

## **A The law:**

### ❖ **The Law in the Celestial Sanctuary.**

- John saw the heavenly sanctuary open and, in it, the ark of the covenant “was seen” (Rev. 11:19). What did this vision represent?
- The ark remained “hidden” throughout the year, and could only be “seen” on the Day of Atonement (Lev. 16:2, 12-13). That day the judgment was held, and sins were definitively eliminated (Lev. 16:30).
- Like its earthly copy, the ark contains the 10 commandments, by which we will be judged. It also contains the mercy seat, a symbol of divine mercy, where the blood of Jesus covers our sins (1Pt. 1:18-19; 1Jn. 2:2; Ps. 85:10).

### ❖ **The Eternal Law.**

- Although it is now very common to hear that Jesus abolished the 10 commandments on the cross, that was not the teaching of the reformers, nor is it what the Bible teaches.
- While it is true that, on the cross, the laws and ceremonies related to the earthly sanctuary ceased to be valid, this was not the case with the moral Law (Eph. 2:15).
- The Law of God is eternal, timeless, perfect, and governs the behavior of every intelligent being created by God (Ps. 19:7; 119:142; Rom. 7:7, 12, 16, 22, 25; 1Jn. 3:4).
- In reality, the Law is eternal because it is a reflection of God's own character (Ps. 89:14; cf. Ps. 119:172b, 142b).

## **B Saturday:**

### ❖ **The meaning of Saturday.**

- The fourth commandment requires observance of the Sabbath for two reasons: because God created us (Ex. 20:8-11); and because he redeemed us (Deut. 5:12-15).
- For us, Sabbath constitutes a pause in the week to praise our Creator; meditate on his redeeming love; and remember his promise to live with Him in the New Creation. The Sabbath is for us a special blessing from our God.
- It reminds us that God loved us too much to abandon us when we separate from Him.
- By keeping the Sabbath, we manifest our loyalty to God, and our desire to worship Him alone.

### ❖ **The Sabbath and the time of the end.**

- Revelation 13 describes different powers used by Satan to deceive the world away from God. Everything in this chapter relates to worship (Rev. 13:4, 8, 12, 15).
- One of the powers mentioned is directly related to the little horn of Daniel 7, which aims to change times and the law (Rev. 13:5; Dan. 7:25).
- This power annulled the second commandment (worshiping images), and transformed the fourth (the time of worship), transferring the sanctity of Saturday to Sunday.
- In the final moments, he will force the worship of an “image” by prohibiting buying and selling [activities prohibited on the Sabbath] (Rev. 13:14-17). This “mark of the beast” is a symbol that tells us about those who will accept the Sunday instituted by man as a day of worship, instead of the Sabbath instituted by God.

## **C The Law, the Sabbath and worship.**

- ❖ The threefold message that is proclaimed during the time of the end is linked to worship and, therefore, to the Sabbath and the Law of God.
  - First message (Rev. 14:6-7): Prepare for judgment (whose standard is the Law), and worship the Creator (as the Sabbath reminds us)
  - Second message (Rev. 14:8): Turn away from religious systems that give false worship to God
  - Third message (Rev. 14:9-11): Decide who and how to worship: God, observing the Sabbath; or the enemy, accepting his mark
- ❖ In order to keep the commandments in those critical moments, they need to receive the faith of Jesus: unshakable; deep; engaged; invincible (Rev. 14:12).