

The fraise “the Lord's day” is mentioned only once in Rev: 1:10. But “the day of the Lord” is mentioned in the Old Testament 24 times and 5 times in the New Testament.

When John wrote about being in the Spirit of the “*Lord’s day*” or “*day of the Lord*” he is refering to the Second Coming of Jesus Christ as King of kings, as prophesied in the book of Revelation. It refers to “*the day of the Lord's vengeance*, and the year of recompense for the controversy of Zion.” (Is: 34: 8; 64: 10; see also Joel 2: 1-2 and 30-32). “For *the great day of His wrath* is come” as “*a day of darkness and of gloominess, a day of clouds and of thick darkness, . . . there hath not been ever the like, neither shall be any more after it.*” - The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the great and terrible *day of the Lord* come. It will be *a day filled with “great tribulation , such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time* (Mt. 24:21-22).

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*Brotherhood
in
Jesus Christ*

Bible Studies

*Remember the Sabbath,
the 7th Day*

Lesson # 13

Sabbath, the Seventh day, should it be observed?

The question is frequently asked, “Why do some people observe the day of rest on Saturday instead of Sunday?” The most casual reader of the scriptures will not find Saturday or Sunday mentioned by those names in the Bible. Actually, these two days of the Roman Calendar are referred to in the Bible as the Sabbath and as the first day of the week.

The Bible says, “Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labor, and do all thy work: but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord thy God” [Ex: 20. 8-10]. This verse identifies Saturday as the 7th day Sabbath and Sunday as the 1st day of the week. The 7th day of the week, which is preceding the first day of the week, is commonly referred to as the Sabbath in the Bible. In Matthew 28:1, the Sabbath is clearly identified as the day which falls before the first day of the week. The verse reads: “In the end of the Sabbath, as it began to dawn toward the first day of the week.” On our calendar Saturday is the 7th day of the week. Many people attend church services on that day, because they believe Saturday is the Biblical Sabbath or day of rest that should be observed.

Why did God set this day apart?

He did this to give us an example to follow. He set the Sabbath aside that we likewise should rest from our daily toils to take care of our worldly affairs and daily labours of life to spend time with Him and commemorate His creation and rest as He did. For “By the word of the Lord were the heavens made; and all the host of them by the breath of His mouth. He gathered the waters of the sea together as an heap: he laid up the depth in storehouses. Let all the earth fear the Lord: let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of Him. For He spoke, and it was done; He commanded, and it stood fast.” (Ps: 33:6-9)

God chose this day, blessed it and set it aside to be kept

Paul refers. They were a “shadow of things to come”, of the law of Moses, which has been done away with (Eph. 2:15; Col. 2:14). They were the handwritings of ordinances which were against and contrary to us (Col. 2:14 and Gal. 3:19). Which stood only in meats and drinks, and divers washings, and carnal ordinances, imposed on them until the time of reformation” (Heb: 9:10). They were added Laws because of transgression (Gal. 3:19).

Who then changed the day of rest
from Saturday to Sunday?

Daniel 7:25 tells us that a religious power would come and “think to change times and laws.” And that is exactly what has taken place.

Most of the early Christian churches kept the Sabbath on the seventh day of the week for 300 hundred years after Christ’s resurrection. Some Christians started to observe the first day of the week, the day of the sun, because they wanted not to be associated with the Jews, which the Romans persecuted. It was at the council of Laodicea in 346 AD under the direction of the emperor Constantine when the most prominent branch of the Christian church decided to permanently change the day of worship to Sunday, the first day of the week!

The issue is clear

The issue is allegiance, for Jesus said in John 14:15: “If you love Me, keep My commandments.” – And Revelation 14:7 gives the warning message to the whole world: “Fear God, and give glory to Him; for the hour of His judgment is come: and worship Him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters.”

What about the “Lord’s day?”

Isn’t it referring to the 7th day?

Some people think that the Lord’s day refers to the weekly Sabbath. But the truth is that this day has nothing to do with the weekly Sabbath. It refers to the wrath of God at His second return to earth (Rev. 6:17; 14: 19; 15: 1).

law, and commandments which I have written; that thou mayest teach them.”

Why do you think God chose only the fourth Commandment to begin with the emphasis: **“Remember”**? God did so, because He knew that man would forget and try to push His law aside. Make no mistake, Satan hates God's commandments, especially the Sabbath day, and causes people to resist to keep the fourth commandment. Satan hates it, because it is a connecting link to our relationship with God. Revelation 12:17 even tells us that the dragon is wroth with the remnant that keeps the commandments of God and has the testimony of Jesus Christ.

Jesus never changed this day of worship!

For He said in Matthew 5:17-19:

“Think not that I am come to destroy the law or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfill.” Not “one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass away from the law” - not even the smallest detail - would pass from God's law until heaven and earth pass away. Nowhere does the Bible tell us that the Sabbath was abolished or changed. Neither did the disciples change it. In fact, by the time Jesus died at Calvary, His followers still kept the Sabbath “according to the commandment” (Luke 23: 56). And passages such as Acts 13: 42-44; 16:13 and 18:4 make it clear that they continued to observe the Sabbath long after the resurrection.

Now some people claim that the calendar has been tampered with and changed! That is true, but the weekly cycle has never changed. The 7th day Sabbath always fell on the same day of the week. In fact, in many languages of the world, Saturday is still called the Sabbath or Sabot or in other similar recognizable fashion.

Others refer to 1Colossians 2: 15-17, which confuses some people. This passage appears to suggest that the Sabbath has been abolished. But, if we carefully look at it, we see that it refers to the yearly “high day Sabbaths” to which

by all mankind as a day of rest, but some theologians wrongly assume that the seventh day was given at Mount Sinai and has to be kept by the Jews only. – To this assumption we should ask ourselves the question; how many Jews lived in the Garden of Eden? - None! - Jews came into existence several hundreds of years after creation and only after God had made a covenant with Abraham to become the father of many nations (Gen. 17:2, 5).

For God is the Creator of all things (Is 66:1-2) and as such has the right and authority to set the rules (Jn. 5:26-27)! And Mark 2:27-28 informs us that “The Sabbath was made for man, and not man for the Sabbath: Therefore the Son of man is Lord also of the Sabbath.” (Lk. 6:5)

Jesus tells us if we break one of the commandments, we are guilty of all. “For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all. For he that said, Do not commit adultery, said also, Do not kill. Now if thou commit no adultery, yet if thou kill, thou art become a transgressor of the law.” (Jms: 2:10). If we do not steal yet dishonor our parents, we become transgressors of the law. If we do not kill, but break the 4th commandment, we become transgressors of the whole law. Because we do not rest on the Sabbath as God said.

We therefore observe the Sabbath to please God in obedience to His commandments as well as to our own benefit. There are many reasons why the Sabbath should be observed. We are God's children created in His image and children need care and to provide care requires time as an island of stability, order and guidance. The Sabbath is a time of rest that God provided and set aside for the benefit of all mankind. The Sabbath provides:

- a. Time for physical rest from work. (Mk. 2:27)
- b. Time for praise and thankfulness for God's goodness.
- c. Time to study God's word for guidance and instruction

in righteousness. (1 Tim. 4:16)

- d. Assurance (Mt. 11: 28-30). For our gospel came not unto us in word only, but in power, in the Holy Ghost and with much assurance (1 Thes. 1:5).
- e. A time for healing of our physical bodies. (Mal. 4:2)
- f. Remembrance of Jesus' resurrection: For it happened "In the *end of the Sabbath*, as it began to dawn, draw close to sunset, toward the first day of the week." (Mat. 28: 1-6)

The following is a list of many other reasons why we should keep the Sabbath holy. We should do so because:

1. God created the Sabbath as a day of rest (Gen. 2.3).
2. The Sabbath was made for man and not man for the Sabbath: (Mk: 2:27). God set His stamp of authority on it.
3. God rested from His labours on the seventh day (Gen. 2:2; Ex: 20: 11).
4. God blessed the seventh, sanctified and set it aside as a blessing for all mankind, (Gen. 2.3) to provide physical rest from our weekly labor and allow time for praise, peace, physical and spiritual health. (Ps. 34; Is. 32:17-18 and 1Thes. 1:5).
5. God never removed His blessing from the 7th day Sabbath. There is no record in scripture that it was replaced with another day.
6. God's people kept the Sabbath before the Ten Commandments were given on Mount Sinai (Ex: 16:22-26).
7. God requires man to keep the Sabbath holy (Ex: 20:8 and Heb: 4:3, 47; Lk. 23:56)
8. God specifically forbade to do work on the Sabbath day, even in harvest time (Ex: 34: 21).
9. all people that keep the Sabbath are blessed (Is. 56: 6, 7 & 56: 2).
10. The Sabbath is God's holy day (Is. 58: 13-14).
11. The Sabbath is *a sign or seal* between God and His people (Ex: 31:16-17; Ez. 20: 12, 19-20 and Rev. 7: 2; See 'sign'

- and 'seal of righteousness of faith' in Rom. 4: 11.)
- 12. Jesus kept the Sabbath during His ministry (Lk: 4: 16).
- 13. Jesus Christ is Lord of the Sabbath (Mk. 2:38; Is. 58: 13, and Mat. 12:81).
- 14. Christ obeyed His Father and kept the seventh day Sabbath (Jn. 8: 12).
- 15. The Sabbath was observed at the time of the crucifixion (Lk. 23: 56; Acts 17: 2).
- 16. Paul recognized the Sabbath, preached to the Gentiles and held citywide gospel meetings on the Sabbath after his conversion (about 45 AD, Acts 13: 27, 42, 44)
- 17. Paul held prayer meetings on the Sabbath by the riverside, when no synagogue was available (Acts 16:13).
- 18. It was Paul's custom to preach every Sabbath for eighteen months (Acts 18: 1-4, 11).
- 19. The seventh day Sabbath will also be kept during the time of the millennium (Is. 66:23).
- 20. Adam and Eve knew of the Sabbath before the tables of stone were given to Moses on Mount Sinai (Ex: 16:23, 29). God had instructed the Patriarchs of old. (Gen. 26:5).

The tables of stone were given to Moses on Mount Sinai *six hundred and fifteen years later*, yet Abraham knew the statutes and laws of God. This shows us that they had to be in existence before Mount Sinai. If the commandments had not been known God would have not punished Cain for killing Abel. For Cain would not have known that it was wrong to kill (Gen. 4:8). For the 6th Commandment reads: Thou shalt not kill.

Yet many people claim that the 7th day Sabbath applies only to the Jews and use this explanation as their excuse not to keep it. Yet this day was so important to God that He included it in His moral law, which He had given Moses on Mount Sinai to be reintroduced to the Israelites.

For we read in Exodus 24:12:

"And the Lord said unto Moses, Come up to Me into the mount, and be there: and I will give thee tables of stone, and a