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AIM:	To show how Satan counterfeited and perverted the gospel of Jesus Christ after Christ had ascended to heaven and returned its elements to a visible form.
THEME:	Christ as Messiah, Priest and Judge.
OUTLINE:	In the chart "Transition from Earthly to Heavenly Ministry" we observed that all the elements of the gospel – LAW, LAMB, PRIEST, SANCTUARY were removed from the earth and are now accessed by faith not by sight. The kingdom system of Nimrod we looked at in "Babylon and Israel Power Structures" requires a worship system that is material, visible because it is not based on relationships but power and achievement. The counterfeit is by sight. By faith the Christian looks to Jesus in heaven who died for us once. By faith we look to our Priest in heaven. By faith we look into the sanctuary in heaven and believe that Jesus will give us the power to keep the law that is contained in the Most Holy Place. All of this is by faith. There are no external elements to the plan of salvation to represent God's part in that plan. This act of looking alone to Christ signifies that we have forsaken the belief that we or any other man or woman can save us. In the vertical heavenly gaze we are justified by faith. The Christian maintains the vertical look into heaven for salvation. Satan knew that to corrupt this process he must shift the gaze of humanity away from heaven and back to man. Since man is so eager to save himself and naturally resists God's plan to save him, he easily introduced a system that would please the carnal heart and look similar to the real plan. Over a period of time, the gaze of man was shifted from heaven back to earth. Only by looking to Christ do we have salvation. There is no man, no Pope, no system that can save us outside of the upward gaze by faith into the sanctuary above.
NOTES:	 How the Counterfeits were Introduced 1. Sanctuary: Constantine built a temple with a high altar for the church on Vaticanus Hill. This became the temple of focus. 2. The Sacrifice: From the year A.D. 394 the daily practice of the mass was observed – the eating of the wafer. By A.D. 1050 the mass came to be understood to be actual sacrifice of Jesus – a bloodless sacrifice like that of Cain. The sacrifice of the mass, each time the words are spoken "This is my body" – literally drags Jesus out of heaven and casts him to the ground. 3. The Priesthood: The system of bishops and priests became so powerful that they ruled over kings and during the mid dark ages were incredibly immoral and despotic. All sins were confessed to the priest. The priest had power to forgive sins. The priesthood of Jesus was eclipsed by an earthly counterfeit. 4. The Law: Firstly the change of the fourth commandment from Sabbath to Sunday – this change is claimed as a symbol of Roman power, and secondly the removal of the second commandment concerning images. The Results of the Earthly Gaze Christianity ceased to be a religion that touched the heart and converted the soul. A round of external visible rites became the core and substance of religion. Man no longer came to God directly through Christ but through earthly impostors who made themselves rich by their trade and traffic in religion. Now turned away from Christ, the gospel lost its power. The focus on externals created a focus on works that were intended to please and appease God. These thoughts should make us weep that the church would trade their bridegroom for a wicked impostor – Satan.
FURTHER STUDY:	<u>Truth For These Times Study No.21</u> <u>Identity Wars</u> Chapter 14 Same Gods, Different Names