

**THE  
BIBLICAL DAY  
OF  
WORSHIP**

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## **INTRODUCTION**

What day of the week should a true Christian set aside to honor and worship the Creator? For fully 99% of the today's professing Christianity, the answer would unhesitatingly be Sunday. This belief is so universal that organizations as diverse as the Roman Catholic Church, the Baptist Church, Mormons, Pentecostals and Jehovah's Witnesses all subscribe to it.

Unfortunately very few people have ever been inquisitive enough or honest enough to ask the question, "Where did Sunday worship originate?" Or perhaps, "Does the Bible command Sunday worship?" In other words, does the day on which virtually all professing Christians go to Church actually have Scriptural authority or it is merely a tradition of men? And furthermore, does it really matter to Yahweh, after all, on which day and in what manner His true servants worship Him in the first place?

No serious Christian can afford to take this issue lightly. The inspired Word of Yahweh is the yardstick by which all moral and theological matters must be measured, not the opinions and commentary of scholars or preachers. In the following study, I urge you to put aside any preconceived notions you might hold and let the pure light of the Bible speak to you. As long-held biases fall by the wayside, the truth of Yah will begin to emerge from the shadow of assumption, ignorance, misunderstanding and deception so prevalent in the world today.

## THE BIBLICAL DAY OF WORSHIP

When Yahweh decided to deliver the people of Israel from Egyptian bondage, He led them on a fifty day trek through the Red Sea to Mt. Sinai in Arabia. There at the sacred mount, He called Moses up into His presence and gave to him His great spiritual Law that was to become the foundation of the new nation of Israel. We call the basis of that Law -- the Ten Commandments.

The book of Genesis, however, makes it abundantly clear that every one of those special precepts had previously been in force and effect long before the days of Moses. The New Testament itself teaches us that “sin is the transgression of the Law” (I John 3:4) and there can be no doubt that sin existed from the very beginning, in the Garden of Eden. Therefore, it only stands to reason that Yahweh’s Law was also in effect from the beginning as well. This is especially true of the law concerning the Sabbath Day. We read, in fact, in Genesis chapter 2, verse 3:

*“Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. And on the SEVENTH DAY Yahweh ended His work, which He had made. And Yahweh blessed the seventh day and SANCTIFIED it; because that in it He had rested from all His work.”*

How casually we often read these verses, yet they signify both a great historical event, as well as a great spiritual principle. The seventh day of that first week was made very special. The preceding six days had been filled with magnificent acts of creation, but on the seventh day something happened – something different, something extraordinary, and something utterly unique.

On the seventh day, Almighty Yahweh, the eternal Creator of heaven and earth, RESTED, and set that particular day of the week apart for holy and spiritual purposes. On no other day did Yahweh ever rest nor was any other day ever so distinguished by His holy presence. The seventh or Sabbath day therefore, from the beginning, took on the most profound and significant meaning for the people of Yahweh.

It was the day of worship for the pre-flood patriarchs like Abel, Enoch and Noah and for such Biblical luminaries as Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Moses, Joshua, Samuel and David. It is, in fact, said of Abraham for instance that he “obeyed My voice, and kept My charge, My commandments, My statutes and My laws” (Gen. 26:5). That certainly would make Abraham, the very father of the Faithful, a Sabbath-keeper! It was not until the children of Israel had become enslaved in Egypt, surrounded as they were on all sides by rank paganism, that they came to forget the Laws of Yahweh. Thus when Moses went up into the Mount, Yahweh had to remind him to “REMEMBER THE SABBATH, TO KEEP IT HOLY” (Ex. 20:9-11). The command to “remember,”

obviously implies that the Israelites had this knowledge prior to their captivity in Egypt.

The holy spiritual Law, just like the great Elohim who gave it, is utterly eternal and unchangeable. Why should it ever have to be altered or abolished? David wrote:

*“The law of Yahweh PERFECT, converting the soul...The statutes of Yahweh are right, rejoicing the heart, the commandment of Yahweh is pure, enlightening the eyes...More to be desired than gold, yea, than much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and the droppings of honeycombs. Moreover by them (His Laws) is your servant warned; and in KEEPING OF THEM there is great reward” (Psa. 19:7-11).*

Not only did Yahweh command Israel to remember and sanctify the Sabbath Day, but He proceeded to reiterate the pattern of things that was established from the beginning with respect to this particular day. He commanded:

*“Six days shall you labour (indeed just as Yahweh Himself had so worked), and do all your work: but the seventh day is the Sabbath of Yahweh your Elohim, in it you shall not do any work, you nor your son, nor your daughter, nor your manservant, nor your maidservant, nor your cattle, nor the stranger that is within your gates. For in six days Yahweh made heaven and earth, the sea and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day, wherefore Yahweh blessed the Sabbath day, and hallowed it” (Ex. 20:9-11).*

## **THE SABBATH IN THE OLD TESTAMENT**

Almighty Yah fully intended the Sabbath day to be a blessing to those who would, from the heart, keep and hallow it. Isaiah states:

*“Thus says Yahweh, Keep you judgment and do justice; for my salvation is near to come, and my righteousness to be revealed. Blessed is the man that does this, and the son of man that lays hold on it; that KEEPS THE SABBATH from polluting it, and keeps his hand from doing evil...also the sons of the stranger that join themselves to Yahweh, to serve Him, and to love the name of Yahweh, to be His servants, everyone that KEEPS THE SABBATH from polluting it, and takes hold of My covenant; even them will I bring to My holy mountain, and make them joyful in My house of prayer” (Isa. 56:2, 6-7).*

The Sabbath was designed to be a day of physical rest and spiritual rejuvenation. As long as Israel was in the wilderness, they were given a double portion of manna on the sixth day each week to carry them over the Sabbath, allowing the people to rest on the seventh day. Since Yah’s days always begin at sunset or evening (Gen. 1:8, 13; Lev. 23:32), the Israelites, as the sun was declining, would tie up all the loose ends of

their regular routine of life in anticipation of the onset of the Sabbath. In other words, the keeping of the Sabbath was serious business. Indeed, the prophet Jeremiah testifies:

*“Thus says Yahweh, Take heed to yourselves and bear no burden on the Sabbath day, nor bring it in by the gates of Jerusalem; neither carry forth a burden out of your houses on the Sabbath day, neither do you any work, but hallow the seventh day, as I commanded your fathers...But if you will not hearken unto me to hallow the Sabbath day...then will I kindle a fire in the gates thereof, and it shall devour the palaces of Jerusalem, and it shall not be quenched” (Jer.17:21-27).*

Again and again Yahweh warned the carnal Israelites that they had better take to heart what He commanded concerning the Sabbath day. It was always a problem for them. After all, they could make sense out of most of the other Laws, but the Sabbath was different. This Law dictated how they should actually spend a portion of their own time, a complete day each week, and they just didn't like that. It should not be too surprising to realize that people have not really changed very much over the years, because today the same situation exists.

The Sabbath has always been and will always be THE TEST COMMANDMENT, the most difficult and challenging of Yah's Laws for human beings to accept and obey. The Israelites did not like it and people today don't either. Almost every professing Christian will agree that murder is wrong, that stealing or committing adultery is wrong, but the Sabbath? - You will always get a heated argument there - and yet it is a cardinal point of the very same Ten Commandments!

Notice how much emphasis Yahweh places on the observation of His Sabbath. Isaiah makes the following statement:

*“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 Yahweh, honorable, and shall honor Him, not doing your own ways, nor...your own pleasure, nor speaking your own words; then shall you delight yourself in Yahweh; and I will cause you to ride upon the high places of the earth, and feed you with the heritage of Jacob your father; for the mouth of Yahweh has spoken it” (Isa. 58:13-14).*

The Sabbath day, just like the rest of the cardinal points of Yah's immutable Law was emphatically NOT merely a part of the “Law of Moses.” It long antedated the Old Covenant established at Mt. Sinai. It predated Abraham and the patriarchs, even going all the way back to the Garden of Eden itself. It was, in fact, the very first of Yah's fundamental laws to be revealed to man. As such, it should have very special, sacred and holy meaning to every person who seeks to know and serve the one true Elohim.

Israel had the promise and potential of becoming the greatest nation on the face of the earth, because obedience to the spiritual laws of Yahweh would have automatically produced just such blessings. But Israel was never satisfied with Yah's ways. She always had a roving eye, looking elsewhere for other gods to worship, other traditions and methods of worship. They were guilty of asking precisely the same question that many pose today. "Does it really matter how we worship God, just as long as our hearts are right?"

It was this fatal flaw in Israel's thinking and approach that led to their destruction. Because it does indeed matter to Almighty Yahweh how human beings worship Him. If we will do it His way, specifically dictated in the Scriptures, we will be blessed. If we choose our own way, then it will end up where all of man's vain attempts end up - in utter failure and desolation. Anyone who thinks that they are free to worship Yahweh any way they decide are in for a rude awakening. Read the real truth in Deuteronomy 12:29-31! Yah makes no provision whatsoever for man to devise his own methods of worship. He is the one who reveals the exact manner for human beings to approach Him and honor Him. The first principle in that regard is to OBEY HIS COMMANDMENTS!

It is interesting that most professing Christians will generally agree that they should be obedient, but almost all of them have something against the Law. Some say that it has been done away with, and is no longer required of Christians. Others assert that it was "nailed to the cross". Still others think they can merely pick and choose which laws they wish to keep and simply dispense with the rest. How many times have I heard the pathetic statement that all God really wants us to do is just "love one another." When people say this, it dawns on me just how ignorant most folks really are when it comes to the truth of Yahweh. If we would only allow the Bible to be our guide, and not the ideas of men, we would clearly see that John expressly defined "love" for us in the following terms:

*"By this we know that we love the children of Yahweh, when we love Yahweh and KEEP HIS COMMANDMENTS. For this is the LOVE OF YAHWEH, THAT WE KEEP HIS COMMANDMENTS, and His commandments are NOT GRIEVOUS" (1 John 5:2-3).*

Memorize that passage of Scripture, write it on your bathroom mirror, tape it to the dash of your car, read it again and again, and then remember that one of the major points of Yah's Law of love is the Sabbath day. As John again stressed: "And this is LOVE, that we WALK AFTER HIS COMMANDMENTS" (2John 6). We cannot merely pick and choose which Laws we wish to obey. We must, through Christ in us, keep them all!!! He gives the gift of His holy Spirit to those who obey Him! (Acts 5:32).

The Sabbath day is surely meant to be a memorial of Creation, a day of rest and worship, but there is more. Notice what Yahweh told Moses:

*“Speak you also unto the children of Israel, saying, Verily my Sabbaths you shall keep: for it is A SIGN BETWEEN ME AND YOU THROUGHOUT YOUR GENERATIONS, that you may know that I am Yahweh that does sanctify you” (Ex. 31:13).*

The seventh day is special, not simply of itself, because one day is just like another in any given week, but because Yahweh Himself specifically set it apart and made it holy, commanding all that would follow and serve Him to KEEP IT HOLY! It was designed to be a special sign between the one true Elohim and His people, whether we are speaking of ancient Israel or spiritual Israel (the Church). The keeping of the Sabbath is an outward identifying sign of Yah’s true people. It is indicative that they themselves have indeed been sanctified, set apart by Him. If we really love Yah and want to please Him, then by all means, we ought to do what He said and obey Him.

Ancient Israel is an example for Christians today. The record of their history is written as an express admonition for us today (I Cor. 10:11). In other words, Yahweh allowed the Israelites to go through many different situations and trials so that we could read about them and learn the lessons they failed to grasp. The keeping of the Sabbath is certainly one of those key aspects of spiritual learning for the Church. Ezekiel describes the kind of price that Israel paid for her national sins. He writes:

*“You have despised my holy things, and have PROFANED MY SABBATHS...There is a conspiracy of her prophets in the midst thereof, like a roaring lion ravening the prey; they have devoured souls; they have taken the treasure and precious things; they have made her many widows in the midst thereof.*

*Her priests have violated my law, and have profaned my holy things: they have put no difference between the holy and profane, neither have they showed difference between the unclean them...Therefore have I poured out my indignation upon them; I have consumed them with the fire of my wrath; their own way have I recompensed upon their heads, says Yahweh Elohim (Ezek. 22:8, 25-26, 31).*

Sabbath-breaking was one of the prime reasons ancient Israel and Judah were finally allowed to go into captivity! Israel was taken captive by the Assyrians and eventually lost her identity, which, up until this century has remained a mystery. This should be a lesson for us today, but so often, we tend to ignore the implications of the past. There is a principle in this regard that holds true. Unless we learn the lessons of the past, we are doomed to repeat the same mistakes and suffer the same fate or worse! Our nations today, especially those of modern day Israel (America, Europe, Britain and



the common wealth nations), are guilty of breaking all of Yah's immutable laws, the keeping of the Sabbath day in particular - and a day of reckoning is surely coming! But so few are spiritually awake enough to clearly respond to the already ominous signs on the horizon.

When Yah permitted the people of the southern kingdom of Judah to return from Babylonian exile, He raised up leaders like Joshua and Zerubbabel, Ezra and Nehemiah and strict reforms were instituted. Never had there been a time of spiritual restoration to equal this initial post-exilic period. The reforms of Ezra and Nehemiah are especially important in regard to the Sabbath day. We read in Nehemiah 10, the following excerpt:

*“They clave to their brethren, their nobles, and entered into a curse, and into an oath, to walk in Elohim's laws, which was given by Moses the servant of Elohim, and to observe and do all the commandments of Yahweh our Elohim, and His judgments and his statutes ...and if the people of the land bring ware or any victuals on the SABBATH DAY to sell, that we would not buy it of them on the Sabbath, or on the holy day” (Neh. 10:29, 31).*

The Jews thus became the only nation on the face of the earth to truly keep the Sabbath day. They were determined not to be guilty of this sin again. So righteous did they become, that they began adding to the commandment, hedging it in so to speak, for fear of its violation, which would surely bring upon them Yah's same judgment which they had received in the past. Therefore, their attempts to safeguard the sanctity of Yah's Sabbath by creating additional rules (to the extreme) actually made the day a burden upon the people instead of the delight He originally intended. By the time of the Messiah, the Sabbath day was kept throughout the nation, but the spirit of the day had been lost in the rigorous observance of tradition.

There can be no doubt, however, that the Sabbath was central to the worship of the true Elohim during the time of Yeshua Messiah.

## **MESSIAH AND THE SABBATH**

What about our Saviour? Did He keep the Sabbath or did he bring in some new teaching, instituting a new day of worship and doing away with the old “Jewish” custom? The Messiah, we must remember, was a normal Jew of his day. By that I mean that he fulfilled the ancient prophecy of Isaiah who wrote:

*“He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him” (Isa. 53:2).*

The question is: Was Christ also just as “normal” in obeying the Law of Yahweh

along with his countrymen? The answer is an overwhelming YES! Luke records that very early in his ministry, Yeshua:

*“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 for to read” (Luke 4:16).*

Did Christ therefore keep the Sabbath during His lifetime and ministry? This was undoubtedly the case. It was, in fact, His custom to do so. He had done it from his boyhood days and He continued the practice until the day He died.

There are numerous instances of Yeshua observing the Sabbath. On one occasion, He told the Pharisees: “For the Son of man is LORD EVEN OF THE SABBATH DAY” (Matt. 12:8). The Sabbath day was Christ’s day of worship. He knew of no other. He was the very one who created and ordained the Sabbath in the beginning and He said that He did NOT come to change the law of Yahweh (Matt.5:17). It was and still is unchangeable and immutable.

Now it is true that he was often accused by the self-righteous religious leaders of the day of abusing or breaking the Sabbath because, for the most, he used it as a time in which to do GOOD for others. Sabbath observance in first century Judea had become a burden to the people. As stated earlier, the Jews religious leaders, the Pharisees, had added so many oral rules and regulations in an attempt to safeguard the sanctity of the Sabbath, that they lost the true spiritual meaning and intent of the day. Christ, indeed came to set the record straight and set all mankind free from such adherence to physical ritual and burdensome requirements added to the Sabbath. But never, ever, once, did He state or imply that He would do away with the law or change the day.

In fact, there is NO record or even the slightest intimation that the Sabbath was abolished - at least, not in the Bible. Not only this, but there is not even one single verse of prophecy which states that Yahweh would change His fourth commandment from the seventh day to the first day of the week. The Savior’s overriding principle on this issue was that *“the Sabbath was MADE FOR MAN (mankind), not man for the Sabbath” (Mark 2:27).*

In other words, the Sabbath was not meant to be SERVED. It was made FOR man, for his benefit, for physical rest and spiritual rejuvenation. Thus He often healed the sick and ministered to the underprivileged on the Sabbath, as well as spending time in the synagogue in strict worship. He was often accosted by the Pharisees and others and was roundly condemned by the leadership of the day, but He nevertheless blazed a trail for those of us who followed, as to the proper use of this sacred period of time. He told the Pharisees that it was *lawful to do good* on the Sabbath. (Matt.12:12; Luke 6:9).

Christ made a marvelous statement to the people of his day in regard to the great Law of Almighty Yahweh. He declared:

*“Think not that I am come to destroy the law or the prophets; I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil. For verily, I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled. Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least (or what he considers least) commandments and teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of Elohim.” (Matt. 5:17-19).*

Some scholars and commentators have actually dared to suggest that Christ broke the Sabbath intentionally, to show the Jews that this law was no longer binding, that a new day of worship was going to be instituted. There is absolutely nothing in the Scriptures to back up such an assertion. It is ridiculous in the extreme and it is blasphemous as well. If the Messiah intended to change the historical and Biblically ordained day of worship, the day that had come down as holy from the time of the very creation itself, do you not think that it would be abundantly clear in the Scriptures, that we would have example after example of Christians keeping another day, of Christ and Paul and Peter saying over and over, **DO NOT KEEP THE SABBATH!?!** Yet there is nothing of the kind in the entirety of the New Testament record.

I have often taken this passage of Scripture, recorded in Matthew 5, and challenged those who argue that the Sabbath is only to be viewed as spiritual. When Christ explained that when a man looks with lust upon a woman that he has already committed adultery in his heart, is he not teaching the spiritual aspect of that particular commandment? The answer, of course, is always *yes!* If that is true then, is it possible for a man to commit literal or physical adultery with a woman and still keep the spirit of that Law? The answer is always the same, *NO, it is not possible!* (Even those who believe in *spiritualizing away* the Sabbath commandment clearly understand the logic and truth of Christ’s discourse in Matthew 5 with respect to the Laws of Yahweh). How then is it possible to observe the Sabbath in the spirit, and yet break it physically!?! Even common sense tells us that, by Yah’s line of reasoning, such a thing is **NOT** possible!

The Bible clearly defines what sin really is. Yahweh did not leave it up to human church leaders to tell us what they think or give us their notions. The apostle John wrote the definition down in language that should be impossible to misunderstand, when he said:

*“Whosoever commits sin transgresses also the law: FOR SIN IS THE TRANSGRESSION OF THE LAW” (I John 3:4). In other words, “Sin is Lawlessness”.*

Did Christ ever, even once, disobey or transgress the law of Yahweh? Never! We know that the Scriptures testify that he was completely without sin (Heb.4:15; 2Pet.2:21-22). Christ, your Savior, the perfect man of Yahweh, ALWAYS KEPT THE SABBATH DAY and never did away with it! And you and I, remember, are commanded to follow in his footsteps!

Rather than do away with the Law, Yeshua came to MAGNIFY it, to show its marvelous spiritual significance and application. Please recall what he told the rich young ruler who asked him what he must do to obtain eternal life: “If you will enter into life, KEEP THE COMMANDMENTS” (Matt. 19:16-17).

The Son of Yah was a Sabbath-keeper. As you ponder this issue, ask yourself if you honestly observe all the law as my Savior did? Am I truly following the example He set for me? The Word of Yah is the only yardstick by which any real Christian can and should measure themselves. Is the Bible your guide and standard when it comes to what you believe and how you live? Do you live by every word of Yahweh, or by just those that your local church or favorite minister tells you? You must judge yourself in this matter. Your eternal salvation is at stake! Please consider it very, very carefully. Do not let any man tell you what you should do. Go to the Scriptures, on your knees if necessary, and get your answers straight from Yahweh Himself. Men have perverted the truth of Yah for centuries. Let Yahweh be true, however, and every man a liar!

## **PAUL AND THE SABBATH**

We have no teaching from Christ that would indicate or lead us to believe that the Sabbath day had in any manner been changed or abolished. It was still in force and effect at the time of his ascension into heaven - but what about afterward? Did the early New Testament Church continue to observe the Sabbath or did Sunday worship become the norm? Did the apostles implement some change?

As far as the New Testament record is concerned, the majority of early Church history revolved around the ministry of Paul. During his first missionary journey, we read in Acts 13:14:

*“But when they departed from Perga, they came to Antioch in Pisidia, and went into the synagogue ON THE SABBATH DAY, and sat down.”*

Now admittedly, this episode does not offer concrete proof that Christians ought to be keeping the Sabbath. After all, this was a Jewish synagogue and the Jews certainly continued keeping the Sabbath. But that’s not the whole story. Paul indeed did preach to the Jews in their place of worship and on their designated day of worship,

but notice that he never said one word about changing the Sabbath or warning them that they ought to give up Sabbath keeping and start worshipping on Sunday! No, in fact, just the very opposite occurred. In verse 42, we read:

*“And when the Jews were gone out of the synagogue, the Gentiles besought that these words might be preached to them THE NEXT SABBATH...AND THE NEXT Sabbath day came almost the whole city together to hear the word of Elohim.” (vs.44)*

This passage is really quite revealing “if” we are really seeking the truth of the matter. Not only did Paul speak to the Jews on the Sabbath, but also to the Gentiles (non-Jews). This was about in the year 46 to 48 A.D. Think about it! This is 16 to 18 years after the resurrection of Christ! Now, if the Saturday Sabbath day was being abolished, as so many professing Christians seem to believe, would it not have been sensible, logical and right for Paul to simply have told the Gentiles to meet him somewhere the next day, which would have been a Sunday? Doesn't that just make good common sense? This was not the case however! The next Sabbath day, the entire city showed up to hear the gospel preached!

During his second missionary journey, Paul extended his boundaries, travelling into Europe proper. We read in Acts 16:12 that he and his party sailed from Neapolis to Philippi in Macedonia. This was, of course, a city he had never visited before. The story continues as follows:

*“And we were in that city abiding certain days. And on THE SABBATH, we went out of the city by a river side where prayer was wont to be made; and we sat down, and spoke to the women which resorted thither” (Acts 16:12-13).*

The time line here is approximately 50 to 52 A.D., or 20 to 22 years after our Master Yeshua's resurrection! There can really be no doubt that the apostle Paul, the apostle to the Gentiles, never changed the doctrine of the Sabbath, whether for Jews or others. As he pressed on in his second journey, he came to Thessalonica. Did he alter his practice here? Absolutely not! Notice the evidence and consider it for yourself:

*“And Paul, AS HIS MANNER WAS, went in unto them, and THREE SABBATH DAYS reasoned with them out of the Scriptures” (Acts 17:1-2).*

These verses are hard to dismiss or denigrate as some have attempted to do. They clearly show that some 20 plus years after the ascension of the Messiah, the apostle Paul's custom was still to keep the Sabbath, preaching to both Jews and Gentiles on that holy day, for we read in Acts 17:4:

*“And some of them believed...and of the DEVOUT GREEKS a great multitude,*

*and of the chief women not a few.”*

So both Jews and Gentiles were keeping the Sabbath day in the first century. There had certainly been no change whatsoever.

A little later in this same campaign, we find Paul in Corinth where he makes the acquaintance of Priscilla and Aquilla who had recently come from Rome. In Acts 18:3, we read:

*“And because he was of the same craft, he abode with them...and there reasoned in the synagogue EVERY SABBATH and persuaded the Jews and the Greeks.”*

As a matter of fact, after Yeshua appeared to Paul in a vision by night, recorded in the same chapter (vs.9 and 10), Paul stayed in Corinth for 18 months, teaching the word of Yahweh among them. Now think about it! It is 51 to 52 A.D. and Paul continued there a year and six months – working weekdays – preaching to gentiles only – every Sabbath, for a total of about 78 Saturday Sabbaths and not once does he mention holding a worship service on the first day of the week or Sunday!

The facts of Scripture are abundantly clear. Paul was very careful to observe the laws of Yahweh, all of them, just as the Savior before him had done. He never came to introduce into the early Christian religion some change in the Law that neither Christ nor the other apostles sanctioned or taught. In spite of the opinion of certain scholars and teachers, Paul was not some renegade out shooting holes in the law of Yah. He loved that law and said so in no uncertain terms (Rom. 7:12-25). Be honest with yourself my friend! If Yah had ever purposed or intended that some sort of change in the Sabbath be adopted by the Church, do you not think that the New Testament would be full of the explicit instructions regarding such a highly significant matter? But we have not one shred of evidence in favor of this contention.

When Paul wrote the epistle to the Hebrews, he referred back to the time of ancient Israel in chapter 3 and showed that because of their sin and unbelief, they were not permitted to enter into the Promised Land. Then he uses that episode as a type of Christians entering into the Kingdom of Yahweh. One is symbolic of the other. Paul concludes this passage in chapter 4 by saying:

*“There remains, then, a SABBATH REST FOR THE PEOPLE OF ELOHIM; for anyone who enters His rest ALSO RESTS FROM HIS OWN WORK, just as Elohim did from His” (Heb. 4:9-10).*

In keeping the Sabbath each week, we memorialize the original rest of Yah Himself in the beginning of Creation. In fact, by keeping Yah’s Sabbath holy, we are

testifying to the whole world, that He alone is the true Elohim and we acknowledge that He is the Creator of the Universe. Should not every Christian want to acknowledge this fact? At the same time, we are also picturing the coming Kingdom of Yahweh, which is yet to be fulfilled. So, the Sabbath day still stands as a type and a shadow of things to come. That is one reason why its significance for true Christians is still valid and in effect.

The Apostle Paul was a Pharisee all of his life. He was converted to Christ in 35 A.D. But even in 60 A.D., 25 years after his conversion, he said to the Jews:

*“I am verily a man which am a Jew, born in Tarsus, a city in Cilicia, yet brought up in this city (Jerusalem) at the feet of Gamaliel, AND TAUGHT ACCORDING TO THE PERFECT MANNER OF THE LAW OF THE FATHERS...” (Acts 22:3).*

Even 25 years after his conversion, the apostle Paul admitted that the Pharisees “taught” the law of Yah “according to the perfect manner!” The Pharisees taught and observed the Fourth Commandment, the seventh day Sabbath! Whom will *you* believe?

Paul, later in the book of Acts, we read what he told the Jews in Rome, in 62 A.D.,

*“Men and brethren, though I have committed NOTHING AGAINST the people, OR CUSTOMS OF OUR FATHERS, yet was I delivered prisoner from Jerusalem into the hands of the Romans” (Acts 28:17).*

If Paul were no longer observing the seventh day Sabbath, then he could not have made this plain and definite statement or declaration. If he now taught a SUNDAY or first day of the week Sabbath, this would have been considered a flagrant violation by the Pharisees and Jews back in Jerusalem and Judea – an egregious trespass – an offense against the people, their customs, and Laws!

But notice! Paul is very specific. In his letter to the Philippians, he boasted in a godly way:

*“If anyone else thinks he has reasons to put confidence in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; IN REGARD TO THE LAW, A PHARISEE; as for zeal, persecuting the church; IN REGARD TO THE RIGHTEOUS WHICH IS IN THE LAW, FAULTLESS.” (Phil.3:4-6).*

My friend, this is clear, indisputable evidence. Paul was a Pharisee, He was taught at the feet of one of the greatest Pharisee teachers of all time, Gamaliel. He learned the

Law and Commandments, the Torah, from the Pharisees, and he observed what they taught him perfectly. Insofar as the Law was concerned, he observed the Sabbath when the Pharisees did, and he was “faultless” in doing so!

There is, in fact, not the slightest hint that Yahweh ever intended to do away with the seventh day Sabbath. Indeed, why should He? Did He make a mistake? Did He simply decide to change the law he had written in stone with His own finger, without any hint or communication to His prophets or apostles of such an incredibly significant event? (“For I am Yahweh, I change not...” Mal.3:6).

After all, the weekly seventh day Sabbath portrays the great future Kingdom of Christ and is the absolutely perfect day upon which to worship and honor Him as Creator and ruler of the universe. We find example after example of New Testament Christians carefully observing the Sabbath during the history of the early Church. The Bible specifies no other day for weekly worship than the Sabbath.

How another day was foisted upon the ostensible Christian Church is a story of deception and intrigue which all of Yahweh’s people need to understand and appreciate!

## **SUNDAY IN THE NEW TESTAMENT**

Sunday keepers may be surprised to learn that the first day of the week is hardly even mentioned in the New Testament. In fact, Sunday is recorded only 8 times, and five of those references concern the fact that Mary Magdalene and the other women visited the already empty tomb early on the first day of the week. Christ, however, had already risen at some point prior to their arrival. None of these passages make any statement or set any precedent for changing the day of worship. They are merely historical facts concerning events surrounding the resurrection. In John 20:19, however, we do have a reference to the disciples being gathered together on a Sunday. We read:

*“Then the same day at evening (Sunday night), being the first day of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled for fear of the Jews, came Yeshua and stood in the midst, and saith unto them, Peace be unto you.”*

Is this somehow to be interpreted as some kind of early indication that Christ intended to change the day of worship? Hardly! The events of that particular first day of the week had been tumultuous, to say the least. The devout women had learned to everyone’s great shock that the garden tomb was empty very early in the day. Then Mary Magdalene had actually seen Christ and spoken to him. Later, others also saw him, including the two men on the road to Emmaus, with whom he not only journeyed, but also dined. And now the apostles and possibly others were huddled together at the



end of this amazing day, hiding for “fear” of Jewish reprisal against them. This was by no means any kind of church service! It was, in fact, the farthest thing from it. And it was not even the first day of the week - at least, not as far as Yahweh was concerned.

When John states that it was the same day, “at evening,” he is obviously speaking of Sunday night, which would, according to Yah’s sacred calendar, have been the beginning of the “second” day of the week!! (Remember Yah’s days begin and end at sunset, the evening part of the day comes first, Gen.1:5; Lev.23:32). Furthermore, there is absolutely no evidence that there was any kind of worship service in progress or that Christ suddenly instituted one at that time.

Aside from these references, there are only two remaining which might give some people a little trouble when it comes to determining if Sabbath or Sunday worship is sanctioned by the New Testament. These two verses are found in Acts 20:7 and I Corinthians 16:2. Let’s take a closer look at them both, beginning with the passage in Acts.

*“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.”*

Now does this verse really indicate a Sunday church service? It is so easy and natural to overlook the evidence when we attempt to bend or wrest the Scriptures to fit our own personal theories. This particular verse must be viewed against the overwhelming amount of Biblical evidence supporting the Sabbath Day from Genesis to Revelation. There is utterly no other day or worship sanctioned in Scripture - none whatsoever!

Reading this passage in its context will clearly demonstrate that this was no ordinary Sunday service as some have concluded. First of all, notice precisely when this event really occurred. Remember that Luke always employs Yah’s method of calculating time. Verse 7 establishes definitively that this meeting took place at the beginning of the first day of the week - in other words, on what we would today call Saturday evening, with Paul planning to depart immediately the next morning.

Paul therefore began his preaching sometime after sunset that evening and continued until midnight, and at dawn set out on foot for the city of Assos. The first day of the week or Sunday was then just another workday for the apostle Paul. Rather than resting that day and worshipping with the brethren there, he began a journey of perhaps 20 miles or more! A most strange way to set a precedent for Sunday worship, don’t you agree?

What Paul did in this instance was strictly in keeping with his lifelong practice and that was simply to have observed the Sabbath day, intending to begin an arduous journey the next morning. Since he would not likely see these brethren for some time to come, he spent all of Saturday evening with them, speaking about the Kingdom of Yahweh and fellowshiping with all present. This episode, when viewed in its proper context, actually provides strong support for the Sabbath day being observed by Paul and the early Church, and using the rest of the week, beginning with Sunday, for the regular purposes of labor. It, in no way, can possibly be used to prove or even intimate the institution of Sunday worship. Such a stand is indefensible and has no basis in fact, scripturally or historically.

Some scholars, determined to force the Scriptures to defend Sunday observance, claim that the phrase “breaking of bread” always meant the partaking of the so-called Last Supper or communion. This is absolutely preposterous! First of all, there is no proof whatsoever that such a contention is true. Secondly, the Last Supper was observed, by the early New Testament Church as a love feast or fellowship meal after Sabbath services (I Cor.11) on a weekly or monthly basis or as often as they wanted to. They also kept the annual Passover (I Cor.5:7-8) and the Days of Unleavened Bread and the Feast of Pentecost (Acts 12:3-4, Acts 20:6, 16) and no doubt the fall Holy Days as well.

The Biblical expression concerning the “breaking of bread” among the early disciples was quite simply a customary and necessary part of the preparation of eating together. It simply means “having a meal”! The breaking of bread merely began the meal itself. In Acts 2:42, 46, this point is clearly illustrated. And in the passage in question above, this “breaking of bread” was simply a meal eaten late in the evening after a long session of preaching by Paul.

In Acts 20:7, there is no mention of the cup, no hymns sung, no type of service being followed, actually nothing at all to indicate that the Lord’s Supper or a communion service was being observed. So this argument, very weak at best, offers us no proof at all for Sunday worship.

The other mention of the first day of the week is found in I Corinthians 16:1-2, and reads as follows:

*“Now concerning the collection for the saints (subject of the passage), as I have given order to the churches in Galatia (not to the other churches!), even so do you. Upon the FIRST DAY OF THE WEEK let every one of you lay by him in store, as Yah has prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come.”*

First of all, let us dispense with the most obvious point - there is no meeting

whatsoever mentioned or implied in this passage. An attempt to make these verses say so does violation to the Scriptures. No logical, sound-minded, honest, thinking person reading this passage would ever deduce that Sunday worship was commanded, exemplified or even hinted at by Paul in his statement to the Corinthians. Yet Sunday defenders will often point to this particular passage (they have so few to hold on to in this matter!) in a feeble effort to support worship on the first day of the week. This is not at all what is being discussed here.

The “subject” of I Corinthians 16:1-2 concerns a famine-relief collection that Paul had been trying to gather from several of the churches, mainly foodstuffs and apparel, which he intended to take back to Jerusalem to supply the needs of the saints in that beleaguered city who were suffering from famine and hardship. This situation is also described in the parallel passage in Acts 11:27-30.

An attempt to read into this passage that a change in the day of Christian worship had occurred is being blatantly dishonest with the Scriptures. No such thing is implied here. And to suggest that Paul was collecting a “tithe” or instructing others to collect tithes is simply reading into the Scriptures something which is plainly and simply – NOT THERE! Many Sunday keeping churches actually have this verse printed on their tithing envelopes, when in fact these verses have absolutely nothing to do with collecting tithes for ministers.

Notice that Paul instructs, not the congregation as a whole, as if they were all meeting regularly on the first day of the week. He clearly appeals to each member to individually put aside or “lay by him in store” (i.e. in storage) the funds or merchandise to be given and later collected. This was to be done by each member at his “own home.”

If this were some sort of regular Church collection such as most denominations practice (but which the Bible nowhere enjoins), then Paul would have told the brethren to take their gifts and bring them to church with them to be deposited into the treasury there, but this was not the case! The fact that Paul instructed the Corinthians to specifically and individually lay aside his contribution at his *own house* is clearly indicative that no Sunday worship meeting can legitimately be extrapolated from this passage.

Paul’s Jewish background is showing here as well, for it was not permitted among the Pharisees to take up collections on the Sabbath day. Paul undoubtedly pursued the same policy, suggesting that each member in Corinth, set aside his contribution on the first day “work-day” of the week, (whether it be money, food or clothing, etc.), before any expenses could possibly be taken out of it. And in that way, each would be assured of the full amount being there when Paul or his helpers came to collect it. Beyond this

practical reason, there is nothing of substance that can be attached to this passage.

There is yet one additional verse, which some scholars contend makes a reference to Sunday as being the new day of Christian worship. The first day is not actually mentioned, but a connection is made. Notice Revelation 1:10:

*“I (John) was in the Spirit on the LORD’S DAY, and heard behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet.”*

The prevailing opinion among most Sunday keeping commentators is that this is a reference to the first day of the week - that the term “Lord’s Day” can mean nothing less than Sunday. The problem, however, lies in not interpreting this verse within its context.

First of all, the passage emphatically does NOT say anything about Sunday or the first day of the week. That is a simple fact. Secondly, there is no evidence, either stated or implied, that any form of Christian worship service was in progress or about to occur. The connection between the term “Lord’s Day and Sunday was not a first century concept, but entered into the ostensible Church perhaps a hundred years or so after the close of the apostolic age. The Gospel of Peter, written late in the 2nd century is one of the earliest writings attempting to relate the “Lord’s Day” to Sunday. It never came from the writings of the New Testament or from the first century Church.

The evidence strongly suggests that the term “Lord’s Day” began to be applied to Sunday at some point well into the second century. When John wrote the book of Revelation, such a term was not commonly used. In fact, the emperors were normally referred to as “lords,” and their own day was often designated as the “lord’s day. It is quite interesting that the Roman Church, which was rapidly developing into the chief seat of ecclesiastical power in the west during the latter part of the second century, was also the centre of the emerging false doctrine of Sunday worship and emperor worship. Is there a tie-in here? Very likely.

The New Testament always identifies Sunday as simply “the first day of the week.” It is not possible that John was meaning to denominate Sunday as the particular day of the week on which he was found “in the Spirit.” If that had been the case, he would have simply used the common phrase, “first day of the week, as did all the New Testament writers, including John himself (John 20:1, 19, 26). It makes no sense whatsoever that he would abruptly change when writing the book of Revelation. It should be clear therefore that the “Lord’s day” has some other meaning, some other significance.

If the term “Lord’s day” has any reference at all to a particular day of the week then it would most likely be the Sabbath day, not Sunday! Which day do the Scriptures

show as being the true Lord's Day? Remember the passage from Matthew 12:6-8:

*“But I say unto you, That in this place is one greater than the temple. But if you had known what this means, I will have mercy and not sacrifice, you would not have condemned the guiltless. For the Son of Man is LORD EVEN OF THE SABBATH DAY.”*

Once again, if we truly accept the Bible as the source of our religious knowledge and beliefs, then we have to conclude that Yah's Word proves that the Sabbath is the real “Lord's Day!”

Clearly, however, the most plausible explanation of John's usage of this term is to be found, as always, within the context of the very book he is introducing. The Revelation is unquestionably a book of prophecy, a book dealing with eschatology, with the end of all things, the resurrection, the return of Christ, the coming Kingdom of Yahweh, the judgment, etc. If you are familiar with the Old Testament, you will recall that a very similar phrase is employed by many of the prophets in their descriptions of end-time events - and that term is “THE DAY OF THE LORD (Yahweh).” It is in this phrase that Revelation 1:10 finds its fullest expression and meaning. (See Acts 2:20; 1Cor. 5:5; 1Thess.5:2; 2Peter 3:10).

John was essentially saying that he was led to be in the Spirit, not on a Sunday or any other specific day of the week, but was carried forward in vision into that very future time known as the “Day of the Lord”. And indeed, the content of his book harmonizes perfectly with this theme. He was granted the privilege of seeing into the distant future, to that time when Yahweh would directly intervene into the affairs of human beings and shake the heavens and earth, when He would send His Son back to this planet to establish the eternal Kingdom of Yahweh. This is the real “Lord's Day” or “Day of the Lord!”

Most Christians are quite surprised to learn that the first day of the week is mentioned so few times in the New Testament, and they are usually shocked to discover that never once is there ever any religious significance attached to it. There is no place in all the Scriptures where the seventh day Sabbath, ordained by Almighty Yahweh Himself at Creation, was ever abrogated, revoked or abolished. It is clearly, by all Scriptural evidence, still in force and effect as the emphatically stated day of godly Christian worship. Sunday worship, which has been embraced by virtually all of professing Christendom, does not find its origins in the pages of the Word of Yahweh. To discover its roots, we will have to look elsewhere.

## THE ORIGINS OF SUNDAY WORSHIP

If Sunday worship is not commanded by Yahweh, if His Word never sanctions this day, from whence did it originate? Where did the custom come from? In reality, long before the Christian era, Sunday or the first day of the week was considered holy to numerous pagan religions. It was, in fact, the day of the most venerated object of worship - THE SUN!

The deity of the sun-god is to be found in virtually all ancient mythologies- Egyptian, Assyrian, Sumerian, Babylonian, Greek, Roman, etc. Dr. Hutton Webster states in his book Rest Days:

“The early Christians had at first adopted the Jewish seven day week with its numbered week days, but by the close of the third century A.D. this began to give way to the pagan planetary week; and in the fourth and fifth centuries, the pagan degenerations became generally accepted in the western half of Christendom. The use of the planetary names by Christians attest to the growing influence of ASTROLOGICAL SPECULATIONS INTRODUCED BY CONVERTS FROM PAGANISM.

...During these same centuries the spread of Oriental Solar Worship, especially that of Mithra, in the Roman world, had already led to the SUBSTITUTION BY PAGANS OF DIES SOLIS (SUNDAY) FOR DIES SATURNI (SABBATH) as the first day of the planetary week. Thus gradually a PAGAN INSTITUTION was engrafted on Christianity...what began, however, as a pagan ordinance, ended as a nominal Christian regulation; and a long series of imperial decrees during the fourth, fifth and sixth centuries, enjoined with increasing stringency abstinence from labor on Sunday” (pp. 220-221, 270).

The evidence is overwhelmingly in favor of a forced substitution of Sunday for the Sabbath, at some point during the fourth century A.D. Although there is information available clearly demonstrating that Sunday worship was practiced prior to the fourth century, it was not until the reign of the emperor Constantine that it became a law, enforced by the Roman Empire upon the nominal Christian Church. Historian Edward Gibbon writes:

*“The devotion of Constantine was more peculiarly directed to the genius of the SUN, the Apollo of Greek and Roman mythology...The sun is universally celebrated as the invincible guide and protector of Constantine” (Decline & Fall of the Roman Empire, pp. 636-637).*

The early Church, founded by Christ and nourished by the apostles, clearly kept

the Sabbath as their day of godly worship. Sabbath keeping can, in fact, be demonstrated to have persisted even until the fifth and sixth centuries, although the Roman Church had by that time effectively destroyed almost all Sabbath keeping groups, having put many of the members to a horrible death. By the time of Constantine, however, as Jesse Lyman Hurburt correctly states:

“The first day of the week was proclaimed as a day of rest and worship, and its observance soon became general throughout the empire. In 321 A.D. Constantine forbade the courts to hold on Sunday, except for the purpose of giving freedom to slaves; and on that day soldiers were commanded to omit their daily military exercises. But the public games continued on Sunday, tending to make it more a holiday than a holyday” (Story of the Christian Church, p. 77).

In 365 A.D., at the Council of Laodicea, the Roman Catholic Church, having gained the supremacy in what was purported to be the Christian Church, made the following decree concerning the Sabbath/Sunday controversy:

*“Christians shall not Judaize and be idle on Sabbath, but shall work on that day; but the Lord’s day they shall especially honor, and, as being Christians, shall if possible, do no work on that day. If, however, they shall be found Judaizing, they shall be accursed from Christ.” (Canon 29).*

And so the Roman Catholic Church, using its own authority and power, overturned a Divine Law of the Almighty El, substituting the first day of the week for the seventh as the prescribed day of worship! But why? What was it about the first day of the week that caused it to receive such adoration? Why was the Biblically ordained Sabbath day set aside in favor of the Day of the Sun?

The key to this question is found, in part, in the decree issued by the Roman Church at the Council of Laodicea, a portion of which we just quoted. The very early apostolic Church was almost exclusively Jewish in composition. After all, the Saviour and all the apostles, including even Paul himself, were Jewish. Their immediate audiences, starting with the people gathered for Pentecost in Jerusalem when the Holy Spirit was poured out right on through even Paul’s initial contacts were usually, if not always, Jewish as well.

At first, the Jewish converts and even the apostles themselves were not aware that salvation was to be granted to Gentiles. This was not revealed until Peter’s encounter with Cornelius (Acts 10), and even then, it took the preaching of Paul to really bring home the fact that the Gentiles were to be involved in the process. So from the outset, there was a certain division between Jews and Gentiles in the Church. Paul clearly taught, however, that there was no difference between the two in Yah’s eyes as far as

salvation was concerned. Yet the division persisted in certain circles, and especially in the western areas of Rome and those who came under her domain and influence.

As the first century ended and the apostolic age passed into history, the Gentile led churches soon gained the ascendancy. Misled by often unscrupulous overseers, feelings of anti-Semitism came to the fore. The Jews were perceived as the betrayers, tormentors and murderers of Christ. Distinctions began to be made by Gentile Church leaders and later even Roman emperors, further dividing the Jewish Christians from the masses of Gentile converts. More and more, the Jews began to suffer persecution and rejection. The likelihood that the abandonment of the Sabbath and the subsequent adoption of Sunday worship occurred first at Rome is quite strong, developing primarily as a reaction to a revulsion of all things perceived to be Jewish.

The Roman historian Seutonius (70-122 A.D.), states that the Emperor Claudius, “expelled the Jews from Rome since they rioted constantly at the instigation of Chrestus” (Claudius 25:4).

It is true that some Christians suffered at the hands of conventional Jewish leaders, and this also accounted for the increased hatred of that group, adding fuel to the fire. Of course, the enmity between Rome and Jerusalem should not be too surprising, because from 66-70 A.D., the Roman garrisons engaged the Jewish armies in a bloody war, resulting in the defeat of the Jews and the destruction of the Temple. Tacitus reports that over 600,000 Jews died in that horrible conflict. Some years later, another 580,000 Jews were killed in the Bar Kochba rebellion around 135 A.D.

Roman emperors began to legislate against the Jews. Under Vespasian, both the Sanhedrin and the office of the High Priest were abolished and worship at the Temple site was prohibited. Hadrian (117- 138 A.D.) went so far as to forbid any Jew, under threat of death, to enter the area of the new city. Moreover, he outlawed the practice of the Jewish religion and particularly the observance of the SABBATH. (From Sabbath to Sunday, Samuele Bacchiocchi, p. 171).

Roman literary and oratorical champions also chose to add to the festering sore. This had actually begun prior to the Christian era with such luminaries as Cicero, Horace, Tibullus, Pompeius, Trogus and Ovid. Later Seneca, Persius, Quintillian, Martial, Juvenal and Tacitus fanned the flames of anti-Semitism, Tacitus claiming that “all their customs are perverse and disgusting” (Historae 55).

The strong political and literary enmity against the Jews was, understandably, intimidating to the Church of Rome. A survey of early patristic literature of the second century makes clear the fact that church leaders of that era had already begun reconciling themselves to the Roman Empire, adhering to its laws, customs and wishes;



while separating themselves further and further from the Jews and any practices they considered to be Jewish whether they were commanded by Yah or not! Defamation of the Jews is clearly evident in the purported Church literature of that day, namely in The Preaching of Peter, The Epistle of Barnabus, Apology (Quadratus), Apology (Aristides), The Disputation between Jason and Papiscus Concerning Christ, Justin's Dialogue with Trypho, Against the Jews (Miltiades), Against the Jews (Apollinarius), Melito's On the Passover, The Epistle to Diognetus, The Gospel of Peter, Against the Jews (Tertullian) and Origin's Against Celsus.

So just as the Roman government sought to separate the Jews and mark them for persecution and expulsion, so also did the Church at Rome follow suit, condemning all things Jewish and commanding that all Christians avoid even the appearance of Jewishness. Quite naturally, this began to be extended to the religious practices and eventually came to include the most obvious outward sign of the Jews, the Sabbath day itself. The Roman Church slowly, but surely succeeded in ingratiating itself to the Emperor, thus proving themselves to be irreproachable subjects of the Empire.

The apostles upheld the Scriptural teachings concerning the sanctity of the Sabbath. They continued on in their custom of worshipping on the seventh day, never the first. But after that first century, the leaders and writers of what claimed to be the true Church of the second, third and fourth centuries, began to make strong distinctions between Christians and Jews. Major so-called "Christian" figures such as Justin Martyr, Ignatius and Barnabus of Alexandria strongly urged Christians to refrain from keeping the Sabbath Day. The heretic Marcion was especially caustic in his condemnation of the Jews, encouraging his followers to fast on the Sabbath as a demonstration of hatred against the "God of the Jews" (Tertullian, Against Marcion, 4, 12).

As the Roman church became more and more powerful, allying itself to the Emperor, many of the true teachings and doctrines of the early apostles became obsolete among most of the outlying churches. Only a remnant continued to cling to the truths espoused by the apostles. By around 400 A.D., the Roman Catholic theologian Augustine declared:

"The holy doctors of the church have decreed that all the glory of the JEWISH SABBATH IS TRANSFERRED TO SUNDAY" (Sabbath Laws, p. 284).

Excommunication from the apostate Roman Church was the penalty for Sabbath-keeping in the fourth and fifth centuries. And for some, it meant harsher punishment, torture and even death! Many Sabbath-keeping followers of Yeshua were hunted down like animals, fed to wild beasts for "entertainment," burned alive and subjected to many more horrible atrocities too gruesome to describe.

Aside from the Roman Church's aversion to any and all things Jewish, there arose yet another reason for substituting Sunday for the Sabbath in the early second century. It was the notion that the day of Christ's resurrection ought to be commemorated. It was assumed from an erroneous reading of the gospel accounts, by unconverted, unlearned religious men, that the Messiah rose on a Sunday morning and a desire on the part of many during that post-apostolic era to honor this day, began to grow.

It produced a strong controversy among the churches, especially between Rome and the bishops of Asia Minor, who were determined to maintain the observation of the annual Passover just as the apostles John and Philip had taught them (See Eusebius Ecclesiastical History). As much as anything, the earliest use of the Lord's Day may very well have been a reference to the resurrection Sunday, and only some years later applied to the weekly observance of first day worship.

Through the years, what came to be known as Christianity - the apostate Roman Church - fully embraced this idea that Christ had risen Sunday morning. But do the Scriptures really bear this out? As with other questions surrounding the Sabbath/Sunday controversy, most people have made assumptions and then drawn conclusions, which are totally unscriptural. The contention that Christ was resurrected on Sunday at sunrise is a case in point. Let's look at it in careful detail.

All four gospel writers cover the details of the resurrection. Notice carefully the testimony of the New Testament in this matter:

*"In the END OF THE SABBATH, as it began to dawn toward the first day of the week, came Mary Magdalene and the other Mary to see the sepulchre"* (Matt.28:1).

This verse has become the focus of much attention recently. It has been seriously misunderstood and misinterpreted by modern religionists and students of the Greek language. Let us notice it carefully. One religious booklet claims that this verse proves Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to the tomb of Yeshua Saturday night, because -- they claim -- the Greek expression for "end of the sabbath" means the latter portion of the sabbath, as the day is closing.

They claim that the word translated "dawn" here merely means "beginning" of the first day of the week, which would have begun at sunset, Saturday evening, according to Hebrew reckoning. The word for "end" here, in the expression "end of the sabbath," is *opse* and can mean "late in the day," and by extension, "after the close of the day," and "in the end." Therefore, although this verse could indicate that Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to visit the tomb of Yeshua late in the day of the weekly Sabbath, it can also mean "after the close of the Sabbath." Which is it?

Thayers Greek-English Lexicon defines this word as: “adverb of time, after a long time, long after, late; a) esp. late in the day . . . i.e., at evening. . . the sabbath having passed, after the sabbath, i.e. at the early dawn of the first day of the week.”

Notice! Thayer’s Greek-English Lexicon shows that this word can be used of the latter part of a day, or of a period of time AFTER a particular day. So, when, then did Mary Magdalene and the other Mary come to Yeshua’s tomb? Was it after the end of the Sabbath day, right after, as it was growing dark, or was it early the next morning when it was still dark?

The Greek word for “dawn” used in Matthew 28:1 in the King James Version holds the key to understanding this matter. The Greek word for “dawn” in this verse is *epiphosko*. Says Strong’s Concordance, #2020, “epiphosko. to begin to grow light.” Says Thayer’s Lexicon, “to grow light, to dawn.” It is derived from *epiphaino*, which means “to shine upon, i.e. become (literally) visible or (figuratively) known -- appear, give light.” It is used also in Luke 23:54 where we read: “*And that day was the preparation, and the sabbath drew on.*”

It is easy to see how some people could misunderstand this word. It could be ambiguous. However, the major definition of this word suggests that the literal, visible DAWNING of a new day, when the eastern sky *begins* to grow light, is the actual time when Mary and the other Mary would go to the tomb. They had prepared spices, and were planning to spend some time there, anointing the body of Yeshua. All this suggests that early dawn was the correct time -- not the brief time of twilight, between sunset and nightfall.

How clear it should be, then, that the visit to the tomb occurred before sunrise Sunday morning. John’s gospel makes it perfectly clear. We read:

*“The first day of the week cometh Mary Magdalene early, WHILE IT WAS YET DARK, unto the sepulchre, and seeth the stone taken away from the sepulchre”* (John 20:1).

The gospel of Luke gives us a fuller account of the actual events that occurred, in time sequence. Luke writes:

*“And this man [Joseph of Arimathaea] went unto Pilate, and begged the body of Yeshua. And he took it down, and wrapped it in linen, and laid it in a sepulchre that was hewn in stone, wherein never before man was laid. And that day [Nisan 14] was the preparation, and the sabbath [the High Holy Day of Nisan 15] drew on. And the women also, which came with him from Galilee, followed after, and beheld the sepulchre, and how his body was laid. And they returned and prepared spices and ointments. And*

*[they] rested the sabbath day according to the commandment*” (Luke 23:52-56).

This must have taken some time. They may have had the spices already, but they still had to prepare them for use. They most likely would have done this in the short time between the burial of Messiah and the onset of the high holy day, annual Sabbath, Nisan 15, on which “no servile work could be done.” This Sabbath was the first day of Unleavened Bread.

Luke then continues the story, as follows:

*“Now upon the first day of the week, VERY EARLY IN THE MORNING, they came unto the sepulchre, bringing the spices which they had prepared, and certain others with them. And they found the stone rolled away from the sepulchre. And they entered in, and found not the body of the Master Yeshua. And it came to pass, as they were much perplexed thereabout, behold, two men stood by them in shining garments: And as they were afraid, and bowed down their faces to the earth, they said unto them, Why seek ye the living among the dead? He is not here, but is RISEN . . .”* (Luke 24:1-6).

Notice! Luke tells us the women visited the tomb “very early in the MORNING” (Luke 24:1). This was comparable to the time when Yeshua “*in the morning, rising up a great while before day, departed into a solitary place, and there prayed*” (Mark 1:35). It was still dark outside -- this was before daybreak, or sunrise! This would not have been the closing hours of the weekly Sabbath. Nor would it have been the first few hours of nightfall, Saturday night. This would have been EARLY SUNDAY MORNING, *BEFORE THE RISING OF THE SUN!*

In the gospel of John it is even clearer when the women visited the tomb. Notice!

*“The first day of the week cometh Mary Magdalene EARLY, WHEN IT WAS YET DARK, unto the sepulchre, and seeth the stone taken away from the sepulchre. Then she runneth and cometh to Simon Peter and to the other disciple whom Yeshua loved . . . .”* (John 20:1-2).

What did Mary Magdalene and the other Mary find when they got to the tomb? As we have seen, this visit occurred before sunrise, while it was yet dark. Notice!

*“In the end of the sabbath [or, after the close of the sabbath], as it began to dawn toward the first day of the week [that is, before sunrise, while it was yet dark], came Mary Magdalene and the other Mary to see the tomb.*

*“And, behold, there was a great earthquake: for the angel of Yahweh descended*

*from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat upon it. His countenance was like lightning, and his raiment white as snow: and for fear of him the keepers did shake, and became as dead men. And the angel answered and said unto the women, Fear not ye: for I know that ye seek Yeshua, which is crucified. HE IS NOT HERE: FOR HE IS RISEN, AS HE SAID. Come, see the place where the Master lay. And go quickly, and tell his disciples that HE IS RISEN FROM THE DEAD; and, behold, he goeth before you into Galilee; there shall ye see him: lo, I have told you” (Matt.28:2-7).*

Here it is! The Sabbath has past. It is *after* the Sabbath, now. In Yahweh’s calendar, each day begins at sunset, and is counted “from even to even” (Lev.23:32). It is still dark outside, and Mary Magdalene and the other Mary come to the tomb. And what do they find?

Yeshua has ALREADY RISEN FROM THE DEAD! He is not there! Sunrise has not yet occurred, and Yeshua is already out of the tomb! The angel informs them, “He IS RISEN” -- past tense -- not “He is rising,” or even “He will rise shortly” but, “He IS [already] RISEN”! And this is BEFORE SUNRISE!!

Now, this is interesting. The Interlinear Bible translates this passage, literally from the Greek as follows:

*“But AFTER THE SABBATHS, at the dawning into the first of the Sabbaths, came Mary Magdalene and the other Mary to view the grave” (v.1)*

The Greek word for “Sabbath” in this verse is in the plural – *Sabbaton* – and the Interlinear Bible expresses it in the plural. Why? Because there were TWO back-to-back Sabbaths that week! Friday, the annual High Day Sabbath and Saturday, the weekly Sabbath! The annual holy days are called Sabbaths as well (Lev.23:24, 32, 39).

Matthew 28:1 clearly shows that the Friday and the weekly Sabbath were both Sabbaths. As mentioned earlier, *Sabbaton* in the Greek is a plural word, but it can also refer to the weekly Sabbath, and to the actual *week* itself, and is sometimes translated that way.

The phrase “*at the dawning into the first of the Sabbaths*” could also refer to the beginning of the week or the “*weeks*” of the Omer count. The “Omer” – the first fruits offering of the barley harvest – is a period of seven weeks, which are counted from Passover to Pentecost. The count starts with the wave sheaf offering on Nisan 16, which was the weekly Sabbath day that year.

The resurrection, then, was shortly before sunrise on Sunday morning. John’s

gospel says it was still “dark” when the women came to the tomb. However, the account in Mark seems to contradict these facts. The King James Version has it: “*And when the sabbath was past [that part is perfectly clear], Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome, had bought sweet spices, that they might come and anoint him. And very early in the morning, on the first day of the week [so good so far!], they came unto the sepulchre at the RISING OF THE SUN*” (Mark 16:1-2).

Does this account contradict the other accounts? Not at all!

The Scriptures do not contradict themselves. The word translated “*at the rising of the sun*” in this verse is *anatello*, meaning “to cause to rise,” “make rise,” etc. The prefix is *ana* in the Greek and could be translated “by” or “before.” In other words, the women came to the tomb “by the rising of the sun,” or “before the rising of the sun.” This would fit in with the clear statement in John that they came while it was still dark, before daybreak.

Yeshua had already arisen by the time the women reached the tomb at dark. Therefore, He must have arisen at the very same time of day as He was buried -- late evening of the weekly Sabbath! Just as He Himself had prophesied, He arose from the grave three days and three nights later, the Hebrew idiom allowing for parts of three days and three nights after His burial. He was buried late in the afternoon Thursday on Nisan 14, before sunset, on the preparation day of the annual Passover, and He arose just before sunrise on Sunday. Most professing Christians are shocked when they discover that Rome’s Friday crucifixion and Sunday morning sunrise Easter resurrection is NOT FOUND IN THE BIBLE!

There was no sunrise resurrection as the Roman Catholic Church later introduced into so-called Christian worship. The Messiah had already risen and was not even present when the women came to the tomb, while it was yet dark.

All of the gospel writers simply record the *early visits* to the tomb and the simple fact is that Yeshua had *already risen* from the dead. There is no biblical record that clearly states that he had risen on the morning of the first day of the week (Sunday).

When the Jews insisted on some sort of sign from Yeshua as proof of His Messiahship, he told them the ONLY sign they would receive was the sign of the prophet Jonah. Just as Jonah had been in the belly of the great fish for three days and three nights, so likewise, He would be in the heart of the earth for the same period of time. Matt. 12:40: “*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.*”

Did our Messiah mean what he said? Are the words of the Bible true in this

matter? Our Saviour said that he would be in the grave three days and three nights. We know that he was crucified at the 3rd hour (9AM - Mark 15:25) and expired on the cross at the 9th hour (3PM - Mark 15:34-37). Then Joseph of Arimathea obtained the body from Pilate for burial which occurred just before sunset of that particular day.

Anyone who has studied the literature available on this subject realizes that many scholars contend that the Jews counted a portion of a day as a whole day or a portion of a night as a whole night. They purport that the phrase “three days and three nights,” therefore, can mean simply a part of three days and nights.

Of course! Thursday afternoon would be day one, Thursday night would be one night; Friday is day two, Friday night is two nights; Saturday is day three and Saturday night is the third night – three days and three nights. Simple! Now, how does this fit with the traditional Friday crucifixion and Sunday morning resurrection?

Friday would be day one, Friday night is one night, Saturday would be the second day, Saturday night the second night and since the woman went to the tomb *while it was yet dark*, before sunrise, well, that’s only TWO days and TWO nights! And if you want to *force* another day from a few minutes on Sunday morning, that still only constitutes the third day or three days and TWO nights! It just doesn’t fit!

Yeshua clearly referred the Pharisees back to the familiar account of Jonah and the great fish (whale). He plainly told them that just as Jonah was in the belly of the fish for three days and three nights, so would He be in the tomb for the same period of time. This was the ONLY one great sign he gave!

It should be obvious from Messiah’s direct statement that he and the Jews of his day clearly understood the fact that he would be gone for three days AND three nights, and then making reference to an actual historical event as an existing precedent (as Messiah did to Jonah), would never have been understood to mean anything less. To suggest that it’s possible is patently ridiculous!

The thoughtless acceptance of this sort of false teaching has been responsible for millions of sincere people failing to understand when the Saviour was crucified and when he rose. This misunderstanding has subsequently led the vast majority of professing Christians to blindly and ignorantly believe that Messiah was resurrected on a Sunday *sunrise* morning, and they just as blindly have honored the first day of the week, both as a day of weekly worship, as well as adhering to the false doctrine of Easter, the annual spring fertility festival which is derived straight from paganism, the worship of Nimrod and his wife/mother Semiramis (the goddess Ashtoreth, Astarte or Easter). Do some research, the historical facts are available in many encyclopedias.

Yahweh does everything ON TIME - ON SCHEDULE! The Messiah appeared on the world scene, as Paul expressed it, "*when the fullness of time was come*" (Gal. 4:4). The prophet Daniel predicted the precise year when the Messiah's ministry would begin (Dan. 9:24-26). When certain of the Jewish leaders attempted to kill Christ, they were thwarted. Why? Simply because the carefully planned time had not yet come. And when finally that moment did indeed arrive, the Saviour knew it, saying: "Father, the HOUR IS COME" (John 17:1). So it should not be surprising that the Father specifically timed the events surrounding the final days and hours of His Son's human life, including the very moment of his death, burial and resurrection.

The verse in John's gospel, which shows that there were two Sabbaths is John 19:31: "*The Jews therefore, because it was the preparation, that the bodies should not remain upon the cross on the sabbath day, (for that sabbath day was an high day,) besought Pilate that their legs might be broken, and that they might be taken away.*"

Yeshua was crucified on Thursday, the 14th of Nisan, the day before the first High Holy Day Sabbath of the Feast of Unleavened Bread, which is the 15th of Nisan and fell on a Friday (April 7) in the year our Master was crucified, in 30 A.D. The Passover meal was celebrated the following evening i.e. Thursday at sunset (beginning the 15th). Remember that according to Yah's calendar, the evening part of the day comes first (Gen 1:5). Yahweh reckons time from sunset to sunset.

So Messiah was crucified on the day before the high day Sabbath which was called the "Preparation Day", the day the lambs were slaughtered in preparation of the Passover. He fulfilled every prophetic type concerning His birth, death and resurrection right down to the minutest detail. If He had not, He would have been an imposter! He had to be crucified at the exact same time the lambs were being slain in order to fulfill prophecy . . . . the Lamb of Yahweh who takes away the sins of the world (John 1:29) and as Paul tells us in 1Cor 5:7,8: "*Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. For even Messiah OUR PASSOVER IS SACRIFICED FOR US: Therefore, LET US KEEP THE FEAST, not with old leaven, neither with the leaven of malice and wickedness; but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth*".

Aside from the issue of the weekly Sabbath, if you are truly serious about the truth of Yahweh and in obeying and serving Yahweh and living by every Word of His, then you owe it to yourself to look into the traditions of EASTER. If your Saviour did not rise on a Sunday morning, perhaps the trappings of Easter are not valid either. In fact, a thorough study plainly reveals the pagan origin and nature of this annual celebration. If you would like additional information on this subject, please send for our free article on Easter. You will be amazed, maybe even shocked, at the true source of Easter symbols and traditions.



The evidence is abundant in support of the Roman Catholic Church's prominent role in divesting the Sabbath Day of its inspired and Scripturally authorized significance and in urging the rejection of its observance. The strong reaction of certain Roman emperors during the early to mid second century against the Jews in the empire persuaded the fledgling church, especially at Rome, to follow suit and play along, if for no other reason than to curry favor with the powers that be.

It should be noted that most of the "Christian" converts at Rome during the second and third centuries were pagans. The Roman Church was intent on increasing in size, money, power and control. It found that the most effective method for achieving these goals was simply to compromise the truth of Yah and make it easy and comfortable for the new converts. The gradual substitution of Sunday worship and the annual Easter tradition played straight into the hands of the first pope, who simply used the technique to lure thousands and thousands, indeed millions upon millions of rank pagans into the Roman Catholic Church, allowing them to continue on with many of their sacred days of worship, without even so much as a blink of an eye!

Sunday worship, I should note, existed long before the Christian era. One could easily trace its origins back through certain Roman and Greek religions, back further through Babylonian and even Assyrian mythologies, and earlier still to the days of Nimrod just after the Flood! Sunday worship is foreign to the Holy Bible and to the religion of the true Elohim of Heaven and Earth. Yeshua Himself is Master of the SABBATH DAY! Sunday is alien to the commandments of Yahweh, to the history of His people, whether Old or New Testament, to Enoch and Noah, to Abraham, Isaac and Joseph, to Moses and the children of Israel, to Joshua, Gideon, Samuel and David, to Elijah and Isaiah and Daniel, to Messiah Himself and the apostles, to the early true church, and indeed it must be so today!

Almighty Yahweh through His Son Yeshua at Creation, on the other hand, consecrated the seventh day Sabbath. It was made holy by Elohim and set apart for spiritual purposes. That memorial could no more be changed, than you or I could change the day on which we were born! It is immutable, unchangeable, and eternal.

The Sabbath is emphatically NOT JEWISH!!

This special holy day has been faithfully observed by all of Yahweh's true servants since the beginning of time! You may search the pages of your Bible from cover to cover and you will never find a command, an example, a shred of evidence, no, not even a hint that the Sabbath Day was ever abolished or that Sunday worship was ever approved or enjoined upon the people of Yahweh at any time. So who are you going to follow? Yahweh and His inspired record, the Bible, or the traditions and false teachings of men?

## **THE TRUTH EXPOSED!**

The truth concerning the Sabbath has not really been lost. Many prominent religious leaders and scholars have understood its validity. They have testified that Sunday worship has no Scriptural authority, that it was instituted by man and was substituted for the Sabbath. The following is but a very small collection of quotes from leading Bible commentators and Church officials concerning the truth of the Sabbath:

Dr. Jeremy Taylor of the Church of England wrote: “*The Lord’s day was merely an ecclesiastical institution. It was NOT introduced by virtue of the fourth commandment*” (Ductor Dubitantium, pp. 458, 464).

Cardinal Gibbon, in his well known book Faith of Our Fathers, stated: “*But 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 (Roman Catholic Church) never sanctify*” (p. 111).

The noted Anglican theologian, Dr. Isaac Williams, said: “*And where are we told in the Scriptures that we are to keep the first day at all? We are commanded to KEEP THE SEVENTH; but we are nowhere commanded to keep the first day...The reasons why we keep the first day of the week holy instead of the seventh is for the same reason that we observe many things, not because the Bible, but because the church, has enjoined it*” (Plain Sermons on the Catechism, Vol. 1, pp. 334, 336).

Baptist theologian Edward T. Hiscox declared: “*There was and is a commandment to keep holy the Sabbath Day, but the Sabbath day is NOT Sunday. It will, however, be readily said...that the Sabbath was transferred from the seventh to the first day of the week...Where can the record of such a transaction be found? NOT IN THE NEW TESTAMENT - ABSOLUTELY NOT.*” (Emphasis mine throughout).

Writing on page 72 of The Sabbath Question, J. J. Taylor, a Baptist stated: “*The Lord’s Day is not sanctified by any specific command or by an inevitable inference. In all the New Testament, there is NO HINT OR SUGGESTION of a legal obligation binding any man, whether saint or sinner, to observe the day*”!

British Congregationalist Dr. R.W.Dale, admitted in his book The Ten Commandments the following: “*The Sabbath was founded upon a specific Divine command...We can plead NO SUCH COMMAND FOR THE OBLIGATION TO OBSERVE SUNDAY...There is not a single sentence in the New Testament to suggest that we incur any penalty by violating the supposed sanctity of Sunday*” (pp. 127-129).

The founder of the Disciples of Christ, Alexander Campbell, writing in *The Christian Baptist*, went so far as to say: *“But, say some, it (day of worship) was changed from the seventh to the first day. Where? And by whom? No man can tell. No, it NEVER WAS CHANGED, nor could it be, unless creation was to be gone through again; for the reason assigned must be changed before the observance, or respect to reason, can be changed!! It is all OLD WIVES’ FABLES to talk of the change of the Sabbath from the seventh to the first day. It it be changed, it was that august personage changed it who changes times and laws ex officio - I think his name is DOCTOR ANTICHRIST”* (Vol. 1, No. 7).

Does any man, I ask you, have the right or the authority to change the perfect Laws of Yahweh? Indeed the book of Daniel prophesied that there would come one who would seek to change these things. We read:

*“And he shall speak great words against the Most High, and shall wear out the saints of the Most High, and THINK TO CHANGE TIMES AND LAWS”* (Dan. 7:25).

Dr. Augustus Neander in *The History of the Christian Religion* stated: *“The festival of Sunday, like all other festivals, was ALWAYS ONLY A HUMAN ORDINANCE, and it was far from the intentions of the apostles to establish a divine command in this respect; far from them, and from the apostolic church, to transfer the laws of the Sabbath to Sunday”* (p. 186).

Dr. Samuele Bacchiocchi, in his landmark book *From Sabbath to Sunday* has raised a most provocative question. He writes: *“This justification of Sunday observance on the basis of the Sabbath commandment raises important theological questions: How is it possible to maintain that the Sabbath has been fulfilled and abolished in Jesus, and yet at the same time enjoin Sunday observance by appealing to the same Sabbath commandment? Moreover, how can the fourth commandment be legitimately applied to Sunday, when it was the seventh and not the first day that the commandment demands to keep holy?”* (p. 312).

Clearly, many of the leading theologians of both Protestant and Catholic persuasions have seen the light on the issue of Sunday worship. They know where it came from, and in many cases, why it was introduced into the ostensible church. In fact, they freely admit it! When men, even though perhaps well intentioned and learned, seek to alter or interfere with spiritual things, the things of Yahweh, they always without fail, err grievously. Such is the case with the change from Sabbath to Sunday. There is no Scriptural authority whatsoever for Sunday worship and no valid reason for it. It is the product of men, not of the Word of the Eternal - the product of men who desired control over others and men who wanted to ingratiate themselves with those in power.

They were leaders who were shamelessly anti-Semitic and wanted to separate the early church from anything that smacked of Judaism. The holy Sabbath, ordained by Yahweh to be honored and hallowed and observed perpetually, became perhaps the most visible evidence of this hatred and bias. Over a period of time, the membership of the late second and third century church gradually accepted the change, which had been almost surreptitiously and possibly even deviously introduced into the Christian faith and foisted off on an unsuspecting, sleepy laity.

Since the Roman Catholic Church is the Mother Church, the Church from which Protestant denominations have sprung, virtually all of what is called organized Christianity has simply and unquestionably followed her lead. Sunday observance is universally accepted today.

The church at Rome, which was in its fledgling stages when Paul wrote his monumental epistle to them, soon became the center of power within the second century so-called “Christian” church. This might have been expected in some respects due, quite naturally, to its proximity to the emperor and the imperial government administered from that great city. After the Roman destruction of Jerusalem in 70 A.D., the Judean churches and their influence began to wane. Rome was clearly in its ascendancy.

The connections between the Roman church of the late second and early third centuries and the change from Sabbath to Sunday worship is a direct and demonstrably strong one. This church eventually became a full-blown apostate monstrosity, altering the Scriptures, reinterpreting the Bible to suit its own carnal theories and motives and imposing purely man-made laws in order to further its power hungry, voracious appetite. The leader of this particular church organization, known as the Pope, was given virtual divine authority and attributes. Please consider the following quotation from an official Catholic decretal:

“The Pope has the power to CHANGE TIMES, TO ABROGATE LAWS, AND TO DISPENSE WITH ALL THINGS, EVEN THE PRECEPTS OF CHRIST” (Decretal, de Translatic Episcop).

What utter blasphemy! The Pope at Rome has, through the centuries, partially fulfilled the prophecy of Daniel 7:25, which predicted the rise of a false church leader who would seek to “change times and laws.” Notice further the testimony of Stephen Keenan, writing in *A Doctrinal Catechism*, page 174, recording an interview with a leading Catholic theologian. First, he poses a question:

*“Have you any other way of proving that the Roman Catholic Church has power*

*to institute festivals of precept?”*

Now pay close attention to the stunning answer:

*“Had she (Roman Catholic Church) 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 of the week, a change for which there is NO SCRIPTURAL AUTHORITY!”*

Cardinal Gibbons, a previously quoted Catholic theologian and writer once said: *“The Catholic Church, by virtue of her divine mission, changed the day from Saturday to Sunday”* (Catholic Mirror, Sept. 23, 1983).

Furthermore, I quote from page 50 of The Convert’s Catechism of Catholic Doctrine, third edition: *“Question: Which is the Sabbath day? Answer: Saturday is the Sabbath day. Question: Why do we observe Sunday instead of Saturday? Answer: We observe Sunday instead of Saturday because the Catholic Church, in the Council of Laodicea (A.D.364), transferred the solemnity from Saturday to Sunday.”*

Make no mistake about it - The Roman Catholic Church purposely and maliciously changed the Yah-ordained and commanded day of worship from the Holy Sabbath to the pagan day of the sun! And amazingly, the Protestant churches have meekly followed her sinful example! When the pagan emperor Constantine in 321 A.D., yielding to the suggestions of church leaders, passed the first Sunday law, stating:

*“Let all judges and town people, and the occupation of all trades rest on the VENERABLE DAY OF THE SUN”* (Edict of March 7, 321 A.D., Corpus Juris Civilis Cod., lib. 3, tit. 12, Lex 3), he was taking into his own hands the prerogative of Yah Himself - to alter or change His own divine laws and statutes. And remember that Yah says of Himself: *“I am Yahweh, I CHANGE NOT”* (Mal. 3:6)!

The Sabbath day is the single, most obvious, outwardly identifying sign between Yah and His people. It is a memorial of Creation, of the time when Yah made man and utterly rejected evil and man’s disobedience, prophesying its eternal doom in Genesis 3:15. It is the special time when Yah Himself rested from all that He had made. No other day, therefore, can possibly be legitimately substituted by man, no matter what the reason may be. Yahweh originated and established the law concerning the sanctity of the Sabbath day and commanded that it be kept forever.

What the Roman Catholic Church did centuries ago, while it has been accepted by Protestants, has certainly not gone unnoticed by their leaders. Here is additional

testimony by top officials, theologians or writers of various denominations and faiths concerning the change from Sabbath to Sunday:

**METHODIST CHURCH** - “The reason we observe the first day instead of the seventh is based on **NO POSITIVE COMMAND**. One will search the Scriptures in vain for authority for changing from the seventh day to the first.” (Clovis G. Chappell, *Ten Rules for Living*, p. 61).

**BAPTIST CHURCH** - Former editor of *Christianity Today*, Harold Lindsell, stated in the November 5, 1976 issue: “There is **NOTHING IN SCRIPTURE** that requires us to keep Sunday rather than Saturday as a holy day.”

**EPISCOPAL CHURCH** - “The Bible commandment says on the seventh day you shall rest. That is Saturday. **NOWHERE IN THE BIBLE** is it laid down that worship should be done on Sunday” (Philip Carrington, *Toronto Daily Star*, Oct. 26, 1949).

**ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH** - The Catholic Press unabashedly states: “**SUNDAY IS A CATHOLIC INSTITUTION**, and its claims to observation can be defended only on Catholic principles...From the beginning to the end of Scripture there is not a single passage that warrants the transfer of weekly public worship from the last day of the week to the first” (Aug. 25, 1900).

There are literally hundreds of additional sources to which we might go for similar quotations and evidence. The truth is clearly known by many of those in positions of leadership within both the Catholic and Protestant Churches. Isn't it about time that we, as sincere and devoted Christians, faced the truth for a change, admitted our error and began to simply **OBEY** the perfect laws of Almighty Yahweh? Is that asking too much of us? Why persist in sin, knowingly repudiating not only the truth of Yah, but Yahweh Himself? Paul wrote: “**TODAY** if you will **HEAR HIS VOICE**, harden not your hearts” (Heb. 3:7-8). Can you hear that voice? Will you harden your heart to the truth as it is revealed or will you be moved to respond **NOW?!?**

Yes, you may say, I see this preponderance of evidence in favor of keeping the Sabbath, especially the Biblical command, but I still have some questions, some reservations.

How do we know that the day we call Saturday or the Sabbath really is the same day that was sanctified in the beginning? Furthermore, aren't there certain verses in the New Testament that speak against the keeping of days and the observance of holy times? These are certainly valid questions and we need to honestly look into them and tie up any loose ends remaining on this crucial subject.

## **EXAMINATION OF DIFFICULT PASSAGES**

It is possible that there still remain a few passages of Scripture, which could possibly pose some potential problems for some in the matter of Sabbath vs. Sunday. We would be remiss if we simply overlooked them. So many publications on this subject do just that and it is a great disservice.

First of all, before even venturing into the Bible, we should answer a question that often arises in regards to the Sabbath day and that is this: How can we know that time has not been lost? In other words, How do we know that the weekly cycle hasn't been broken? Is Saturday really the seventh day in our era of time? Has it always been this way? What about the calendar changes?

Let's all understand one thing - while the day, the month and the year, all, to one extent or another, depend upon the movement of the earth and other celestial bodies for their existence and proper determination, the seven day week does not. It derives from another source and is based on other principles. The weekly cycle was introduced and instituted by Yah Himself at the time of the Creation of man. In six 24 hour days, Elohim brought this earth out of a state of destruction and chaos and literally recreated it, separating the waters that were raging upon its surface, dissipating the heavy cloud cover which had formed, thus allowing the light of the sun, moon and stars to pierce the darkness.

He made all species of animals and plants and finally, late on the sixth day, He created human beings in His own image and for His own special holy purpose. But on the seventh day, everything stopped. Yahweh rested from all His labors on this day, sanctifying it for all time and setting it aside for spiritual labor, not physical.

Originally the days were simply numbered. Eventually pagan nations began to apply names, usually of their deities, to the various days of the week, yet still the actual cycle was never broken. Our present weekday names are derived mainly from Teutonic sources, with each day named for a god as follows: Sunday – Sun god, Monday - Moon, Tuesday - Tiu, Wednesday - Woden, Thursday - Thor, Friday - Frigga, and Saturday - Saturn.

Chief Astronomer and director of the world renowned Lick Observatory, Dr. W.W. Campbell asserts: “The week of seven days has been in use ever since the days of Moses, and we have no reason for supposing that any irregularities have existed in the succession of the weeks and their days from that time to the present” (Your Amazing Calendar, p. 6-7).

There is absolutely no record of time having been lost or of the seven day weekly cycle ever having been broken. Dr. E.G.Hale, the noted astronomer for whom the giant 200 inch reflector atop Mt. Polamar is named has stated: “NO TIME HAS BEEN LOST!”

Scientists, of course, know this fact. Yah has seen to it through all the ages of man. The altering of the week has never been allowed from the beginning up to the present day. We can, therefore, know of a certainty that the weekly cycle is dependable and has not been tampered with down through the centuries of time. We know that Messsiah kept the Sabbath on the correct day. We can rest assured that the weekly format, absolutely, has not been altered since that time. To claim otherwise is patently absurd!

But, what about the calendar changes? Isn't it possible that the present day Sabbath is not the same day as the ancient Sabbath day? While we openly admit that the present calendar, a Roman calendar, has changed, it's important to understand that these changes did not interrupt the weekly seven day cycle!

This calendar was first called the Julian calendar because it had its origin at the time of Julius Caesar in 46 B.C., several years before Christ. This calendar was imperfect because it inserted leap years too frequently. It was based upon a year that was exactly 365 ¼ days long, but it was later discovered that the year is 12 minutes and 14 seconds shorter than this. By the time of Pope Gregory XIII, the calendar had drifted 10 days away from the seasons. To correct this, 10 days were dropped from the calendar, but they were only dropped from the number of days in the month, not from the number of days in the week!

A man named Lilius proposed the method. In the Catholic Encyclopedia, vol.9, page 251 under “Lilius” we read, “Thus every imaginable proposition was made; only one idea was never mentioned, viz., the abandonment of the seven-day week.” In vol.3, page 740 under “chronology” – “It is to be noted that in the Christian period, the order of days in the week has never been interrupted.” Thus, when Gregory XIII reformed the calendar in 1582, Thursday, October 4, was followed by Friday, October 15. So, in England, in 1752, Wednesday, September 2 was followed by Thursday, September 14.”

The change in the calendar did not alter the weekly cycle of days; therefore, it did not in anyway change the Sabbath!

British countries refused to change the calendar when the pope ordered it. They continued with the old Julian calendar until 1752. While their days of the month were different, their days of the week were exactly the same. When the English countries made the change it was necessary to drop out 11 days. Russia didn't make the change



until 1907. In that year the day we called August 14 was August 1 to the Russians. In both countries however, Saturday fell on the same day of the week. We can rest assured that the Saturday of today is the exact same seventh day of the week that Yeshua and his followers kept, setting the example, the same seventh day He said he was Lord of (Mark 2:28).

So what about those difficult passages? As far as the Scriptures are concerned, there is really so little information on the first day of the week that few questionable passages actually exist. We have already discussed the occasions when the first day is mentioned, but what about Romans chapter 14?

Here Paul states: “One man esteems one day above another: another esteems every day alike. LET EVERY MAN BE FULLY PERSUADED IN HIS OWN MIND” (Rom.14:5). Have you ever heard anyone quote this passage before? Many often use this verse when defending their belief in Sunday keeping. But does this statement really mean that Christians are simply to make up their own minds as to which day they intend to keep holy, that Yah doesn’t really care just as long as we do our best? No, not at all!

When anything is taken out of its context, the old saying that “you can prove anything out of the Bible” comes into play. In this instance, verse 5 has to be considered as a part of the whole chapter. Verse 1 states: “Him that is weak in the faith, receive you, but not to doubtful disputations. For one believes that he may EAT ALL THINGS; another who is weak, EATS HERBS. Let him that eats not despise him that eats not; and let not him which eats not judge him that eats; for Elohim has received him” (v. 1-3).

The subject of this passage is clearly not about a day of worship, but about EATING. It appears that in Rome some of the brethren were vegetarians, refusing to eat meat. In fact, they esteemed meat to be unclean and thus refused to consume it. Some of them abstained from eating on certain days, whereas others ate every day without regard. The problem was that the brethren were condemning and judging each other, because of certain physical customs, which really had no bearing on Yahweh’s Law or upon salvation.

Paul counseled them to tolerate one another and not to put any kind of stumbling block in front of a weaker brother or sister or one that was new in the faith. There was much debate in Paul’s day about meat that may have been offered to idols that subsequently found its way into the marketplace. Of course, Paul understood that it was fine to eat *clean* meat and did so as a matter of routine, but he expressly taught that he would abstain in the presence of weaker brethren who refused to eat, in order that they might not be offended. This was simply godly love in action! He says that instead of judging each other, we ought to “follow after the things that make for peace, and things

wherewith one may edify (build up) another” (v. 19).

It is quite possible, considering the fact that the early church observed all of Yahweh’s Holy Days, that some weaker brethren may have believed that certain days were somehow more special or sacred than other days. The scripture is not clear and speculation should remain just that.

Under no circumstances is chapter 14 referring in any way to the Sabbath day or Sunday or any other particular day of worship. Those who quote Romans 14:5 when confronted with the Sabbath/Sunday question are simply ignorant of what the Bible says in this case.

In Galatians 4:10, we read another reference to certain days which might puzzle some in regard to the first day of the week. Paul writes: *“You observe days and months and times and years. I am afraid of you, lest I have bestowed upon you labor in vain.”* Here again, some tend to stumble, but always remember that it’s important to get the context of the verse or passage.

Paul is writing Christian converts in southern Galatia. The primary churches of the region were at Lystra, Derbe and Iconium. This was a predominantly Gentile part of the world. Many, if not most, of the converts had come directly out of rank PAGAN worship. This information provides the key to understanding what Paul was talking about in chapter four.

Remember that when Paul first visited this area on his first missionary journey, the people of Lystra, upon witnessing Paul’s healing of a cripple, began crying with loud voices, claiming that Barnabus was the god Jupiter and Paul was Mercury (Acts 14:8-13). The priest of Jupiter, in fact, was about to offer animal sacrifices in their honor, when the two apostles put a stop to their foolishness. This is the type of background information we need in order to properly understand Paul’s later statements. These Galatians were REVERTING BACK TO PAGANISM - to the customs, traditions and holidays of their past religion! Paul was grieved over the situation. Notice how clearly the truth of this matter comes out in what he told the Galatians:

*“Howbeit then, when you knew not Yahweh (before they were converted), you did service (were in bondage to) unto them which by nature are NO MIGHTY ONES (Jupiter, Mercury, etc.). But now, after that you have known Yahweh, or rather are known of Yahweh, how TURN YOU AGAIN TO THE WEAK AND BEGGARLY ELEMENTS, whereunto you desire AGAIN to be in bondage?” (Gal. 4:8-9).*

Now this is the preface to the passage about observing certain days (v. 10-11). First of all, it must be understood that the entire book of Galatians is about the apostle

Paul combating the teachings of erring, Pharisaical brethren who were teaching that Gentiles had to be circumcised and keep the whole “Old Covenant,” that is, become converts to Judaism, in order to be saved.

These celebrations also included the added numerous fast days and commemorations of Judaism, various strict “legalistic” halakha (religious decisions made by Pharisees and later Rabbinical courts) which diverged from the Laws of the written Torah. The Jews, over time, came to celebrate a number of special holidays and fast days and anniversaries in addition to the Sabbath and annual Holy Days of Yahweh.

Paul, as we have seen, was always careful to observe the Sabbath. He had done so on numerous occasions with both Jews and Gentiles. The Galatians were being persuaded to revert back to the “weak and beggarly elements” of human traditions -- whether Jewish or Gentile in origin. Paul said it was not necessary for them to observe “days, months, times and years” of human traditions -- whether Gentile or Jewish customs -- which were not part of Yahweh’s Torah.

In other words, Paul was telling them that they did not have to become religious Jews and practice Judaism to be saved! The Sabbath is not the issue at all! Those who are unlearned, truly wrestle with these Scriptures to their own destruction. This book clearly distinguishes between the OLD FLESHLY COVENANT and the NEW SPIRITUAL COVENANT! Let’s not confuse obedience with legalism as millions have today! As Christians, we are not under the Old Covenant, with circumcision, and the whole ritualistic and halakhic system of laws that comprised Judaism -- rather, we are under the New Covenant. Does our faith in Christ to save us from our sins make void the commandments of Yahweh? Of course not! Paul says, “Do we then make void the law through faith? May that never be so: yea, we establish the law.” (Rom.3:31). Yah’s commandments are “holy, righteous and good” (Rom.7:12).

We also need to discuss the real meaning of Colossians 2:16-17. This statement of Paul’s is among the most controversial in all the New Testament, and is often utilized as an argument against the keeping of the Sabbath and holydays of Yahweh, when in actual fact, it is one of the strongest verses in the New Testament which supports and proves that the Colossians (Gentile Christians) were keeping the weekly Sabbath, monthly new moons and the annual holy days. He instructed the Colossians:

*“Let no man therefore judge you in meat or in drink (eating and drinking), or in respect of a holyday, or of a new moon, or of the SABBATH, which are a shadow of THINGS TO COME, but the body is of Christ.”*

In the first place, the subject of the chapter is not the Sabbath. Mention is made of it in this passage not as a direct discussion on the obligation of the Law, but in the

context of the false teachings advocated by certain Colossian “philosophers” (v.8). Apparently there were false teachers in Colossae who were compelling the members to worship in a manner which was not ordained of Yahweh, bringing into play a great deal of strictness and superstition.

Most likely a Gnostic cult had infiltrated the Colossian church and was promulgating a rigorous, regulated type of asceticism - a denial of the flesh by neglecting the body. Paul warns them in verse 23: “Such regulations indeed have an *appearance* of wisdom, with their self-imposed worship, their false humility, and their harsh treatment of the body, but they lack any value in restraining sensual indulgence.”

Notice also that even the worship of angels (v.18) was involved in this heresy, demonstrating just how far afield these false teachers were from the central trunk of the pure gospel that Paul had originally preached to these people some years before. He says that these people had become separated from the Head of the Body - Christ Himself!

So when we realize that Paul approaches the problem in Colossae, not by appealing to the Law, which would be his usual method, but to baptism, we can then be assured that the Colossian error was not based on the familiar Jewish legalism, but on a pagan or Gnostic set of cultic regulations. This is what the apostle is seeking to counter in his letter. Beginning in verse 13 we read:

*“And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, has he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses; blotting out the HANDWRITING OF ORDINANCES (changelist of sins) that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, NAILING IT TO HIS CROSS; having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a show of them openly, triumphing over them in it” (Col. 2:13-15).*

These verses are among the most misunderstood in the New Testament. What really was nailed to the cross? What was the so-called “handwriting of ordinances”? Was the Sabbath day among them? Is this what Paul was talking about? Most professing Christian ministers agree that Paul basically abolished Sabbath observance with one stroke of his pen in this Colossian epistle. Is there any validity to such a position? A little knowledge increases our understanding.

Paul is clearly attempting to show these brethren the all-sufficiency of Messiah. He is discussing the FORGIVENESS OF SIN. Verse 13 expressly states this fact. The term “handwriting of ordinances” is the Greek word “cheirographon,” and it denotes a legal document or a certificate of debt. Charles Masson argues that “one must admit with Schlatter, Dibelius, Lohmeyer and Percy that the ‘chirograph’ is a certificate

acknowledging the debt resulting from our transgressions” (L’Epitre de St. Paul aux Colossiens, 1950, p. 128).

Of course!! This is the explanation of this strange term, which has erroneously been applied to Yah’s Law by so many theologians through the ages. What was nailed to the cross of Christ was not the Law -- how ridiculous! Paul claimed that the Law was holy and the commandment just and good (Rom.7:12). Paul kept the Law and taught that Christians should as well. What was nailed to the cross was the RECORD OF OUR PAST SINS, so that as each Christian passes under the shed blood of Christ and receives forgiveness, his entire sinful past is wiped clean, as it were. In the Living Bible we read:

*“...and blotted out the charges proved against you, the list of his commandments which you had not obeyed. He took this list of sins and destroyed it by nailing it to Christ’s cross.”*

Paul states that this “handwriting of ordinances” or “cheirographon” was something that was “against us.” In connection with the context of this passage, what was it that was really against us? Yah’s perfect Law? Hardly! Without them, we would have no understanding of the very nature and meaning of sin itself. The thing that was against us was the ever present record of our past sins, mounting up to heaven. Had they not been nailed to the Savior’s cross, they would condemn us to eternal death. Messiah’s death removed all past sins (upon repentance and baptism, of course).

Paul says that since Christ is the one who has made it possible for all our sins and transgressions of the law to be taken out of the way, utterly and totally forgiven, even to the extent of having rendered all powers and authorities invalid, that Christians are therefore not to allow some false teacher to come in and begin to lecture them on how to keep a holy day or a new moon or judge them in their festive eating and drinking or in their observance of the Sabbath day.

All these things, he points out, are types, designed by Yahweh to teach certain lessons and principles now. They stand for something even greater. They are then, in effect, “A SHADOW OF THINGS TO COME” (v.17). Do we do away with the weekly Sabbath because it also represents a shadow? More on this later.

Far from doing away with the Sabbath or any other law of Yah, the very fact that Paul is dealing with the problem facing the Colossians by appealing to their observance of the holy days and Sabbaths is actually evidence in itself that these Christians were surely keeping those days! It was the attempt of heretical teachers to pervert the observance of Christian practices that Paul attacks in his letter. Paul always upholds the law of Yahweh. He was a Sabbath-keeper from his birth until his death. He taught both

Jews and Gentiles to do the same.

Any difficulties with Paul's language in dealing with the Sabbath or holy days or other aspects of the Law must always be understood against this background and interpreted in this light. Otherwise we fall into the same trap as that of many commentators, twisting and wresting the Scriptures to suit their own theories. Apparently some were even doing this in the first century as well, for Peter comments: *"His (Paul's) letters contain some things that are hard to understand, which ignorant and unstable people distort, as they do the other Scriptures, to their own destruction"* (2 Pet. 3:16).

No one was a greater teacher and champion of Yahweh's Law than the apostle Paul. It is unfortunate that so many religious readers, reformers and teachers have made the erroneous assumption that Paul somehow came along and did away with the Law of Yahweh. Nothing could possibly be any farther from the truth. Paul extolled the Law and was always faithful in obedience to it. Remembering this fact can help us resolve many of the hard sayings and difficult passages in his letters.

## **THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE SABBATH**

Aside from being a memorial of Creation, of the fact that Elohim originally rested from His labors, as well as a day of spiritual worship, the Sabbath day has an additional significance. It not only looks back to the beginning of man's existence on this planet, but it also looks forward - ahead to something so fantastic that human imagination cannot fathom it.

When Elohim rested in the beginning, He wasn't really tired. He was establishing a type or pattern. Does Elohim need to rest? Hardly. It is His divine purpose to give all mankind a period of rest and He has designed this into a plan of salvation that is absolutely perfect in its meaning and detail. The first week, so beautifully described in Genesis 1, provides us with the typical outline of the time frame for Yah's overall plan.

David wrote: "For a thousand years in your sight are but as yesterday, when it is past, and as a watch in the night" (Psa. 90:4). Peter repeated this passage in his second epistle and applied it to the time frame of Yah's plan. It is in II Peter 3 that we are able to see much more clearly the deeper understanding the apostle's were being granted:

*"Be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of us the apostles of the Master and Savior: knowing this first, that there shall come IN THE LAST DAYS scoffers, walking after their own lusts. And saying: Where is the promise of His coming? For since the fathers fell asleep all things*

*continue as they were from the beginning of creation. For this they are willingly ignorant of, that by the word of Elohim the heavens of old, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water; whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished (the state of the earth at the time of Genesis 1:2); but the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men. But beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with Yahweh as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. Yahweh is not slack concerning His promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to usward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance” (II Pet. 3:2-8).*

In this particularly interesting passage, Peter first mentions a problem - that in the last days some would be scoffers, denigrating the imminent Second Advent of Messiah. So he patiently takes us back in history, to the time when the world still stood covered by water, back to the time of Genesis 1:2 when the earth was without form and void, to the very first day of Creation week.

Then, in order to provide a proper answer to the charges of the scoffers, he brings us forward into the future, to the time of the coming Day of Yahweh, which commences with the return of Messiah to the earth. This begins the seventh or last day in the plan of Yah, each day equaling a thousand years. So we have the complete time span denoted here. Each day of that original creation week is equal to a thousand years in fulfillment!

Just as Yah gave man the first six days during which he was to do his own thing, and the seventh was reserved for rest; so also the first six thousand years have been given over to man to establish his own governments, to attempt to solve his own problems, but the seventh millennium is soon to come and that will mark the great rest of Yah and His people. That period will begin, as Revelation 20:4-6 reveals, when Messiah returns and the first resurrection occurs. This marks the start of the great millennial rule of Yeshua Messiah.

Paul spoke of this very time in specific terms of the Sabbath day in Hebrews 3-4. In the latter portion of chapter three, he discusses the sins of ancient Israel and how they were not permitted to enter into the Promised Land. Paul says they were not allowed to enter into Yah’s “rest.” In other words, he uses the example of Israel’s entry into the land of Canaan as a type of a Christian’s entry into the eternal Kingdom of Elohim.

The story continues on in chapter four, where Paul makes the connection between Israel’s mistakes and the consequences with a Christian’s. Here we read:

*“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 (as did Israel)... for somewhere He*

*has spoken about the SEVENTH DAY in these words: ‘And on the seventh day Yah rested from all His work’...it still remains that some will enter that rest...Therefore Yahweh 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.’ For if Joshua had given them rest, Yahweh would not have spoken later about another day. There remains, then a SABBATH-REST for the people of Yahweh; for anyone who enters Yah’s (spiritual) rest also rests from His own work, just as Yah did from his. Let us therefore make every effort to enter that rest, so that no one will fall by following their example of disobedience” (Heb. 4:1-11).*

Here Paul makes the direct connection between the Sabbath day and the Kingdom or “rest” of Yahweh. Clearly, if the Sabbath is typical of the great millennial reign of Messiah described in Revelation 20, then it only stands to reason that the other six days of the week are also symbolic of one thousand year periods. The Sabbath, therefore, is truly a “shadow of things to come.” It looks forward to and pictures in type the coming Kingdom of Yah, when for a thousand years, Christ and the saints will rule upon this earth, restoring and refurbishing this world and turning all mankind to the true Elohim and His Laws.

That is why the Sabbath day remains absolutely essential for Christians today. It represents the very hope of Yah’s people, the very objective for which we labor. When we observe this day each week, we look forward to the Kingdom of Yah, to the return of Yeshua, to the first resurrection and to eternal life in the divine family of our heavenly Father. The Sabbath day is, by no means, done away with or abolished in any manner. It is still most relevant for Christians. And the Scriptures clearly affirm that this special holy day will also be kept during the coming millennial rule of Christ. Notice the proof in Isaiah Chapter 66. In his marvelous description of that long awaited time, soon to commence in the near future, Isaiah writes:

*“For thus says Yahweh, Behold, I will extend peace to her like a river, and the glory of the Gentiles like a flowing stream: then shall you suck, you shall be borne upon her sides, and be dandled upon her knees. As one whom his mother comforts, so will I comfort you... And it shall come to pass, that from one new moon to another, and from ONE SABBATH TO ANOTHER, shall all flesh come to worship before me, says Yahweh” (Isa. 66:12-13, 23).*

The Sabbath was anciently called the “sign” between the true Elohim and His people. It, more than any other outward emblem, designates those who seek after and serve the true Elohim. In Exodus 31:13 and 17 we read that the Sabbath “*is a SIGN between me and you throughout your generations, that you may know that I am the Eternal who doth sanctify you... It is a SIGN between me and the children of Israel FOREVER; for in six days the Eternal made heaven and earth, and on the seventh day*



*he rested, and was refreshed.”*

When did the Sabbath cease to be a sign or memorial of creation, identifying the true Elohim and true followers of the One True Elohim? Does not the true Christian still recognize Elohim as Creator? Who is a true *SPIRITUAL* Israelite today? (See Rom.8:28,29; Gal.3:28,29; Rom.9:6-9).

The Sabbath separates those who merely think they know Elohim from those who truly have a direct connection with Him. Just as the Holy Spirit denotes a godly person inwardly, so the observance of the weekly Sabbath indicates that person outwardly. They are both signs or marks of a true Christian!

Sunday is the day of the pagans. Has the professing Christian Church become, in many respects, pagan? The answer is unfortunately YES! Pagan, false notions were introduced into the apparent, visible church nearly two thousand years ago. Unscrupulous men entered into the true Church and perverted it, erroneously interpreted and wrested the Scriptures, introduced heathen practices (such as Christmas and Easter - both of which are pagan to the core!), did away with many of Yah's Laws and turned the pure truth of Yahweh into a false, counterfeit of Christianity.

You need to honestly examine what you have been taught, what you have been led to believe by your particular church organization. If it does not measure up to the yardstick of the Holy Bible, it is false, it is of men and it is unprofitable for salvation. Begin to question and put to the test those who seem to be the teachers and leaders. If you earnestly seek the truth, Yah will, in His time, reveal it to you. Keep searching with an open mind and heart. Take the matter to Yahweh in fervent prayer and you will get your answer. Take the message of this article and study it faithfully and honestly. It may be that Yahweh will open your eyes to His truth in this matter.

We also have available much additional information on many varied subjects dealing with Biblical truth. Should you have any interest whatever in looking more deeply into Yah's Word, unlearning many of the false notions taught by churches of the world, and really getting in harmony with what Yahweh wants you to be accomplishing in your own life, please, by all means, contact us and request more material. There is no charge for our service.

## **HOW ONE SHOULD KEEP THE SABBATH**

Just knowing about the Sabbath day isn't enough. Just proving and believing its validity for Christians is not sufficient. We must KEEP THE DAY AND KEEP IT HOLY! Granted, not every possible aspect of the Sabbath is specifically legislated by

the Bible, but there are certainly guidelines within which a faithful individual should operate.

Remember that the seventh day is truly holy time. It was created for man and man is therefore commanded to perpetuate the holiness of the Sabbath. We do that by adhering to Yah's express will for us as clearly revealed in the Scriptures and by yielding fully to the Spirit of Yahweh as it moves and inspires us to think and act. Too many Sabbath-keeping groups, sadly, compromise the principles and examples concerning the Sabbath, allowing their members to violate this great Law of Yahweh, to work on the day, to seek and do their own pleasure. If we are not going to obey the commandment that Yah has given, then merely claiming to be a Sabbath keeper proves to be only a hollow, empty declaration.

Isaiah made several very incisive comments on the attitude and approach every Christian ought to have in relation to the Sabbath. He wrote:

*“Blessed is the man that does this, and the son of man that lays hold on it; that KEEPS THE SABBATH from polluting it, and keeps his hand from doing any evil...If you turn away your foot from the Sabbath (by stomping all over it), FROM DOING YOUR OWN PLEASURE and call the Sabbath a delight, the holy of Yahweh and shall honor Him, not doing your own ways, nor finding your own pleasure, nor speaking your own words; then shall you delight yourself in Yahweh; and I will cause you to ride upon the high places of the earth, and feed you with the heritage of Jacob your father; for the mouth of Yahweh has spoken it” (Isa. 56:2, 13-14).*

This passage says a lot. Yahweh gives man six days each week in which to work, earn a living, take care of all personal business and pleasure - in other words, live his own life as he sees fit (but certainly within Yah's Law and by His Spirit). But one day a week - the seventh day, to be precise - He commands man to honor Him, to rest from all normal physical labor and to enjoy the delight of worshipping Him on the Sabbath.

We are to focus not on our regular pleasures or problems or responsibilities, but on the spiritual things of Yahweh. In making such a change in our lives, we begin to become godly oriented. The Father, on the other hand, responds to our actions. As we draw closer to Him, He automatically draws closer to us. And as we seek, from the heart, to honor Him on the Sabbath, He in turn reaches out and touches us, opening our minds to grasp ever deeper truths of His Word, comforting and encouraging us in our trials, opening up doors of opportunity for service and the doing of good toward others.

In this regard, therefore, we should not be engaging in the regular routine of life. Of course, the most obvious emblem of the Sabbath is the cessation from normal labor. If you have a job which presently requires you to work on either Friday evening

(remember that Yah's days always begin at sunset, not at midnight!) or Saturday, you must prayerfully consider just whom you will serve - Yahweh or man. Many other Christians have had to come face to face with this problem. In so many instances, this world's systems are set against Yah's way. We must not, however, think that we can compromise His truth or His commandments. We are bound to obey Him no matter what the cost in this life.

Therefore, if you truly have come to see the significance of the Sabbath day and the need for observing it, then you clearly have no choice in the matter. Approach this in humble and beseeching prayer and diligent study before Yah. It will be from Him alone through Messiah that you will receive the kind of special insight, strength and courage to go forward in obedience and remember, Yahweh honors those who honor Him.

Admittedly, it would be far more appealing for me to simply tell you that you should just do the best you can, that Yah will somehow understand and that things will work out fine. That would, however, be a lie. I cannot and will not water down the truth, and neither, for that matter, should you. When you reach the positive decision to keep the Sabbath and the need to approach your employer arises, first of all, seek the guidance and help of Yah in the matter. Pray earnestly about and put it squarely in the hands of Yahweh and Yeshua.

Believe me, He can truly work miracles in the minds of other human beings. He can change circumstances. Don't go into this endeavor half-heartedly or full of doubt and apprehension. Oh naturally, you may have a few butterflies, but don't despair. Yah is on your side and He is pleased, indeed overjoyed that you are making this kind of stand for the truth, literally swimming upstream and against the tide of human reasoning and conduct.

From my experience, most people who make this sort of decision are successful in their attempt to gain favor in the eyes of their employer. Simply, honestly and confidently explain your position. If you are straightforward, not overbearing or hostile, you will come across in a good light. Express your willingness to work other hours or days, if necessary, in order to accommodate your boss or make things work out well.

In some cases, I know that Christians have lost their jobs over this issue, but they are in the minority. Like Paul, many have learned to rejoice in whatever they are required to face in the faithful service of Almighty Yahweh, however should this occur in your situation, do not fret, fear, regret or resent it. Remember why you are doing this. You are making a stand for Yah's revealed truth. It is not always easy. In fact, it is often quite difficult. Although securing time off to properly keep the Sabbath can be a trial, you will soon learn, once it is passed, that it was really a small affliction and not

worthy to be compared to the glorious blessings in Messiah. Yah will indeed come to your rescue, if you are forced to suffer momentarily for His sake. Do not give up. Just put the entire problem in His hands. Do what you can, but let it rest with Him. Submit to Him and allow Him the time and circumstances to do what He wants in your life. If you will endure this and follow this advice, I can absolutely guarantee you that you will profit from it and will indeed receive Yah's intervention and blessing in some form or fashion. Just make certain that your heart is right and your relationship with Him is real and focused.

The point is simply this, that if you truly see the truth of the Sabbath, then you will not let anything get in the way of observing it. You will do whatever it takes. If you do not really believe it, then you will make excuses and procrastinate and drift and sit on the fence. It will seem just too great a sacrifice. You will fear the reprisals of men (family and friends) or the possible embarrassment of standing up for the truth of Yahweh.

Coming to an understanding of the significance of the Sabbath in your life will lead you to a momentous decision - one of the most important you will ever make. You will be committing yourself to something that is eternal, that is actually directly connected to the true Elohim in heaven!

If you will make this move, if you will repent and reach out toward Elohim in this manner, **HE WILL RESPOND!** His Spirit will convict your mind and convince you of the rightness of your choice in the matter. You will feel an inner satisfaction unattainable in the mundane endeavors of this world. And you will have embarked upon a journey which many others, through the centuries of time, have taken. In fact, every servant of the Most High indeed has walked down this same road, has kept this same day holy and has served the same Elohim who is now calling you into His precious and perfect truth. **HEAR HIS VOICE NOW, WHILE IT IS STILL TODAY!!**

The Sabbath is a day for which special preparation should be made each week. Many Christians who observe the Sabbath have not fully embraced the Day of Preparation. The Sabbath should be anticipated, looked forward to, longed for, awaited anxiously. Therefore, we must follow the Biblical guidelines regarding such preparation.

Notice the principle illustrated in Exodus 16. When Yah sent the Israelites manna from heaven, He did so in a manner that taught them a pattern of labor and rest. Beginning with the first day of the week, He gave them food in the amount necessary for that day. The same held true through the first five days. On the sixth day (our Friday), He gave them all a double portion. Why? Simply because He did not intend to send any on the seventh day!

We read in verses 22-30:

*“Six days you shall gather it, but on the seventh day, which is the Sabbath, in it there shall be none...so the people rested on the seventh day.”*

This principle teaches us the same lesson it taught the ancient Israelites. When it comes to preparing food to be eaten on the Sabbath, the heaving cooking should be done on Friday or Thursday, so that one may rest on the Sabbath from such routine and time consuming chores. This does not mean that light preparation cannot be done. The important point is that the Sabbath not be violated due to neglect on our part to think and plan ahead. Keep your focus on the Sabbath. The same would, of course, apply to any other work-related activity, which should be accomplished during the regular workweek.

Aside from preparation, engaging in forms of personal or group entertainment should not be done on the Sabbath. This is not its purpose. Sports activities, TV, movies, etc. should be avoided (with the exception of news, weather or possibly shows of special merit on occasion). The sanctity and solemnity of the Sabbath must not be devalued in the manner of so many of today’s Sunday keepers, where an hour or so may be spent in a church service, and then the remainder of the day merely wasted in physical endeavors and pleasures.

The Sabbath is a 24-hour period and most Sabbath-keepers spend a significant portion of the evening and day in private and collective scripture meditation, worship, singing, praise and Bible study. Like the Jews, we love to welcome the Sabbath into our homes with the lighting of candles and soft praise music. It is special time and we must make it special.

As we have already observed, ancient Judah was severely punished by Yah, primarily for Sabbath-breaking, among other national sins. Although her sister nation, the northern kingdom of Israel or Samaria, was dispersed and never returned to her homeland, Yahweh permitted the Jews to come back into Judah after a period of captivity in Babylon. Subsequent to this post-exilic return, the leaders of the nation were powerfully inspired by Yahweh to rally the people with a determination not to repeat the mistakes of the past. Their zeal in honoring and keeping holy the Sabbath was especially remarkable. Perhaps the most outspoken proponent of this commitment was the governor Nehemiah. Notice what stance he took:

*“They (the Jews) clave to their brethren, their nobles and entered into a curse, and into an oath, to walk in Yah’s Law, which was given by Moses, the servant of*

*Yahweh our Elohim, and His judgments and His statutes...And if the people of the land bring wares or any victuals on THE SABBATH DAY TO SELL, THAT WE WOULD NOT BUY IT OF THEM ON THE SABBATH, or on the HOLY DAY; and that we would leave the seventh year, and the exaction of every debt” (Neh. 10:29, 31).*

Nehemiah does not really leave much room for compromise in his stand on the subject of buying and selling on the Sabbath. His feeling was also shared by the elders and other leaders. He furthermore states:

*“In those days saw I in Judah some treading wine presses on the Sabbath, and bringing sheaves in and lading asses; as also wine, grapes and figs, all manner of burdens, which they brought into Jerusalem on the Sabbath day; and I testified against them in the day wherein they sold victuals.*

*There dwelt men of Tyre also therein, which brought fish and all manner of ware and sold on the Sabbath unto the children of Judah, and in Jerusalem. Then I contended with the nobles of Judah, and said unto them, What EVIL THING is that you do, and PROFANE THE SABBATH DAY? Did not your fathers thus, and did not our Elohim bring all this evil upon us and upon this city? Yet you bring more wrath upon Israel by profaning the Sabbath.*

*And it came to pass, that when the gates of Jerusalem began to be dark before the Sabbath, I commanded that the gates should be shut, and charged that they should not be opened until after the Sabbath; and some of my servants set I at the gates, that there should be no burden brought in on the Sabbath day. So the merchants and sellers of all kind of ware lodged without Jerusalem once or twice. Then I testified against them, and said unto them, Why lodge you about the wall? If you do so again, I will lay hands on you. From that time forth, came they no more on the Sabbath day” (Neh. 13:15-21).*

It is indeed unfortunate that not only do most professing Christians in general neglect this sterling example of Nehemiah and the post-exilic Jews, but even the majority of Sabbath keeping organizations refuse to follow this Scriptural standard. What Yah has done is reveal through this ancient example precisely what His attitude toward buying and selling on His holy day really is. And the answer is crystal clear - **BUYING AND SELLING ON THE SABBATH, UNLESS A MATTER OF LIFE AND DEATH, SHOULD ALWAYS BE AVOIDED!!**

It is a simple matter. Take care of your buying and selling during the regular work week. That is why Yahweh gives us that time. Make preparations ahead of time to buy the things you need, pay the bills you owe, take care of your personal business, as well as your routine labor. Don't use the Sabbath for these purposes.

Some will always ask: Is it okay to dine out on the Sabbath or on annual Holy Days? Many Sabbath keeping churches permit this activity, excusing their members. This is patently wrong!! I urge you not to fall into this trap or allow any minister, no matter what his affiliation might be, to tell you otherwise. Ask yourself this crucial question: In the coming Kingdom of Yahweh, when *“from one Sabbath to another shall all flesh come to worship before me, says Yahweh”* (Isa. 66:23), do you honestly believe that Yeshua Messiah will permit restaurants to conduct business and true Christians to patronize them on the Sabbath day? Hardly! So let us resolve that we will have respect for the Scriptural examples like that of Nehemiah and simply obey the Law of Yahweh. Write to us and request your free copy of our article, “Should Christians Frequent Restaurants on the Sabbath.”

Of course, there may be certain times when exceptions to the rule apply. Emergency situations could take precedence, and Christ himself discussed just such possibilities. For example, in Luke 14:1-6, the subject of the famous “ox in the ditch” is covered. Even the fanatical Jewish leaders of the first century, who were determined to keep the Sabbath at all expense, clearly understood that they would be obliged, for instance, to help a suffering animal on the Sabbath. Therefore this same principle holds true for human beings as well. Dire circumstances do arise from time to time and they must be handled, no matter what day of the week it is. There is always a valid Scriptural example or principle to cover such matters. The doing of good, the helping of others is a primary part of the Sabbath, but certainly emergencies will always be the exception, something that occur only rarely.

Again the point of it all is simply that we should desire to keep holy the Sabbath and that we should always take the steps necessary to insure that even in this modern, hectic, demanding world, we are indeed able to please Yahweh and observe His holy day accordingly. To accomplish this objective effectively does require planning and effort on our part. Yet once a person retracts his or her mind in approaching the Sabbath, it really never poses any great difficulty. And, as always, the benefits of committing to Yah’s way, of obeying His Laws, of pleasing and serving our Creator so greatly outweigh any presumed inconvenience, that there is simply no question as to what our course of action in this matter must be.

By examining the Sabbath ministry of the Messiah, we can easily determine that He always promoted the principle of doing good on the Sabbath, even though his teaching was often at odds with the accepted Jewish wisdom. The leaders of his day were incessantly accusing him of breaking the Sabbath, as he proceeded to heal and do good. For instance, Matthew records that the religious authorities asked Christ directly:

*“Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath?”* (Matt. 12:10).

Their attitude was primarily judgmental. The Savior, grieved at the hardness of their hearts, responded by asking them:

*“It is lawful on the Sabbath to do good or to do harm, to save life or kill?...What man of you, if he has one sheep and it falls into a pit on the Sabbath, will not lay hold of it and lift it out? Of how much more value is a man than a sheep?”* (Luke 14:5, Matt. 12:11- 12).

The doing of good, as the occasion arises, should always be a part of the Sabbath for Christians. I do not mean to imply that one should spend the entire Sabbath going around looking for some way to help someone. That is not the point. If the need arises, fill it. But always remember that the primary obligation on the Sabbath is the spiritual worship of Yahweh and Yeshua. The examples we have in the Bible tell us that the Israelites anciently and the Christians as well met together on the Sabbath, praising Yah in song and prayer and hearing His Word expounded. There was true fellowship, one with another. This practice should certainly be followed today.

Children should also be intimately involved in all Sabbath activities. The pace of our present lives often leaves us less time than we wish to spend with our families. The Sabbath day is perfectly designed for just such a purpose. Children should be taught the deep and profound meaning of the day, and a good example should always be established for them to emulate.

A properly conducted Sabbath service should be a highly rewarding experience for every Christian. It should be anticipated by all and prepared for through personal prayer and Bible study prior to the gathering. Yah is able to inspire His people in a very special way on the Sabbath, especially those whom He has chosen to convey His truth verbally to others on these occasions. The weekly service affords all an opportunity to really delve into Yah’s Word, to be taught, to be motivated, to be corrected if need be, and to be encouraged by the Spirit of Yah. The Sabbath should be a day of spiritual rejuvenation. It should be a day of rejoicing, of feasting (both spiritually and physically). Paul especially warned the believers in his letter to the Hebrews:

*“Let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works; NOT FORSAKING THE ASSEMBLING OF OURSELVES TOGETHER, as the manner of some is, but exhorting (encouraging) one another; and so much more as you see the day (of Christ’s return!) approaching”* (Heb. 10:24-25).

Although there are numerous Sabbath keeping groups throughout the world, it is unfortunate that all of them cannot be recommended, since they have only a form of godliness, assuming that obedience to such outward basics as the Sabbath is sufficient to please Yahweh. It may be that some believers will have to worship alone until others in



a specific area are also called out by Yahweh. Observing the Sabbath with those who are NOT faithful to all the truth of Yah is not what a Christian should be doing. It is far better, under such circumstances, to worship alone, trusting Elohim to provide company in due time. If you should have questions along this line, please let us know and we will do all we can to help.

The Sabbath should always be a delight for all of Yah's people. It is a time to rest from labor and reflect on the bountiful Elohim who has so abundantly provided so many wonderful blessings. It is a time to draw closer to Yahweh than on any other day of the week, through spending ample time in prayer and study and meditation on the Scriptures, on the plan and purposes of Yah, on examining ourselves and assessing our own spiritual status and the quality of the relationship we have with our heavenly Father.

This day can also be an excellent opportunity for showing hospitality to other brethren. Those who are able should invite others to share a meal and good conversation on the Sabbath. Friday evening or perhaps after Sabbath services would be appropriate times for such activity. In fact, entire congregations should eat and rejoice together on the Sabbath. We always have a fellowship meal with the brethren after Sabbath services. This is how we draw close to one another and learn to love and care for each other.

These experiences help enrich and enhance this holy day. Just remember to keep all conversation on a high level. In other words, keep the right perspective. This is decidedly not a time for a lot of frivolity or idle talk. Think about the many things of significance you have to discuss. There should be a virtually endless list. Speak of Yah and of Yeshua the Savior. Tell others what you are learning, how Elohim is working in your life. Extol His greatness, encourage others, empathize with their problems, give wise counsel when required, ask pertinent questions. Make constructive use of the Sabbath day and you will be rewarded immensely.

In fact, no matter how much effort it may take in the beginning to change your routine of life to accommodate the guidelines and commands relating to the Sabbath, once you have done so, you will discover just how marvelous and blessed this very special holy day really can be. You will ask yourself how you could have possibly done without this experience in your life all these many years!

## **IN CONCLUSION**

The Sabbath day was made for man by a loving Elohim. We should set our minds to honor Him on this day, to recognize that He is our Creator, our provider, our

comforter and our Father, who is determined to bring us into the Kingdom of His dear Son. When we properly observe the Sabbath, we are picturing the very time when Yeshua (Jesus) will actually rule upon this earth, a time of peace, joy, prosperity, freedom and true spiritual purposes - a time unprecedented in all of human history!

It will be a time when Yahweh will pour out His holy Spirit upon all mankind. The Sabbath day, therefore, typifies the coming millennial reign of our returning Savior, the one thousand years of righteousness spoken of in the book of Revelation. Those who will enter into the eternal, divine “rest” of Yahweh **WILL BE KEEPING THE SABBATH TODAY**, just as Yah Himself rested from all His works on the original seventh day!

Observing the seventh day of the week, setting it aside to honor and serve Yahweh takes a special calling and dedication, a rare insight into the truth of Yah’s Word. Most people will not take the time or effort to prove the validity of the Sabbath for Christians today. If they are religious at all, they will usually just take the word of their local church or minister. Usually the question never arises in their lives. After all, it is always safer and easier to compromise, to go along with the crowd, to maintain the status quo, to not rock the boat, to remain comfortable in the rut of life.

But the way of Yahweh is emphatically **NOT EASY!** It is difficult and Messiah and the apostles expressly told us it would be this way. Coming to see the truth of the Sabbath day is not always easy, nor is obeying Yahweh in keeping the day holy. It will not be the most popular thing to do. It automatically sets you apart - from friends, co-workers, and family. Don’t let that concern you. Even if you should experience a certain amount of persecution, do not despair, for so did the servants of Yahweh before you.

Sunday worship was foisted upon an unsuspecting, spiritually sleepy church many centuries ago. The deception has continued even to this very day. Sunday worship is nowhere commanded by the Word of Yahweh and, in fact, it is pagan in its origin and **AGAINST THE LAWS OF YAHWEH!!** Certainly, most people who attend church on Sunday are not doing so with the intention of disobeying or dishonoring Him - but ignorance is no excuse. Now you know the truth. Now you must decide whether you will break away from the ways of this world and strike out on the path that will lead into the Kingdom of Yahweh!

Your decision is a momentous one - one destined to change your life forever. Do not take it lightly and by all means, **DO NOT NEGLECT IT!** Do not do like most people and merely relegate it to the back burner, thinking that you will deal with the issue at some more convenient time. A more propitious time will never come for you. This is that great opportunity that a merciful Elohim is giving you to seriously consider

your relationship with Him and come out of a system of worldly beliefs and practice that simply masquerade as the truth of Yah. Don't let this chance pass you by. If Yah is truly calling you, then **YOU WILL RESPOND**. You will begin to lay down the things of this flesh and consciously and purposely ponder the facts concerning the Sabbath day.

Yahweh has set before all people both good and evil, both life and death. He wants us to choose the way we will travel. Will you go the way of all flesh, selecting the broad and easy way that leads to destruction? Will you be persuaded by the clever arguments of men or will you allow the Word of Yahweh to instruct, inspire and convict you to change your ways and begin a new life based upon the truth of Yahweh and not upon the fables of men?

He promises to bless you for honoring Him on the Sabbath. By choosing to do this, you will be identified by Him as a part of His true Church. Great and good things will begin to happen in your life - Christ will literally come into it and change you, convert you - from the inside out! Remember that our Savior came to set us an example. He kept the Sabbath faithfully all His life, including throughout His ministry. The apostles and disciples also followed suit. We must, therefore, walk as they walked in this matter.

The truth about the Sabbath is fundamental to the Word of Yah. It is solid bedrock, ground level doctrine. Sunday keeping is nowhere to be found or even intimated in all the Scriptures. It is simply an invention of man and pagan to the core - and it is admitted to by many of the leading Sunday keeping organizations and church leaders.

I strongly urge you to embrace the pure truth of Yahweh on this issue. John wrote concerning those of us in the end time, by saying: "Come out of her (world's religious system), my people, that you be not partakers of her sins, and that you receive not of her plagues" (Rev. 18:4). This dire warning is directed toward you today! The information and knowledge that you need is before your eyes at this very moment. Take the challenge that Yahweh is giving you and **ACCEPT IT TODAY!** Prove it to yourself out of your own Bible!

Paul wrote: "*There remains, therefore, a SABBATH REST FOR THE PEOPLE OF Elohim; for anyone who enters into His rest (the Kingdom) also rests from his own work (today), just as Elohim did from His*" (Heb. 4:9-10). May Almighty Yahweh help you to truly see the light on this most important subject. Yield to Him right now and allow Him to teach you, to convict you and to inspire you to **REMEMBER THE SABBATH DAY, TO KEEP IT HOLY!**

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