

# How is the Sabbath the seal of God?

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## What is a seal?

All government seals contain three common elements. These are: the name, title, and territory of the ruler. This applies to the [Bible](#) as well. For example, [Daniel 1:1](#) reads, “[Nebuchadnezzar](#) king of [Babylon](#).” So, we have the name, the official title, and his area of dominion.

## The Sabbath commandment has God's seal

Within the [Ten Commandments](#), only the [Sabbath](#) commandment ([Exodus 20:8-11](#)) has all the elements of a seal. For it reads, “For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them” ([Exodus 20:11](#)). In the [Sabbath](#) commandment, we have [God's](#) name (the Lord), His title or office (the Creator) and His territory (heavens and earth, sea and all that is in them).

The seventh-day [Sabbath](#) commandment is the only commandment that is repeatedly referred to as a seal or sign of [God](#) as seen in the following references ([Exodus 31:16](#); [Ezekiel 20:12](#); [Ezekiel 20:20](#)).

The [Bible](#) never identifies the [seventh-day Sabbath](#) with the Jews for it was instituted over 2000 years before any Jews ever existed ([Genesis 2:2,3](#)). [God](#) calls the [seventh-day Sabbath](#) “My Holy Day” ([Isaiah 58:13](#)). And He also calls it “the sabbath of the LORD thy God” ([Exodus 20:10](#)).

## The Papacy changed Sabbath observance to the first day

In the NT, [Jesus](#) never changed the Sabbath ([Matthew 5:17,18](#)). The change came in the fourth century when the Catholic [Church](#) transferred the sanctity of the

[seventh-day Sabbath](#) to Sunday, thus violating the commandment of God ([Exodus 20:8-11](#)).

But why did God bless the Sabbath? Because He rested from His work of creation on that day ([Genesis 2:2,3](#)). And since every [love](#) relationship needs time grow, the Sabbath was instituted that people may rest from their work. and nourish their relationship with God. Keeping the Sabbath demonstrates that God's children are resting from their own works. They are trusting in [Jesus](#) for their salvation ([Revelation 14:12](#); Hebrews 4). <https://bibleask.org/how-and-when-the-sabbath-was-changed/>

### **The end-time crisis**

At the end of time, the point of controversy will be over the seventh-day Sabbath observance since all the other 9 commandments are publicly accepted. But the crisis will rise when symbolic [Babylon](#) prevails upon the state to enforce [Sunday observance](#) by civil law and seeks to punish all dissidents ([Revelation 13:12–17](#)).

But the faithful will continue to keep God's commandment. "And the dragon was enraged with the woman, and he went to make war with the rest of her offspring, who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of [Jesus](#) <sup>[a]</sup>Christ" ([Revelation 12:17](#)). They will receive God's seal and will not be harmed by the final plagues ([Revelation 7:1-4](#)).

In His service,

[BibleAsk](#) Team

# The Seal of God and the Mark of the beast

## THE SEAL OF GOD

This is only a brief overview of this topic and it would be advisable to read the full and detailed document from [666mark-of-the-Beast](#) or [Mark of the Beast truth](#) to find the [origin of 666 the number of the beast](#). When I ask people what is their understanding of the Mark of the Beast, they almost always respond that the Mark is the number 666. Is this actually true or have we already been deceived at this point in our understanding? In actual fact, Revelation 13:17 shows quite clearly that the Mark of the Beast is different to the number, which is the number of a man. It says, “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.” It is true that Satan counterfeits many things of God, such as healing, tongues and other miracles. Is it possible that Satan is also going to counterfeit God’s mark, which is called the Seal of God? Was the mark the Lord set upon Cain a physical mark or a spiritual mark? Genesis 4:15 reads, “...And the LORD set a mark upon Cain, lest any finding him should kill him.” Did Cain spend the rest of his life with writing on His forehead? And assuming this, would others that existed then known about or bothered to take notice of any such mark on his head?

Some interpret the mark of the beast as a tattoo of some sort or perhaps a microchip injected into the hand or the forehead. Others think it might be connected to a credit card, national health card or bar code. From a practical standpoint this is a monumental task that would be difficult to accomplish on a worldwide basis. I would like to present an alternate interpretation that you may not have heard before. I will present a logical interpretation of both the seal of God and the mark of the beast that complement each other. The following verses refer to a seal of God.

- John 6:27 “Do not labor for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to everlasting life, which the Son of Man will give you, because God the Father has set His seal on Him.”
- 2 Corinthians 1:21-22 “Now He who establishes us with you in Christ and has anointed us is God, 22 who also has sealed us and given us the Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee.”

- Ephesians 1:13 “In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise.”
- Ephesians 4:30 “And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.”
- 2 Timothy 2:19 “Nevertheless the solid foundation of God stands, having this seal: “The Lord knows those who are His,” and, “Let everyone who names the name of Christ depart from iniquity.”

The previous verses seem to indicate a figurative or symbolic seal rather than a physical seal. Some show being sealed with the Holy Spirit. The following verses would seem to be a physical seal of some kind on the forehead.

- Revelation 7:2-3 “Then I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the living God. And he cried with a loud voice to the four angels to whom it was granted to harm the earth and the sea, 3 saying, “Do not harm the earth, the sea, or the trees till we have sealed the servants of our God on their foreheads.”
- Revelation 9:4 “They were commanded not to harm the grass of the earth, or any green thing, or any tree, but only those men who do not have the seal of God on their foreheads.”

At this point, let’s define a seal. The seal of a king contains three things, first the name, second his title or claim to authority, and thirdly, the region of his rule. Henry VIII, King of Britain, Wales and Scotland for example. What is the purpose of a King’s seal? The Bible tells us clearly:

- Daniel 6:15-17 “Then these men approached the king, and said to the king, “Know, O king, that it is the law of the Medes and Persians that no decree or statute which the king establishes may be changed.” 16 So the king gave the command, and they brought Daniel and cast him into the den of lions. But the king spoke, saying to Daniel, “Your God, whom you serve continually, He will deliver you.” 17 Then a stone was brought and laid on the mouth of the den, and the king sealed it with his own signet ring and with the signets of his lords, that the purpose concerning Daniel might not be changed.”

So the seal of the King is a statement that his decree is NOT to be changed and NOT to be changed by anyone.

- Romans 4:11 “And he received the sign of circumcision, a seal of the righteousness of the faith which he had while still uncircumcised, that he might be the father of all those who believe, though they are uncircumcised, that righteousness might be imputed to them also,”

Note that the sign of circumcision is also a seal of righteousness and that a sign and a seal can be synonymous.

- Isaiah 8:16 “Bind up the testimony, Seal the law among my disciples.”
- Deuteronomy 6:6-8 NIV “These Commandments [Ten Commandments] that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. ... Tie them as symbols on your HANDS and bind them on your FOREHEADS.”

Another very important point here is that the disciples of God are *sealed with His law*. The seal of God is in His law and this is clearly a symbolic seal and not a literal one shown also by the law being a sign where the mark of the beast goes.

- Exodus 31:13 “Speak also to the children of Israel, saying: ‘Surely My Sabbaths you shall keep, for it is a sign between Me and you throughout your generations, that you may know that I am the Lord who sanctifies you.’”
- Exodus 31:16-17 “Therefore the children of Israel shall keep the Sabbath, to observe the Sabbath throughout their generations as a perpetual covenant. 17 It is a sign between Me and the children of Israel forever; for in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, and on the seventh day He rested and was refreshed.”

So the Sabbath is a sign of God, or His seal, representing His authority as Creator.

- Exodus 32:15-16 “And Moses turned and went down from the mountain, and the two tablets of the Testimony were in his hand. The tablets were written on both sides; on the one side and on the other they were written. 16 Now the tablets were the work of God, and the writing was the writing of God engraved on the tablets.”

Note the Commandments are written on both sides of the stone tablets. In Old Testament times, covenants were stamped with the king's seal right in the middle of the text which made them unreadable where the seal was. To solve this problem, covenants were written on both sides. The fourth Commandment, the Sabbath is exactly in the middle of God's Commandments. If you count the Hebrew syllables

on each side of the fourth Commandment you will get precisely the same count, it is exactly in the middle and not by coincidence. This being the case you would expect to find the seal of God in the fourth Commandment which it indeed is. A seal is typically made up of three things; the kings Name, his Title and his Domain. Notice that we can find the seal of God in the fourth Commandment below. His name is the Lord and His title is Creator and His domain is the Heaven and Earth, the Sea, and all that in them.

- Exodus 20:8-11 “Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. 9 Six days you shall labor and do all your work, 10 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. 11 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.”

So the fourth Commandment (3rd by Catholic count) declares the seventh day (Saturday) to be the Sabbath. To attest to the validity of this declaration, the seal of God has been affixed to this Commandment. The intention of this seal is to establish the authority of God and that no man can change His Law. The seal of God is not a literal seal. It is affixed to, and obtained by, those who worship the one true God on the day He specified in His Law. Those who worship on the Saturday Sabbath and believe it to be a continuing testament to the Creator, have the seal of God on the forehead (they know the truth and follow the Law of God).

### **THE MARK OF THE BEAST**

Now here are verses that refer to the mark of the beast: (Note the mark and the number are not the same.)

- Revelation 13:16-18 “He causes all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on their right hand or on their foreheads, 17 and that no one may buy or sell except one who has the mark or the name of the beast, or the number of his name. 18 Here is wisdom. Let him who has understanding calculate the number of the beast, for it is the number of a man: His number is 666.”
- Revelation 14:9-12 “Then a third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, “If anyone worships the beast and his image, and receives his mark on

his forehead or on his hand, 10 he himself shall also drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out full strength into the cup of His indignation. He shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb. 11 And the smoke of their torment ascends forever and ever; and they have no rest day or night, who worship the beast and his image, and whoever receives the mark of his name.” 12 Here is the patience of the saints; here are those who keep the Commandments of God and the faith of Jesus.”

- Revelation 15:2 “And I saw something like a sea of glass mingled with fire, and those who have the victory over the beast, over his image and over his mark and over the number of his name, standing on the sea of glass, having harps of God.”
- Revelation 16:2 “So the first went and poured out his bowl upon the earth, and a foul and loathsome sore came upon the men who had the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image.”
- Revelation 19:20 “Then the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet who worked signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image. These two were cast alive into the lake of fire burning with brimstone.”
- Revelation 20:4 “And I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was committed to them. Then I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God, who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received his mark on their foreheads or on their hands. And they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.”

Notice how many times worship is mentioned in connection with the mark of the beast. Since the seal of God has been shown not to be a literal seal, why should the mark of the beast be a literal mark? If the mark on Cain was a literal mark, how would others have known to acknowledge it? Since those who worship on the Saturday Sabbath have the seal of God, what is a likely mark for the beast? It looks like worship is a factor. Notice in Revelation 13:17 that the mark of the beast is not the number of his name which is 666. Many people think this number is the mark of the beast. The mark of the beast and the name of the beast and the number of his name are separate things, all which must be avoided. Obviously, it is important we know who the beast is. As shown previously on this web site titled, “Sabbath and Antichrist truth revealed” the beast is the Papacy and Catholic Church identified in one instance by the number 666, which equates to the papal title of VICARIUS FILII DEI, when you add up the Roman numeral values for the letters. It

means the Vicar of the Son of God or Vicar of Christ. A Vicar General is defined in the 1994 Catholic Almanac on page 330 as “a priest or bishop appointed by the bishop of a diocese to serve as his deputy, with ordinary executive power, in the administration of the diocese.” So a vicar serves in the place of (substituting for) the bishop, and assumes his power of office for certain duties. The Papal title of VICAR OF CHRIST which in Latin is VICARIUS CHRISTI, means a Substitute For Christ, which is synonymous with Antichrist, i.e., assuming the power of God on earth. This blasphemous claim is made repeatedly by various Popes and is the very foundation of Roman Catholicism and its Papacy. The reformation was based on the identification of Roman Catholicism as the beast, and the Pope as the Antichrist, but this is something that has been forgotten or overlooked by Protestantism today. Now look at Revelation 14:9-12 and Deuteronomy 6:6-8 again. Note how the Ten Commandments are very significantly to be a sign upon our HANDS and FOREHEAD and how the saints of God are described in contrast to those with the mark of the beast? The saints keep the Commandments of God, and so they do not receive the mark of the beast! It is by no means a coincidence that the mark of the beast goes in exactly the same location that is a symbolic sign that God’s Ten Commandment law is written in our hearts and minds so that we will not forget them.

# Bible Verses about Sabbath as Sign

- [Exodus 31:12-18](#)

And the LORD spoke to [Moses](#), saying, "Speak also to the children of Israel, saying: "Surely My Sabbaths you shall keep, for it *is* a sign between Me and you throughout your generations, that *you* may know that I *am* the LORD who sanctifies you. You shall keep the [Sabbath](#), therefore, for *it is* holy to you. Everyone who profanes it shall surely be put to death; for whoever does *any* work on it, that person shall be cut off from among his people. Work shall be done for six days, but the seventh *is* the Sabbath of rest, holy to the LORD. Whoever does *any* work on the Sabbath day, he shall surely be put to death. Therefore the children of Israel shall keep the Sabbath, to observe the Sabbath throughout their generations *as* a perpetual covenant. It *is* a sign between Me and the children of Israel forever; for *in* six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, and on the seventh day He rested and was refreshed."" And when He had made an end of speaking with him on Mount Sinai, He gave Moses two tablets of the Testimony, tablets of stone, written with the finger of [God](#).

- [Mark 2:27](#)

And He said to them, "The Sabbath was made for man, and not man for the Sabbath.

- [Genesis 2:2-3](#)

And on the seventh day God ended His work which He had done, and He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had done. Then God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it, because in it He rested from all His work which God had created and made.

- [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.

- [Ezekiel 20:11-13](#)

And I gave them My statutes and showed them My judgments, 'which, *if* a man does, he shall live by them.' Moreover I also gave them My Sabbaths, to be a sign between them and Me, that they might know that I *am* the LORD who sanctifies them. Yet the house of Israel rebelled against Me in the wilderness; they did not walk in My statutes; they despised My judgments, 'which, *if* a man does, he shall live by them'; and they greatly defiled My Sabbaths. Then I said I would pour out My fury on them in the wilderness, to consume them.

- [Deuteronomy 5:14-15](#)

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 ox, nor your donkey, nor any of your cattle, nor your stranger who *is* within your gates, that your male servant and your female servant may rest as well as you. And remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt, and the LORD your God brought you out from there by a mighty hand and by an outstretched arm; therefore the LORD your God commanded you to keep the Sabbath day.

- [Ezekiel 20:16](#)

because they despised My judgments and did not walk in My statutes, but profaned My Sabbaths; for their heart went after their idols.

- [Leviticus 23:3](#)

'Six days shall work be done, but the seventh day *is* a Sabbath of solemn rest, a holy convocation. You shall do no work *on it*; *it is* the Sabbath of the LORD in all your dwellings.

- [Isaiah 58:13-14](#)

"If you turn away your foot from the Sabbath,  
*From* doing your pleasure on My holy day,  
And call the Sabbath a delight,  
The holy *day* of the LORD honorable,

And shall honor Him, not doing your own ways,  
Nor finding your own pleasure,  
Nor speaking *your own* words,  
Then you shall delight yourself in the LORD;  
And I will cause you to ride on the high hills of the earth,  
And feed you with the heritage of Jacob your father.  
The mouth of the LORD has spoken."

- [Ezekiel 20:18-21](#)

"But I said to their children in the wilderness, 'Do not walk in the statutes of your fathers, nor observe their judgments, nor defile yourselves with their idols. I *am* the LORD your God: Walk in My statutes, keep My judgments, and do them; hallow My Sabbaths, and they will be a sign between Me and you, that you may know that I *am* the LORD your God.' "Notwithstanding, the children rebelled against Me; they did not walk in My statutes, and were not careful to observe My judgments, 'which, *if* a man does, he shall live by them'; but they profaned My Sabbaths. Then I said I would pour out My fury on them and fulfill My anger against them in the wilderness.

- [Ezekiel 20:24](#)

because they had not executed My judgments, but had despised My statutes, profaned My Sabbaths, and their eyes were fixed on their fathers' idols.

- [Deuteronomy 5:12](#)

"Observe the Sabbath day, to keep it holy, as the LORD your God commanded you.

- [Matthew 5:19](#)

Whoever therefore breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches men so, shall be called least in the [kingdom of heaven](#); but whoever does and teaches *them*, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.

- [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.

- [1 John 2:6](#)

He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked.

# What does the Bible say about the Sabbath day?

Posted on [February 24, 2015](#) by [Joel Allen](#)



24 Feb

## **What is the Sabbath?**

Sabbath is the Hebrew word SHABBATH which is a holy rest day unto Yahweh. It is the seventh day of every week (Gen. 2:2-3, Exo. 16:23-29) as well as the seven festivals of Yahweh (Lev. 23). The Sabbath began with Yahweh in Genesis 2:2-3 ending his work of creating the earth and the heavens and resting on the seventh day. The Sabbath was observed and kept by every believer that desired to please Yahweh and keep His commandments from Adam to Moses, all of the Kings and Prophets, the Messiah and

His disciples. So integral was this day that Yahweh included this as the fourth of the Ten Commandments given at Mount Sinai (Exo. 20:8).

**There are three things that Yahweh commands to do on the weekly seventh day Sabbath:**

1. We are commanded to rest (Exo. 23:12)
2. We are commanded to keep this day Holy (Exo. 20:8, Deu. 5:12)
3. We are commanded to have a Holy convocation or calling together of likeminded believers (Lev. 23:3)

**There are five things that Yahweh commands us not to do on the weekly seventh day Sabbath:**

1. Do no customary or servile work/ for you and your animals and servants (Exo. 31:14, Exo. 35:2, Deu. 5:14)
2. Do not bake or boil (Exo. 16:23)
3. Do not kindle a fire in your home (Exo. 35:3)
4. Do not take a long journey outside of your place (home, community, etc.)(Exo. 16:29)
5. Do not buy or sell (Neh. 10:31, Neh. 13:15-19)

**Common arguments against the Seventh day Sabbath:**

1. Jesus was the Lord of the Sabbath so we no longer have to keep the Sabbath.
2. The Sabbath is for the Jews only.
3. The Sabbath can be any day of the week as long as you rest one day out of seven.
4. Since Jesus died on the cross those that believe in Him will have rest in Him all of the time.
5. Keeping the Sabbath is part of the Law and therefore if you say that I have to observe it on the seventh day then it is legalism and bondage because we (the church) are under grace.
6. The Sabbath is now on Sunday and that is the "Lord's Day" when I go to church.
7. The early apostles and believers of the Messiah met on the first day of the week and that shows us that they were not strict on meeting on the seventh day sabbath and therefore we can pick whatever day we want, to have a convocation or church gathering.
8. Since Jesus arose on the first day of the week (Sunday morning) then we gather in celebration of his resurrection on Sunday morning and not the seventh day Sabbath.

**Facts about the Seventh day Sabbath:**

**1. Jesus was the Lord of the Sabbath so we no longer have to keep the Sabbath.**

This is really a ridiculous statement. If Yeshua (Jesus) came to destroy or do away with the Sabbath along with the rest of the Law then what is He the Lord of? NOTHING!?

This term Lord of the Sabbath is mentioned in Matthew, Mark and Luke. In context he is speaking against the Pharisees that believed that the disciples were breaking the Sabbath by plucking off the heads of corn in the fields and somehow breaking Torah law as a result. Yeshua rebukes the Pharisees and reminds them that the Sabbath was created for man and not the reverse. Was the Sabbath something that was under the

control of the Pharisees or was it the Lord's Sabbath after all. Look at the corresponding verses in the Torah(First five books of the Bible): (Exo. 16:29) "See, for that the LORD hath given you the sabbath..." (Exo. 20:10) "But the seventh day is the sabbath of the LORD thy God:" By telling the Pharisees that He was the Lord of the Sabbath He was simply reminding them that He was the Lord that gave them the Sabbath and to not try to make it a man made set of do's and don'ts. This was not some strange admission that somehow revoked the seventh day observance or fourth commandment set into motion from the beginning of creation. How could the Messiah admit this? He was there at creation and at Mount Sinai when the Sabbath was instituted and reconfirmed to His covenant people.

**2. Is the Sabbath just for the Jews?** This is a very simple question to answer. (Gen. 2:2-3) "And on the seventh day God ended his work which he had made; and he rested on the seventh day from all his work which he had made. (3) And God blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it: because that in it he had rested from all his work which God created and made." Here we can clearly see that the Sabbath was created and instituted by Yahweh Himself and for all of creation and not some man-made observance of the Jews. (Exo. 20:10) "But the seventh day is the sabbath of the LORD thy God: (Not the Sabbath of the Jews) in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates: (Gentiles or Non-Jews)" You mean that the Sabbath was also meant for the Gentiles/Nations or Non-Jews as well? (Isa. 56:6-7) "Also the sons of the stranger, that join themselves to the LORD, (Gentiles/Nations/Non-Jews) to serve him, and to love the name of the LORD, to be his servants, every one that keepeth the sabbath (that means EVERYONE) from polluting it, and taketh hold of my covenant;(7) Even them will I bring to my holy mountain, and make them joyful in my house of prayer: their burnt offerings and their sacrifices shall be accepted upon mine altar; for mine house shall be called an house of prayer for all people." Gentiles, grab hold of His covenant and keep the Sabbath!

**3. The Sabbath can be any day of the week as long as you rest one day out of seven.** The problem with this argument is that you have to show that scripture supports one of two conclusions as to what the Sabbath is really signifying. Is it that the Sabbath is about a day, specifically the seventh day of the week; or is it really about the rest and not the day in which you rest. Fortunately, scriptures are very clear on what the conclusion must be and really does not leave a whole lot of room for interpretation. (Gen 2:2-3) "And on the seventh day God ended his work which he had made; and he rested on the seventh day from all his work which he had made.(3) And God blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it: because that in it he had rested from all his work which God created and made." Yahweh blessed and sanctified what??? Those that claim to keep a Sabbath one day out of seven would like this scripture to read... "and God blessed a time of rest within the seven days of His work and sanctified the rest." It just doesn't say that does it?! Well, perhaps we are just reading this incorrectly. Let's look at other scriptures that support this as well...(Exo. 16:29) "See, for that the LORD hath given you the sabbath, therefore he giveth you on the sixth day the bread of two days; abide ye every man in his place, let no man go out of his place on the seventh

day.” Yahweh is very specific in His instructions to the Israelites as they gathered His provided Mannah or bread. Six days they will gather the bread and on the sixth day they will gather enough for two days so that they can rest and stay in their tents on the seventh day so that the weekly Sabbath or seventh day would be sanctified or set apart as Holy. Again is the emphasis on the rest or the day in which you are supposed to rest? (Exo. 20:8) “Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy.” Now this is the fourth commandment of the ten commandments of Yahweh Himself. Does He say remember the Sabbath rest or does He say remember the Sabbath day? He says remember the Sabbath DAY because He knew it would be forgotten or treated as any other day (the definition of profane is to make ordinary or plain) and reinforces it by saying to KEEP IT (THE DAY) HOLY (or set apart as special and not ordinary). This is certainly speaking of a specific seventh day Sabbath and not some haphazard day of the week to rest.

**4. Since Jesus died on the cross those that believe in Him will have rest in Him all of the time.** This definition or use of the Sabbath is very complex and almost mystical in nature. One would really have to twist a lot of scripture to make this explanation make sense at all. I will try my best: OK, the Pharisees (erroneously looked at as representing ALL of Israel) had a “works mentality” and placed burdens on people using the Law of Moses to put people into bondage because after all it is impossible to keep the Law of Moses, right? Jesus came to do away with this binding Law and said stuff like, “take my burden because it is easy and light,” and after all He did break the Sabbath on many occasions to prove that it was bondage and when He died on the cross this bondage of the Law was nailed to the cross and crucified with Him. Now those that believe in Him don’t have to keep a literal seventh day Sabbath but will find rest in Jesus all of the time if and only if you truly have enough faith in Him. Does this sound familiar? The problem with this explanation is that Jesus or I like to refer to His Hebrew name, Yeshua, did not come to do away with the Law of Moses but He came by His own admission to fulfill or fill it up full of meaning (Matt. 5:17-19). The Pharisees and Sadducees were sects of Judaism that did not follow the Law of Moses but added thousands of man-made rules and laws to the Law of Moses to make it impossible to keep. Yeshua even rebukes these Pharisees saying that they do not even follow their own laws. Furthermore, Yeshua goes out of His way in many instances to break these added commandments of men and to bring true clarity to the commandments of Yahweh just as He spoke them on Mount Sinai. For example; Yeshua heals a blind man by making a mud salve to cover a blind man’s eyes. This was breaking an added commandment and not the Law of Moses. Yeshua also tells the crippled man to take up his bed (a thin mat, easily rolled up and carried under the arm) and walk, again breaking an added Law. You will find that Yeshua is adamant on showing that it is lawful to do good on the Sabbath and to bring clarity and truth to a confused and burdened people. The “rest” He brought was leading people away from man-made religious systems and back to the Torah or Law of Yahweh as it was originally given. The other problem with this is that Yeshua and His disciples kept the seventh day Sabbath (Mar. 1:21, Mar 6:2, Luk 4:16, Luk 4:31, Luk 6:6, Luk 13:10) as was done by all of Israel and even after His death and resurrection the apostles still kept the seventh day Sabbath (Act. 13:14, Act. 13:42, 13:44, Act. 15:21, Act. 16:13, Act. 18:4, Col. 2:16). Remember that one of the commandments to do on the seventh day Sabbath is to “convocate” or call together the community of like-

mindful believers. The Jews have always done this by gathering every Sabbath in what was called Synagogues to read portions of the Torah scroll and teach the Law of Moses. Why would they do this if they had rest every day of the week? Didn't they have enough faith or were they living under the "Great Old Testament Bondage?" Read all of the accounts in the New Testament of what transpired on the Sabbath. You will find miracles, healings, visitations of Angels, the spoken voice of Yahweh, many gentiles repenting, the word of Yahweh taught and demonstrated in power and authority, and powerful acts of kindness and charity. I do not see a day of bondage and legalism, do you?

**5. Keeping the Sabbath is part of the Law and therefore if you say that I have to observe it on the seventh day then it is legalism and bondage because we (the church) are under grace.** Grace. What is grace and does it mean that it gives someone a license to commit sin or break the commandments of Yahweh? Do you believe that the Ten Commandments are still valid today after the redemptive work of the Messiah or do you believe that these commandments are outdated or somehow governed in a different way today? I am certain that most people in the Christian church would agree that murder is still breaking the commandments of Yahweh. Even bearing false witness or committing adultery would still stand as unacceptable in the Christian's walk and breaking the commandments of Yahweh. These are all listed as parts of the Ten Commandments but the moment you say that the seventh day Sabbath (the 4th commandment) is something to remember and keep as Holy you will be viewed as a heretic and under "legalism." If grace came through the Messiah does it allow a murderer or adulterer to break Yahweh's commandments? The obvious answer is NO! Then why should grace allow the followers of the Messiah to profane (or make ordinary) the seventh day Sabbath? Did you know that the Hebrew word for grace is used staggeringly more in the Old Testament than the Greek equivalent in the New Testament. Did grace only come through the Messiah or has Yahweh always given His people many chances to repent and get back on track before impending judgment? I think that the main confusion comes from a passage of scripture found in Romans 6:14 "For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace." Again this is a case of taking a small set of verses and pulling together doctrine that does not uphold the true context of what Shaul (Paul) was saying. Look at the whole chapter and you will very easily find that Shaul was equating "the law" with sin and death. He was not talking about the Law of God (Torah). Therefore it makes sense that we are not UNDER THE LAW OF SIN AND DEATH but UNDER GRACE because of the atoning work of the Messiah. Romans 6:12 "Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof." The Lamb of God did not lay down His life for believers to be FREE from the Law of God but from the law of sin and death.

**6. The Sabbath is now on Sunday and that is the "Lord's Day" when I go to church.** Oh yes, the "Lord's Day." Where did this term come from? It comes from one verse in the Book of Revelation. (Rev. 1:10) "I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and heard behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet." This is John (Yochanan was his Hebrew name), a Jewish apostle who was in a time of tribulation on the Island of Patmos. He was dipped in burning oil, beaten and imprisoned for life because of sharing

the Gospel of Yeshua. He was praying while in exile and a vision comes to him that shows him the events that would unfold to bring about the Great Tribulation on the whole Earth and the return of the Messiah for His faithful bride. The entire scriptures do not speak of the "Lord's Day" as being Sunday observance of the Sabbath but speak of the Day of the Lord (Act. 2:20, ICor. 1:8, ICor. 5:5, etc.) when He comes to bring judgment on the whole Earth and the resurrection of the dead in Messiah. An understanding of the Day of the Lord is needed in order to comprehend what Yochanan was referring to. The answer can be read in the writings of Simon Keefa (Peter). (IPet. 3:8) "But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day." In the book of Genesis we read that all of creation was created in 6 days and on the seventh day Yahweh rested and ceased from all of His work. If a day to Yahweh is a thousand years then that would make the total plan of Yahweh to be 7,000 years or 7 days. Theologians and Bible scholars agree that the Messiah came around 4,000 years from creation and we are already in the 7th day or 7th millennium. This is the time that the end is prophesied and the Messiah will come making an end to iniquity in one day (1,000 years) and to setup His kingdom to rule and reign for 1,000 years in the New Jerusalem. Yochanan saw this in his vision and penned down this vision in the Book of the Revelation of the Messiah and alluded to this seventh day mystery by mentioning that he was on the Lord's Day or Day of the Lord. This is not somehow a changing of the Sabbath from the seventh day Saturday to the first day Sunday! Not even close! So how did this seventh day Sabbath get twisted into a first day Sunday observance? The answer may shock you! It was changed solely on the authority of the Catholic Papacy and reinforced in many writings. The Catholic priest, Father T. Enright, C. SS.R. of Redemptor Col-lege, quotes in The American Sentinel as follows:

"I have repeatedly offered \$1,000 to any one who can prove to me from the Bible alone that I am bound to keep Sunday holy. There is no such law in the Bible. It is a law of the Holy Catholic Church alone. The Bible says: "Remember that thou keep holy the Sabbath day." The Catholic Church says: "No by my divine power I abolish the Sabbath day, and command you to keep holy the first day of the week." And lo! The entire civilized world bows down in reverent obedience to the command of the Holy Catholic church."

**James Cardinal Gibbons declared:**

"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, a day that we (Catholics) never sanctify."

Not only does the Catholic Church not sanctify the seventh day Sabbath as instructed in the scriptures but the Protestant church (Protesting Catholics) also do not sanctify this

day and continue to hold onto a first day observance that is riddled with Pagan influences of Sun God worship instituted by Constantine in the Roman Empire; thus the name Sun-Day after the day declared by Constantine under penalty of torture and death to worship Mithras, the Roman god of the sun. Why hold on to this Pagan tradition reinforced by the Catholic Church? What is so dreadful about keeping the day scripture declares as Holy?!

**7. The early apostles and believers of the Messiah met on the first day of the week and that shows us that they were not strict on meeting on the seventh day sabbath and therefore we can pick whatever day we want, to have a convocation or church gathering.** In Acts chapter 20:7 there is a recorded passage that seems to read that the disciples, after the resurrection of the Messiah, came together on the first day of the week and Shaul (Paul) preached unto them until midnight. This is one of the key versus that is used to try to twist and produce precedence for a first day gathering or Sunday worship. First let's take a look at the proceeding verse and get some context as to what is happening: Acts 20:6 "And we sailed away from Philippi after the days of unleavened bread, and came unto them to Troas in five days; where we abode seven days." Now first of all these were Jewish apostles and believers in the Messiah. The Messiah clearly did not teach them to cease from keeping the feasts, like Unleavened Bread, or the seventh day Sabbath. Shaul abides for seven days before he leaves again. Well what day does he leave again? Acts 20:7 "And upon the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul preached unto them, ready to depart on the morrow; and continued his speech until midnight." Shaul and his companions celebrate the feast of Unleavened Bread in Philippi and then sail to Troas where they stay until the seventh day or Sabbath. Why does it say the first day of the week if it was the Sabbath? In the Greek compilation where our English translation is from (Stephen's Textus Receptus) the Greek word Sabbaton is used where it says, the "first day of the week." So the original text reads, "And upon the Sabbath day, when the disciples came together to break bread..." It does not say the first day of the week at all. This is either a mistranslation of the scriptures or a blatant cover-up to erase the significance of the seventh day Sabbath in the New Testament. These followers of the Messiah were gathering on the Sabbath at what is traditionally called a Hav Dilah service, where Shaul preached until midnight and was going to make his journey from Troas early in the morning. The Jewish disciples of the Messiah kept the feasts of Yahweh such as Unleavened Bread and also kept the seventh day Sabbath holy just as they had done for thousands of years prior.

**8. Since Jesus arose on the first day of the week (Sunday morning) then we gather in celebration of his resurrection on Sunday morning and not the seventh day Sabbath.** Did Yeshua rise from the dead on Sunday morning as has been taught for decades in the church? This is a basic mathematical solution that somehow escapes the attention of those reading and teaching from the Gospel records. If he indeed was crucified on "Good Friday" and arose on Sunday morning how can He line up with the only sign that He gave to testify of his resurrection. Matt. 12:39-40 "But he answered and said unto them, An evil and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign; and there shall no sign be given to it, but the sign of the prophet Jonas: For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and

three nights in the heart of the earth.” How can you get 3 days and 3 nights from Friday to Sunday morning? YOU CAN'T! Careful study will show that the Messiah was taken on a Tuesday evening, the day before the 14th of Aviv (Pesach or Passover) and was beaten and questioned and finally hung on the tree in the afternoon of the 14th (Wednesday) and was dead and in the grave by 4pm on the same day. Now let's pause for a minute to lay a foundation of how the Hebrews reckon time. The next day starts at sundown and ends the following sundown as outlined in Genesis chapter 1. So Wednesday afternoon to sundown is a ½ day, Wednesday sundown to Thursday sundown is 1 day. Thursday sundown to Friday sundown is another day and Friday sundown to Saturday sundown is yet another day. This totals 3 days and 3 nights just like the Prophet Jonah in the belly of the great fish. So what about Mary coming to the tomb early on Sunday morning? Notice that the tomb was empty (Matt. 28:1). The Messiah had already risen as was the words of the Angel that greeted her. The Lord of the Sabbath arose on the Sabbath just as the scriptures convey. <<back to top

### **The Spiritual/Prophetic meaning of Sabbath:**

Setting aside the overwhelming evidence of the extreme importance of keeping the seventh day Sabbath as Holy, separate, above all other days of the week, an understanding of the prophetic significance of the seventh day Sabbath is quite beautiful and can only leave one in awe of the intricate spiritual weaves in the fabric of Yahweh's great plan of creation, redemption and restoration of all things.

(Exo. 23:12) "Six days thou shalt do thy work, and on the seventh day thou shalt rest."  
(Heb. 4:9,11a) "There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God... (11a) Let us labour therefore to enter into that rest..."

In Hebrew culture before the Babylonian, Assyrian and Roman captivities, there was only one day that had a name. That day was the seventh day of the week known as the Shabbat or Sabbath day and the Hebrew word Shabbath, being a feminine noun, gave the day a nickname of the "Queen of Days." The other days were simply counted in reference to the Shabbat or Queen of Days...the first day after Shabbat (Sunday), second day after (Monday), third day (Tuesday), etc. So, when someone spoke of the Sabbath or Shabbat everyone in all of Israel would know that it was the seventh day of the week. The first six days would be spent working hard culminating and building up to the sixth day which was the day of preparation. This was the day that you would go to the market and buy what was needed for the next two days because all of Israel would be shut down for the weekly Shabbat. Final preparations in the streets and in the homes would keep everyone scurrying around like honey bees before nightfall gathering in all that was needed for the day. The men worked twice as hard in the fields to make sure that nothing was left undone for the Shabbat while the women baked special bread called Challah and all of the meals needed for the evening's Shabbat dinner and the following day. These Challah loaves were different than the other loaves baked during the week; honey was added to make it a little sweeter signifying the sweet rest of the Sabbath and the loaves were carefully constructed with two braids of dough intertwined signifying folded arms as the people of God refrained from doing any work on this special day. As the evening of the sixth day rapidly approached, last minute preparations scampered through the home trying to make everything just right before

the sun went down. As the sun would sink into the horizon the whole family, along with perhaps a neighbor, would gather at a savory Shabbat meal ready to begin another glorious day of rest and peace. The father of the house would stand and bless the wine and the fresh Challah while it was broken for each to partake just as Abraham and Melchizedek had done centuries before. Once the Sabbath had commenced the family would spend the day with each other resting and learning from the Torah either from the father of the house or from the Synagogue that they might have attended.

Is this a picture of bondage and legalism? Is it a picture of Jewish vain tradition or could it possibly be a shadow picture of the Messiah? (Col. 2:16-17) "Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holyday (feasts), or of the new moon, or of the sabbath days: (17) **Which are a shadow of things to come; but the body is of the Messiah.**" How is the Messiah seen and demonstrated in the seventh day Sabbath?

When Yahweh created the heavens and the earth, He created them in six days and rested from His labor on the seventh day (Gen. 2:2-3). This was a prophetic shadow picture as to how long the plan of Yahweh would be from the beginning of creation to the End of Days. This is how the plan of Yahweh works: (provided by Monte Judah of Lion and Lamb Ministries, Yavoh He is Coming July 2007 Issue)

**Day 1:** (God created the Light and Darkness.) From Creation to 1,000, Adam and Eve live in God's presence (light) and fall to sin (darkness). Adam was told that if he sinned that he would die in that day. Adam lived to be 930 years old and "died in that first 1,000 year day."

**Day 2:** (God creates waters and separates the waters above and below.) From 1,000 to 2,000, Noah is the dominate Biblical story with the Flood. The waters in the heavens and the fountains in the earth gushed forth to produce a world-wide flood. The results were new mountains, continents, and a clear atmosphere that could produce a rainbow.

**Day 3:** (God creates vegetation and plants.) From 2,000 to 3,000, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob dominate leading to the birth of the nation of Israel and their entrance into the promised land. Abraham was likened to a plant: "In your seed, all the families of the earth will be blessed." One of the understandings of the name Israel is "the planting of the Lord." Israel is also likened unto an olive tree. All of the agricultural elements from grain to trees are used to explain our occupation in the land and our growth in the Lord.

**Day 4:** (God creates the heavenly lights of the sun, moon, and the stars to show signs and seasons.) From 3,000 to 4,000, Israel is led by prophets and Kings. Each of them had a profound effect on the nation of Israel. Abraham was promised that his descendants would be as the stars at night in number. Joseph dreamed that he saw his family as the sun, moon, and stars. The prophet Daniel was told that those with insight into heavenly things are seen as stars and heavenly lights showing the signs and seasons of God (Daniel 12:3).

**Day 5:** (God creates living creatures on the earth.) From 4,000 to 5,000, (1 to 1,000 AD) the Messiah came to us to do the work of redemption. He actually came to make us "new creatures." He came so that we could be born again by His Spirit to be made in the "image of God."

**Day 6:** (God creates beasts and mankind. Man is made a living soul in the image of God.) From 5,000 to 6,000, (1,000 to 2,000 AD) mankind has subdued and filled the earth. We have traveled to every part of the globe and established communities on

every continent. Man has traveled to the North and South poles, traveled underwater and in the sky above. Man has even gone to the Moon and come back. Man now dominates every part of the planet and nothing is withheld from man.

**Day 7:** (God rests, sanctifies the Sabbath, and blesses all that He has made.)

Presently, we are very close to the Biblical year 6,000 since creation. According to Bible chronologists, the Biblical year 6,000 occurs somewhere between 1994 and 2017, depending on your historical assumptions. The Lord will return at the appointed time for the “last day.” The Messianic kingdom on earth is to last 1,000 years (the Millennium). The Messianic kingdom will be the Sabbath of Millennia. It will be a time when we rest from our labors (the previous ages), live with the Lord, and re-establish the garden with “no end to the increase.” This is why Peter told us to count one day as 1,000 years.

**“Where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt...”**

Yeshua teaches a principle about the Sabbath and heavenly things and is recorded in Matthew chapter 6. He teaches that men store up for themselves earthly treasures instead of depending on the provision of Yahweh in their lives and it shows a lack of faith in the loving care of the Father.

Matt. 6:19-20 “Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: (20) But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal:”

Where did the Messiah get this connection and teaching from? Does this scenario that He paints sound familiar? Do you remember when the Israelites were in the wilderness and Yahweh instructed them to gather the provision of manna enough for just that day but on the sixth day they would gather twice as much so that they would have enough for the seventh day Sabbath. In the first six days the Israelites didn’t trust in Yahweh’s provision and therefore gathered more than what they needed for that day and the worm and rot destroyed the leftover manna. Only the gathered manna for the seventh day Sabbath did not rot or gather the worm infestation.

Exo. 16:4-5 “Then said the LORD unto Moses, Behold, I will rain bread from heaven for you; and the people shall go out and gather a certain rate every day, that I may prove them, whether they will walk in my law, or no. (5) And it shall come to pass, that on the sixth day they shall prepare that which they bring in; and it shall be twice as much as they gather daily.

Exo. 16:20 “Notwithstanding they hearkened not unto Moses; but some of them left of it until the morning, and it bred worms, and stank: and Moses was wroth with them.

Exo. 16:24-25 “And they laid it (manna) up till the morning (Sabbath Day), as Moses bade: and it did not stink, neither was there any worm therein. (25) And Moses said, Eat that today; for today is a sabbath unto the LORD: today ye shall not find it in the field.”

What is the lesson learned then? The seventh day is the last seven thousand years of creation and is the Millennial reign or kingdom of the Messiah. We have been living in the last six days of creation or 6,000 years from creation and the Messiah is teaching that in these six days if you try to store up the provision and blessings of Yahweh in fear

that Yahweh will not provide for you or out of selfish greed then it will not amount to anything in the kingdom. Only those things done for the kingdom will be stored up for the seventh day or kingdom of the Messiah where the worm will not rot it. Yahweh declares to Moses that He is only giving a certain amount of this provision to test the hearts of His people and see if they will keep His laws or not. Likewise, the Messiah rebukes the people of Israel for their unbelief by not knowing and living this principle every day drawing a direct connection to this experience in the wilderness. Yahweh has always tested the hearts of the righteous to see if they truly will follow His instructions or not. He watches and waits to see how men exact usury over each other and how wicked men heap up treasures and wealth as a false sense of security against the wrath and judgment of Yahweh. These men forsake the Sabbath rest to try to make more money because they do not believe in Yahweh or His instructions. The apostle James also spoke of this:

Jam. 5:2-4 "Your riches (provision/manna) are corrupted (rotten), and your garments are moth-eaten. (3) Your gold and silver is cankered; and the rust of them shall be a witness against you, and shall eat your flesh as it were fire. Ye have heaped treasure together for the last days. (4) Behold, the hire of the labourers who have reaped down your fields, which is of you kept back by fraud, crieth: and the cries of them which have reaped are entered into the ears of the Lord of sabaoth (Sabbath)."

How do we know that James is talking about those that have forsaken the seventh day Sabbath? He reinforces the same words that the Messiah Yeshua spoke in Matthew six and goes even further to make reference to the Lord of the Sabbath as His title. Do not be deceived! Do not follow the same pattern of unbelief that stemmed from the Israelites in the wilderness to the modern day church of today. Keep His instructions and His promise is that you will have good success and more than enough.

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# Old Testament Laws: The Covenants and the Sabbath: The Biblical Evidence

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Are Christians obligated to keep the Sabbath rest law of [Exodus 20:8-11](#)? Some Christians believe that the Sabbath must be observed because this law appears in the Ten Commandments. Is this true?

We can answer this question by taking a broad look, not just at the Ten Commandments, but at the entire old and new covenants. As we shall see, the covenants tell a fascinating story about the history and purpose of the Sabbath rest command. More than this, by looking at the sweep of God's dealings with the human race from the beginning until the completion of Jesus' redemptive work and the creation of the church, the purpose of the entire Law of Moses—including the Ten Commandments—will become clear. Let's explore what Scripture says about the covenants.

God first made a general covenant pledge in the presence of Adam and Eve, promising that evil—personified by the devil—would be destroyed ([Genesis 3:15](#)). This was the first covenant between humans and God after “the Fall.” Despite the fact that humans had sinned and had become fallen creatures, they now had a promise that a Savior would, in the future, crush and destroy the evil that held them prisoner.

Later, God also made a covenant with humanity through Noah. “I now establish my covenant with you and with your descendants after you,” God told this patriarch ([Genesis 9:8](#)). It was an everlasting covenant that promised saving grace, in a physical sense, to all people.

Still later, God made a covenant with Abraham, and this one becomes the crux of both the old and the new covenants. Most of the Abrahamic covenant concerns a promise that the descendants of Abraham would be a people of God and be given a land ([Genesis 15:31-21](#); [17:3-8](#)). There was also a promise in this covenant that through Abraham's offspring or “seed” all the nations on earth would be blessed ([Genesis 22:18](#)).

The apostle Paul understood this “seed” to refer to Christ ([Galatians 3:15-16](#), [19](#)). Abraham was given a promise of God's salvific intention in the world. A Savior would come who would rescue humanity. This was a promise of the “new” covenant given some 430 years before the “old” covenant was introduced! This is the point Paul argued in the book of Galatians.

There is an interesting aspect to the covenant God made with Abraham. It would have an unusual reminder or sign—that of the physical circumcision of males. We read the following in [Genesis 17:9](#):

Then God said to Abraham, “As for you, you must keep my covenant, you and your descendants after you for the generations to come. This is my covenant with you and your descendants after

you, the covenant you are to keep: Every male among you shall be circumcised. You are to undergo circumcision, and it will be the sign of the covenant between me and you.... Any uncircumcised male, who has not been circumcised in the flesh, will be cut off from his people; he has broken my covenant.”

About 430 years after the covenant was made with Abraham, the descendants born to his son Jacob or Israel were rescued by God from the land of Egypt. God brought his people into the Sinai desert and made a covenant with them. The original terms of this covenant extend from [Exodus 20:1](#) to 23:32. Chapter 24 of Exodus details the ratification of this covenant. The people said, “Everything the Lord has said we will do” (verse 24).

What the Lord had said so far was that Israel was to keep the Ten Commandments (Exodus 20); follow certain laws regarding Hebrew slaves ([Exodus 21:1-11](#)); obey guidelines set down for personal injuries ([Exodus 21:12-36](#)); provide protection of property, including against theft ([Exodus 22:1-15](#)). The covenant also had regulations about fornication, sorcery, sexual relations with animals, idolatry, treatment of aliens, protection of widows and orphans, lending, blasphemy and other laws relating to justice and mercy ([Exodus 22:16-23:13](#)). The covenant also mandated for Israel the observance of the annual festivals in three seasons ([Exodus 23:14-19](#)).

This was what we may call a “package deal.” All the laws from [Exodus 20:1](#) through 23:32 were a *singular* law system so far as the old covenant is concerned. They were all part of the same covenant.

God also described his part of the covenant. He would guide Israel into the Promised Land, take away illness from the nation, give people a full life span, and destroy their enemies ([Exodus 23:20-33](#)). This formed the old covenant between God and the people of Israel. The terms of the covenant became a book, a legal code, we might say. Moses “took the Book of the Covenant and read it to the people” ([Exodus 24:7](#)). The people responded by saying: “We will do everything the Lord has said; we will obey” (verse 7). After which, the Lord told Moses to come up to the mountain and he would give him “tablets of stone, with the law and commands I have written for their instruction” (verse 12).

We should notice several important things about this “old” covenant. It includes not just the Ten Commandments but all the laws and regulations described in Exodus 20-23. All the laws are said to be “spoken” by the Lord, because he did, indeed, speak them. What happened was that after God began to speak directly to the people of Israel, they became so fearful of the magnificent theophany shaking Mt. Sinai that they begged Moses to speak to them in God’s place ([Exodus 20:18-21](#)). God agreed to their wishes. After that, he spoke his laws to Moses, and he passed them on to the people. But they were all equally God’s laws, and all were spoken by him.

## **There is only one law**

There is no legal difference between the Ten Commandments and the rest of the covenantal law. They stand together as the basis of the old covenant to Israel. The law that mandated the delivery of first-born animals to God and leaving the land idle in the seventh year was just as important as

the law of Sabbath rest or the law against adultery, in terms of the covenant. They were all, equally, part of the old covenant.

As noted above, the laws of the covenant as well as God's promises were first written in a "book" or scroll. It contained all the laws in Exodus 20-23, and this entire book was the basis of the covenant. Moses had not yet gone up to the mountain to have these regulations written on tablets of stone.

As we progress through the first five books of the Jewish Holy Scriptures, we see that more laws were progressively added to the covenant. Other laws were further expounded, amplified and clarified. For example, Exodus 25 through 30 provides regulations for the building and ceremonies of the old covenant tabernacle. The tabernacle pattern and furniture were later transferred to the temple in Jerusalem. The temple worship system became the center of Jewish religious life. We see many references to this in the New Testament. The book of Hebrews, in particular, deals with the passing away of the Levitical priesthood and Jewish temple life. Jesus becomes the heavenly High Priest in the real temple.

We also learn in Exodus that, like circumcision, the Sabbaths—plural—served as a sign of the covenant between God and Israel. "The Lord said to Moses, 'Say to the Israelites, "You must observe my Sabbaths. This will be a sign between me and you for the generations to come"' (Exodus 31:12). God told Moses that the weekly Sabbath was a sign of the old covenant: "It will be a sign between me and the Israelites forever" (verse 17). God finished speaking and wrote the laws of the covenant on two tablets of stone.

We should note some interesting facts here. Both the annual Sabbaths and the weekly Sabbath served as a sign of the covenant between God and Israel. Further, the sign and the covenant created a relationship between Israel and God, not between all people of the earth and God. Also, we should note that, *like circumcision*, the annual and weekly Sabbath sign was to remain between Israel and God "forever." That means, since circumcision could be ended as a physical requirement for Christians (the spiritual children of Abraham), it is possible that the physical demands of Sabbath-keeping and festival observance could also be ended.

With Moses on Mount Sinai, there follows a historical interlude in Exodus that deals with the incident of the golden calf. This causes Moses, when he returns to the camp, to break the tablets containing the words of God. Moses then must go back to the mountain so God can "write on them the words that were on the first tablets" (Exodus 34:1). On the mountain, God reiterates his intent to make a covenant with his people Israel (verse 10). He also repeats in an abbreviated form many of the regulations of the old covenant. (See [Exodus 34:17-26](#).)

Most of the remaining chapters of Exodus are taken up with the making of the tabernacle and its parts, and the construction of its furniture and the priestly garments. This relates to the center of Israel's religious life at the tabernacle, and later at the Jerusalem temple. Leviticus continues this theme by describing various offerings (Leviticus 1-7). The ninth chapter describes the priests beginning their ministry.

Laws relating to the functions of the Levitical priesthood and the temple worship service are important because almost all of Israel's religious life was centered on these two realities. For example, the festivals were to be kept "in the place he [God] will choose as a dwelling for his Name" ([Deuteronomy 16:5, 11, 16](#)). Eventually, the place God chose was Jerusalem. This means that if the temple was destroyed or the priesthood supplanted, it would be impossible to fulfill God's demands regarding festival observance.

Leviticus 11 lists clean and unclean living creatures. Chapters 12-15 continue the theme of "clean and unclean" with a discussion of purification after childhood, regulations about infectious skin diseases, the ritual cleansing after these diseases, and discharges causing uncleanness. The food laws of Leviticus 11 are but one part of an entire array of regulations regarding matters of ritual purification and cleanliness that Israel was to follow. We again observe that all the laws of the Mosaic Law are part of a greater whole, and they stand together.

Leviticus 16 details the Day of Atonement ritual. Chapters 17 through 19 mention various other covenantal laws that Israel was to follow, including specific laws about unlawful sexual relations. Over 20 laws are stated as "do not's" in chapter 19, and some others are stated in a positive way. This includes admonitions to do everything from keeping the annual Sabbaths (verse 3) to not holding back overnight the wages of a hired man (verse 13).

### **The two "great commandments"**

Buried in these "do's and don'ts" is one of the two most important and basic laws of both old and new covenants. It is simple: "Love your neighbor as yourself" ([Leviticus 19:18](#)). When asked about the "greatest commandment" of the Jewish Scriptures, Jesus said:

"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind." This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it; "Love your neighbor as yourself." All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments. ([Matthew 22:37-40](#))

Here we have the astounding assertion that everything in the Law of Moses and the Prophets does not hang on the Ten Commandments, as most people erroneously assume. It hangs on two inconspicuous statements inserted in two widely separated parts of the Law of Moses! (The "greatest commandment" is found in [Deuteronomy 6:5](#).) The popular preoccupation with the Ten Commandments is somewhat misguided. The essence of the Law of Moses is not in the Ten but in two simple statements in Leviticus and Deuteronomy.

Going back to Leviticus 19, Israel is told: "Observe my Sabbaths and have reverence for my sanctuary. I am the Lord" (verse 30). The sanctuary was first found in the moveable tabernacle and later in the temple. Consider the following. If God would allow the sanctuary to be destroyed and thus to end the ministry of the Levitical priesthood, he could also allow an end to the observance of his Sabbaths. The book of Hebrews speaks to this. It says that in God's purpose, the entire old covenant religious system was ended by Jesus' redemptive work.

Leviticus 20-26:3 lists further regulations that Israel was to keep as part of its covenant with God. These included everything from avoiding adultery to rules for priestly function to

guidelines for keeping the seven annual festivals and the year of Jubilee. This section contains some familiar commandments discussed earlier as well as some new ones. We see a progression or *further amplification* of covenantal regulations, as well as the adding of more stipulations. Like a progressive code of law, the terms of the covenant increase. But they still form a single body of law applied to a specific nation, Israel.

Leviticus 26 begins with God telling Israel what he will do in exchange for Israel's obedience to all the commands that have so far been described. He begins his list of promises by saying, "If you follow my decrees and are careful to obey my commands, I will..." (verse 3). God also details the curses that will follow if Israel fails to obey God.

The "Book of the Law" we have so far looked at ends with the statement: "These are the decrees, the laws and the regulations that the Lord established on Mount Sinai between himself and the Israelites through Moses" (verse 46). The entire regulatory system, as it is now described, must be seen as a unit—as a single law given from Mount Sinai. All its component parts and laws stand together. If Israel sins in one point, the nation is guilty in all points. All the laws given so far are equally the laws of the Lord.

Numbers 1 begins one year after Israel left Egypt (verse 1). The material refers to events during the years of Israel's wanderings. There are also discussions of the various laws of the covenant in the context of specific situations. Some new material is added, but most of this book is not pertinent to our purposes.

## **The law restated in Deuteronomy**

Deuteronomy takes place near the end of Israel's 40 years of wandering (1:3). This book gives us a restatement of the laws of the covenant. Moses says, "Hear now, O Israel, the decrees and laws I am about to teach you. Follow them so that you may live and may go in and take possession of the land that the Lord, the God of your fathers, is giving you" ([Deuteronomy 4:1](#)).

The restatement of the law of the covenant begins in chapter 5 with a review of the Ten Commandments. Here we learn why Israel was to keep the Sabbath holy by resting from work. Moses says to Israel: "Remember that you were slaves in Egypt and that the Lord your God brought you out of there with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm. Therefore the Lord your God has commanded you to observe the Sabbath day" (verse 15).

The Sabbath was for Israel, so that they could remember being saved from servitude in Egypt, where they had no rest. For them, the Sabbath did not look ahead to Christ so much as it looked backward to Israel's rescue from Egypt. We can see why the physical Sabbath rest is not for Christians, whose rescue and "rest" is a spiritual one. In Christ, we rest from the slavery of sin, and not from physical labor in a condition of national slavery.

In Egypt, the people had no rest from their labors ([Exodus 1:11-14](#)). God brought them to a land "flowing with milk and honey" so they could enjoy the fruit of their labor. There, they were to remember that God was the source of their prosperity and ease. Parents were to teach their children this central aspect of God's saving grace to Israel, that he had brought them out of

bondage and slavery in Egypt ([Exodus 13:14](#)). For Israel, the Sabbath was a sign of the covenant in that it reminded them that God was the source of their liberation and happy prosperity.

We saw in [Exodus 24:12](#) that the tablets of stone contained the “laws and commands” that were written by God for Israel’s instruction. In Deuteronomy there is further explanation. Moses recounts that the tablets were to contain “all the commandments the Lord proclaimed to you on the mountain out of the fire, on the day of the assembly” (9:10). In chapter 10, Moses refers to the material on the tablets as “the Ten Commandments” (verse 4).

No matter how much was written on the tablets, the fact is that *all* the laws of Exodus 20-23 form the regulatory code of the old covenant in its *original* form. Later, the new and amplified laws of the other parts of the Law of Moses become part of the legal code system of Israel. This was not a one-law or a ten-law covenant – the covenant contained *hundreds* of regulations.

Deuteronomy 12 through 26:15 also becomes part of this legal code of the old covenant. There are many familiar laws, amplified or put in another context. There are also some new items. Moses restated the fact that Israel had a covenant with God, based on the law system that the nation had promised to uphold:

You have declared this day that the Lord is your God and that you will walk in his ways, that you will keep his decrees, commands and laws, and that you will obey him. And the Lord has declared this day that you are his people, his treasured possession as he promised, and that you are to keep all his commands. ([Deuteronomy 26:17-18](#))

Israel, if it follows the commands of the covenant, will be “high above all the nations” and a “people holy to the Lord” (verse 19). But Israel must keep *all* of God’s commandments as though they were one unit. Both Paul and James understand the Law in this sense ([James 2:10-11](#); [Galatians 3:10](#)). This becomes like a final covenant promise ([Deuteronomy 29:1](#)).

The people are commanded to set up large stones in the Promised Land. They are to write on these stones “all the words of this law” ([Deuteronomy 27:2-3, 8](#)). Before they enter the land, curses are pronounced on evildoers. In chapter 28, blessings for obedience and curses for disobedience are restated, as they were in Leviticus 26.

The last chapters of Deuteronomy highlight this final covenant ratification and its implication for the Israelites. The nation is to “carefully follow the terms of this covenant” so the people can prosper in all that they do ([Deuteronomy 29:9](#)). The covenant is a fulfillment of the promises to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, and it applies to all the descendants of Israel (verses 12-14). Torah or the Law of Moses becomes the covenantal “Book of the Law” for the nation (verse 21).

## **All or nothing**

This detailed summary of the old covenant legal system is meant to help us understand the conditions under which the Sabbath day and the other Mosaic legal requirements apply. The entire law code described in Exodus 20 through the end of Deuteronomy is the basis of the old covenant—not just a single law, or a few laws found therein.

All the laws are of equal importance in a covenantal context. If a person sins by breaking one law, then such a person is “guilty” of breaking the covenant itself. Since all the laws are equally part of the same covenant, we cannot use the old covenant to “prove” any particular law while admitting that some of its other laws are obsolete. Since the covenant is obsolete, a different authority is needed to prove any particular law. We cannot pick and choose without having another authority to tell us what to pick.

But if we are considering the force of the old covenant, the point has to be made that no law of that covenant is isolated as of special significance. No grouping of laws—like the Ten Commandments—is more important than any other grouping. No individual law—such as the weekly Sabbath—is more important than another. This is seen in the fact that the two “greatest laws” of Torah are not singled out or emphasized in any way. They are barely visible in the contexts in which they appear in Leviticus and Deuteronomy.

The question to be solved in terms of the application of the Law of Moses is not whether a specific law might apply to Christians. The covenant, composed of God’s promises and Israel’s agreement to uphold Torah, is a unit. One cannot say that one or a few laws of the old covenant Book of the Law—such as Sabbath, Festivals, food laws, strict tithing—apply to Christians. Either the old covenant as a covenant (or the Book of the Law as a single law code) applies to Christians in entirety, or none of it applies. The package is valid, or it is not.

All arguments to try to “prove” that the rest command of the Sabbath as an individual law must be observed or certain foods avoided, for example, are faulty arguments. These claims must be tested against one fundamental question: Must Christians obey the old covenant legal system in its totality—all 613 laws contained in that system—or none of it?

However, there are eternal, “spiritual laws” that govern relationships between humans and between humans and God. These laws governed relationships before the Mosaic Law was enacted. They were included in the Law of Moses, but their validity does not rest on the old covenant. They therefore they continue to govern human conduct after the annulment of the old covenant. The commandment to love God above all else would be a prime example of such a law ([Deuteronomy 6:5](#)).

These “spiritual laws” are incorporated into the new covenant “Law of Christ,” and are expounded in the New Testament. (See below, “Sin and virtue lists” and “Mosaic Law unnecessary,” for further details.) Thus, we come back to the fundamental question: Are Christians obligated to keep the entire Mosaic legal system or not?

## **The New Testament evidence**

Let us now look at the New Testament witness to these matters. By Jesus’ day, the covenantal literature of Israel included not only the Law of Moses but also the Prophets and Writings. These were the Holy Scriptures of the Jews, or the Christian Old Testament. This body of writing is sometimes called the “Law, Prophets and Psalms” ([Luke 24:44](#)). At other times it is referred to by the term “Law and Prophets” ([Matthew 5:17](#)), or simply “the Law” ([John 15:25](#)).

The books of Exodus through Deuteronomy (along with the circumcision law in Genesis) constituted the basis of the covenantal law between God and Israel. This part of Scripture was called the Law of Moses, or referred to as the law that “Moses gave” ([John 7:19, 22-23](#)). All the laws and commentary in the books of Moses are part of the same cloth.

We come now to the dawning of new covenant times with the arrival and work of Jesus. The first thing we notice is that the Jews were surprised by Jesus. He was not a conquering Messiah, as most had expected him to be. (Perhaps the Maccabees of two centuries earlier had fixed the idea of a warrior Messiah in Jewish expectation.) Jesus seemed to speak of a somewhat different sort of redemptive work than was expected. Jesus said he would die for the sins of the people. He would not redeem people simply because they had the Law of Moses and appeared to obey it, nor would he save people because they were born as Israelites.

Jesus seemed to imply that the most pious of the people—the religious leaders—were not the best candidates for the kingdom of God (Matthew 23). To all appearances, the Pharisees and others loved God and would be among the vanguard of a people called to follow the Messiah to victory over the enemies of Israel. Surely, they would have the best positions in the kingdom of God by reason of their zealotry for Torah. But Jesus was said that this idea was wrong. The kingdom would be taken away from them and given to others ([Matthew 21:43-46](#)).

God sent Jesus to create a new people from all nations through the indwelling Holy Spirit. Further, he was not at that time interested in creating a powerful political unit that would, in effect, rule the world. Jesus would save eternally those who put their faith and trust in him as Savior ([John 3:16](#)). This became the new covenant in Jesus’ blood. He was bringing and offering a different covenant from the old covenant – one that had been planned all along, but now unveiled in Jesus.

However, Jesus made it clear that he was not out to abolish what the Hebrew Scriptures stood for. Jesus said: “Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them” ([Matthew 5:17](#)).

The Jewish Scriptures pointed to Jesus and his redeeming work, and were fulfilled in his work ([Luke 24:25-27, 44](#); [John 5:39-47](#)). Jesus was the object of the Law and Prophets, as even Moses had said: “The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own brothers. You must listen to him” ([Deuteronomy 18:15](#)). Jesus pointed out that a greater law—we can call it the “law of Christ”—should govern human thought and actions. He made his point by contrasting what the Law of Moses said (“You have heard that it was said...”) with what he now said (“But I tell you...”). See [Matthew 5:21-48](#) for six examples.

During his earthly ministry, Jesus told his hearers to obey the Law of Moses. He said to a man he healed of leprosy: “Go, show yourself to the priest and offer the sacrifices that Moses commanded for your cleansing” ([Luke 5:14](#)). Jesus worshipped at and upheld the sanctity of the temple (Matthew 12-13). He told his disciples and the Jewish people to obey the teachers of the law and the Pharisees, who he said sat “in Moses’ seat” ([Matthew 23:1](#)). Naturally, these individuals would have taught obedience to the Law of Moses.

Jesus told his disciples to go only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel, upholding the notion of Israel as the special people of God. Jesus came as a Jew to Israel as the covenant people of God. “He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him,” said John ([John 1:11](#)).

But since Jesus worked in an old covenant context, we cannot say that his remarks about a particular Mosaic law means that one of its isolated commandments—like the Sabbath, or festivals or food laws—must be kept by Christians. Jesus commanded sacrifices, obedience to the religious leaders who would be teaching all of the Law of Moses, and temple worship. Before his crucifixion, he upheld the notion of a national covenant people. If we say that Jesus’ remarks in the Gospels tell Christians to keep the Sabbath rest commandment, then we must accept all of the commandments of the Law of Moses as being binding, including physical circumcision. He upheld them all, before his crucifixion. Clearly, something else is in view in Jesus’ remarks about the Law, the Sabbath or some other Mosaic regulation or promise.

Jesus did not change anything in terms of old covenant worship until his redemptive work was accomplished. However, he did imply during his ministry that things would change in the future. The kingdom of God was to be taken away from those who represented the Law of Moses and “given to a people who will produce its fruit” ([Matthew 21:43](#)). The people of God would no longer worship at the temple in Jerusalem, but they would worship in spirit and in truth ([John 4:21-24](#)).

After his resurrection, Jesus told the disciples that rather than limiting their evangelizing work to Israel, as he had counseled during his lifetime, they must go to all the world ([Acts 1:8](#)). Shortly thereafter, Peter learned through a vision that the feared and hated Gentiles were also being called to be among the people of God ([Acts 10:9-15](#)). A new age of the Spirit had begun. A new covenant had come into force.

The church began on the day of Pentecost in the year that Jesus was crucified and resurrected. At first it was composed almost entirely of Jews. Even Pharisees and priests were converted to the faith ([Acts 6:7](#); [15:5](#)). But many of these people were still zealous for the Law of Moses ([Acts 21:20](#)). This caused a problem for the church.

Many Jewish Christians did not see clearly that the new covenant had supplanted the old, and that this had profoundly impacted the authority of the Law of Moses and Israel’s religious system. For example, these former Jewish religious leaders still viewed physical circumcision as a sign between God and his people. They saw the Law of Moses as a binding legal document for anyone who wanted to become part of this people.

That is why in Acts 15 the believers of the party of the Pharisees claimed: “The Gentiles must be circumcised and *required to obey the law of Moses*” (emphasis ours, verse 5). They didn’t say, Gentiles must keep the Sabbath or the food laws or some other singular law of the Mosaic system. Rather, the Pharisees said “obey the law of Moses.” The Jews understood that the entire Law of Moses was a unit—and that the authority of this law as a complete and unified legal compact in the Gentile Christian life was the issue.

They knew that the old covenant did not apply to Gentiles. It was only for Israel. Gentiles were to follow a more generalized law called the “Noachian Laws.” But if any Gentile wanted to become part of the people of Israel—that is, to become a “full Jew”—he or she would be obligated to keep the Law of Moses. The Jewish Christians probably reasoned from this principle that in order to become a part of God’s *spiritual* people, Gentiles must first become God’s physical people by keeping the Law of Moses. It was easy to reason that way because most Jews apparently thought of the Christians—at least in the early years—as simply members of another Jewish sect. The only difference was that Christians had accepted Jesus as Messiah.

Thus, religious Jews who had been converted to Christianity were implying that for Gentiles to be part of God’s people, they would have to be circumcised and keep all 613 laws of the Law of Moses. The issue of contention was not a specific law such as Sabbath-keeping, but the Law of Moses in its entirety. (The argument in Acts 15 wasn’t over Sabbath or festival observance, but over the full Mosaic Law.)

The issue of the role of the Law of Moses in the lives of Gentile Christians became more troublesome as more Gentiles became converted. This led to the convening of the historic council of Acts 15 around AD 50 to consider this important matter. It became clear to the assembled elders and apostles that Gentiles had been called and converted apart from any obedience to the regulations of the Law of Moses. The assembly concluded that Gentiles did not need to keep the commandments of the Law of Moses or be circumcised. They did not need to keep the Sabbath, nor the food laws, nor tithing, nor the annual festivals. This explains why no separate law, such as Sabbath-keeping, was discussed. The entire Law of Moses, and its accompanying religious institutions, were seen to be passé, or obsolete.

This was conveyed to the Gentile churches in an apostolic letter mentioned in Acts 15. Gentiles were asked to hold to only four regulations that could be said to be Mosaic: abstention from the meat of strangled animals, from food polluted by idols, from blood and from sexual immorality ([Acts 15:19-20, 29](#)). Naturally, all Christians would have been commanded to avoid sexual immorality. The three other regulations had to do with foods, and may have been enjoined on Gentiles so that they would not offend the sensibilities of Jewish Christians, or unconverted Jews in the synagogues. Both Jewish Christians and, in many cases, Gentile Christians would be attending the Jewish synagogue, and it was important not to bring offense. The church wanted to keep in the good graces of the Jewish religious community and to keep peace between the church and the synagogue.

But, even here, Paul later seemed to rescind, under special circumstances, the regulation against eating meat that had been offered to idols ([1 Corinthians 8:4-13](#)). The reason the Acts 15 council imposed a ban on eating meat offered to idols in pagan ceremonies, and later sold in the meat markets, had to do with conscience only. Eating such meat would greatly offend Christian Jews who still believed that idolatry made the meat sinful. The reasoning was, why make trouble over something inconsequential in terms of the gospel message? The ban on such foods had nothing to do with any lingering authority of the Law of Moses upon Gentile Christians, as the council had decided it had no such authority.

## **The Galatians controversy**

Nonetheless, the question of whether Gentile Christians should keep the Law of Moses continued to be a controversy within the church. The pressure to have Gentiles be circumcised and follow the Mosaic Law came from converted Jews or Judaizers. We can see this controversy in full bloom in the book of Galatians.

In this very strong letter, Paul brands this idea as a “different gospel,” which was really a perversion of the true gospel ([Galatians 1:1-7](#)). Paul makes several points about this issue. He says Christians cannot be justified by observing the Law of Moses and righteousness cannot be gained through its observance ([Galatians 2:16, 21](#)). Those who look to the Law of Moses as their spiritual authority, even though they may “believe” in Christ, are still in bondage ([Galatians 4:21-31](#)).

In fact, those who preach that observing the Mosaic Law is necessary are under a curse, said Paul. He referred to the Scripture that says, “Cursed is everyone who does not continue to do *everything* written in the Book of the Law” ([Galatians 3:10](#)). This point is obvious from our panoramic view of the law material in the books from Exodus through Deuteronomy. We cannot pick and choose which specific law (such as Sabbath-keeping) we think should be obeyed. It’s an all-or-nothing situation.

Paul says: “I declare to every man who lets himself be circumcised that he is obligated to obey the whole law” ([Galatians 5:3](#)). We can write in any Mosaic law in the place of the word “circumcised”—such as Sabbath-keeping—with the same conclusion. If a person feels obligated to keep the Sabbath, then logic says that the person should keep all the laws of Moses, because the only place that the Sabbath is commanded is in the law of Moses. If it is still valid for the Sabbath law, it is valid for the other laws, too.

What had occurred at least since the period of the Maccabees is that the Jews had emphasized several laws from the Mosaic Law as “boundary marker” practices. These distinguished Jews from Gentiles and kept the Jews separate and “pure.” Among these boundary marker beliefs were circumcision, the food laws of Leviticus 11 and Deuteronomy 14, the keeping of the Sabbath and the observance of the holy days.

Except for circumcision, we can see the interesting parallel between the Judaizing Christians of the apostolic church and people who still teach that Christians should observe the seventh-day Sabbath and annual holy days. For a thorough discussion of how the Jews had adopted “boundary marker” practices from the Law of Moses as a litmus test of being a part of the “in” group—that is, a part of the people of God—see the book *Jesus, Paul, and the Law*, by James D.G. Dunn.

The biblical book that most thoroughly deals with the abrogation of the Law of Moses and the old covenant religious system is Hebrews. It begins with a defense of Jesus as the high priest of God’s people (3:1). This implies that the authority of the Aaronic high priest of the Mosaic covenant, who stood as the representative between God and Israel, had been superseded by Jesus. As the mediator of the old covenant, Moses was great, but Jesus is greater. ([John 5:39-46](#) with [Hebrews 3:4-6](#)).

## **The Sabbath as metaphor**

In Christ, the physical Sabbath rest is seen to be a metaphor for the spiritual rest of salvation that God's people now have (4:1-11). However, it's not that the Sabbath rest commandment was "changed" and that we keep the Sabbath as "holy time" in terms of "a spiritual rest." The Sabbath is a *symbol* for Christians, in the same way that other elements of the Mosaic institution are symbols. We can look at other old covenant practices and institutions (such as the high priest's office, burnt offerings, dwelling in tents during the Festival of Tabernacles), and see metaphorical meanings that symbolize aspects of Jesus' redemptive work. That's what the Mosaic Law points to, is fulfilled in and is superseded by that work. Those old covenant laws are instructive as symbols and metaphors, but they are not valid as laws about Christian behavior.

We can see the same principle at work in physical circumcision. For new covenant Christians, it serves only as a metaphor of the fact that we are cleansed of our sins and have a new birth in Christ. "Circumcision is circumcision of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the written code," Paul wrote in [Romans 2:29](#).

In the same way, Hebrews 4 tells us that Sabbath-keeping is of the spirit. It points to the salvation rest we have in Christ. The physical Sabbath rest command is not performed by Christians in the way it was specified in the old covenant written code, the Law of Moses.

Hebrews explains that the entire system of the old covenant law as carried out by the high priest and the Levitical priesthood has come to an end. Another High Priest, Jesus, has come in the order of Melchizedek (7:1-11). This necessitates a change in the law (verse 12). "The former regulation is set aside because it was weak and useless (for the law made nothing perfect), and a better hope is introduced, by which we draw near to God" (verses 18-19). This better hope is the new covenant, which provides the indwelling Holy Spirit, and with it comes salvation. Those who are saved under the new covenant are not obligated to obey the Law of Moses, but to obey the "law of Christ."

However, some people object to the idea that the Mosaic Law (which includes the Ten Commandments) is "done away." They retort, "Well, then, does that mean we can kill, steal or commit adultery?" Of course not. No Christian would teach or believe such an absurdity.

Let's pose the question another way to show it has no validity: "If the Law of Moses is done away, does this mean we don't have to love God and our neighbor?" Obviously, Christians continue to love God and neighbor—and they do not break any of the spiritual principles found throughout the Mosaic Law—because that is the Christian thing to do—and it is what the New Testament clearly tells us to do. But this obedience is based on the law of Christ, not the Law of Moses. People were supposed to love God and neighbor from the very beginning of creation. The old covenant included those two laws, but it did not begin them, and the law of love therefore did not end when the old covenant ended.

## **Sin and virtue lists**

The idea that any Christian church would teach that we can sin because the Law of Moses has been “done away” is preposterous. What has happened for Christians is that the Law of Moses has been replaced by the law of Christ. (That is one aspect of the Christian becoming a “slave” to Christ.)

For anyone willing to look at the facts, and to think in terms of the New Testament witness as a whole, it spells out clearly how Christians are to live. A quick look at one or more of the so-called “sin lists” or “virtue lists” in the New Testament should dispel the notion that Christians can sin because the old covenant Law of Moses has been “done away.”

(See the following lists as examples—[Matthew 5:3-11](#); [Galatians 5:22-23](#); [Ephesians 4:32](#); [6:14-20](#); [Philippians 4:8](#); [1 Timothy 3:2-13](#); [Titus 1:6-9](#); [Mark 7:21-22](#); [Romans 1:29-32](#); [13:8-14](#); [Galatians 5:19-21](#); [1 Corinthians 5:9-11](#); [6:9-10](#); [Ephesians 4:25-31](#); [5:3-5](#); [Colossians 3:5-9](#); [2 Timothy 3:1-5](#).)

Let us briefly refer to one of them. [Galatians 5:13-25](#) shows the new covenant “law of Christ,” though it doesn’t label it with that particular terminology. Paul begins by saying that Christians should keep the second great law of God: “Love your neighbor as yourself” (5:14). He points out that if we live by the indwelling Holy Spirit, we will “not gratify the desires of the sinful nature” (5:16). Paul points out the kinds of sins Christians under the “law of Christ” will avoid. This includes everything from sexual immorality to idolatry to drunkenness to selfish ambition.

Paul next points out some fruits of the Holy Spirit. These include love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Christians will have crucified the sinful nature itself, not only sinful acts, through the indwelling Holy Spirit.

## **Mosaic Law unnecessary**

Christians do not need the Law of Moses, including the Ten Commandments, as a direction for their lives. They know what they must do to obey God from the New Testament witness. Christians also do not need the Mosaic Law as a “tutor,” because they have the indwelling Holy Spirit as their Paraclete or Counselor—whom Jesus sent. He is with them forever ([John 14:15-21](#) with [Galatians 3:23-25](#)).

In [Romans 7:1](#) Paul points out that the Law of Moses has authority over a person “only as long as he lives.” (Of course, it had authority only over the Jewish person; Paul is writing to Jews at this point.) He uses the example of a married woman who was bound to her husband while the husband was alive. When he died, she was free. Even though she remarried, she was not called an adulteress.

Paul uses this analogy to point out that Christians have died to the Law of Moses (which includes the package called the Ten Commandments) “through the body of Christ” ([Romans 7:4](#)). They now belong to another—to the risen Christ. “We have been released from the law,” says Paul, “so that we serve in the new way of the Spirit, and not in the old way of the written code” (verse 6). If Paul could say this to Jews, how much more would it apply to Gentiles, who were never under the written code of the Law of Moses to begin with!

Many more things could be said about these matters from New Testament Scripture. The above discussion, however, should make it evident that Christians are not required to keep the Law of Moses (including the Ten Commandments). Sabbatarians cannot “pick and choose” a few boundary marker observances such as Sabbath-keeping and insist Christians must keep them. But Christians are not in some lawless limbo as a result of not being obligated to the Law of Moses. They have the New Testament “law of Christ” and the Holy Spirit to guide them.

*Author: Paul Kroll*

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## What the Bible says about Sabbath as Sign (From Forerunner Commentary)

The [Sabbath](#) is the *sign* between [God](#) and His people for several reasons. It reminds us who we are and that our God is the Creator, as the Sabbath is a memorial of creation. The Sabbath identifies or distinguishes us from others and separates us from others. The Sabbath is easily recognized by those outside of the fellowship, so keeping it draws attention to us.

If it is kept properly, it provides evidence of the state of our relationship with God. This is very important! The way the Sabbath is kept—if it is carefully kept the way that God desires—compresses into a single concept: *a recurring appointment with the Deity*. Each Sabbath is an appointment with God, covering the whole, unique covenant relationship.

**John W. Ritenbaugh**  
[Sabbathkeeping \(Part 2\)](#)

### sermon: Sabbathkeeping (Part 2)

Idolatry and Sabbath Breaking  
[John W. Ritenbaugh](#)  
Given 14-Aug-99; Sermon #408; 63 minutes

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- [Sabbathkeeping \(Part 4\)](#)

In the previous sermon regarding the [Sabbath](#), I was attempting to put the Sabbath in its proper context for us by showing how important it is from God's perspective to the relationship that He has invited us into.

Sometimes I am appalled at how strong the inclination is in me to look at the things of [God](#) in the same way that [the world](#) does. And I feel that if I have this inclination, then it's very likely that you have similar inclinations within you as well. I'm doing what I am doing at the beginning of this sermon again because we have grown up in a Protestant/Catholic dominated culture. The beliefs and the attitudes, from that culture, are part of what we must overcome.

The Protestants as a whole dismiss the Sabbath as being merely ceremonial. The Catholic Church is a bit more honest, admitting that—if one goes by the Bible only—the Sabbath is to be kept. But then they say that they have the authority to change things. And they've not only changed it; but they've also removed the second commandment from God's law, and replaced it by dividing the [tenth commandment](#) into two. So, therefore, they—in effect—dismiss it, despite the fact that it is a part of *the royal law* as James says. James also said that it is part of *the law of liberty*—one that sets free. Therefore, it is an act of **immorality** to break the Sabbath!

I feel like that is a major key to understanding its importance to God. Immorality is simply the failure to live up to [or to conform to] an accepted standard. The standard, brethren, is *God's Law*, which we agreed to keep when we made the covenant with Him.

Remember this simple principle: Love binds. Immorality breaks, separates, splits, scatters, and divides. Ezekiel 20 reveals the breaking of the Sabbath as - one of the major causes of God sending Israel into captivity. One can easily see that [adultery](#), lying, and stealing is immoral; but somehow Sabbath breaking never seems to be associated with immorality, because today—in our age—the emphasis is on sexual [sin](#).

As far as the Bible is concerned, which day to keep the Sabbath is never an issue; rather, just as with any other of the commandments, the issue is always **why** and **how** to keep it.

In that first sermon, we were reminded that the Sabbath is the "*sign*" between God and His people for several reasons. It is to remind us who we are. And that our God is the Creator, because the Sabbath is a memorial to creation. It identifies. It distinguishes us from others. It separates us from others. And it can be more easily recognized by those outside of the fellowship. Keeping it, therefore, draws attention to us.

And, if it is kept properly, it gives evidence of the state of the relationship between us and God. A very important part! This is because the way the Sabbath is kept—if it is carefully kept, the way that God desires—compresses into a single concept: **a recurring appointment with the Deity**. Each and every Sabbath is an appointment with God. It covers the whole, unique covenant relationship. No other religion, except Judaism—which also keeps the Sabbath to some degree—has anything quite like it.

[Exodus 16:28](#) And the LORD said to [Moses](#), How long refuse you to keep my commandments and my laws?

The subject of this chapter is the Sabbath. It's when God began the process of revealing to them which day was the Sabbath by bringing a double portion of manna on the day before, and then no manna at all. Of course, some of the people went out and tried to pick manna on the Sabbath day. That is why God responded, in verse 28, the way He did. "How long?" What He is saying—besides what is so obvious—is that the Sabbath already existed by this time. The Sabbath began at creation—not Sinai, but at creation!

Israel as a nation began breaking the Sabbath right from the get-go. Even before they got to Sinai, they were already breaking the Sabbath. That's why God said many of the things that He did back there in the book of Ezekiel. I want you to see this scripture again, in Ezekiel 20.

[Ezekiel 20:16](#) Because they despised my judgments, and walked not in my statutes, but polluted my Sabbaths [Why did they pollute His Sabbaths? This is what I want us to see.] for [Here was the cause.] their heart went after their idols.

"Their heart [their innermost beings; their minds] went after their idols." This is a very important principle to understand. I'm going to go back to [I John 5:18](#).

[I John 5:18-21](#) We know [The "we" being church members.] that whosoever is born of God sins not; but he that is begotten of God keeps [or, guards] himself and that wicked one touches him not. And we know that we are of God, and the whole world lies in wickedness. And we know that the Son of God is come, and has given us an understanding, that we may know him that is true, and we are in him that is true, even in his Son [Jesus Christ](#). This is the true God, and eternal life. Little children, [This is how the book ends.] **keep yourselves from idols**. Amen.

I'm going to read this to you from "The Living Bible." It's a little bit plainer in this paraphrase.

[I John 5:18-21](#) [**Living Bible**] No one who has become a part of God's family makes a practice of sinning, for Christ, God's Son, holds him securely and the devil cannot get his hands on him. We know that we are the children of God and that all the rest of the world around us is under Satan's power and control. And we know that Christ, God's Son, has come to help us understand and to find the true God. And now we are in God because we are in Jesus Christ his Son, who is the only true God; and he is eternal Life. Dear children, keep away from anything that might take God's place in your hearts.

"Keep away from **anything** that might take God's place in your hearts." That's what idolatry is! And it was idolatry that caused the people to break the Sabbath, when the children of Israel were in the wilderness; and that is the same thing that causes *us* to break the Sabbath today. Something comes between us and God.

If you look into a fairly detailed commentary regarding these verses, they will tell you that within the framework of the whole book of I John that John closes this book with what is

undoubtedly—in their minds—a reflection of the Garden of Eden, where idolatry began. And idolatry, brethren, is where sin begins!

Now, where did that sin begin? What we are seeing here is the course of sin. Sin began with a wrong and illicit desire that was not controlled. Then, [Satan](#) became the idol [whenever they submitted to him] thus gaining control of mankind. An idol is anything that imposes its will upon a person: persuading, inducing, and forcing the person to submit to it rather than to God. And, brethren, the idol does not have to be alive. It can be a thing—inanimate—because sin is *internally* generated. Do you know where Jesus said sin comes from? "Out of the heart..."

[Matthew 15:19](#) For out of the heart proceeds evil thoughts.

Do you see where I'm headed? Sabbath breaking begins in the heart, following after an idol—something that comes between us and God. In the Old Testament, God uses a leering statute of Baal, Dagon, and Molech, and a host of others, to illustrate His point. But Paul picked up on that, and something that Jesus said—and he says:

[Colossians 3:5](#) Mortify [put to death] therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and [covetousness](#), which is idolatry.

Covetousness is internally generated. Covetousness is the following of a wrong desire. All that Paul did was to magnify the Law—the tenth commandment—in the same way that Jesus magnified those same laws in Matthew 5. And He extended it to the tenth chapter, even as Jesus covered murder and adultery in Matthew 5.

Now go with me to I Peter 4, just to show you that Paul was not the only one who thought in this line.

[I Peter 4:1](#) For as much then as Christ has suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves likewise with the same mind.

[I Peter 4:3](#) For the time past of our life may suffice us to have wrought [worked] the will of the Gentiles, when we walked in lasciviousness, lusts, excess of wine, revellings, banquetings, and abominable idolatries.

"Walking" indicates movement. He's talking about moving through life, driven by wrong desires. "Idolatry" is another one of those biblical code words for anything that can injure, profane, defile, come between, or sully our relationship with God; and, therefore, His purpose for us.

**Unlawful desire—idolatry—lies at the base of sin.**

Now you might recall the simple illustration that Genesis 3 provides us of Adam and Eve in the Garden, the beautiful environment that God provided for them. From everything that we are able to see, there was a good relationship between them and God. But it was the desire for the forbidden fruit that began the chain of events that destroyed the relationship, got them kicked out of the garden, and separated them from God.

It's so simple to understand the process that is involved here. God gave them a simple command. What is so hard to understand about the [Fourth Commandment](#)? God gave them a simple command: "Don't eat the fruit of that one tree." But their desire set them up for Satan's persuasion, and then he—the ultimate demon—became the god that they submitted to—or, rather, worshipped—rather than God. Idolatry was born through an evil, unlawful desire.

About a year ago, Richard found a quote and gave to me. I have been saving it until this time, wondering where I could use it in a sermon. The quote was from Ralph Waldo Emerson. I just thought of it this morning and maybe it belongs right here. I don't have the quote with me, but I am sure that I have it right. Ralph Waldo Emerson said, "It is essential that we be careful what we worship, because what we worship we are becoming." Do you understand the positive side of what he said? **IF we truly [worship God](#), we will become God!** And that's where God is leading us.

This is why He so hates idolatry. Why He so hates evil desire, because evil desire is idolatry. It places something between us and Him, and we worship it—the desire—rather than what He said.

This is one of the reasons why Paul shows in I Corinthians 10 that there is a demon lurking behind the idol. That is why God said that the reason Israel broke the Sabbath was because—like Adam and Eve—"their hearts went after their idols."

[James 1:13-16](#) Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempts he any man: But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. Then when lust has conceived, it brings forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, brings forth death. Do not err, my beloved brethren.

Again, I'm going to read this from "The Living Bible."

[James 1:13-16](#) [The Living Bible] And remember, when someone wants to do wrong it is never God who is tempting him, for God never wants to do wrong and never tempts anyone else to do it. Temptation is the pull of man's own evil thoughts and wishes. These evil thoughts lead to evil actions and afterwards to the death penalty from God. So don't be misled, dear brothers.

Desire arises to use the Sabbath in a way that is somewhere beyond the simple directives of God. The temptation arises, perhaps in part motivated by a demon, and our heart follows after it, rather than God's simple directive. Just like Adam and Eve. It's not complicated. Now let's turn to I Corinthians chapter 10, and we're going to just read through without much commentary.

[I Corinthians 10:6-10](#) Now these things were our examples, to the intent we should not lust after evil things, as they also lusted. Neither be you idolaters, as were some of them; as it is written, "The people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play." Neither let us commit fornication, as some of them committed, and fell in one day three and twenty thousand. Neither let us tempt Christ, as some of them also tempted, and were destroyed of serpents. Neither murmur you, as some of them also murmured, and were destroyed of the destroyer.

[I Corinthians 10:13-14](#) There has not temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer [allow] you to be tempted above that you are able; but will with the temptation also make a way of escape, that you may be able to bear it. Wherefore, my beloved brethren, **flee from idolatry**.

[I Corinthians 10:20-21](#) But I say, that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice, they sacrifice to devils [demons], and not to God: and I would not that you should have fellowship with demons. You cannot drink the cup of the Lord, and the cup of demons: you cannot be partakers of the Lord's table, and of the table of demons.

If you understand the context that we have there, idolatry is linked to every one of these sins—lust, false religion, fornication, tempting Christ, and griping. I think that it is entirely possible that we don't often think of idolatry's direct link to Sabbath breaking.

Now we are going to go back to the book of Ezekiel and look at a few verses there.

[Ezekiel 2:3](#) And he said unto me, Son of man, I send you to the children of Israel, to a rebellious nation that has rebelled against me: they and their fathers have transgressed against me, even unto [this very day](#).

[Ezekiel 2:6](#) And you, son of man, be not afraid of them, neither be afraid of their words, though briars and thorns be with you, and you do dwell among scorpions: be not afraid of their looks, though they be a rebellious house.

[Ezekiel 3:1](#) Moreover, he said unto me, Son of man, eat that you find; eat this roll, and go speak unto the house of Israel.

[Ezekiel 3:7](#) But the house of Israel will not hearken [listen] to you; for they will not hearken unto me: for all the house of Israel are impudent and hardhearted.

I think that most of us are familiar with some of the background of Ezekiel, but I want to review briefly. Ezekiel is addressed to the house of Israel. That's mainly why I read those scriptures right there. It's plainly addressed to the house of Israel. Now Judah is included within the greater Israel, But the context of the book, as a whole, is primarily addressed to **Israel already in captivity**. Israel and Judah went into captivity at separate times. Judah went into captivity one hundred and twenty years after Israel did. But the message [here in Ezekiel] was written - while **what caused** the captivity—was still going on. We saw in Ezekiel 20 what caused them to go into captivity. It was **idolatry and Sabbath breaking**. So what caused Israel and Judah to go into captivity at separate times **was still going on!**

Now, since Judah went into captivity a hundred and twenty years after Israel—and Ezekiel was a Jew in captivity, with the Jews—Ezekiel's message never got to the house of Israel! Therefore, what we are looking at in the book of Ezekiel is a recording by God, through Ezekiel on three levels: (1) Past history, even in Ezekiel's time; (2) What was happening, even as Ezekiel wrote; and (3) What is prophesied to happen, even as I speak to you at this very moment.

I want to pursue the idolatry angle a bit more—through Ezekiel—because that's what caused them to go into captivity. It is what was happening at the time Ezekiel was writing. And that is what was prophesied to occur in our day. So I want to pursue the idolatry angle, because I want **us** to see how much a part that idolatry played in what God said to Israel in the chapters leading up to Ezekiel 20, which has to do, of course, with the Sabbath.

If you look in Strong's Concordance, you will find that the word "idol" (or, "idols") appears nineteen times in Ezekiel, prior to [Ezekiel 20:16](#). In addition to that, there are several other times in which the context infers idols, or idolatry. And paraphrases such as "The Living Bible will insert "idol" or "idolatry" where the word does not literally appear in the Hebrew because it is so obvious what God meant. We are going to read only a few of these; but I'm going to be reading them out of "The Living Bible" because it is so plainly and clearly written.

[Ezekiel 5:1-2](#) [**Living Bible**] Son of dust [Isn't that interesting? "Son of dust"—that's all you are. That's all I am. **Animated dust**. God *really* humbles us.], take a sharp sword and use it as a barber's razor to shave your head and beard; use balances to weigh the hair into three equal parts. Place a third of it at the center of your map of Jerusalem. After your siege, burn it there. Scatter another third across your map and slash at it with a knife. Scatter the last third to the wind, for I will chase my people with the sword.

Did you notice what He said in that last verse? "I WILL chase..." It's still future! And it's happening to the church right now, because we are **THE ISRAEL OF GOD** and Ezekiel is written to us. Let that sink in. If it doesn't sink in, then this isn't going to have the kind of impact that it needs to have on **us**—to get **us** to turn around and to repent. "I WILL chase My people with the sword." We haven't been chased with the sword yet, but we have already been scattered. It's kind of interesting because—even in its setting in the book of Ezekiel—Israel had already been scattered. So it's yet future.

[Ezekiel 5:11](#) [**Living Bible**] For I promise you: Because you have defiled my Temple with idols...

Is there any one here who doesn't believe that "the temple" is a symbol of the church—of the very sanctuary of God [as it were], "the holy of holies" - those in whom He literally dwells!

[Ezekiel 5:11](#) [**Living Bible**] Because you have defiled my Temple with idols and evil sacrifices, therefore I will not spare you nor pity you at all.

And then he goes on to talk about some terrible punishments that are going to come; and, of course, things that are going to come upon the nation that are far worse than what's going to come upon the church.

[Ezekiel 6:1-7](#) [**Living Bible**] Again a message came from the Lord: "Son of dust, look over toward the mountains of Israel and prophesy against them. Say to them, O mountains of Israel, hear the message of the Lord God against you and against the river and valleys. I, even I the Lord, will bring war upon you and destroy your idols. All your cities will be smashed and

burned, and the idol altars abandoned. Your gods will be shattered; the bones of their worshipers will lie scattered among the altars. Then at last you will know I am the Lord.

[Ezekiel 6:9](#) [Living Bible] Then when they are exiled among the nations, they will remember me, for I will take away their adulterous hearts - their love of idols - and I will blind their lecherous eyes that long for other gods.

[Ezekiel 6:13](#) [Living Bible] When your slain lie scattered among your idols and altars on every hill and mountain and under every green tree and great oak where they offer incense to their gods - you will realize that I alone am God.

[Ezekiel 8:3](#) [Living Bible] He put out what seemed to be a hand and took me by the hair. And the Spirit lifted me up into the sky and seemed to transport me to Jerusalem, to the entrance of the north gate, where the large idol was that had made the Lord so angry.

"Jerusalem" also is a symbol—a code name—for the church. And so God uses "Jerusalem", "temple" and "My house" to make sure that we get the point.

[Ezekiel 8:10](#) [Living Bible] So I went in. The walls were covered with pictures of all kinds of snakes, and lizards and hideous creatures, besides all the various idols worshiped by the people of Israel.

So there are all kinds of idolatry. Drop down to verse 15. God says, "*I'm going to show you something even worse.*"

[Ezekiel 8:15-16](#) [Living Bible] "Have you seen this?" he asked. "But I will show you greater evils than these!" Then he brought me into the inner court of the Temple [Right into the heart, as it were, of His church.] and there at the door, between the porch and the bronzealtar, were about twenty-five men standing with their backs to the Temple of the Lord, facing the east, worshipping the sun!

Does that imply [Sunday worship](#)? Possibly. I think without doubt He is implying idolatry taking place right in the temple—the church. Their backs are turned away from the church—the dwelling place of God; and they are worshipping the sun.

[Ezekiel 9:3-5](#) [Living Bible] And the Lord called to the man with the writer's case, and said to him, "Walk through the streets of Jerusalem and put a mark on the foreheads of the men who weep and sigh because of all the sins that they see around them." Then I heard the Lord tell the other men: "Follow him through the city and kill everyone whose forehead isn't marked.

Notice what is named here. This ought to send a shudder through us, if indeed this has any application on the church at all.

[Ezekiel 9:6](#) [The Living Bible] ...kill them **all**- old and young, girls, women and little children.

Sometimes we can just be, brethren, so complacent that we are absolutely certain we are going to be taken to the place of safety. God loves us. Because He loves us, He has got to be fair, equal, just—within Himself. His love is "tough love." If He didn't love us, He wouldn't punish us. But, because He does—in order to be true to Himself and be God—He has to do it. It doesn't give Him a thrill. He derives no pleasure from it. It is a means to an end, to bring us to [repentance](#); to ensure that we will be in His kingdom; to ensure that we are serious about **the great calling** that He's given to us.

[Ezekiel 9:6](#) [**The Living Bible**] ...And begin right here at the Temple. And so they began by killing the seventy elders.

That's the ministry. We are the most responsible. And if I don't do my job, as a watchman — **warning**, admonishing **in love**—then your blood is upon my hands. We have to make the application of the scriptures, and if the shoe fits, we have to wear it. And I say that *the evidence of the times*—the very fact that we are scattered over God's great green earth—is a pretty good indication that He has something against us. And that something is that **WE ARE NOT TAKING HIM SERIOUSLY ENOUGH**.

We somehow think that He's playing games, and that we can play games right back. I think we are learning that He is serious, and that He won't accept us playing games with the calling that He has given us. **Could anything greater be given** to a human being than to know what we know, and to have His Holy Spirit? I don't think so, brethren.

[Ezekiel 14:1-7](#) [**The Living Bible**] Then some of the elders of Israel visited me, to ask me for a message from the Lord, and this is the message that came to me to give to them: "Son of dust, these men worship idols in their hearts—should I let them ask me anything? Tell them, the Lord God says: I the Lord will personally deal with anyone in Israel who worships idols and then comes to ask my help. For I will punish the minds and hearts of those who turns from me to idols. Therefore warn them that the Lord God says: **Repent** and destroy your idols, and stop worshipping them in your hearts. I the Lord will personally punish everyone, whether the people of Israel or the foreigners living among you, who rejects me for idols, and then comes to a prophet...

Do you know what a prophet is? He's just merely a preacher. That's all. One who is speaking under inspiration.

[Ezekiel 14:7-8](#) [**The Living Bible**] ...and then comes to a prophet to ask for My help and advice. I will turn upon him and make a terrible example of him, destroying him; and you shall know I am the Lord.

Sobering, isn't it? These are the chapters that lead up to Ezekiel 20, where he goes from idolatry to Sabbath breaking as being the cause of Israel and Judah going into captivity. Is the Sabbath important from God's perspective? Well, He seems to think so! ***The basis of the sin of Sabbath breaking is idolatry.*** That's not too unusual because idolatry, in a general sense, is at the base of all sin.

Turn to [Judges 21:25](#). Here is the time in Israel's history that is refuted to be the most lawless and divisive of any in their history. This verse is a summary statement as to **why** it was this way.

[Judges 21:25](#) In those days there was no king in Israel [Meaning that there was no authoritative voice; not one voice, or one leader in authority]: every man did that which was right in his own eyes.

Not God's eyes - but what was right in his own eyes.

[Proverbs 14:12](#) is a scripture that I heard so many times from Herbert Armstrong that I know I am never going to forget it. But it catches in a very succinct way the essence of much of the problem in mankind.

[Proverbs 14:12](#) There is a way which seems right to a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.

There's only one end—but many ways to death. But the beginning of it is what seems right in a man's eyes—in his own mind. Is what's in a man's eyes also right with God? That's the issue. That's the issue with the Sabbath. And I think that I am on pretty strong ground when I say that the Sabbath commandment—the fourth commandment—is **the one** of "*the royal law*" that is considered to be least important by the bulk of mankind. It's rejected out of hand by all but a few.

So man has "many ways", but they all end in death. And, at the base of the "many ways" is idolatry—because it's man's own mind that sets up what he thinks is right, though it's not right with God.

[Isaiah 58:13-14](#) If you turn away your foot from the sabbath, from doing your pleasure on My holy day; and call the sabbath a delight, the holy of the Lord, honorable; and shall honor Him, not doing **your own** ways [[Proverbs 14:12](#)], nor finding **your own** pleasure, nor speaking **your own** words: THEN shall you delight yourself in the Lord; and **I will cause you** to ride on the high places of the earth, and **feed you** with the heritage of Jacob your father: for the mouth of the Lord has spoken it.

The Sabbath is to be used for seeking and doing the will of God.

Now, brethren, I have never had a congregation quite like The Church of the Great God. Previously, I'd always pastored local congregations. In one sense, we are tied together by telephone communication into a single congregation. But what is different is that The Church of the Great God has drawn people from all over the country—and internationally, as well.

One of the things that I'm surprised about, is how many people have told me that their pastor in the Worldwide [Church of God] rarely, if ever, preached anything about the Sabbath. When he did, it was one sermon, and almost nothing was covered.

On the surface, the Sabbath appears to be only for resting—a break from physical labor. Now, indeed, rest is a factor in the keeping of it. But the central purpose which should guide our

intentions for the use of the day is the *developing and building of our relationship with God*. That is exceedingly more important than stopping work! The stopping of work only provides the *time* so that we can do what is more important—*developing the relationship with God*. The central purpose of the break from the normal routine is the getting to know Him. "Knowing Him [Jesus said] is eternal life." You want eternal life? Get to know God. That's what the Sabbath is for.

The Sabbath is a weekly, and sometimes annual, appointment of time **to be devoted to Him**—so that the relationship doesn't become lost in the swirl of all the other activities of life. If it's done right, nobody has an excuse for not "knowing" God.

One-seventh—not one tenth as a tithe, but one-seventh, plus the holy days—of everybody's life after he is called is to be devoted to [seeking God](#). When I say one-seventh, that's a *minimum*; because there is time every day to do it! And there are the holy days of God - including the Feast of Tabernacles which is eight days long including the Last Great Day.

When you start adding all of these things together, you are getting down to somewhere around one-sixth to one-fifth of our time is to be devoted to getting to know God. Once every week—just to make sure—as a *minimum*!

So the central purpose for the break from normal routine is getting to know Him. It is the weekly and sometimes, the annual appointments of time to be devoted to Him, so that the relationship doesn't become lost in the swirl of all of the other activities of life. **And it is from the proper use of the day, in fellowshiping with Him, that the true, spiritual rest and refreshment are derived.**

Now turn with me to Isaiah 40. And you can connect this directly to Isaiah 58 and verse 14. If we are using the day right, THEN [He says] "you shall delight yourself in the Lord and I will cause you to ride on the high places of the earth." Now connect this thought...

[Isaiah 40:28-29](#) Have you not known? Have you not heard, that the everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth, faints not, neither is weary? There is no searching of his understanding. He gives **power** to the faint; and to them that have no might he increases strength.

Are you tired when the Sabbath rolls around? If our relationship with God is right, that is a day to be re-energized! And it's not the physical rest that supplies the main amount of strength; it is the relationship with God—the seeking of Him. Power flows from Him—because we are in His presence.

Now if, on that day, our mind is somewhere else, where is the connection so that the power can flow? You don't have to answer this to anybody, but yourself. But fellows and girls, husbands and wives—if you go out on a date and your date pays attention to everything but you, does that make you happy? Are you pleased to be with that person? Would you be pleased to give them gifts that you might be able to give them? It's a simple principle, isn't it?

God has a date with us every Sabbath; and He, brethren, has all the "goodies" to give that we could ever [hope](#) to get. "***I will cause you to rise on the high places of the earth; and you'll inherit the heritage of Jacob, your father.***" He restores health. He gives energy and vitality. That's where it comes from.

[Isaiah 40:30-31](#) Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall: But they that ***wait upon the Lord*** shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings of eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.

Do you want the secret of a vital life? There it is! It's what flows **from Him** in the relationship. Now this is beautiful. Turn to Psalm 84. First we are going to read this in the "King James" and then we are going to read it in "The Living Bible."

[Psalm 84:5-12](#) Blessed is the man whose strength is in you; in whose heart are the ways of them [meaning, the ways of God]. Who passing through the valley of Baca [We'll see this translated in a bit.] make it a well; the rain also fills the pools. They [those who wait on the Lord] go from strength to strength, every one of them in Zion [the church] appears before God. O LORD God of hosts, hear my prayer: give ear, O God of Jacob. Behold, O God our shield, and look upon the face of your anointed [You are one of the "anointed", by the way]. For a day [a Sabbath day] in your courts is better than a thousand. I had rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God, than to dwell in the tents of wickedness. For the LORD God is a sun and shield: the LORD will give grace and glory: no good thing will he withhold from them that walk uprightly. O LORD of hosts, blessed is the man that trusts in you.

That is a little bit different language; but it is saying, basically, the same thing that we just read in Isaiah 40, beginning in verse 28. Now, from "The Living Bible."

[Psalm 84:5-12](#) [The Living Bible] Happy are those who are strong in the Lord, who want above all else to follow your steps. When they walk through the Valley of Weeping [rough times, sadness] it will become a place of springs where pools of blessing and refreshment collect after rains! They will grow constantly in strength and each of them is invited to meet with the Lord in Zion. O Jehovah, God of the heavenly armies, hear my prayer! Listen, God of Israel. O God, our Defender and our Shield, have mercy on the one you have anointed as your king. A single dayspent in your Temple is better than a thousand anywhere else! I would rather be a doorman of the Temple of my God than live in palaces of wickedness. For Jehovah God is our Light and our Protector. He gives us grace [that's "gifts"] and glory. No good thing will he withhold from those who walk along his paths. O Lord of the armies of heaven, blessed are those who trust in you.

You will find in [Psalm 127:2](#), that "He gives His beloved sleep." He gives rest. He puts the mind where it should be—faithfully trusting Him, secure. Knowing that there are trials, knowing that there are temptations, but also knowing that we are going to have the victory IF we wait on Him and faithfully serve Him. How refreshing that is! He takes away the burden that others can't get rid of by filling us with confidence in Him.

I fear that we put the wrong emphasis within the Sabbath. We tend to look at it as a day in which we **cannot** do things, rather than the day when we **can do** liberating things! Truly refreshing

things that we cannot devote equal time to on the other days. God is our Deliverer. He is our Liberator. And it is in fellowship with Him that true rest and refreshment comes.

I see that my time is up for today. Anyway, that finishes another section on putting the Sabbath into its proper context. So the next time I speak, God willing, we will continue this subject.

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## **Sunday replaced The Sabbath** *by Rav Sha'ul*

"If Protestants would follow the Bible, they should worship God on the Sabbath Day, that is Saturday. In keeping Sunday they are following a law of the Catholic Church."

*Albert Smith, chancellor of the Archdiocese of Baltimore, replying for the cardinal in a letter of Feb. 10, 1920.*

What the Chancellor of the Archdiocese of Baltimore is saying to his "Cardinal" is simple... Sunday is not in The Bible and contradicts The Commanded Sabbath of YHVH. Albert Smith is admitting is that "**Protestants**" are simply *protesting* Catholics but still Catholic non-the-less in fundamental doctrine. The entire body of "Christianity" is in fact the false religion based word for word in doctrine on the *the Mystery Religion of Babylon*.

When addressing the issue of the Sabbath vs. Sunday, we must always keep in the forefront of our minds that the Roman Empire's religion before, during and even after the Roman Emperor Constantine was Sol Invictus (the worship of the invincible sun which began in Babylon). Constantine founded Christianity on a purely political bases to stabilize his empire and unit pagan religions not because he became a follower of Yahusha and child of YHVH. Constantine never changed his religion; he just forced his sun worship upon the entire world.

"Had she (Christianity) not such power, she could not have done that in which all modern religionists agree with her, **she could not have substituted the observance of Sunday**, the first day of the week, for the observance of Saturday, the Seventh day, **a change for which there is no Scriptural authority**" *Stephen Keenan, A Doctrinal Catechism 3rd ed. p. 174*

The Christian Church,... "by virtue of her (Christianity's) divine mission", changed the day from Saturday to Sunday. *The Catholic Mirror, official organ of Cardinal Gibbons, Sept. 23, 1893.*

The admission above is true, it was Satan's "divine mission" to change the Sabbath to Sunday. Why? Because The Sabbath is the "sign" that you are truly a child of YHVH. Keeping The Sabbath is how you demonstrate you know YHVH:

### **Exodus 31**

12 YHVH said to Moshe, 13 Tell the people of Isra'el, '**You are to observe my Shabbats; for this is a sign between me and you through all your generations; so that you will know that I am YHVH, who sets you apart for me. 17 It is a sign between me and the people of Isra'el forever**; for in six days ADONAI made heaven and earth, but on the seventh day he stopped working and rested.'

## The Sabbath... Key to Salvation

Hebrews 4 even in the NT or New Covenant the Sabbath is key to salvation. Below it clearly says you cannot be saved if you violate the Sabbath and The Sabbath is the 4<sup>th</sup> Commandment of YHVH. Remember, all the men of God in the Bible and the true church kept the Sabbath for 300 years after the Messiah's death until Constantine changed it by threat of death:

### Hebrews 4 - *A Sabbath-Rest for the People of God*

1 Therefore, since the promise of entering his rest **still stands**, let us be careful that none of you be found to have fallen short of it (**by failing to Keep the Sabbath**). 2 For we also have had the gospel preached to us, just as they did; but the message they heard was of no value to them, because those who heard did not combine it with faith (**Keep the Sabbath in light of the Messiah**). 3 Now we who have believed enter that rest (**Keep the Sabbath in light of faith in the Passover Lamb of YHVH, whose name is Yahusha**), just as YHVH has said,

**"So I declared on oath in my anger, 'They shall never enter my rest.'**" And yet his work has been finished since the creation of the world (**YHVH Himself kept the Sabbath in Genesis 1 and commanded we do to, the 4th Commandment**). 4 For somewhere he has spoken about the seventh day (**Saturday, not Sunday**) in these words: "And on **the seventh day** YHVH rested from all his work." 5 And again in the passage above he says, **"They shall never enter my rest."** (**referring to those disobedient to His Sabbath command**)

6 **It still remains that some (the remnant sons of YHVH) will enter that rest**, and those who formerly had the gospel preached to them did not go in, because of their disobedience (**to the Sabbath**). 7 Therefore YHVH, again, set a certain day, calling it Today, when a long time later he spoke through David, as was said before:

"Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts. (**against His Sabbath**)" 8 For if Joshua had given them rest, God would not have spoken later about another day (**the Sabbath Rest is yet to come**). 9 **There remains, then, a Sabbath-rest for the people of YHVH**; 10 **for anyone who enters God's rest also rests from his own work, just as YHVH did from His (You must keep the Sabbath just as YHVH did)**. 11 Let us, therefore, make every effort to enter that rest (**by being obedient to The Sabbath**), so that no one will fall by following their example of disobedience (**set by the Christian Church**).

The Sabbath is defined as The Sign between YHVH and His sons. The "sign" of the Christian Church between Satan and his chosen is and has always been Sunday.

"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, a day which we never sanctify." **James Cardinal Gibbons, The Faith of Our Fathers (1917 ed.), pp. 72,73.**

In fact, The Sabbath is the weekly worship day for all eternity by all mankind because as Hebrew 4 states only Sabbath keepers enter the Kingdom of God. We see below that those Sabbath keepers literally step over the bodies of those destroyed for NOT KEEPING THE SABBATH!

### **Isaiah 66:22-24**

22 “For just as the new heavens and the new earth that I am making will continue in my presence,” says YHVH, “so will your descendants and your name continue. 23 “Every month on Rosh-Hodesh and **every week on Shabbat**, everyone living will come to worship in my presence,” says YHVH. 24 “**As they leave, they will look on the corpses of the people who rebelled against me** for their worm will never die, and their fire will never be quenched; but they will be abhorrent to all humanity.”

## **Were did Sunday Worship originate if not The Bible?**

Where did the Christian Church get Sunday worship? Not from The Bible it is nowhere to be found. Sunday worship cam from Sol Invictus ("Invincible Sun"); the official sun god of the later Roman Empire. In 274 the Roman emperor Aurelian made it an official cult alongside the traditional Roman cults. Sol Invictus was the favored god by emperors after Aurelian and appeared on their coins until Constantine. The last inscription referring to Sol Invictus dates to 387 AD.

Keep in mind, Constantine’s “conversion” was supposedly to have taken place much earlier than that. The Council of Nicaea and “birth” of Christianity took place in 325 AD some 50 years **earlier** than the last inscription on Constantine’s coins. His strictly legendary “conversion” supposedly took place earlier than the Council of Nicaea. What “conversion” actually took place 3 years prior to the Council of Nicaea and birth of the Christian religion? Constantine was converted to The Cult of Sol Invictus. The “new” convert Constantine actually remained deeply committed to his sun god and was one of the few which incorporated the epithet invictus, such as the legend SOLI INVICTO COMITI, claiming the Unconquered Sun as a companion to the Emperor. This “commitment to the sun god” was used particular frequency by Constantine. Statuettes of Sol Invictus, carried by the standard-bearers, appear in three places in reliefs on the Arch of Constantine. Constantine's official coinage continues to bear images of Sol until 325/6. A solidus of Constantine as well as a gold medallion from his reign depict the Emperor's bust in profile twinned ("jugate") with Sol Invictus, with the legend INVICTUS CONSTANTINUS. It should be noted here, that his new god too was INVICTUS JESUS as are his followers to this day.

Constantine decreed (March 7, 321) dies Solis—day of the sun, "Sunday"—as the Roman day of rest just prior to the Council of Nicaea:

**“On the venerable day of the Sun** let the magistrates and people residing in cities rest, and let all workshops be closed. In the country however persons engaged in agriculture may freely and lawfully continue their pursuits because it often happens that another day is not suitable for grain-sowing or vine planting; lest by neglecting the proper moment for such operations the bounty of heaven should be lost.”

Constantine's triumphal arch was carefully positioned to align with the colossal statue of Sol by the Colosseum, so that Sol formed the dominant backdrop when seen from the direction of the main approach towards the arch.

Following the Council of Nicaea, the newly formed “Christian Church” held yet another “council” of paganism known as The Council of Laodicea to uphold the abomination of Sun god worship. In this council they literally declared the obedient followers of YHVH an “anathema of Christ” or rather “accursed by Chrestos” which may be true of their god “Jesus” but not the true Messiah Yahusha. Yahusha kept Sabbath, commanded we keep it, and was raised by YHVH on The Sabbath. In effect, they declared the True Messiah, a Jewish Rabbi and follower of The Torah, accursed as he was truly a Jewish Rabbi and Sabbath keeper:

Christians must not judaize by resting on the Sabbath, but must work on that day, rather honouring the Lord's Day; and, if they can, resting then as Christians. But if any shall be found to be judaizers, **let them be anathema from Christ.** (*Canon 29 [A.D. 360]. (The Church Council of Laodicea circa 364 CE)*)

Well, Yahusha the Messiah was by their definition “a judaizer” and there for accursed by their god Jesus. It was the role of the new “priests of Sol” (formerly the priests of Mithra called “Fathers”) and the priestesses of Brigit called “Nuns” in the newly formed “Christian Church” to teach the masses now that Sungod Day was the “New Sabbath”. This was accomplished by teaching that the disciples of “Jesus” met together on the first day of the week. In their pagan calendars and reckoning of time, Sunday was the first day of the week and the day began at midnight. The ignorant masses were easily led astray.

The days in the Bible at the time of the Messiah began at sunset. So early “the first day” of the week Biblically was what we call Saturday night. The disciples were at home keeping The Sabbath, as commanded by YHVH and obediently kept by Yahusha, from sunset Friday to sunset Saturday. They would then get together Saturday night to fellowship together once the sun set on The Sabbath and a new day began at dusk. When the sun rose on Sunday the first day of the week **they were all at work it was a work day.** They didn't have “weekends” like we do today! Any truth seeking individual thinker and obedient son of YHVH would know this simple historical fact. Sunday “sunrise” morning worship is PAGAN dating back to Babylon.

Then the pagan priests in this “new” religion called Christianity would teach Good Friday as the day their “Christ” was crucified on the cross of Tammuz. When in reality the

Messiah was impaled on a stake. They would then teach their “Christ” was resurrected on Ishtar Sungod Day what we now call Easter. This was their “justification” for literally abolishing the only Holy Day kept by God (YHVH) Himself, **the Sabbath Day**. These pagan priests used lies by changing the “times” of YHVH in how you calculate a “day”, lies to justify a “cross” and lies to justify Good-Friday/Easter. The Catholic (Mother of Christianity) Church then literally re-wrote the 10 Commandments eliminating the 4<sup>th</sup> Commandment to keep the Sabbath Day Holy.

In the 5th century, Socrates Scholasticus Church History book 5 states the fact that until Constantine imposed Dies Solis (Sungod Day) on humanity, most assemblies and believers across the world at that time **still kept The Sabbath even as late as 5 centuries later after Yahusha!** He clearly knew that this “Sunday” worship was based in Rome on “the account of some ancient tradition”!

"Nor is there less variation in regard to religious assemblies. For although almost all churches throughout the world celebrate the sacred mysteries on the sabbath of every week, yet the Christians of Alexandria and at Rome, on account of some ancient tradition, have ceased to do this."

The reader of this book should now know exactly what “ancient tradition” he was referring to; sun god worship originating in ancient Babylon. Evidence of this blasphemous move by a pagan Roman Church called “Christianity” is plentiful in history if we simply love YHVH enough to question it.

**Westminster Confession of Faith, Chapter 21, "Of Religious Worship, and the Sabbath Day". Section 7-8 reads:** As it is the law of nature, that, in general, a due proportion of time be set apart for the worship of God; so, in his Word, by a positive, moral, and perpetual commandment binding all men in all ages, **he hath particularly appointed one day in seven**, for a Sabbath, to be kept holy unto him: which, from the beginning of the world to the resurrection of Christ, was the last day of the week; and, from the resurrection of Christ, was changed into the first day of the week, which, in Scripture, is called the Lord's day, and is to be continued to the end of the world, as the Christian Sabbath.

No. YHVH did not set aside “one day in Seven” he set aside **THE 7<sup>th</sup> Day!** The above is an unscriptural pagan lie. This trickery and slight of hand and wordsmithing is notorious in the Christian Church. “Christian Sabbath” is a man-made term not found in Scripture or taught by anyone until 5<sup>th</sup> century. Only by circular reasoning can this statement be made – (i.e. the Lord's Day must mean Sunday since that is the day Jesus rose from the grave.) – which in fact Yahusha was not raised on Sunday at all! He was raised 3 days and 3 nights after the Passover when he was killed. That resurrection day is The Sabbath!

The first “lie” is that Yahusha rose on Sunday when in fact he was risen on The Sabbath! Yahusha rose on the 7<sup>th</sup> Day. This “Lord's Day” or more accurately “Day of the Lord” in scripture actually says “Day of YHVH” and refers to the END OF DAYS – NOT SUNDAY - See Amos 5:18, Joel 2:31, 1Thes. 5:2. The Apostle John in Revelation uses this term. His entire letter is describing the end of days, end time events. He wasn't saying, “let's see, I think it was on Sunday that I had this vision”. No, he was saying, “I

have been a witness of future events on the Day of YHVH” – referring to judgment. Change the name YHVH to “the LORD”, give that same title to the Messiah, call him “Jesus” then twist the reckoning of time and scriptures, and **only then** can you arrive at Sunday being “The Lord’s Day’. Oh how easily we are misled and how very easily we put up with it! We have literally been given another Gospel (Trinity/Sunday/Easter/Jesus) not in scripture (which is YHVH/Yahusha/Sabbath/Passover) and another “Spirit” that “Jesus is God not man” when YHVH alone is God and we bought into it and to this day put up with it:

### **2 Corinthians 11:4**

<sup>4</sup> For if someone comes to you and preaches a Messiah other than the Messiah we preached, or if you receive a different spirit from the Spirit you received, or a different gospel from the one you accepted, **you put up with it easily enough.**

## YHVH raised Yahusha from the grave on The Sabbath

The Messiah was impaled on a stake on The Passover, a Wednesday, and rose from the grave on The Sabbath exactly 3 days/nights later. This false Messiah named “Jesus” is proven false by the very fact that Friday night (supposed time of Jesus crucifixion) to Sunday morning (supposed time of his resurrection) **is only a day and a half!** Jesus is therefore a FALSE PROPHET because he specifically stated he would be in the grave 3 days AND 3 nights. There is no logic known to man that can get 3 days and 3 nights from Friday evening to Sunday morning. **Are we so ignorant and uneducated that we cannot even count to 3?** Or have we “willingly” become so? This one fact alone disqualifies the Roman demi-god “Jesus H. Christ” from being the true Messiah of Israel. The Catholic Church (Christianity) even admits this abomination. Calling the Sabbath of YHVH a “Jewish Sabbath”, the very sign between YHVH and His chosen Elect and the 4<sup>th</sup> Commandment of God, they admit literally changing The Law of God on the authority of the False Christian Church alone. Basically “we keep Sunday because we keep Sunday we don’t care what the Bible says or YHVH Commanded or what day Yahusha taught in The Temple or what day he was resurrected”. This is our only defense and reason for keeping Sunday because no justification for Sunday worship is true. History clearly shows the Sabbath was changed by a sun worshiping pagan emperor then forced on an uneducated realm by law then by death:

"The Church, on the other hand, after changing the day of rest from the Jewish Sabbath, or seventh day of the week, to the first, made the Third (fourth) Commandment refer to Sunday as the day to be kept holy as the Lord's Day." ***The Catholic Encyclopedia***  
***Topic: Ten Commandments, 2nd paragraph***

"We have made the change from the seventh day to the first day, from Saturday to Sunday, on the authority of the one holy, catholic, apostolic church of Christ."--  
***Episcopalian Bishop Seymour said in "Why We Keep Sunday."***

Never did YHVH give mankind such authority to rewrite His Law. The Messiah Yahusha never assumed such authority. The pagan Popes of Rome even go so far as to claim YHVH’s most Holy Sabbath as an “execration” or “curse”!

Sylvester I (314-337 A.D.) was the pope during the reign of Constantine. Here is what he thought of the Bible Sabbath: "If every Sunday is to be observed joyfully by the Christians on account of the resurrection, **then every Sabbath on account of the burial is to be execration** [loathing or cursing] of the Jews."--***quoted by S. R. E. Humbert, Adversus Graecorum calumnias 6, in Patrologie Coursus Completus, Series Latina, ed. J.P. Migne, 1844, p. 143.***

Yahusha was neither buried on Friday nor was he resurrected on Sunday. He was buried on Passover a Wednesday and raised on The Sabbath. Again it is openly admitted that the 7<sup>th</sup> Day Sabbath is the ONLY Holy Day in scripture and was changed to accommodate the pagan sun worshippers of their day:

At this time in early church history it was necessary for the church to either adopt the Gentiles' day or else have the Gentiles change their day. To change the Gentiles' day would have been an offense and a stumbling block to them. **The church could naturally reach them better by keeping their day.**"--*William Frederick, Three Prophetic Days, pp. 169-170.*

That's right; to assimilate pagans into this new false religion the decision was made to "keep THEIR pagan day". Even the Pope admits as much, if you follow YHVH you will keep The Sabbath, if you follow him you will keep Dies Solis (the day of the Sun god) as it is his "divine right" given him by the Sun deity to change the ordinances of YHVH:

"The Pope has the power to change times, to abrogate (abolish) laws, and to dispense with all things, even the precepts of Christ." **"The Pope has the authority and often exercised it, to dispense with the command of Christ."** -*Decretal, de Tranlatic Episcop. Cap. (The Pope can modify divine law.) Ferraris' Ecclesiastical Dictionary.*

Make no mistake if you are Christian and do not keep the Sabbath IT IS BY PAPAL DECREE! The false Church of Rome known today as Christianity (even its Protestants off-shoots are guilty) imposed this "false" Church upon humanity at the cost of literally murdering over 100,000,000 (100 Million) people or as the Bible says "dripping with the blood of the Saints":

"That the Church of Rome has shed more innocent blood than any other institution that has ever existed among mankind, will be questioned by no Protestant who has a competent knowledge of history . . . It is impossible to form a complete conception of the multitude of her victims, and it is quite certain that no powers of imagination can adequately realize their sufferings."--*W. E. H. Lecky, History of the Rise and Influence of the Spirit of Rationalism in Europe, vol. 2, p. 32, 1910 edition. (An excellent though lengthy article describing in detail the right of the Roman Catholic Church to do this, will be found in The Catholic Encyclopedia, vol. 12, p. 266.)*

"For professing faith contrary to the teachings of the Church of Rome, history records the martyrdom of more than one hundred million people. A million Waldenses and Albigenses [Swiss and French Protestants] perished during a crusade proclaimed by Pope Innocent III in 1208. Beginning from the establishment of the Jesuits in 1540 to 1580, nine hundred thousand were destroyed. One hundred and fifty thousand perished by the Inquisition in thirty years. Within the space of thirty-eight years after the edict of Charles V against the Protestants, fifty thousand persons were hanged, beheaded, or burned alive for heresy. Eighteen thousand more perished during the administration of the Duke of Alva in five and a half years."--*Brief Bible Readings, p. 16.*

On August 24, 1572, Roman Catholics in France, by pre-arranged plan, under Jesuit influence, murdered 70,000 Protestants within the space of two months. The pope rejoiced when he heard the news of the successful outcome. (Read Great Controversy, chapter 15 for the details.). . . We have heard ring out many times the very bells that called the Catholics together on that fatal night. They always sounded sweetly in our ears"--*Western Watchman, Nov. 21, 1912 [Roman Catholic].*

It is little wonder "why" we march to our Trinity/Jesus/Sunday/Easter/Christmas pagan establishments each and every Dies Solis. "The Whore of Babylon" literally is drenched

in the blood of the saints of YHVH who would not bow to this paganism. **Humanity has been conditioned by threat of death** from the Inquisitions on through 2,000 years of murder and bloodshed to blindly obey. That includes YOU! Try questioning Sunday worship some day to your family, friends, preacher, etc. and ask them why we all are disobedient to the ONLY Holy Day kept by God Himself and the Messiah and every man in the Bible and the real church for 500 years after Yahusha came... The Sabbath.

Next: [Christmas replaced Succoth](#)