

Which Is To Be Observed As The Sabbath Day?

(Continued from April 1964 issue.)

In the Year of the Crucifixion

NISAN (March-April) first month of the Sacred Year	Sunset (Jewish day begins) to midnight 6 hours	Midnight (our day be- gins) to sunset 18 hours
14th day of the month 6th day of the week (Day of Preparation) PASSEVER	- Paschal (not necessarily) full moon.	
	HOLY THURSDAY	GOOD FRIDAY
15th day of the month 7th day of the week (Actually a Sabbath) UNLEAVENED BREAD	- (Never falls before March 21, Vernal Equinox, intercalary month Ve-Adar is inserted when necessary.)	
	GOOD FRIDAY	HOLY SATURDAY
16th day of the month 1st day of the week	HOLY SATURDAY	EASTER SUNDAY

As given in the Baltimore Catechism and as generally learned by Catholics the wording of the commandments differs slightly from the Biblical text and is somewhat shorter. As given in the Catechism the *third* commandment says: "Remember thou keep holy the LORD's day." It is clear, however, that the commandment as stated in Exodus (20:3) prescribes the *seventh* day, which corresponds to *Saturday*, as the day of rest. Why do the Christian Churches, except the Seventh Day Adventists, celebrate *Sunday*, the *first* day of the week, rather than *Saturday*, the *seventh* day of the week? To find an answer, if not the answer, let us take a rapid glance at history.

During the second century A.D., Mithraism, an outgrowth of Zoroas-

trianism, was the prevailing religion in the Roman Empire. Mithras, being a sun-god, Sunday, that is, *Sun's day*, was sacred to him as *the Lord's day*. During the time of Constantine the Great (288-337), the Christians having been *officially tolerated* in 313 by the Edict of Milan, endeavored to proselytize the non-Christians by "Christianizing" their festivals, that is, by having the feast day of some saint of the Church to coincide with each of their festivals. Constantine, who had already been converted to Christianity by seeing the *labarum* — the monogram of Jesus in Greek, XPIETOE, Christos, consisting of the first two letters, X (*chi*) and P (*rho*), which he saw in the sky, on the eve of a

Turn to page 392

WHICH IS TO BE OBSERVED . . .

(From page 380)

battle with Maxentius *actually* according to an account, *in a dream* according to another. About the *labarum* was an inscription in Greek: "En toto nika", *by this conquer*. The Latin version: "In hoc signo vinces", *by this sign you will conquer*, is the motto of the Order of the Temple (Knights Templar) and of the Order of the Red Cross of Constantine. Although he was not actually baptized until he was already on his death-bed in 337, still he exerted a great influence on the early Christian Church to the extent of calling the first ecumenical council, that held in Nicaea in 325, which decreed the celebration of Easter in commemoration of the Resurrection. Constantine wanted the *union* of, not a *competition* between, Christianity and sun-worship. Among the results of his influence Sunday (sun's day), the *first* day of the week, sacred to the sun-god rather than Saturday, the seventh day as commanded (Leviticus 23:3), has been consecrated as the LORD'S Day or Christian Sabbath.

On this matter it is interesting to note what the *Catholic Home Encyclopedia*, appended to the Confraternity Edition of the Bible, says (page 251): "The observance of the first day of the week as one consecrated in a special way to Christian worship *has no intrinsic connection* with the Jewish Sabbath, the observation of which *was abrogated*

WHICH IS TO BE OBSERVED

By the Law of Christ. It is an *Ecclesiastical Institute due to the Apostles themselves*. The Church's Law now involves the *Obligation of assisting at mass and resting from service work* (bodily, manual or mechanical) on this day; over and above this, *The day should be kept holy* by attending other church services, spiritual readings, etc., games and recreations are a natural relaxation on this day of rest and only cease to be commendable when they interfere with devoting worship and time which should be given directly to God Sunday is a weekly commemoration of the resurrection and is in a fast day. (Emphasis supplied)



THE CASE FOR KING . . . (From page 383)

millenium of the ancients; and God is there watching and protecting us in our will to live that every beat of our heart pulses with the love of God. Let him who could not comprehend this thought be cast away — if it be the decree of Fate — but let him have the chance. Life is still very beautiful, as beautiful as the era of King Solomon which was noted for a philosophy of culture and famous for the building of his temple — the Temple of Freemasonry — which architecture will, philosophical as it may seem, *pass on* to the next ages.