPE FOR HUMANITY

## REVELATION TODAY

### PRESENTATION 7 • PROPHECY'S HIJACK HEIST

**SLIDE • QUOTE.** “Whereas the provinces of Canada, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick have expressed their desire to be federally united into one dominion under the Crown of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, with a constitution similar in principle to that of the United Kingdom; and whereas such a union would conduce to the welfare of the provinces and promote the interests of the British Empire...”

**SLIDE • CANADA.** And so begins the preamble to the Canada’s Constitution Act of 1867. Canada’s Constitution is Supreme law in Canada, outlining Canada’s system of government, as well as civil and human rights.

**SLIDE • BRITISH.** The British, oddly enough, do not have a written constitution. Nor does England. Instead, the UK has what’s called an “uncodified constitution.”

**SLIDE • AMERICAN.** But here in the United States... Well, about half a mile from the Delaware River, a quarter of a mile from Benjamin Franklin’s final resting place, and a stone’s throw from the (**SLIDE • INDEPENDENCE HALL**) Liberty Bell is Independence Hall, which is where both the Declaration of Independence and the United States Constitution were debated and adopted. The Declaration of Independence was adopted on July 4, 1776. The Constitution was ratified in June of 1788 and became effective in 1789.

And it begins like this:

**SLIDE • QUOTE.** “We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defence, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.”

**SLIDE • CONSTITUTION.** It is regarded as the oldest written and codified national constitution in existence. It has been described as a “bold experiment in democracy.” And it has three main functions.

It creates a national government consisting of a legislative, an executive, and a judicial branch, with a system of checks and balances among the three branches. Second, it divides power between the federal government and the states. And third, it protects various individual liberties of American citizens.

The constitution of the United States has been amended 27 times. First time was in 1791, when this provision was added.

**SLIDE • QUOTE.** “Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the

people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.” (First amendment to the constitution.)

In the same year, the second amendment. Keep in mind, this was only two years after it was written.

**SLIDE • QUOTE.** “A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed.”

Can you tell me what the 16th amendment is? Well, you’re very familiar with it. 1913.

**SLIDE • QUOTE.** “The Congress shall have power to lay and collect taxes on incomes, from whatever source derived, without apportionment among the several States, and without regard to any census or enumeration.”

In 1920, the 19th amendment gave women the right to vote.

**SLIDE • PRESIDENTIAL.** The 25th amendment was passed in 1967. The vice president becomes president should the president die in office.

And the most recent amendment came into effect in 1991. It prevents members of Congress from granting themselves pay raises during the current session. Rather, any raises that are adopted must take effect during the next session of Congress. Interestingly enough, it was first proposed in 1789. Took a while to get passed.

**SLIDE • USA.** And how do you amend the constitution? The US Senate says there are two ways. “Amendments may be proposed either by the Congress, through a joint resolution passed by a two-thirds vote, or by a convention called by Congress in response to applications from two-thirds of the state legislatures.”

So amending the constitution—even though it’s been done 27 times—is not a simple matter. And it’s a very, very big deal, because you’re fundamentally altering the supreme law of the United States of America.

Imagine, then, amending the constitution of heaven. How could you do that? Imagine making a change to the supreme law of heaven. Think about that! Now, we know that one division of God’s law was totally abolished when Jesus died on the cross.

Colossians 2:14 says that when Jesus died on the cross, he blotted out

**SLIDE • COLOSSIANS 2:14.** “Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross.” (KJV) So notice. An entire division of the law was made obsolete, but what prompted that was Jesus dying on the cross. And it’s not that that law was suddenly bad. It had simply served its purpose. The symbols and types and shadows, the offerings and ordinances and sacrifices, that had pointed towards Jesus coming to this Earth and dying on the cross. And when He did, (**SLIDE • MARK 15:38**) “The veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom” (Mark 15:38).

God altered His law once, and when He did, He marked that with the death of Jesus. So let’s look at something together. First, let’s review.

1. **SLIDE • EXODUS 20:3.** “Thou shalt have no other gods before me” (Exodus 20:3). He believes in commitment, loyalty.

2. **SLIDE • EXODUS 20:4.** "Thou shalt not make any graven images and bow down to worship them" (Exodus 20:4). God is the true God. You don't want to lower your conception of God, to think less of Him than He really is.
3. **SLIDE • EXODUS 20:7.** "Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain" (Exodus 20:7). God's name is holy.
4. **SLIDE • EXODUS 20:8.** "Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy" (Exodus 20:8). The God of the Bible wants to spend time with you.
5. **SLIDE • EXODUS 20:12.** "Honour thy father and thy mother" (Exodus 20:12). God shows how important family is to heaven in this commandment.
6. **SLIDE • EXODUS 20:13.** "Thou shalt not kill" (Exodus 20:13). God values and respects life.
7. **SLIDE • EXODUS 20:14.** "Thou shalt not commit adultery" (Exodus 20:14). Again, this is about protecting the family, respecting those you love, and providing a safe place of security for others.
8. **SLIDE • EXODUS 20:15.** "Thou shalt not steal" (Exodus 20:15). We all wish people would obey this one.
9. **SLIDE • EXODUS 20:16.** "Thou shalt not bear false witness" (Exodus 20:16). God wants you to be able to trust others, and for others to be able to trust you.
10. **SLIDE • EXODUS 20:17.** "Thou shalt not covet" (Exodus 20:17).

We've already seen and agreed that they're all good principles. But we might be concerned that the Bible speaks of the rise of someone or something called "the man of sin," or "the man of lawlessness."

**SLIDE • 2 THESSALONIANS 2:3-4.** "Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition, who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God."

That's significant, given that in Revelation we see that there's a move away from faithfulness to God, with the whole issue of good and evil being resolved with God granting the wish of the saved to be saved, and with God honoring the wishes of the unsaved to be left alone to their own desires.

So let's look at this.

**SLIDES (2) • EXODUS 20:8-11.** "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. 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 • COMMANDMENT.** That's the fourth commandment. And why did God give the Sabbath to the human family?

**SLIDE • REST.** He knew we would need time out from the busy-ness of life.

**SLIDE • TIME.** He knew people would need time to connect with each other.

**SLIDE • CONNECT.** He knew people would need time to connect with God.

**SLIDE • MEMORIAL.** And He gave the Sabbath as a MEMORIAL—a memorial of creation, and a sign of His power to create and Recreate.

God gave us the seventh day Sabbath as a memorial, calling us to keep forever in mind that He is our Creator, and our re-Creator.

**SLIDE • LAW.** And it shouldn't surprise anyone that this sign of God's creative power, of His ownership of this world, would come under dispute. It encourages us to spend time with God, to remember our relationship with Him.

God gave the Sabbath to the human family back at Creation. It wasn't only Jewish—it was given more than 2000 years before there was a single Jew on the earth. God's people kept the Sabbath as they wandered in the wilderness, when they settled in the Promised Land. And when Jesus lived on the earth, He and His followers kept the Sabbath day. Today more than ever before we should see the value of rest, or coming aside, of stepping back, of making more room in our lives for what really matters. This was a gift given by a God who knew what He was doing, by a God who loves communion, fellowship. God evidently craves spending time with us. Think about that. What does that tell you about God's character?

**SLIDE • SPACE.** He has a universe so vast we can't comprehend, and yet He delights to spend time with us. That's fantastic. So if it the Sabbath was changed, that would be a colossal. You and I both know that 2000 years after Jesus' death, the Sabbath of the fourth commandment has been largely replaced by Christians and non-Christians who now consider Sunday to be the day of worship, and the generally-accepted day of rest. Remember in the Bible they accused Jesus and His disciples of failing to give the Sabbath the proper respect. They were furious, to the extent that they wanted to kill Jesus for that.

So you imagine if all of a sudden a sect rose up right after Jesus was executed that ignored the Sabbath altogether? In THAT environment? That would be huge. There would have been a civil war, you'd think! So, one would think that if (**SLIDE • COMMANDMENTS**) God's own law was going to change if there was going to be some sort of Constitutional Amendment regarding the Ten Commandments, the Bible would surely say something about it. God says to us today, "Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy." What do we say about that? It's clear, it's in the Bible, but the reality is, not everyone is enthusiastic about that. It might even be that where you worship people don't agree with God on this one, even though it's right there in the Bible. Today, most people would think of Sunday as the Christian day of rest. But is Sunday in the Bible? As a holy day? The truth is, No it's not.

If Sunday IS the Christian day of rest, then the Bible will definitely say so. But in (**SLIDE • NEW TESTAMENT**) the New Testament, Sunday is hardly mentioned. The Sabbath is mentioned many times. But Sunday?

**SLIDE • JOHN 20:19.** "So when it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and when the doors were shut where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in their midst and said to them, Peace be with you."

There was a gathering, but due to fear of the Jews, not to celebrate the resurrection. They didn't believe the resurrection had taken place!

**SLIDE • 1 CORINTHIANS 16:1–2.** “Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given orders to the churches of Galatia, so you must do also: On the first day of the week let each one of you lay something aside, storing up as he may prosper, that there be no collections when I come.”

No, this wasn't anything to do with taking an offering in church. Paul had asked the believers in Corinth to put money aside for believers suffering due to a famine. This was a collection being taken up other believers who were struggling financially. Paul says, “After the Sabbath is over, decide what you can spare for fellow believers.”

And you'll notice he was writing to the Corinthians about this. Notice what Paul did when he was WITH the Corinthians.

**SLIDE • ACTS 18:1.** “After these things Paul departed from Athens and went to Corinth.” (**SLIDE • ACTS 18:4**) “And he reasoned in the synagogue every Sabbath, and persuaded both Jews and Greeks.” While he was in Corinth, Paul kept Sabbath.

In Acts 20, we find a situation where Paul had just traveled from Philippi to Troas.

**SLIDES • ACTS 20:7–9.** Now on the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul, ready to depart the next day, spoke to them and continued his message until midnight. There were many lamps in the upper room where they were gathered together. And in a window sat a certain young man named Eutychus, who was sinking into a deep sleep. He was overcome by sleep; and as Paul continued speaking, he fell down from the third story and was taken up dead.” They were having a preaching service on 1st day. They broke bread, but they did that every day, not just on the Sabbath day. This was Paul's last day with them (see v25). That's why he preached so long. He eats, sleeps, walks 14 miles to Assos to meet other disciples. And when did he do this? If it was night time, and as this was the first day of the week, Paul was with them on Saturday night. Now why do we know that? Because in the Bible, a day is measured from (**SLIDE • SUNSET**) sunset to sunset. After the sun sets, a new day begins (from a Biblical point of view.) So it's the first day and it's DARK. That's Saturday night. Sunday night would be the second day of the week. So on Saturday night Paul preaches, Eutychus falls out of church, and the next day—Sunday—Paul walks a half-marathon to go and catch a ship. This doesn't show that Sunday is sacred. It shows the opposite.

The Sabbath day points us to Jesus – the One who created this earth back in the beginning. In these final days of this earth's history, there is a call to worship Him.

**SLIDE • REVELATION 14:7.** The final gospel message to go to the world says, “Worship Him who made heaven and earth, the seas and the fountains of waters.” That's a call to remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy. In fact, the angel there in Revelation 14 uses the same language as is used in the Sabbath commandment. It's clear God is calling us back to something we've forgotten to remember.

Let's look at the example of Jesus.

**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.”

You can read in Matthew 24, where Jesus explicitly stated the Sabbath would be kept after He died and went to heaven.

**SLIDE • MATTHEW 24:20.** “And pray that your flight may not be in winter or on the Sabbath.” Jesus was talking about something that would happen four decades after His death, and Jesus said that in that day the Sabbath would still be important.

And you read in the Bible where the disciples certainly could not have changed (**SLIDE • ACTS 5:29**) the Sabbath day—they said, “We ought to obey God rather than men.”

What makes it so important is that it is important to Jesus. He made the Sabbath day and He observed it. Imagine Jesus dying on the cross and saying to you, “This is important to me.” Wouldn't it then be important to you?

Consider this with me. Human beings have a remarkable capacity for seeing things as they really are not.

**SLIDE • LINES.** You're familiar with optical illusions. Take a look at these two lines. Which one is longest? The horizontal line is longer, even though it sure looks like the vertical line is longer.

**SLIDE • LINES.** Or here—which line is longer? It looks like the line on top is longer, but in actual fact both lines are the same size.

**SLIDE • OPTICAL ILLUSION.** The human brain is like a supercomputer. But it can't see. Your eyes tell your brain what things look like, but there are times your brain doesn't accurately understand what your eyes are saying, so it fills in the blanks, it'll make guesses based on the limited information it has. And sometimes, strange things happen as a result. You'll see things move that aren't moving. Remember that dress on the internet? Some people saw it as blue and black, while others saw it as white and gold.

**SLIDE • YANNI AND LAUREL.** What about Yanni and Laurel?

Now, let me ask you a question.

**SLIDE • BRAINTEASER—BAT AND BALL, \$1.10**

I'll repeat that for you.

A bat and ball cost \$1.10. The bat costs \$1 more than the ball. How much does the ball cost? How many think the ball cost 10 cents? Right.

Wrong.

If the ball costs 10 cents, the bat would cost \$1.10, and I said right up front that the bat and ball together cost \$1.10, so the first answer can't be right.

The ball costs ... 5 cents. The bat costs \$1.05. Together they cost... \$1.10.

What we see is that we're able to look at something, clearly, with all the information, and fail to perceive that thing for what it really is.

**SLIDE • SUNDAY.** Take Sunday, for example. For hundreds and hundreds of years people have accepted a change to the law of God, while in most cases we've not stepped back to investigate clearly and see it for what it is.

**SLIDE • AMENDMENT.** What it is, is an amendment to the constitution of heaven. The first amendment, and in all honestly, not the only amendment. This is where people have changed the law of Almighty God.

So how did the change come about? If the Bible doesn't sanction the change, who did? It happened gradually. **(SLIDE • CONSTANTINE)** In the 4th century, the emperor of the Roman Empire was a man named Constantine. His empire was fractured, and as part of an effort to unite his empire, Constantine passed a law that sought to unite everyone religiously.

Here's part of an edict he issued.

**SLIDE • QUOTE.** "On the venerable Day of the Sun let the magistrates and people residing in cities rest, and let shops be closed." Constantine, A.D. 321.

A commandment of God was changed by the government of Roman Empire in an effort to unite the pagans and Christians in his kingdom. It wasn't changed by Jesus, nor by His disciples.

A gradual change took place, and this entered into the practice of the church of the day. Eventually the modern church claimed the credit for making the change.

From a church teaching book we read,

**SLIDE • QUOTE.** "Which is the Sabbath day?" "Saturday is the Sabbath day."

**SLIDE • QUOTE.** "Why do we observe Sunday instead of Saturday?" "Because the Catholic Church transferred the solemnity from Sunday to Saturday." The Convert's Catechism, p. 50.

Does any church have the authority to change God's law? No. But down through the years, owing largely to the influence of tradition, this practice became entrenched in the Christian church.

In a book called "Catholicism and Fundamentalism" written by Karl Keating, you'll read on page 38,

**SLIDE • QUOTE.** "Fundamentalists meet for worship on Sunday, yet there is no evidence in the Bible that corporate worship was to be made on Sundays. The Jewish Sabbath, or day of rest, was, of course, Saturday. It was the Catholic Church that decided Sunday should be the day of worship for Christians, in honor of the resurrection."

One cardinal said this:

**SLIDE • QUOTE.** "You may read the Bible from Genesis to Revelation, and you will not find a single line authorizing the sanctification of Sunday. The Scriptures enforce the religious observance of Saturday." Faith of Our Fathers, p. 561, Cardinal James Gibbons.

And that's where Sunday came from. Not from the Bible, but it slipped through the back door into Christianity, and it came from tradition. Are all traditions bad things? No! **(SLIDE • THANKSGIVING)** Thanksgiving in the United States is a tradition, and a good one. But a tradition that usurps the place of a commandment of God? It's not hard to see the problems there.

**SLIDE • CROSS.** Who made us? Jesus. Who suffered for us? Jesus. Who died for us? Jesus. Who rose for us? Jesus. Who has redeemed us? Jesus. When you trust Him, desire to accept Him into your heart, there isn't anything you wouldn't surrender to Him.

So we have to ask ourselves what the foundation of our faith is. And will we settle on what God says, or on what people say?

**SLIDE • JESUS.** Sometimes it isn't easy to see something because of our history, or because of what we see other people doing. The Bible says we are saved by "grace through.... faith." And what is faith? Faith is relying on the word of God to do what it says it will do, because it is God's word.



Remember what Jesus said:

**SLIDE • JOHN 14:15.** “If you love me, keep my commandments.” So the one who is moved by love for God is going to want to live for the One who died for us. Here is where we see the importance of faith. Psychologist Joyce Brothers quote rings in my ears.

**SLIDE • QUOTE.** “The best proof of love is trust.”

Abraham loved God, and so He trusted God. The same was true for Noah. And for Gideon! Gideon started with an army of 32,000. And even with that army he was hopelessly outnumbered. But by the time God was done with Gideon’s army there were only 300 soldiers left! And God said, “Now, with 300 men, go and fight the Midianites.” And Gideon did just that. It was a suicide mission, except that he knew God was with him. When he knew it was God making the request, he trusted God and followed God’s leading.

So let’s see if we can follow God’s leading. Like Noah, we don’t want to be sidetracked by the crowd. We can’t be led to look back even if family members want to look back. We want to let God be our guide. The Bible says:

**SLIDE • REVELATION 14:12** says, “Here is the patience of the saints. Here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.”

This isn’t a matter of days, but a matter of surrender. Someone is going to tell you that you can pick whatever day you like, as though the seventh commandment is up for grabs and you can pick whatever day you like. Isn’t that a bit like what happened in the Garden of Eden—“Eve, you can eat from whatever tree you want?”

**SLIDE • FORT BLUNDER.** Back in 1816, way up in the north of the United States, at the top of Lake Champlain, only 30 or so miles south of Montreal, Canada, the US government did a very sensible thing and constructed a large, stone fortification to defend this country from Canada. Seems strange today, given that the United States and Canada are close friends and allies, but this was British Canada in those days, and being only 40 years after the signing of the Declaration of Independence and only a little over 30 years after the Revolutionary War ended, it wasn’t outside the realms of good sense for a fort to be built right on the border with Canada. It was built in sincerity and with good reason.

But a year or two after construction began, a fascinating discovery was made. The United States had actually built the fort in Canada! The defensive structure designed to protect against an invasion from Canada, was built in Canada! Of course a new fort was built... They got it wrong. And when they did, they corrected things and built a new fort which must have worked pretty well because Canada didn’t invade...

**SLIDE • SECOND COMING.** God only wants the best for you...



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