

**Topic is:** Sun Worship

**Happy Sabbath! Please see our room information at <http://93.88.247.151/chat.html>**

Zahakiel : *Let's go ahead and get started 😊 Pastor, please offer an opening prayer.*

Pastor\_Chick\_CSDA\_7 : **Dear Father in Heaven. We are thankful for sacred time to come before Your Throne. May the Spirit of YAH teach us what we need to know for this day. May the Sabbath Blessing be ours, for it is in the precious and holy name of YAHSUA that we pray, AMEN.**

Zahakiel : **Amen.**

Barbli : **Amen**

Guest\_Lucan : *Amen*

**Guest\_Adriel : Amen**

Daphna\_Matthews : *Amen*

Guest\_Elyna\_Family : *Amen*

Zahakiel : *Happy Sabbath to all. For those who are visiting with us tonight, or who may read this transcript thereafter, I would like to give a little background before we properly begin.*

*Most Seventh-day Adventists believe that in these last days, United States will pass a law that at first enforces the conducting of religious observances on Sundays, and then progresses to restricting rest and worship on other days, including the Biblical Sabbath. This is identified with the infamous "Mark of The Beast." Some say that this "mark" is a microchip, a barcode, or some other physical identifier.*

*But the Bible tells us that the Mark of the Beast is about worship. One either receives the "Seal of God," (Rev 7) which is a sign of loyalty to the Creator, or the Mark of The Beast, (Rev 14) which is a sign of loyalty to this world and its rebellious policies.*

*With regard to the identification of the Sabbath/Sunday issue with the Mark, the Scriptures tell us that the Creator "blessed" the Seventh Day. He put a special blessing on the hours between sunset on Friday and sunset on Saturday. Furthermore, it says He "hallowed" it; He made it holy, setting it apart from the rest of the week for sacred purposes. Although "worship" is not explicitly commanded on Sabbaths, we had a study last week in which we saw that while "worship" is a state of being that is experienced by believers every day of the week, Sabbaths are particularly suitable for "corporate" worship. There is divine power in sanctified fellowship, and in fact the Scriptures tell us that the gifts of Church membership, and the covenant associated with baptism into a people, are necessary for perfecting character.*

*Now, the reasoning behind the Adventist view on the Sunday Law is quite reasonable. It is certain that in the last days, each will need to choose between obedience to God, as represented by His Law, and obedience to the "Beast," which is identified as Satan's power working through human organizations. The Beast sets up a law designed to destroy Christians by causing them to choose between*

*their loyalty to Yahweh and their freedom or lives. This results in a “sifting.” Those Christians who are nominal, unconverted, casual, etc., out of fear of human power, compromise their faith and adopt the customs of the world. Those who trust in Yahweh, and who understand and obey His commandments, resist the Beast’s authority, and it will seem that they will then be destroyed. It is at that time that Yahshua, the Son of the Most High, will return with power (Mark 13:26) and He will vindicate His people. He will destroy the Beast and its followers, and the Redeemed will be transformed in such a way that they inherit everlasting life.*

*This is, in brief summary, the Adventist interpretation of the Book of Revelation; and, as I said, the principles behind this are all quite sound. There is really only one problem, and that is, that the exact nature of the Mark of The Beast, as a law that enforces worship on Sunday and restricts Sabbath observance, is neither possible in today’s social and legal environment, nor able to accomplish the work that Adventists believe it would accomplish. With today’s emphasis on civil liberties, it would take an unimaginable shift in the public consciousness of the United States to pass a law that directly impacts religious liberty in this way.*

*Now, I say “directly” for a reason, because it seems to have no problem passing laws that indirectly, but just as dramatically, impact religious observances. Some Adventist writers, such as James Standish, are very committed to the Adventist scenario and so, rather than re-evaluating the traditional interpretation in light of the “signs of the times,” they will speculate that “something” will happen, whether an act of terrorism, or some other event that even they have no idea about, and set the Sunday Law predictions back on track. This would be an event without any Biblical precedent, but perhaps more important than this, the Mark of The Beast is an attempt by Satan to separate Christians from non-Christians, and to destroy those who will not follow him.*

*Now, Satan cannot stray from the principles foreseen by the prophet John the Revelator, and therefore His Law MUST test obedience to the commandments of the Most High. However, the exact way in which that Law is fulfilled is variable, and tailored toward his intended purpose. It must be this way because we consider that those who crucified Christ while He was on earth were the Jews, using Roman power. They were obedient to all the commandments, including the Sabbath; no law, then, that tested obedience to the outward aspects of the commandments would show who Christ’s followers actually were in the days of His earthly ministry.*

*The same is true today. Many who keep the Sabbath, and would thus be identified as “Christians” by a Sunday Law, are not His genuine followers. A Law that singled out Sabbath-keepers, then, would actually NOT accomplish the purposes of either Satan OR Yahweh. It would not identify the Christians for the Beast to attack, and it would not identify the non-Christians to the universe for subjection to the just wrath that will accompany Christ’s return as a Conquering King.*

*As a few of you know, I am currently working on a document called “A New Look at The Sunday Law,” in which I provide a reply to an article written a few years ago by the above-mentioned James Standish. I point out that the only Law that Satan would devise, and that Yahweh would allow, would be one that separates true, not*

*nominal, Christians from unbelievers. It would fulfill all the principles that John predicted in the Book of Revelation, and it would also correspond to the spiritual, political and legal climate that actually exists in the world today, since Christians are told (under inspiration), "Take ye heed, watch and pray, for ye know not when the time is." (Mark 13:33)*

*There is a reason we are told to "watch," not merely to rely on the understandings of the past. The Bible states in Jeremiah 18:7-10 that predictions and prophecies are conditional on the faith and behavior of those who receive those prophecies; therefore, if the nature of Seventh-day Adventism has changed since that interpretation of the last-day prophecies was adopted, then the fulfillment of those prophecies will likewise be altered. We would not have time, in this meeting, for a very detailed examination of all the relevant factors, but of course I will make the document I mentioned available when I am finished.*

*I argue that, while remaining true to the principles and all relevant elements of the original Sunday Law prediction, changes both inside and outside of the SDA Church have necessitated a reinterpretation of Revelation's statements. To be clear, I am not advocating an alteration of a single word that is written in the Bible, only a re-evaluation of the Adventist understanding of that unchanging record.*

*Specifically, I argue that the Trademark Law currently being used by the mainstream Adventist Church against our movement, the Creation Seventh Day Adventist Church, best fits the prophecies of John in Revelation, being about obedience to the commandments of the Almighty, being about the "Sabbath more fully" into which the Book of Hebrews states the believers must step, (Heb. 4:9) requiring spiritual discernment to understand, and that would indeed separate those who believe in "righteousness by faith" (Phil 3:9) from those who do not.*

*So, while we do not have time to go over all the details, what I do want to cover tonight is one particular argument that I have heard during a discussion of the Trademark lawsuit.*

*Since James Standish did not use this argument, I am not including it in "A New Look at The Sunday Law," since it will already be long enough.*

*The argument is that the "Sunday" Law is significant, not only because it is a rejection of the seventh day of the week in favor of the first, but specifically because it favors "Sun" day, and represents a modern form of sun worship. The argument is drawn from Ezekiel, Chapters 8 and 9, which represents a parallel passage to the distinction made between the righteous and the unrighteous in the events of Revelation. We read,*

*"Then said [Yahweh] unto me, 'Hast thou seen this, O son of man? Turn thee yet again, and thou shalt see greater abominations than these. "And He brought me into the inner court of Yahweh's house, and, behold, at the door of the Temple of Yahweh, between the porch and the altar, were about five and twenty men, with their backs toward the temple of Yahweh, and their faces toward the east; and they worshipped the sun toward the east." (Ezek. 8:15, 16)*

*“...And Yahweh called to the man clothed with linen, which had the writer's inkhorn by his side, and Yah said unto him, ‘Go through the midst of the city, through the midst of Jerusalem, and set a mark upon the foreheads of the men that sigh and that cry for all the abominations that be done in the midst thereof.’ ‘And to the others He said in mine hearing, ‘Go ye after him through the city, and smite; let not your eye spare, neither have ye pity. Slay utterly old and young, both maids, and little children, and women, but come not near any man upon whom is the mark; and begin at my sanctuary...’” (Ezek. 9:3 – 6)*

*This is clearly a depiction of the “separation” in the last days, some to destruction and some to salvation. Some say that the “worship of the sun” must have a modern equivalent, and that equivalent is the transfer of sacredness (in the minds of the false Christians) from Sabbath to Sun-day. There is something to that reasoning, with regard to modern equivalents; the problem is that parallel passages in the Bible are connected by concepts and principles, but rarely specifics. In other words, a modern equivalent of sun-worship would be based on the same spiritual principles, not the same practices. It would be quite a stretch to make the claim (although some DO make it) that “Sunday worship” is the same as “Sun worship.” This is not an honest assessment of the individuals involved, who are deceived as to the sacred time, but believe that they are genuinely worshipping the God of the Bible.*

*It should be noted that while Sunday was named in honor of the sun, it is not actually dedicated to worship of the sun any more than Wednesday (Woden's-day) is dedicated to the worship of Odin or Thursday is dedicated to the worship of Thor.*

*So, if modern sun worship does not involve a literal worship of the sun, what are the principals involved? What is the “sin?” This is easy to determine, and directly from the Scriptures. Paul says in his letter to the Romans, “Wherefore Yahweh also gave [the rebellious] up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonor their own bodies between themselves, who changed the truth of Yah into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.” (Rom 1:24, 25)*

*The problem with false worship, according to Paul, is that the “creature,” the created thing, is given the attention, and the One who created it, who is obviously greater, is ignored. This “creature” may be a representation of living things, such the golden calf in Exodus, or it may be a worship of nature and its elements. The sun is an obvious target for worship, because it is bright, powerful, and responsible for the growth of food. Virtually all the energy on the earth not present when it was first created comes to us from the sun, and even the Scriptures acknowledge that it was set in place to “rule the day.” (Psa. 136:8)*

*Sun worship, then, is but a sub-type of idolatry, the worship of the creation and not the Creator. It would be the same “sin” to worship the moon, a graven image, or a false prophet. So then, if it is true, and the Bible seems to indicate it is, that “sun worship” in Ezekiel has a modern equivalent when human beings are “marked” for either salvation or destruction, what is that modern equivalent?*

***What is the worship of the “creation” rather than the Creator? The Book of Revelation fills this in for us.***

***We read, “And I beheld another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb, and he spake as a dragon. And he exerciseth all the power of the first beast before him, and causeth the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed.” (Rev 13:11, 12)***

***Now some may say, “Look at that, the second beast causes people to worship the first beast (which Adventists understand to be the Papacy) so it is clear that this is talking about Sunday worship, which is a mark of the Papacy’s enduring authority over Christendom.” That would be reasonable, if the chapter did not continue:***

***“And deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast; saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast, which had the wound by a sword, and did live. “And he had power to give life unto the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed. And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads; and that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name.” (Rev 13:14-17)***

***Now, we see something different. While the Second Beast (which Adventists understand to be the United States civil government) initially has the people worshipping the Papacy, at some point there is a change. The false worship that leads to the Mark of The Beast is NOT the worship of the first beast... we can see this if we read it carefully. The worship that would be given to the first beast is then transferred to a “creation” of the second beast, an image of the first, but not the first itself – not the Papacy.***

**Pastor\_Chick\_CSDA\_7 : **Amen.****

***Zahakiel : If this is confusing, consider it more simply this way: The United States civil government initially attempted to force people to pay homage to the Papacy, which it did in the 1800s with the proposed-but-defeated Sunday legislation, but thereafter it creates something that is “like” the first beast, and commands people to worship this NEW thing, this “image” or else it declares that they “should be killed.” The traditional Adventist interpretation does not take this properly into account, except to say that “Protestantism” is involved. But it goes deeper than that. The only time when a government would demand “worship” is when it is united with a religious organization.***

***In the symbols of the Bible, John sees “a woman sit upon a scarlet coloured beast, full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns.” (Rev 17:3) This enemy of Yahweh’s people is a woman (a Church) riding a beast (a government) being full of blasphemy, which is the diverting of Yahweh’s authority and worship. Through deception and force, the woman-beast combination, the union of the church and the state, gives rise to a creation that “must” be worshipped, otherwise***

*none may buy or sell (i.e., trade) with regard to the spiritual goods that Revelation describes.*

*If we, therefore, look at the “sin” underlying the abominable practices in Ezekiel and elsewhere, we find that there is certainly a modern equivalent to sun worship. It is the worship of the creation rather than the Creator, and Revelation tells us that in the last days there will be a move to a worldwide “worship” of the created thing, the abominable offspring of the woman-beast that represents the power formed from a union of Church and state.*

*In this generation, the people of Yahweh who are keeping His commandments (including the Sabbath) and teaching His Gospel (which involves victory over sin) are being pursued by the Dragon (Rev 12:17) operating through human agencies. These human agencies, symbolized in the Beast, are attempting to force these people to “worship” the Image by giving to the Image the obedience, loyalty, and respect that must only go to the Creator.*

*Some, who are not members of the CSDA Church, acknowledge that the Bible forbids the use of force, and believe that the conscience of Bible-believing Christians should be respected.*

*Many, unfortunately, believe that the laws of the United States courts must be followed even when they conflict with religious duties; we have seen some of that (for example) in the recent controversy over licenses for homosexual marriages. And even worse, some believe that the Church that has united with the state to enforce its will is correct in doing so. Those who take such a position are, in the spirit, worshipping the Beast and its Image. They are paying homage to an image of the Papacy, which was the first religious organization within Christianity to exercise political and legal power, beyond the limits that the Bible prescribes. They are declaring the civil courts to be the prophets worthy of our attention, rather than those teaching the Gospel, and have become advocates of yet another false religion.*

*All who worship the creature, the creation, and not the Creator, will be found guilty of sun worship before the judgment seat of Christ. This holds true whether they revere the literal sun, the spirits of nature, or the arrogance of fallen man when it rises up against the authority of the Most High.*

*Next week, I would like to continue this and speak more about genuine worship. I would like to speak more about the symbols of Scripture, and in particular prophecy, so that we may know that we are truly walking in the footsteps of Christ, avoiding all false worship, avoiding violating any principles of the perfect Christian character, and knowing with certainty that our understanding of our Father’s will is correct.*

*For now, though, I think it is clear that we have identified the sin underlying ancient sun worship; that is, the worship of creations rather than the Creator. It is clear that those who support or even advocate the authority of human courts and policies above that of Yahweh and His Law are doing exactly that, worshipping the creature rather than the Creator who is blessed forever.*

*We see, then, that there are indeed sun worshippers among the professed people of Yahweh, even among those who are preparing to resist a Sunday-sacredness Law*

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*that will not come to pass as they anticipate. Let us, as those who have the eye salve from the Son of Man, proclaim the truth to those who are blinded, and unwilling to stand for Yahshua. This is our duty, and this is our privilege as the followers of Christ.*

***For tonight, are there any questions or comments on what we have examined tonight?***

Pastor\_Chick\_CSDA\_7 : **C**

Zahakiel : ***Go ahead.***

Pastor\_Chick\_CSDA\_7 : **We need a detailed study in writing on "Modern Sun Worship"**

 **END.**

Guest\_Lucan : **Q**

Zahakiel : ***Go ahead.***

Guest\_Lucan : *I'm unfamiliar with the document you mentioned writing. What is it expected to be? A book? An article? Something else? <End.>*

Zahakiel : ***An article. As of right now... with the quotations from the Standish document, it is about 13 pages long and counting. So... a longish article*** 

Guest\_Lucan : **C**

Zahakiel : ***Go ahead.***

Guest\_Lucan : *It might be worth considering changing it into a booklet or book that could be printed and distributed among various Adventist circles...*

Zahakiel : ***Well, it has sub-headings, so I suppose it could be printed as a booklet.***

Guest\_Lucan : *In that event, including the sun worship element (and any others) would be reasonable... I think we have a fairly large catalogue of articles online that no one ever sees. An updated, Sunday law-focused parallel to Modern Reformation would be something that could get conversations going if they were distributed, to SDAs and independents alike. <End.>*

Zahakiel : ***Are there any others with thoughts to share?***

Guest\_Elyna\_Family : **Q**

Zahakiel : ***Go ahead.***

Guest\_Elyna\_Family : *It came to mind when you were talking about the Adventist expectation of a Sunday law that would not take place, about another prophecy of the Bible, when Satan will personify Christ and come down. I wonder if this is going to play in the SDA's expectations. Will there not be a counterfeit Sunday law for them that will culminate into them revering this false Christ? End*

Zahakiel : ***I'm not familiar with that prophecy you mention. The Bible says that Satan also appears as an angel of light, but that is not a prophecy about a specific***

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*event. It just means that he is deceptive. Maybe you are thinking about the antichrist who sits in the Temple of Yah? That is also not a specific event. So... I'm not sure what you mean.*

Pastor\_Chick\_CSDA\_7 : **A**

Zahakiel : *Go ahead, Pastor.*

Pastor\_Chick\_CSDA\_7 : **EGW talks about the "personation of Christ"...**

Guest\_Elyna\_Family : Yes it is from EGW.

Pastor\_Chick\_CSDA\_7 : **wherein Satan appears on the earth as Christ Himself, saying that He changed the Sabbath to Sunday. END.**

Zahakiel : *In that case, I cannot see any benefit to him doing that since the SDA Church fell into apostasy.*

Guest\_Elyna\_Family : Right.

Pastor\_Chick\_CSDA\_7 : **Q**

Zahakiel : *Go ahead.*

Guest\_Elyna\_Family : Thanks for clarifying.

Pastor\_Chick\_CSDA\_7 : **Have any of you seen the statement from Pope Francis... saying that you do not have to believe in God to be a "good person"...and that many non-religious people have done much good while terrible crimes have been committed in the name of Christ. END.**

Zahakiel : *I had not seen it.*

**Guest\_Adriel : (I have heard it , yes.**

Pastor\_Chick\_CSDA\_7 : **(It was posted on FB.) (I usually try to verify what is posted, but did not have time on that one.)**

**Guest\_Adriel : C. (He has a lot of interesting things to say in His new encyclical)**

Zahakiel : *All right, if there are no other thoughts on the study tonight, then I will ask Bro. Luke to close with a prayer.*

Guest\_Lucan : *Dear heavenly Father. We thank you for this opportunity to review the principles of the prophecies you have given us, to guide and inform us in the last days. We are blessed as we draw ever nearer to you, learning and demonstrating more of your character. We know that by knowing you, we also come to know the principles of the words you have given us, and thus avoid deception. We ask that your Spirit continue to bless and protect us, as deceptions continue to abound. In Yahshua's name we pray, amen.*

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Pastor\_Chick\_CSDA\_7 : **Amen.**

Zahakiel : **Amen.**

Barbli : **Amen**

Guest\_KimMetz : Amen

Guest\_Elyna\_Family : Amen.

Daphna\_Matthews : Amen

**Guest\_Adriel : Amen**