

## Sabbath and Antichrist Truth Revealed

After years of attending Church and believing Sunday was the Sabbath, I was astounded to find out I had the wrong day and that it was God's desire for me to keep the Sabbath and on the day He blessed and sanctified. This grieved me greatly. Not only that but as I researched this further I found it had a link with Bible prophecy and the Beast that the Little Horn power arose from described in Daniel 7 and Revelation 13. I was both astonished and angry to find out how the Sabbath got changed to Sunday and that the Bible even tells us that this antichrist power would change God's laws and spread false prophecy. Like many, I had also been taught it was acceptable to keep any day and anything else was legalism or we are under grace now not law. I never could understand the reasoning of those who taught or thought that. I considered the Commandments and contemplated whether God would really be pleased with me worshiping idols or having other God's before Him. I could only conclude that it made no sense. Surely God would not allow lying, stealing, murder or blasphemy. I know Jesus once summed up the last six commandments as to love your neighbour as yourself, but I am certain he could not have meant love your neighbour as in adultery.

When I asked why it was legalism to keep God's Commandments some said, "It's not legalism to keep the other nine, its just legalism to keep the fourth Commandment". This never made any sense to me either. I thought about the many scriptures where Jesus points out that if we love Him we will keep His Commandments. These are just some of the scriptures I considered; [1 John 2:4](#) "He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him." [John 15:10](#) "If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love." [1 John 5:3](#) "For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous." [John 14:15](#) "If ye love me, keep my commandments." No matter how hard I searched, I could never find a legitimate exception excluding the fourth. Something was screaming out inside me that something was very wrong but I thought, "How could so many Churches have it wrong?" There must be something I am missing. Bewildered, I continued to keep Sunday with no clear answers.

One scripture I found and did not understand was [Revelation 12:17](#) which says, "And the dragon (Satan) was wroth with the woman (The Church), and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ." I found through studying Bible prophecy, this refers to a Church God would raise up after the dark ages to restore His Church and Sabbath as it was in the book of Acts before Satan slowly changed it by the death and torture of millions over the centuries. For reasons now obvious, Satan would hate and make war with this Church and try to keep people from it. This now left me with the question of which Church keeps all God's Commandments? I found [500+ denominations](#) in the world but none that my family attended. How sad I now felt. God loves me so much that He sent His only son to die for me and with His love being totally unconditional there was no way in the world I was going to look for excuses not to spend this time with God because it might cause some inconvenience to my lifestyle. We should desire to return the same unconditional love and not grieve God by calling spending a day with Him legalism. If we love God how could we possibly do that? Below is the result of research on every argument I have heard regarding the Sabbath. The real eye opener was how it got changed to Sunday. I encourage you to read on and find out truths about what many call Histories Greatest Hoax.

### **Should we Keep Sunday in Honour of the Resurrection?**

Jesus did rise on the first day of the week, but nowhere is there the slightest indication in the Bible for us to keep that day holy. History confirms that there were some Christians after 120 AD that changed to Sunday to avoid the intense persecution for Judaism using the resurrection as their excuse, and there are always those who will do their own thing contrary to God's Word, but obviously it is not mans prerogative to change God's law for any reason. Jesus said, "...Full well you reject the commandment of God, that you may keep your own tradition." [Mark 7:9](#)

Many honourable events occurred on certain days of the week, but we have no command to keep them Holy. Jesus died for our sins on Friday. But not one Bible text hints that we should observe this day of such great significance that is probably the most significant event recorded in all history. It marks the moment our death sentence was commuted and our salvation assured. So how do we honour the crucifixion? Do we worship on Friday to honour the crucifixion? No! As long as you break the bread and drink the cup of communion you show the Lord's death till He comes. Communion is what commemorates the crucifixion on Friday. It was a dramatic moment when Jesus rose from the grave on that Sunday morning, but again there is no biblical evidence whatsoever that we should observe it in honour of the resurrection. Not one instance of Sunday observance has been found in the recorded Scriptures. As with communion, honouring the resurrection should be done how God instructs us, not how man decides. This of course is done through Baptism which is a memorial of the resurrection commanded in the Bible, but it is not Sunday keeping. Paul wrote in [Romans 6:4](#) "Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life." Communion commemorates the Friday crucifixion and Baptism commemorates Christ's death, burial and Sunday resurrection.

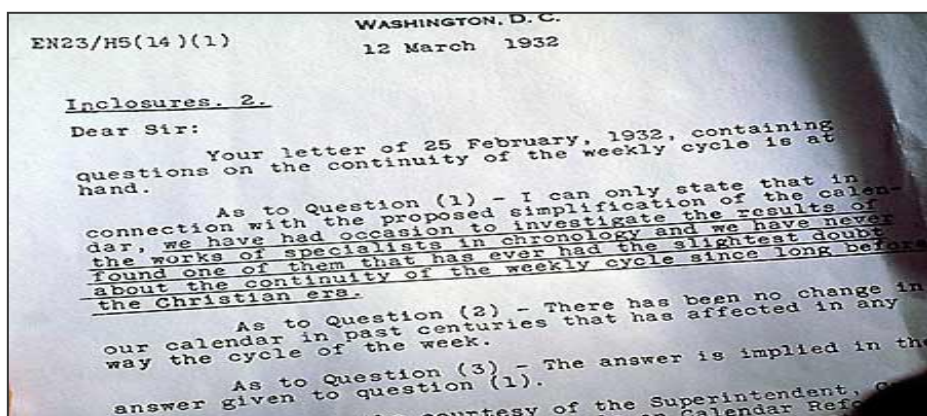
Those who believe that Sunday observance honours His resurrection cite the upper room meeting of the disciples on the same day He arose from the grave. To them that gathering was to celebrate His resurrection. But when we read the Bible record of the event, we discover that the circumstances were quite different. Luke tells us that, even though the disciples were confronted with the eyewitness story of Mary Magdalene, they "believed not." [Mark 16:12-14](#) states, "After that he appeared in another form unto two of them, as they walked, and went into the country. And they went and told it unto the residue: neither believed they them. Afterward he appeared unto the eleven as they sat at meat, and upbraided them with their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they believed not them which had seen him after he was risen." Obviously, none of those disciples believed He was raised, so they could not have been joyously celebrating His resurrection. John explains their reason for being together, "...the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled for fear of the Jews..." [John 20:19](#). See also "Sunday Keeping in Corinth."

## Has the Calendar been changed?

Yes, the calendar has been changed but it was never changed so as to affect the weekly cycle of days or confuse the days of the week. We can be one hundred percent positive that our seventh day is the same day Jesus observed when He was here. Pope Gregory XIII was responsible for a calendar change in 1582, but it did not interfere with the weekly cycle. Our present Gregorian calendar was named after him when he made that small change in 1582.

What did Pope Gregory XIII do to the calendar? Before 1582 the Julian calendar had been in effect instituted by Julius Caesar about 46 B.C. and named after him. But the Julian calendar had calculated the length of the year as 365 1/4 days, which was incorrect as the length of a year was actually eleven minutes less than 365 1/4 days. Those eleven minutes accumulated, and by 1582 the numbering of the calendar was ten days out of harmony with the solar system. Pope Gregory fixed the problem by simply dropping those ten days out of the numbering of the calendar. It was Thursday, October 4, 1582, and the next day, Friday, should have been October 5. But Gregory made it October 15 instead, dropping exactly ten days to bring the calendar back into harmony with the heavenly bodies. Were the days of the week confused? No. Friday still followed Thursday, and Saturday still followed Friday etc. The same seventh day remained and the weekly cycle was not disturbed in the least. When we keep the seventh day on Saturday, we are observing the same day Jesus kept, and Luke 4:16 tells us Jesus did this every week.

**Ten dates were omitted from the calendar following October 4, 1582. What would have been Friday, October 5, became Friday, October 15. A new system of leap years was inaugurated after this change. The U.S. Naval Observatory has also reported that there has never been any change in the continuity of the weekly cycle.**



## Can we be sure we have the True Seventh Day?

We can be sure. This is a fallacy that has comforted many in their disobedience to the fourth commandment. Beside the fact that God would not allow the day to be lost, here are four other proofs that identify the true Sabbath today:

1. Many people today have never given much thought to which is the seventh day of the week. I assumed for many years that Sunday was the seventh day and Monday was the first day. You can imagine my surprise when I found out this was incorrect. An easy way to confirm this is to just look up Saturday in any normal dictionary. Here are two.

**Saturday** *n.* the seventh day of the week; day after Friday; day of worship among Jews and some Christians.

**Saturday** *n.* the seventh and last day of the week: the Sabbath.

2. The Scriptures say Christ died on Friday and rose on Sunday, the first day of the week. Practically all churches acknowledge this fact by observing Good Friday and Easter Sunday. Here is the Bible evidence: "This man went unto Pilate, and begged the body of Jesus. And he took it down, and wrapped it in linen, and laid it in a sepulchre that was hewn in stone, wherein never man before was laid. And that day was the preparation, and the Sabbath drew on." [Luke 23:52-54](#). This clearly shows Jesus died the day before the Sabbath. It was called "the preparation day" because it was the time to get ready (to prepare) for the Sabbath. Verses 55 and 56 go on to say, "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 rested the Sabbath day according to the commandment." Note that the women rested over the Sabbath "according to the commandment" and that the book of Luke was written decades after the cross showing the Sabbath unquestionably remained unchanged. The commandment says, "The seventh day is the Sabbath," so we know they were observing Saturday. The very next verse says; "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 they found the stone rolled away from the sepulchre." [Luke 24:1-2](#). How clearly these three consecutive days are described for us. He died Friday, the preparation day, commonly called Good Friday. He rested in the tomb on the seventh day, Sabbath, "according to the commandment." That was Saturday. Then on Sunday, the first day of the week, Easter Sunday to many, Jesus arose from the grave. Anyone who can locate Good Friday or Easter Sunday will have absolutely no difficulty finding the true Sabbath day.

3. The third proof lies in the fact that in over 100 languages of the world, the seventh day Saturday is still called the Sabbath. In Italy it is called Sabato, in Spain Sabado, in Portugal Sabbado, in Russia Subbota and Poland Sobota. All of these names mean "Sabbath" or "rest day" in their various languages. What does this prove? It proves that when those 100 languages originated at Babel in Genesis 11, Saturday was recognized as the Sabbath day and was incorporated into the very name of the day. Except for those languages that have adopted the pagan names for the days of the week, the seventh day is still called the Sabbath as the Lord named it at the time of creation. Strong's dictionary shows the word translated "rest" in our English Bibles in Genesis 2:3, is actually "Sabbath" in the Hebrew.

4. Here is the most conclusive proof of all for the true Sabbath. The Jewish people have been observing the seventh day from the time of Abraham, and they still keep it today. Here is a whole nation, millions of individuals who have been counting off time meticulously, week after week, calendar or no calendar, for thousands of years. Could they have lost track of days? That would be impossible! The only way they could have lost a day would have been for the entire nation to have slept over an extra day and for no one ever to tell them about it afterwards. There is no scientific or astronomical reason for measuring time in cycles of seven days. The origin of the week is found in the creation story and it is an arbitrary arrangement of God and has been miraculously preserved for one reason, which is because the holy Sabbath day points to the creative power of the only true God. It is a sign of His sovereignty over the world and over human life, a sign of creation and redemption. Is this not the reason God will preserve Sabbath keeping throughout eternity? We read in [Isaiah 66:22-23](#) *"For as the new heavens and the new earth, which I will make, shall remain before me, saith the Lord, so shall your seed and your name remain. 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, saith the Lord."* The Sabbath is so precious to God that His true Children will observe it throughout all time to see in the beautiful *new heavens and the new earth*. If it is so precious to God then shouldn't it be precious to us? If the Sabbath was made and kept since creation and we keep it for all eternity, then shouldn't we be keeping it now?

### **Can we just Keep any Day in Seven?**

By this argument Satan prepared the world to accept a substitute in place of the Sabbath God had specifically commanded. Upon the tables of stone God wrote the great unchanging law of the ages with His own finger. Every word was serious and meaningful. Not one line was ambiguous or mysterious. Sinners and Christians, educated and uneducated, have no problem understanding the simple, clear words of the Ten Commandments. So does God mean what he says or not? God does mean what He says and He says what He means. He said unmistakably to keep the seventh day, not any day in seven. No one has tried to void that law as too complicated to comprehend. Some say they keep the Sabbath every day of the week. Is this what God said to do? My Bible says *"Six days you shall work but the Seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord."* Can we just respond to God by saying, *"You got it wrong God, the Seventh day is not your Sabbath we can just keep any or every day."* Isn't that dangerous to mock God and His Commandment like that? God desires us to worship Him every day, doing everything at all times to His glory, however, as to a Holy day of worship, God has commanded only one and has set apart no other day. We worship God seven days a week but if we kept the Sabbath seven days a week, we would not be Holy, we would be lazy.

Most of the big Ten begin with the same words: *"Thou shalt not,"* but right in the heart of the law we find the fourth Commandment which is introduced with the word, *"Remember."* Why is this one different? Because God was commanding them to call something to memory which already existed but had been forgotten. Genesis describes the origin of the Sabbath in these words, *"Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. And on the seventh day God ended his work which he had made...And God blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it: because that in it he had rested from all his work which God created and made."* [Genesis 2:1-3](#). Which day did God bless and sanctify? The seventh day. How was it to be kept holy? By resting. Could any of the other six be kept holy? No. Why? Because God commanded not to rest those days but to work. In [Leviticus 10](#), Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron were supposed to bring Holy fire from the altar but instead brought, as the Bible phrases it, strange fire. Did the Holy fire and the secular fire look the same? Yes. Were they chemically the same? Yes. Was God happy with the secular fire instead of Holy fire? [Leviticus 10:2](#) says, *"And there went out fire from the LORD, and devoured them, and they died before the LORD."* God was definitely not happy with their strange fire. So how does God feel when we offer Him a secular day instead of His Holy day? How does God feel when we offer a day used for sun worship (Sunday) that God detested? Does God's blessing have any value or is it worthless? Why do parents pray for God to bless their children? The seventh day is different from the other six because it has God's blessing and is Holy. Why did God make this day Holy? He made this day Holy because He is Holy and it is for intimate Holy time with Him. Ever heard the expression you can't change it because it's written in stone? It is very relevant that the Commandments were written in stone by God's finger. When God puts it on stone like this it's solid, it's eternal and it's immovable and you can't change it. God gave many other Laws to Moses at Mt Sinai but they were not written in stone and most of those were nailed to the cross. The Ten Commandments were the only thing God wrote in stone.

Why did God bless the day? Because He had created the world in six days. It was the birthday of the world, a memorial of the mighty act of creation. It is the test Commandment of our love and obedience to God while also celebrating creation and reminding us He can and will do it again. Can the Sabbath memorial be changed? Never. It points backward to an accomplished fact. July 4 is Independence Day. Can it be changed? It can't change anymore than your birthday. It is a memorial of your birth, which happened on a set day. History would have to run through again to change your birthday, or Independence Day, or to change the Sabbath day. We can call another day Independence Day, and we can call another day the Sabbath, but that will never make it so. It is the day that it is.

Did God ever give man the privilege of choosing his own day of rest? He did not. In fact, God confirmed in the Bible that the Sabbath was settled and sealed by His own divine selection and should not be tampered with. Read [Exodus 16](#) concerning the giving of manna. For 40 years God worked three miracles every week to show Israel which day was holy. **(1)** No manna fell on the seventh day. **(2)** They could not keep it overnight without spoilage, but **(3)** when they kept it over the Sabbath, it remained sweet and fresh. But some Israelites had the same idea as many modern Christians. They felt that any day in seven would be all right to keep holy: *"And it came to pass, that there went out some of the people on the seventh day for to gather, and they found none. And the Lord said unto Moses, How long refuse ye to keep my commandments and my laws?"* [Exodus 16:27-28](#). Sadly, these people thought another day could be kept just as well as the seventh day. Perhaps they were planning to observe the first day of the week, or some other day which was more convenient for them. This seems to be the plan for many Christians today.

So how did God respond? God accused them of breaking His law by going forth to work on the seventh day. Would God say the same thing to those who break the Sabbath today? Yes. He is the same yesterday, today and forever, He changes not. God made it clear that, regardless of our feelings, those who go forth to work on the Sabbath are breaking His law. James explains that it is a sin to break even one Commandment: *“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.”* James 2:10-11.

### Was the Sabbath made only for the Jews?

This falsehood has gained such strength that multitudes of Christians refer to it as the “Jewish Sabbath.” But nowhere do we find such an expression in the Bible. It is called “the Sabbath of the Lord,” but never “the Sabbath of the Jews.” Exodus 20:10. Luke was a Gentile writer of the New Testament and often made reference to things which were peculiarly Jewish. He spoke of the “nation of the Jews,” “the people of the Jews,” “the land of the Jews,” and the “synagogue of the Jews.” Acts 10:22, 12:11, 10:39 and 14:1. But please take note that Luke never referred to the “Sabbath of the Jews,” and we do find that he mentioned the Sabbath repeatedly.

Christ unmistakably taught that *“the Sabbath was made for man.”* Mark 2:27. It does not say the Sabbath was made for Jews. Some say since it was made for man we can choose not to keep it. Is this true? Man was made on the sixth day and the only reason we have a seventh day is because God added it for a Sabbath rest for man. It was made for man at creation so what has changed? Nothing! The Pharisees thought the Sabbath was made just for them so Jesus was correcting them and said the Sabbath was made to be a blessing for ALL man and not a day of legalistic rules that they had turned it into. Picking corn on the Sabbath for a meal was a necessity and not unlawful.

The fact is that Adam was the only man in existence at the time God made the Sabbath. There were no Jews in the world for at least 2,000 years after creation. It could never have been made for them. Jesus used the term “man” in the generic sense, referring to mankind. The same word is used in connection with the institution of marriage which was also introduced at creation. Woman was made for man just as the Sabbath was made for man. Certainly no one believes that marriage was made only for the Jews. The fact is that two beautiful, original institutions were set up by God Himself before sin ever came into the world; marriage and the Sabbath. Both were made for man, both received the special blessing of the Creator and both continue to be just as holy now as when they were sanctified in the Garden of Eden. Note the “children of Israel” God was angry with for not keeping the Sabbath in Exodus 16:25-30 were not Jews either. They were Abraham’s seed just as we are. Galatians 3:29, *“And if ye be Christ’s, then are ye Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to the promise.”* We are in fact spiritual Jews! See also Romans 2:28-29.

Jesus was the One who made the Sabbath in the first week of time. There was a reason for His claim to be Lord of the Sabbath day (Mark 2:28). If He is the Lord of the Sabbath day, then the Sabbath must be the Lord’s Day. John had a vision on *“the Lord’s day,”* according to Revelation 1:10. That day had to be the Sabbath. It is the only day so designated and claimed by God in the Bible. In writing the Ten Commandments, God called it *“the Sabbath of the Lord.”* Exodus 20:10. Adam and Eve were not Jewish. *“God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it.”* Genesis 2:3. Sanctified means “to be set apart for holy use.” This was pre-sin and the only ones in Eden to “Sanctify” the Sabbath were Adam and Eve. The other Nine are not “Just for the Jews.” Does idolatry, murder, stealing and adultery apply only to Jews? The Sabbath is also for the “stranger” who are Gentiles. Exodus 20:10. In *“the new earth ... from one Sabbath to another, shall ALL FLESH come to worship before me, saith the Lord.”* Isaiah 66:22-23. Grace saved Gentiles kept the Sabbath. *“The Gentiles besought that these words be preached to them the next Sabbath ... Paul and Barnabas ... persuaded them to continue in the grace of God.”* Acts 13:42-43. Luke was a Gentile who kept the Sabbath. Luke was the only Gentile writer in the New Testament. He travelled with Paul and wrote, *“On the Sabbath we went out of the city by a river side.”* Acts 16:13. It was the Creation Sabbath. Both Luke and Paul knew it.

This argument has also led many to believe the Sabbath existed only for a limited period of time following creation. But is this a fact? Actually, the Sabbath could never be just a type or shadow of anything, for the simple reason that it was made before sin entered the human family. Certain shadows and typical observances (ordinances) were instituted as a result of sin and pointed forward to the deliverance from sin. Such were the sacrifices employed to symbolize the death of Jesus, the Lamb of God. There would have been no animal sacrifices had there been no sin. These offerings were abolished when Christ died on the cross, because the types had met their fulfilment (Matthew 27:51). But no shadow existed before sin entered this world; therefore, the Sabbath could not be included in the ceremonial law of types and shadows. The ceremonial laws were temporary but all of God’s moral law is eternal as it mirrors His loving, unchanging Holy character. He is *“the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever.”* Hebrews 13:8.

Paul referred to the temporary system of ordinances in Colossians 2:14-16 as being *“against us”* and *“contrary to us.”* He tied it to the meat offerings, drink offerings and yearly festivals of the law that were *“blotted out.”* It is true he referred to Sabbaths also in the text, but take careful note that he called them *“Sabbath days* (note also the original Greek here is plural) *which are a shadow of things to come.”* Were some Sabbath days blotted out at the cross? Yes, there were at least four yearly Sabbaths which came on certain set days of the month, and they were nailed to the cross. They were shadows and required specified meat and drink offerings. All of these annual Sabbaths are described in Leviticus 23:24-36, and then summarized in verses 37 and 38: *“These are the feasts of the Lord, which ye shall proclaim to be holy convocations, to offer an offering made by fire unto the Lord, a burnt offering, and a meat offering, a sacrifice, and drink offerings, every thing upon his day: beside the Sabbaths of the Lord...”* The Scripture differentiates between the annual, shadowy Sabbaths and the weekly *“Sabbaths of the Lord.”* The ceremonial Sabbaths were blotted out at the cross; they had been added as a consequence of sin. But the Sabbath of the Ten Commandments was hallowed before sin and Jews and later incorporated into the moral law written by the finger of God. It was eternal in its very nature as is all God’s law of love. See also *“Was the Sabbath Abolished.”*

## Were the Ten Commandments Abolished or Only for Jews?

It grieves me to say that it is commonly taught, without any scriptural authority, that the Ten Commandments were abolished at the cross. Proponents of this never stop to realize that, if there is no law, there is no transgression as Paul plainly states in Romans 4:15. This would mean that no one has sinned since Christ's death, and therefore, we would have no need for a Saviour! God's law is a gift to mankind, yet humanity thanklessly rejects it. As good and glorious as this law is, human nature is hostile to it. (Romans 8:7) Selfishly, it wants to have everything God's way of life brings but it rebelliously resents travelling the road God demands one should take to obtain His blessings. Paul writes in [Romans 7:12](#) that "...the law is holy, and the commandment holy and just and good."

Notice how God's moral law (The Ten Commandments) is a reflection of God's most beautiful and Holy character. To declare that the God's moral law is no longer relevant is an insult and attack on God, His Holy character and love.

|   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| » Romans 16:26: God is <b>Eternal</b><br>» Psalm 111:7-8: The law is <b>Eternal</b>     | » Luke 18:19: God is <b>Good</b><br>» Romans 7:12: The law is <b>Good</b>       | » I John 1:5: God is <b>Light</b><br>» Proverbs 6:23: The law is <b>Light</b>       |
| » John 4:24: God is <b>Spiritual</b><br>» Romans 7:14: The law is <b>Spiritual</b>      | » Deuteronomy 32:4: God is <b>Just</b><br>» Romans 7:12: The law is <b>Just</b> | » Psalms 48:1: God is <b>Great</b><br>» Hosea 8:12: The law is <b>Great</b>         |
| » Psalm 145:17: God is <b>Righteous</b><br>» Psalm 119:172: The law is <b>Righteous</b> | » 1 John 3:3: God is <b>Pure</b><br>» Psalms 19:8: The law is <b>Pure</b>       | » Deuteronomy 32:4: God is <b>Truth</b><br>» Psalm 119:142: The law is <b>Truth</b> |
| » Matthew 5:48: God is <b>Perfect</b><br>» Psalm 19:7: The law is <b>Perfect</b>        | » I John 4:8: God is <b>Love</b><br>» Romans 13:10: The law is <b>Love</b>      | » Isaiah 5:16: God is <b>Holy</b><br>» Romans 7:12: The law is <b>Holy</b>          |

When God led the children of Israel out of Egyptian bondage, He delivered to them in fiery majesty the Ten Commandments. This holy law was spoken by God, written by God, recorded on tables of stone, and is of eternal duration. At the same time another law, of temporary usage, was also delivered to the children of Israel. This law dealt with the ceremonial rites of the Jewish sanctuary service, and concerned itself with a system of religion that passed away at the cross. Large sections of Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy describe in detail this temporary ceremonial code. This Law can easily be identified in the Scriptures. It talks about circumcision (a religious Jewish rite), sacrifices, offerings, purifications, ceremonial holy days, and other rites associated with the Hebrew sanctuary service. Let the Bible explain itself and clarify the differences between these two laws.

| THE MORAL LAW<br>(The Ten Commandments)                                   | THE CEREMONIAL LAW<br>(A temporary Jewish law)   |
|---|--|
| 1. Spoken by God Himself. Exodus 20:1-22                                  | 1. Spoken by Moses. Exodus 24:3  |
| 2. Was written by God. Exodus 31:18; Exodus 32:16                         | 2. Written by Moses hand. Exodus 24:4; Deuteronomy 31:9  |
| 3. On stones. Exodus 31:18  | 3. In a book. Exodus 24:3, 7; Deuteronomy 31:24  |
| 4. Handed by God its writer, to Moses. Exodus 31:18                       | 4. Handed by Moses, its writer to Levites. Deuteronomy 31:25-26  |
| 5. Deposited by Moses "in the ark." Deuteronomy 10:5                      | 5. Deposited by the Levites "by the side of the ark." Deuteronomy 31:26, ARV   |
| 6. Deals with moral precepts. Exodus 20:3-17                              | 6. Deals with ceremonial, ritual matters. (See parts of Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy).                |
| 7. Reveals sin. Romans 7:7  | 7. Prescribes offerings for sins. (See book of Leviticus).   |
| 8. Breaking of "the law" is "sin." 1 John 3:4                             | 8. No sin in breaking, for now "abolished." Ephesians 2:15 (Where no law is, there is no transgression. Romans 4:15) |
| 9. Should "keep the whole law". James 2:10                                | 9. Apostles gave "no such commandment" to "keep the law." Acts 15:24   |
| 10. Because we "shall be judged" by this law. James 2:12                  | 10. Not to be judged by it. Colossians 2:16  |
| 11. The Christian who keeps this law is "blessed in his deed." James 1:25 | 11. The Christian who keeps this law is not blessed. (See for example, Galatians 5:1-6)                              |
| 12. "The perfect law of liberty." James 1:25 (Cf. James 2:12)             | 12. The Christian who keeps this law loses his liberty. Galatians 5:1, 3   |
| 13. Paul said, "I delight in the law of God." Romans 7:22 (Cf. verse 7)   | 13. Paul called this law a "yoke of bondage." Galatians 5:1; Galatians 4:3, 9 (See Acts 15:10)                       |
| 14. Established by faith in Christ. Romans 3:31                           | 14. Abolished by Christ. Ephesians 2:15  |
| 15. Christ was to "magnify the law and make it honourable." Isaiah 42:21  | 15. Blotted "out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us." Colossians 2:14                                 |

To the unbiased reader of God's Word, it becomes more than clear that the Ten Commandments are binding upon all men for all time in every place, whereas no man is bound to keep the Ceremonial Law, often referred to as the ordinances that were fulfilled in Christ. The Ceremonial Law with its sacrificial system pointed the people to the coming of Christ. Every time the blood of a beast was shed in the old Jewish temple, it was a dramatic reminder to the onlooker that One would come and die for his sin. Hence, John the Baptist pointed to our Lord and declared the significant words, "*Behold the Lamb of God*". When He died on Calvary's cross the veil of the great temple curtain was torn from top to bottom, to signify that the entire ceremonial system was forever finished. Matthew 27:50-51. No longer do the priests need offer up sacrifices. The One great and perfect Sacrifice was offered that Friday afternoon, when the true Passover Lamb bowed His head and died. When He cried out, "*It is finished*", the old Ceremonial Law that pointed the people to His sacrificial death was nailed to the cross. But NOT so with the Ten Commandments. There was nothing temporary about them. They are to last as long as heaven and earth. Matthew 5:17-19

This is how [Matthew 5:17-19](#) reads, “Do not think that I have come to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I have not come to destroy but to fulfill. For truly I say to you, Till the heaven and the earth pass away, not one jot or one tittle shall in any way pass from the Law until all is fulfilled. Therefore whoever shall relax one of these commandments, the least, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least [by those] in the kingdom of Heaven. But whoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of Heaven.”

Jesus certainly did not have any intentions of making any change; in fact, Jesus condemned men who taught that it was in order to break God’s law, and commended those who taught the necessity of keeping it. This one passage alone is the absolute proof that the Sabbath was not abolished or the day changed and everything else has to be misunderstandings or intentional excuses to justify why we don’t need to obey one of God’s Commandments. Jesus said, “... Till the heaven and the earth pass away, not one jot or one tittle shall in any way pass from the Law...”

This is what The People’s New Testament (1891) by B. W. Johnson comments in regards to the meaning of a “Jot” or “Tittle.” **One jot or tittle.** *Jot means the smallest letter of the Hebrew alphabet, while tittle refers to a simple turn by which one letter is distinguished from another. The expression, “jot or tittle,” was proverbial for the smallest part.*

Some Christian’s say, “But wait, to fulfil the law is to bring an end to the Ten Commandments and abolish them.” There is ample evidence to show that this is absolute nonsense. Firstly, this would give us multiple contradictions in this passage. If fulfilling the law ends the law then the law is destroyed. Jesus assures us in Matthew 5:17 that He did not come to destroy the law. Not only did Jesus not come to destroy the law but instead He came to magnify the law. We should not be strangers to this fact as we are given a Messianic prophecy that tells us that Christ would in fact do exactly this. [Isaiah 42:21](#), “The LORD is well pleased for his righteousness’ sake; he will magnify the law, and make it honourable.” In the remainder of Matthew chapter 5 we see how Jesus has without a doubt magnified the law. We note the following; Matthew 5:19 from not only obeying the law but teaching it also, 5:21-22 from do not kill to not being angry with your brother without cause, 5:27-28 from do not commit adultery to being guilty adultery if you look at a woman lustfully, 5:31 from divorcing by a letter to any man who divorces his wife except for sexual immorality, causes her or anyone who marries the divorced woman to commit adultery, 5:33-37 from not breaking oaths made to the Lord to do not swear at all, either by heaven or earth or by Jerusalem. And do not swear by your head, let your Yes be Yes, and your No, No, 5:38-42 from an eye for an eye and tooth for a tooth to turning the other cheek and if someone sues you for your coat, give them your cloak also, 5:43-45 from love your neighbour and hate your enemy to love your enemies and bless them that curse you and pray for those that are spiteful and use you.

Does this give the impression that Jesus came to destroy the law or that fulfilling the law ends the law? Who in their right mind could possibly come to that conclusion after reading what Jesus just said? If this were true, then here are some other things that have also ended. These scriptures also use the same Greek word G4137 as in verse 17.

[Matthew 3:15](#) “...it becometh us to **fulfil** all righteousness.”

[John 17:13](#) “...that they might have my joy **fulfilled** in themselves.”

[2 Thessalonians 1:11](#) “...and **fulfil** all the good pleasure of *his* goodness, and the work of faith with power.”

[Philippians 2:2](#) “**Fulfil** you my joy, that you be likeminded, having the same love...”

[John 17:12](#) “...that the scripture might be **fulfilled**.”

[Colossians 1:25](#) “...which is given to me for you, to **fulfil** the word of God.”

[2 Corinthians 10:6](#) “...having in a readiness to revenge all disobedience, when your obedience is **fulfilled**.”

#### **Thayer definition for G4137:**

1) to make full, to fill up, i.e. to fill to the full.

2) to render full, i.e. to complete. 2a) to fill to the top: so that nothing shall be wanting to full measure, fill to the brim. 2b) to consummate: a number. 2b1) to make complete in every particular, to render perfect. 2b2) to carry through to the end, to accomplish, carry out, (some undertaking). 2c) to carry into effect, bring to realisation, realise. 2c1) of matters of duty: to perform, execute. 2c2) of sayings, promises, prophecies, to bring to pass, ratify, accomplish. 2c3) **to fulfil, i.e. to cause God’s will (as made known in the law) to be obeyed as it should be**, and God’s promises (given through the prophets) to receive fulfilment.

The most relevant part for the word “fulfil” in Matthew 5:17 in the Thayer dictionary is “2C3.” Jesus did not come to destroy the law; He obeyed and carried out the law *to the full* and magnified it! Jesus never contradicts Himself.

So is the law only for the Jews? Does it apply to New Covenant Christians? Notice Acts 7:38-39 five chapters *after* the start of the New Testament church. This is Moses who was in the congregation in the wilderness with the Angel who spoke to him on Mount Sinai, and with our fathers, the one who *received the living oracles to give to us*, whom our fathers would not obey, but rejected. Speaking to the Jews, Stephen, a converted Christian, says that God gave these “living oracles...to us,” Christian and Jew. They are still in effect today as a complete, spiritual law, and we Christians and or Jews do not have the authority to choose which ones we want to obey. This event on Mount Sinai was the basis for making the Old Covenant, but what is the basis of the New Covenant? “*For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put My laws in their mind and write them on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.*” [Hebrews 8:10](#) (quoting Jeremiah 31:33).

From all the above proofs, two points are clear. **1.** God’s Ten Commandments (not the Nine Commandments and one suggestion) is not a temporary one designed to end or become obsolete at the cross or any other time. God’s moral law can no more change than God’s character can. He is the same yesterday, and today, and forever. **2.** His law is not a special law for one nation only. God is not a respecter of persons (Acts 10:34; Romans 1:16). Neither Gentiles nor Christians are excluded from the laws of God. (e.g., Exodus 12:38, 48-49; Isaiah 56:1-3, 6-7)

## Is there a New Law of Christ?

Some try to dispose of the law or the Sabbath based on the “new” commandment of love which Christ introduced. It is certainly true that Jesus laid down two great laws of love as a *summary* of all the law, but did He give the idea that these were new in point of time? Loving God with all your heart, soul and might and loving your neighbour as yourself was quoted not only by Jesus in the New Testament but is also found “from the beginning” i.e. the Old Testament. Jesus was in fact quoting directly from the Old Testament scriptures as He quite frequently did when He gave those commandments. “*And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might.*” [Deuteronomy 6:5](#). “*...Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.*” [Leviticus 19:18](#). Certainly, those penetrating spiritual principles had been forgotten by the legalists of Christ’s day, and they were new to them in relation to their life and practice. But they were not intended by Jesus to take the place of the Ten Commandments.

When a lawyer tried to trap Jesus into saying which was the greatest commandment in the law, he received the answer: “*Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. On these two commandments hang All the law and the prophets.*” [Matthew 22:37-40](#). Notice that these two commandments of love simply summed up “**all the law.**” All Ten Commandments hang upon these two principles of love. Christ was saying that love is the fulfilling of the law just as Paul said in [Romans 13:10](#). If one loves Christ supremely with heart, soul, and mind, *he will obey the first four commandments* that have to do with our duty to God. He will not take God’s name in vain, worship other gods, etc. If one loves his neighbour as himself, *he will obey the last six commandments*, which relate to our duty to our fellow man. He will not rob his neighbour or murder him etc. Love leads to obeying or fulfilling *all the law* and hence if you love God and man you are keeping all Ten Commandments.

If this was some “new” Law then Jesus and his apostles would no longer have kept the Sabbath but scripture shows in several places that they did which we will cover later. [Matthew 5:18](#) says, “*For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.*” [Matthew 19:18-19](#) says, “*...what good thing shall I do, that I may have eternal life?...Jesus said, You shall do no murder, You shall not commit adultery, You shall not steal, You shall not bear false witness, Honor your father and your mother: and, You shall love your neighbor as yourself.*” And after the cross, [Romans 13:9](#), “*... You shall not commit adultery, You shall not kill, You shall not steal, You shall not bear false witness, You shall not covet; and if there be any other commandment, it is summed up in this saying, namely, You shall love your neighbor as yourself.*”

What did Jesus mean exactly when He said a “new” commandment I give unto you? When Jesus died, He demonstrated the ultimate act of love. Did the disciples before the cross exercise the same Christ like love? We find in [Luke 22:24](#), “*And there was also a strife among them, which of them should be accounted the greatest.*” Jesus said in [John 13:34-35](#), “*A new commandment I give unto you, That you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. 35 By this shall all men know that you are my disciples, if you have love one to another.*” In the Greek there are two words for “NEW”, one means totally brand new and the other meaning new to us. The word Jesus used here was NOT brand new but new to us, meaning it was a type of love that would be new to them that they were not currently practising. In order for the disciples to continue the work of Christ, they had to be able demonstrate the same Christ like example of love, so as verse 35 says, “*By this shall all men know that you are my disciples, if you have love one to another*” in the same way that Jesus loved them and laid down His life. This is the new level of love that we all need to learn and walk in and what Paul expressed in [Ephesians 5:1-2](#) “*Be you therefore followers of God, as dear children; 2 And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us, and has given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet smelling savour.*” Jesus’ ultimate example of love was laying down His life for others and He knew that most of His Apostles would need to be prepared to do the same.

John said that there was nothing new about loving your neighbour as yourself and that this was a law from the beginning. John explains this in [1 John 2:7-8](#), “*I write NO new commandment unto you, but an old commandment which you had from the beginning*” followed by the words, “*Again, a new commandment I write unto you*” This sounds like a contradiction to the previous verse but John is pointing out what Jesus taught in that Loving your neighbour as yourself is now magnified to the strength that we should love one another to the point of being prepared to lay down our lives for each other as Christ did for us. John furthers this in [2 John 1:5-6](#), “*I beseech you, lady, NOT as though I wrote a new commandment unto you, but that which we had from the beginning, that we love one another. And this is love, that we walk after his commandments. This is the commandment, That, as you have heard from the beginning, you should walk in it.*” Jesus is the perfect model of the love of God in His perfect example of loving obedience. Christ loved us so much that He sacrificed His own life for us. He Himself explained this ever so beautifully in [John 15:13](#), “*Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one’s life for his friends.*”

## The Test of Love. Is Obedience Legalism?

Someone may bring up the objection that after the law has accomplished its purpose of pointing the sinner to Christ for cleansing, it will no longer be needed in the experience of the believer. Is that true? Most definitely not. Paul finds need to clarify this a few times. The Christian will always need the watchdog of the law to reveal any deviation from the true path and to point him back to the cleansing cross of Jesus. There will never be a time when that mirror of correction will not be needed in the progressive growth experience of a Christian. Law and grace do not work in competition with each other but in perfect cooperation. The law points out sin turning us to Christ for forgiveness and grace saves from sin. The law is the will of God and grace is the power to do the will of God. We do not obey the law in order to be saved but because we are saved. A beautiful text which combines the two in their true relationship is [Revelation 14:12](#), “*Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.*” What a perfect description of faith and works! And the combination is found in those who are “saints.”

The works of obedience is the real test of love. This is why they are so necessary in the experience of a true believer. *"Faith without works is dead."* James 2:20. No man ever won a fair maiden's heart by words alone. Jesus said, *"Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven."* Matthew 7:21. Words and profession are not enough. The true evidence is obedience. Today's bumper stickers reflect a shallow concept of love. They say, *"Smile if you love Jesus"* or *"Honk if you love Jesus"*; but what did the Master Himself say? He said, *"If ye love me, keep my commandments."* John 14:15. And that is exactly what most people don't want to do. If love makes no demands beyond a smile or wave, then it is welcome; but if the lifestyle must be disturbed, the majority will reject it. Unfortunately, most people today are not looking for truth. They are looking for a smooth, easy, comfortable religion which will allow them to live the way they please and still give assurance of salvation. There is indeed no true religion which can do that for them.

One of the strongest texts in the Bible on this subject is found in 1 John 2:4 *"He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him."* John could write that with such assurance because it is one of the most deeply established truths in the Bible. Jesus spoke of those who said, *"Lord, Lord,"* but did not do the will of the Father. Then He described many who would seek entrance to the kingdom claiming to be workers of miracles in the name of Christ. But He would sorrowfully have to say, *"I never knew you: depart from me."* Matthew 7:21-23. This is very sobering as Jesus is saying *"Not everyone who calls me 'Lord, Lord' will enter the Kingdom of heaven"*. God's grace does not cover deliberate disobedience that is therefore without genuine repentance. You see, to know Christ is to love Him, and to love Him is to obey Him. The valid assumption of the Bible writers is very clear and simple: If one is not obeying Christ, he does not love Christ. And if he doesn't love the Master, then he doesn't know Him. Thus, we can see how knowing and loving and obeying are all tied closely together and are absolutely inseparable in the life of God's faithful people. The beloved John summed it up in these words: *"For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous."* 1 John 5:3.

### **Was the Sabbath a Memorial of Deliverance Out of Egypt?**

This strange idea comes from the second reading of the law and is distorted to contradict many clear statements about the true origin of the Sabbath. Deuteronomy 5:14-15 reads, *"the seventh day is the sabbath of the Lord thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, nor thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, ... nor thy stranger that is within thy gates; that thy manservant and thy maidservant may rest as well as thou. And remember that thou wast a servant in the land of Egypt, and that the Lord thy God brought thee out thence through a mighty hand and by a stretched out arm: therefore the Lord thy God commanded thee to keep the sabbath day."*

Some draw from this text that God gave the Sabbath as a memorial of the Exodus from Egypt. But the Genesis story of the making of the Sabbath (Genesis 2:1-3) and the wording of the fourth commandment by God Himself (Exodus 20:11) reveals the Sabbath as a memorial of creation. The key to understanding these two verses rests in the word *servant*. God said, *"Remember that thou wast a servant in the land of Egypt."* And in the sentence before this one He reminds them *"that thy manservant and thy maidservant may rest as well as thou."* In other words, their experience in Egypt as servants would remind them to deal justly with their servants by giving them a Sabbath rest also.

In similar vein God had commanded, *"And if a stranger sojourn with thee in your land, ye shall not vex him ... for ye were strangers in the land of Egypt"* Leviticus 19:33-34. It was not unusual for God to hark back to the Egyptian deliverance as an incentive to obey other commandments. In Deuteronomy 24:17-18, God said, *"Thou shalt not pervert the judgment of the stranger, nor of the fatherless; nor take a widow's raiment to pledge. ... Thou wast a bondman in Egypt, and the Lord thy God redeemed thee thence: therefore I command thee to do this thing."*

Neither the command to be just nor to keep the Sabbath was given to memorialise the Exodus, but God told them that His goodness in bringing them out of captivity constituted a strong additional reason for their dealing kindly with their servants on the Sabbath and treating justly the strangers and widows. In the same way, God spoke to them in Leviticus 11:45, *"For I am the Lord that bringeth you up out of the land of Egypt...ye shall therefore be holy."* Surely no one would insist that holiness did not exist before the Exodus, or that it would be afterwards limited only to the Jews, to memorialise their deliverance. There is however one thing the Sabbath is a memorial of which is creation.

A year comes from the time it takes for the Earth to fully orbit the sun and a month is the time it takes for the Moon to orbit the Earth and a day of course, is the time it takes for the Earth to do one full rotation. But what astronomical reason do we have for our week? There is none. Our week comes from the time it took God to complete creation. So, if God finished creation in six days, why does the whole world have a seven-day week? The now obvious reason is because God rested on the seventh day and made it a memorial day for completion of creation. Remember also that the word translated "rest" in our English Bibles in Genesis 2:3 is actually "Sabbath" in the Hebrew. This extra day of the week existed **before sin** and is for **all people** to rest on and remember that God created us and all things and has the power to do it again. It is not just the Jews that have a seven-day week. The whole world does!

### **Is the Sabbath now just resting in Jesus?**

Are the words that God *personally* spoke and wrote in stone now null and void? Of course not. The way we rest in Jesus is by keeping the Sabbath as God commanded. There are many ways to manipulate the words of the Holy Bible to justify the things we would rather not acknowledge such as the Sabbath or all Ten Commandments, but the issue is simple. Can we now take the Lord's name in vain, worship idols or take another person's life? The answer is an obvious "No". And why not? Because the Bible does not say these laws have changed. Is there even one single verse that says, *"the seventh day is no longer the Sabbath of the Lord and we no longer need to rest or worship God on this day that is no longer blessed and Holy?"* There is no such verse. Matthew 5:18 says, *"the law will not change till heaven and earth pass"* Has heaven and earth passed? No. So neither have the clear words of God changed.



Not only have the crystal clear words of God not changed but the following verse says the Sabbath is a perpetual covenant (*never ending*) and a sign between God and the children of Israel forever. [Exodus 31:16-17](#), “*Wherefore the children of Israel shall keep the Sabbath, to observe the Sabbath throughout their generations, for a **perpetual covenant**. It is a sign between me and the children of Israel **for ever**: for in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, and on the seventh day he rested, and was refreshed.*” So we see that the Sabbath is eternal as are all Ten Commandments and this passage is further verified beyond doubt by the fact that we also find [Isaiah 66:22-23](#) says, “*For as the **new heavens and the new earth**, which I will make, shall remain before me, saith the LORD, so shall your seed and your name remain. 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, saith the LORD.*” Some will respond, “*but we are not Jews or Children of Israel,*” but [Galatians 3:28-29](#) tells us otherwise, “*There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for you are all one in Christ Jesus. And if you **be Christ’s**, then are you Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to the promise.*” And [Romans 2:28-29](#) says, “*For he is not a Jew, which is one outwardly; neither is that circumcision, which is outward in the flesh: But he is a Jew, which is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the spirit, and not in the letter; whose praise is not of men, but of God.*” For those who would continue to debate this need to ask themselves if they belong to God and are under His New Covenant. Because [Hebrews 8:10](#) says, “*For this is the **covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days**, saith the Lord; **I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people.***” If we are not spiritual children of Israel then we are also not under God’s New Covenant neither are we one of His Children. Note also that the only change to God’s law is where it is now written.

### **Aren’t we under Grace not Law?**

We often hear this argument in an effort to belittle God’s law, “*Well, since we are not under the law but under grace, we do not need to keep the Ten Commandments any longer.*” Is this a valid point? The Bible certainly does say that we are not under the law, but does that imply that we are free from the obligation to obey it? The text is found in [Romans 6:14-15](#), “*For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace. What then? shall we sin, because we are not under the law, but under grace? God forbid.*” How easily we could prevent confusion if we accepted exactly what the Bible says. Paul gives a clear explanation of his statement. After stating that we are not under law but grace, he asks, “*What then?*” This simply means, “*How are we to understand this?*” Then notice his answer. In anticipation that some will construe his words to mean that you can break the law because you are under grace, he says, “*Shall we sin (break the law) because we are not under the law but under grace? God forbid.*” In the strongest possible language Paul states that being under grace does not give a license to break the law. Yet this is exactly what millions believe today, and they totally ignore Paul’s specific warning. The simple way of explaining being under Grace is to say, we no longer have to keep the ceremonial law (ordinances) and we are no longer condemned by God’s Ten rules of love (Commandments), but we do still have to keep them.

Suppose a murderer has been sentenced to death in the electric chair. Waiting for the execution the man would truly be under the law in every sense of the word, under the guilt, under the condemnation, under the sentence of death, etc. Just before the execution date the governor reviews the condemned man’s case and decides to pardon him. In the light of extenuating circumstances the governor exercises his prerogative and sends a full pardon to the prisoner. Now he is no longer under the law but under grace. The law no longer condemns him. He is considered totally justified as far as the charges of the law are concerned. He is free to walk out of the prison and not a policeman can lay hands upon him. But now that he is under grace and no longer under the law, can we say that he is free to break the law? Indeed not! In fact, that pardoned man will be doubly obligated to obey the law because he has found grace from the governor. In gratitude and love he will be very careful to keep the law of the state which granted him grace.

Is that what the Bible says about pardoned sinners? “*Do we then make void the law through faith? God forbid: yea, we establish the law.*” [Romans 3:31](#). Here is the most explicit answer to the entire problem. Paul asks if the law is nullified for us just because we have had faith in Christ’s saving grace. His answer is that the law is established and reinforced in the life of a grace saved Christian. The truth of this is so simple and obvious that it should require no repetition, but the devious reasoning of those who try to avoid obedience makes it necessary to press this point a bit further. Have you ever been stopped by a policeman for exceeding the speed limit? It is an embarrassing experience, especially if you know you are guilty. But suppose you really were hurrying to meet a valid emergency, and you pour out your convincing explanation to the policeman as he writes your ticket. Slowly he folds the ticket and tears it up. Then he says, “*All right, I’m going to pardon you this time, but...*” Now what do you think he means by that word “*but*”? Surely he means, “*but I don’t want to ever catch you speeding again.*” Does this pardon (grace) open the way for you to disobey the law? On the contrary, it adds compelling urgency to your decision not to disobey the law again. Why, then, should any true Christian try to rationalize his way out of obeying the law of God? Consider carefully also what [1 John 3:4](#) says, “*Whoever sins is guilty of breaking God’s law, because sin is a breaking of the law.*” Are we sinners? If we are not sinners, then why was Jesus nailed to the cross for us?

### **How Could the Majority be Wrong?**

In regards to Christianity, the majority is hardly ever right. When Jesus was crucified, how many were right? When God flooded this Earth how many were right? When God destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah how many were right? The numbers are constantly small. How many people today have taken Jesus as their Lord and Saviour? Sadly that number is also an extremely small percentage. The Bible says the second coming is going to be like the days of Noah where only eight were saved. Revelation says that God is going to destroy a Church for its abominations and yet the majority belong to this Church. The fact is the majority are almost always wrong because Satan and his demons are always working hard to keep us deceived in every imaginable way. Sadly, they are very successful because the majority are not searchers of truth and don’t study His word or see only what they desire to see.

2 Timothy 4:3 says, "For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; 4 and they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables." After the Sabbath and many other truths were revealed to me in my search, I attempted to share these truths with large numbers of people and was astounded to find more than 98% would not even consider the possibility because they said how could so many be wrong, or they didn't want to know because it would unsettle their routine. This is sad when you consider God created us, sent His son to die for us and we can't be obedient to Him in love as it would mean some sacrifice on our part. It is no longer a mystery to me why the majority are wrong. It is because Satan and his demons do everything to ensure we don't find truth and so Christians continue to perpetuate the same excuses they were previously told because it means changes they don't want to ever consider or they are ignorant of the fact that Satan has accomplished this by the death of millions of Christians over several centuries. Hence the majority continue to stay wrong and only [500 plus denominations](#) remain obedient to God in love. Until the majority stop making excuses and start saying let's investigate this, the majority will remain wrong.

### Is it Possible to Obey the Law?

Countless Christians have been taught that since the law is spiritual and we are carnal, no human being will ever be able in this life to meet the requirements of the perfect law. Is this true? Has it been given by God as a great idealistic, impossible goal toward which converted souls should struggle but never expect to attain? Is there some hidden reservation or secret meaning in the many commands to obey those ten great rules of love that God wrote on stone tablets? Did God mean what He said and say what He meant? Is it possible to love God and man perfectly?

Paul explains clearly in [Romans 7:16-25](#) what it is to obey the Law. It reads; "Now if I do what I don't want to do, I agree that the law is good. As it is, I am no longer the one who is doing it, but it is the sin that lives in me. For I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my flesh. For I have the desire to do what is right, but I cannot carry it out. For I don't do the good I want to do, but instead do the evil that I don't want to do. But if I do what I don't want to do, I am no longer the one who is doing it, but it is the sin that lives in me. So I find this to be a law: when I want to do what is good, evil is right there with me. For I delight in the law of God in my inner being, but I see in my body a different law waging war with the law in my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin that exists in my body. What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? Thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, with my mind I myself serve the law of God, but with my flesh I serve the law of sin." Paul is saying that to obey the law means to agree the law is good and to have a desire in ones own heart to obey the law even though in the flesh we sometimes fail. This is where God's grace comes into affect. However, knowing God's law and having no intention or desire to try and obey God's law of love is total disobedience and cannot have genuine repentance. The following passage shows clearly that there is no sacrifice that will cover deliberate sin and that to continue in sin is to trample Jesus under foot. A few extra verses are given here so the passage context can be seen.

[Hebrews 10:12-26](#), "But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God;... 14 For by one offering he has perfected for ever them that are sanctified... 26 For if we sin wilfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, **there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins**, ... 28 He that despised Moses' law died without mercy under two or three witnesses: 29 Of how much sorer punishment, suppose you, shall he be thought worthy, **who has trodden under foot the Son of God, and has counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and has done despite unto the Spirit of grace?**"

### Was the Sabbath Abolished?

Many Christians believe that Colossians 2:16, Galatians 4:10 and Romans 14:5 are referring to the Seventh day Sabbath and even some believe that Colossians 2:16 refers to the Ten Commandments rather than the referenced ceremonial law. Before continuing with these three very misunderstood verses, let's give a quick explanation on how [the Ten Commandments](#) and the [Ceremonial law](#) relate to each other? If a man sinned, he broke LAW No. 1 - the moral law of the Ten Commandments. So then he brought his offering, according to LAW No. 2 - the law of sacrifices, and he received forgiveness. LAW No. 1 defines sin, for sin is the transgression of the moral law. (1 John 3:4) LAW No. 2 defined sacrifices, the Ceremonial law which was the remedy for sin. When the Israelite sinned, he broke the first law. To secure forgiveness he had to obey the second law. So here are two very distinct laws. This is the biggest area of confusion when it comes to concluding the Sabbath or Ten Commandments were abolished. Law No. 2 was ONLY for the Children of Israel and Jews until the cross while Law No. 1 is eternal and for EVERYONE.

[Colossians 2:16](#) reads, "Let no man therefore judge you in meat (offering), or in drink (offering), or in respect of an holyday, or of the new moon, or of the Sabbath days:" and so the argument is the fourth Commandment was deleted from stone. What was done away with here was called the ordinances (Ceremonial Law). This is seen by noting what Paul said two verses earlier. [Colossians 2:14](#) states, "blotting out the **handwriting** (Moses) of **ordinances** that was against us, which was contrary to us, and has taken it out of the way, nailing it to the cross." Paul then goes on to say, so "Let no man therefore judge you...of an holyday, or of the new moon, or of the Sabbath days." [Luke 1:6 KJV](#) shows that the ordinances and the Commandments are two totally different things. It states, "And they were both righteous before God, walking in all the **commandments** and **ordinances** of the Lord blameless."

It was the ordinances that were nailed to the cross "not one jot or one tittle" of any of the Commandments. The major differences between the Commandments and the ordinances are that the Commandments were written by God's finger, were written in stone and were placed inside the Ark of the Covenant and it is a law of love which is eternal as love is eternal as God is. The ordinances were in the Moses handwriting, were written in a book and were placed on the outside of the Ark of the Covenant and it is NOT a law of love and was temporary. The One great and perfect Sacrifice was offered that Friday afternoon, when the true Passover Lamb bowed His head and died. When He cried out, "It is finished", the old ceremonial law that pointed the people to His sacrificial death was nailed to the cross.

Take note how every single part of these verses in Colossians 2:14-17 refers to the ceremonial law. Unfortunately, most modern Bible translations have translated the word meat in verse sixteen incorrectly. The King James Bible is one of the few translations that does translate these words correctly and is therefore recommended in these studies. So much gets lost at times when translators don't have a good understanding of Jewish culture and terminology. To be referring to clean or unclean foods here would be totally out of context for the passage but when it is kept in context, every single point here refers to the various feasts and festivals and the sacrificial sanctuary system. Further clarification is found in the book of Hebrews which is believed by most to be written by Paul. You will note that the context of this passage is undoubtedly the sanctuary service in regards to sacrifices and offerings, of which Christ became the One and final perfect sacrifice for us. The meat and drink described in this passage has to be meat and drink offerings by the unmistakable context of this passage in Hebrews 9:7-14 below. Paul speaks of meat and drink offerings and carnal ordinances which were imposed until the time of reformation, being Jesus Christ who obtained eternal redemption for us and brought an end to the sacrifices prescribed by the ordinances of the ceremonial law once and for all. This continues to illustrate the perfect context of Colossians 2:16 and as per Colossians 2:14, we see everything mentioned is part of the ordinances of the ceremonial law which Paul said in this verse, was against us and contrary to us and it was taken out the way and nailed to the cross by Jesus' perfect sacrifice.

Extra verses are given to show context. [Hebrews 9:7-14](#) *"But into the second went the high priest alone once every year, not without blood, which he offered for himself, and for the errors of the people: The Holy Ghost this signifying, that the way into the holiest of all was not yet made manifest, while as the first tabernacle was yet standing: Which was a figure for the time then present, in which were offered both gifts and sacrifices, that could not make him that did the service perfect, as pertaining to the conscience; Which stood only in **meats and drinks**, and divers washings, and **carnal ordinances**, imposed on them until the time of reformation. But Christ being come an high priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building; Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us. For if the blood of bulls and of goats, and the ashes of an heifer sprinkling the unclean, sanctifieth to the purifying of the flesh: How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?"*

Nowhere in this passage are clean and unclean foods referred to and nowhere in the Bible where clean and unclean foods are discussed, are there issues of unclean drinks. What is spoken of here in both Colossians and Hebrews are references to meat and drink offerings that are part of the sanctuary service that are in the ordinances of the ceremonial law which had meat and drink offerings. This is all that can possibly be referred to and when done so it fits absolutely perfectly into the context of both passages as it remains totally in context with the sanctuary service.

So let's discuss Colossians 2:14-17 again to see if everything does actually refer to the ceremonial law by the fact that the context of the passage remains the same throughout. *"Blotting out the handwriting"*, the ceremonial law was written in Moses handwriting. *"Ordinances"*, Strong's dictionary also directly translates this word to ceremonial law, *"that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way"*, the ceremonial law is now against us and contrary to us, as Christ has become that One and perfect sacrifice for us. *"Nailing it to his cross"*, and of course now that Christ has become that perfect sacrifice for us, no longer are meat and drink offerings and animal sacrifices and all associated Holy days necessary, so the ceremonial law was *nailed to the cross*. Moving onto verse sixteen, *"Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink"*, and as we have now seen were part of the ceremonial law. *"Or in respect of an holyday"*, these Holy days included such days as Passover, Feast of Weeks and many others. *"Or of the new moon"*, new moon celebrations were also part of the ordinances. *"Or of the Sabbath days"*, Passover, Feast of Unleavened Bread, First Fruits, Feast of Weeks, Day of Atonement, Feast of Tabernacles and many others are all Sabbath days. When spoken of in plural and the context of the passage is the ceremonial law, then the Sabbaths referred to can be nothing else but ceremonial. Verse seventeen goes on to say, *"Which are a shadow of things to come"*. These Sabbaths were called a shadow because Passover was a shadow of the crucifixion and Feast of Weeks was a shadow of Pentecost. These Old Testament feasts and holy days were shadows of what was to come and once those things had come and gone then the shadows disappeared. Here is one verse from Leviticus that refers to such feasts and Holy days, which involves meat and drink, that is meat and drink offerings. [Leviticus 23:37](#), *"These are the feasts of the LORD, which you shall proclaim to be holy convocations, to offer an offering made by fire unto the LORD, a burnt offering, and a **meat offering**, a sacrifice and **drink offerings**, everything upon his day."*

You can also find the perfect parallel between Colossians 2:16 and Ezekiel 45:17. You will note in Ezekiel 45:17 that this was a **sin offering, to make reconciliation for the house of Israel** for breaking God's Commandments as prescribed by the ceremonial law until such time that Jesus nailed this law to the cross. Parentheses are added. This is what Israel had to do to make atonement for sin, which is the breaking of God's Ten Commandments and of course includes the Seventh Day Sabbath. This clearly demonstrates the issue and leaves no doubt as to what Paul was explaining to the Colossians. Note first the Strong's dictionary definition for **holyday** used in Colossians 2:16.

**G1859** *heorte*, Of uncertain affinity; a festival: - feast, holyday.

[Colossians 2:16](#) *"Let no man therefore judge you in **meat [offerings]**, or in **drink [offerings]**, or in respect of an **holyday, or of the new moon, or of the sabbath days.**"*

[Ezekiel 45:17](#) *"And it shall be the prince's part to give burnt offerings, and **meat offerings, and drink offerings, in the feasts, [holydays] and in the new moons, and in the sabbaths**, in all solemnities of the house of Israel: he shall prepare the **sin offering**, and the meat offering, and the burnt offering, and the peace offerings, to **make reconciliation for the house of Israel.**"*

Since some prefer a table for comparison, this one has been provided for those who prefer this format.

| Colossians 2:16   | Ezekiel 45:17                               |
|---|---|
| <i>meat, or in drink,</i>                                   | <i>meat offerings, and drink offerings,</i> |
| <i>KJV of an holyday, NKJV regarding a festival (feast)</i> | <i>in the feasts,</i>                       |
| <i>or of the new moon</i>                                   | <i>and in the new moons,</i>                |
| <i>or of the Sabbath days:</i>                              | <i>and in the sabbaths,</i>                 |

These various Holy days and festivals concerned **days** that took place at various **times** of the year as well as **yearly** Holy days such as the Day of Atonement and **monthly** like the New Moon celebrations already discussed. As these were a shadow of things to come and those things have past and the shadows are now gone, to still observe these days would be putting us back into unnecessary bondage. This is what Paul is talking about in [Galatians 4:9-10](#) which says, “*But now, after that you have known God, or rather are known of God, how turn you again to the weak and beggarly elements, whereunto you desire again to be in bondage? You observe days, and months, and times, and years.*” Paul is obviously and definitely not saying you can ignore anything that is a day, month or year in the Bible. He is referring to something that includes all of these things, which is and can only be the ceremonial law.

The ordinances and ceremonial law was a law of servitude and bondage. [Galatians 4:3](#) “*Even so we, when we were children, were in bondage under the elements of the world.*” Paul continues telling the Galatians that they are no longer servants in [Galatians 4:7](#) “*Wherefore you are no more a servant, but a son; and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.*” God’s Commandments on the other hand are a law of liberty. [James 1:25](#) “*But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed.*” And for further clarity [James 2:11-12](#) reads, “*For he that said, Do not commit adultery, said also, Do not kill. Now if you commit no adultery, yet if you kill, you are become a transgressor of the law. So speak you, and so do, as they that shall be judged by the law of liberty.*” If we keep these points in mind and explore the context of the chapter when studying the Bible it will help us see what law is being spoken of.

While still on this most misunderstood topic of the ceremonial law, I thought it would be a good time to cover another scripture that so many misinterpret as is the case when it comes to God’s law of love and the temporary law which pointed the way to Christ. I have chosen to use some Bible Commentaries for this scripture, as I believe they explain it very well. The scripture concerned, is mainly [Romans 14:5](#), but so the context of the passage once again can be seen, I have given the surrounding verses. [Romans 14:1-5](#), “*Him that is weak in the faith receive you, but not to doubtful disputations. 2 For one believeth that he may eat all things: another, who is weak, eateth herbs. 3 Let not him that eateth despise him that eateth not; and let not him which eateth not judge him that eateth: for God has received him. 4 Who are you that judgest another man’s servant? to his own master he standeth or falleth. Yes, he shall be holden up: for God is able to make him stand. 5 One man esteemeth one day above another: another esteemeth every day alike. Let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind.*”

To begin with, it must be admitted that the word “Sabbath” is not found in the entire chapter. People assume Paul is talking about the Sabbath. But is he really? The chapter begins, “*Him that is weak in the faith receive you, but not to doubtful disputations.*” [Romans 14:1](#). The NKJV reads, “*disputes over doubtful things.*” This chapter concerns “doubtful things” and is not a discussion of the Ten Commandments. God’s “Big Ten” are not “doubtful,” but exceedingly dear and written personally with the finger of God on two tables of stone.

It becomes clear from [Romans 14](#) and [15](#), that many misunderstandings existed between Jewish and Gentile Christians in relation to certain customs, which were sacredly observed by one but disregarded by the other. The main subject of dispute was concerning meats and days. The converted Jew retaining respect for the law of Moses abstained from certain meats and observed ceremonial days while the converted Gentile understood that Christianity put him under no such obligation or regard to ceremonial points. It also appears that mutual and heartless judgments existed among them and that brotherly love and reciprocal tolerance did not always prevail. Paul exhorts that in such things no longer essential to Christianity, that even though both parties had a different way of thinking they might still have an honest and serious regard for God. Paul further explains they should not therefore, let different sentiments hinder Christian fellowship and love, but they should mutually refrain and withhold and make allowance for each other and especially not carry their Gospel liberty so far as to prejudice a weak brother or a Jewish Christian.

The “weak” brother “eats” some things and “esteems one day above another” while the strong brother believes that he may “eat all things” and “esteems every day alike.” [Romans 14:2, 5](#). The early Church was made up of Jewish believers and Gentile converts. Although Paul did not specify what “days” he was referring to, he could only be talking about the “esteeming” or “not esteeming” of certain Jewish fast or feast days and certain pagan feast days when people were especially “eating of those things that are offered in sacrifice unto idols.” [1 Corinthians 8:4](#).

A “strong” Jew who knew that “an idol is nothing” would have no scruples about eating “meat in an idols temple” on a pagan feast day. [1 Corinthians 8-4, 10](#). Paul warned these “strong” Jewish believers, “*But take heed lest by any means this liberty of yours become a stumbling block to them that are weak. [the Gentile convert from idolatry]. For if any man see thee which hast knowledge sit at meat in the idol’s temple [on a pagan feast day], shall not the conscience of him that is weak be emboldened to eat those things which are offered to idols; and through your knowledge shall the weak brother perish [if he is drawn back to idolatry], for whom Christ died? But when you sin against the brethren, and wound their weak conscience, you sin against Christ. Wherefore, if meat make my brother to offend, I will eat no flesh while the world standeth.*” [1 Corinthians 8:9-13](#).

There is NO evidence that the discussion about “the weak and the strong” in Romans 14 and 1 Corinthians 8 has anything to do with the Sabbath. God has never said “one man may choose to esteem MY Sabbath, while another man may choose to esteem Sunday, or every day alike.” He has NOT left it up to us to “pick a day.” Rather, God has commanded, “Remember the sabbath day to keep it holy ... the seventh day is the sabbath of the Lord thy God.” [Exodus 20:8-10](#). The book of Romans is very clear, “by the law is the knowledge of sin.” [Romans 3:20; 7:7, 12](#)

When the context of the passage is about foods or various days and especially things associated with the sanctuary service, then we must realize that it is not possible that the Ten Commandments are being referred to. When God’s Moral law is being referenced, you will always know as the context of the passage will be centred around love, as that is what God’s law is. The Bible tells us in [1 John 4:8](#), “He that loves not, knows not God; for **God Is Love**.” As God is eternal, then Love also must be eternal. [1 John 4:16](#) says, “And we have known and believed the love that God has to us. God is love; and he that dwells in love dwells in God, and God in him.” Love and obedience is inseparable from God and the true Christian, as God is Love and Love is God. This is why the Ten Commandments are eternal and unchanging, as God changes not, and Love changes not. The Sabbath is a love Commandment!

The remainder of this topic will now be left to some of the world’s past, but best theologians so no doubt can be left as to what the meaning of this passage is all about.

**John Wesley’s Explanatory Notes on the Whole Bible, Romans 14:5** - One day above another - As new moons, and other Jewish festivals. Let every man be fully persuaded - That a thing is lawful, before he does it.

**Adam Clarke’s Commentary on the Bible, Romans 14:5 - One man esteemeth one day above another** - Perhaps the word day, is here taken for time, festival, and such like, in which sense it is frequently used. Reference is made here to the Jewish institutions, and especially their festivals; such as the Passover, Pentecost, feast of tabernacles, new moons, jubilee, etc. The converted Jew still thought these of moral obligation; the Gentile Christian not having been bred up in this way had no such prejudices. And as those who were the instruments of bringing him to the knowledge of God gave him no such injunctions, consequently he paid to these no religious regard.

**Another** - The converted Gentile esteemeth every day - considers that all time is the Lord’s, and that each day should be devoted to the glory of God; and that those festivals are not binding on him. We add here alike, and make the text say what I am sure was never intended, viz. that there is no distinction of days, not even of the Sabbath: and that every Christian is at liberty to consider even this day to be holy or not holy, as he happens to be persuaded in his own mind. That the Sabbath is of lasting obligation may be reasonably concluded from its institution (see the note on [Genesis 2:3](#)) and from its typical reference. All allow that the Sabbath is a type of that rest in glory which remains for the people of God. Now, all types are intended to continue in full force till the antitype, or thing signified, take place; consequently, the Sabbath will continue in force till the consummation of all things. The word alike should not be added; nor is it acknowledged by any MS. or ancient version.

**Let every man be fully persuaded** - With respect to the propriety or non-propriety of keeping the above festivals, let every man act from the plenary conviction of his own mind; there is a sufficient latitude allowed.

**Albert Barnes’ Notes on the Bible, Romans 14:5 - One man esteemeth** - Greek “judgeth” krinei. The word is here properly translated “esteemeth;” compare [Acts 13:46](#); [Acts 16:15](#). The word originally has the idea of “separating,” and then “discerning,” in the act of judging. The expression means that one would set a higher value on one day than on another, or would regard it as more sacred than others. This was the case with the “Jews” uniformly, who regarded the days of their festivals, and fasts, and Sabbaths (*i.e. ceremonial Sabbaths*) as especially sacred, and who would retain, to no inconsiderable degree, their former views, even after they became converted to Christianity.

**Another “esteemeth** - That is, the “Gentile” Christian. Not having been brought up amidst the Jewish customs, and not having imbibed their opinions and prejudices, they would not regard these days as having any special sacredness. The appointment of those days had a special reference “to the Jews.” They were designed to keep them as a separate people, and to prepare the nation for the “reality,” of which their rites were but the shadow. When the Messiah came, the Passover, the feast of tabernacles, and the other special festivals of the Jews, of course vanished, and it is perfectly clear that the apostles never intended to inculcate their observance on the Gentile converts. See this subject discussed in the second chapter of the Epistle to the Galatians.

**Every day alike** - The word “alike” is not in the original, and it may convey an idea which the apostle did not design. The passage means that he regards “every day” as consecrated to the Lord; [Romans 14:6](#). The question has been agitated whether the apostle intends in this to include the Christian Sabbath. Does he mean to say that it is a matter of “indifference” whether this day be observed, or whether it be devoted to ordinary business or amusements? This is a very important question in regard to the Lord’s day. That the apostle did not mean to say that it was a matter of indifference whether it should be kept as holy, or devoted to business or amusement, is plain from the following considerations.

(1) The discussion had reference only to the special customs of the “Jews,” to the rites and practices which “they” would attempt to impose on the Gentiles, and not to any questions which might arise among Christians as “Christians.” The inquiry pertained to “meats,” and festival observances among the Jews, and to their scruples about partaking of the food offered to idols, etc.; and there is no more propriety in supposing that the subject of the Lord’s day is introduced here than that he advances principles respecting “baptism” and “the Lord’s supper.”

(2) The “Lord’s day” was doubtless observed by “all” Christians, whether converted from Jews or Gentiles; see [1Corinthians 16:2](#); [Acts 20:7](#); [Revelation 1:10](#); compare the notes at [John 20:26](#). The propriety of observing “that day” does not appear to have been a matter of controversy. The only inquiry was, whether it was proper to add to that the observance of the Jewish Sabbaths, and days of festivals and fasts.

(3) It is expressly said that those who did not regard the day regarded it as not to God, or to honor God; [Romans 14:6](#). They did it as a matter of respect to him and his institutions, to promote his glory, and to advance his kingdom. Was this ever done by those who disregard the Christian Sabbath? Is their design ever to promote his honor, and to advance in the knowledge of him, by “neglecting” his holy day? Who knows not that the Christian Sabbath has never been neglected or profaned by any design to glorify the Lord Jesus, or to promote his kingdom? It is for purposes of business, gain, war, amusement, dissipation, visiting, crime. Let the heart be filled with a sincere desire to “honor the Lord Jesus,” and the Christian Sabbath will be revered, and devoted to the purposes of piety. And if any man is disposed to plead “this passage” as an excuse for violating the Sabbath, and devoting it to pleasure or gain, let him quote it “just as it is,” that is, let “him neglect the Sabbath from a conscientious desire to honor Jesus Christ.” Unless this is his motive, the passage cannot avail him. But this motive never yet influenced a Sabbath-breaker.

**Let every man...** - That is, subjects of this kind are not to be pressed as matters of conscience. Every man is to examine them for himself, and act accordingly. This direction pertains to the subject under discussion, and not to any other. It does not refer to subjects that were “morally” wrong, but to ceremonial observances. If the “Jew” esteemed it wrong to eat meat, he was to abstain from it; if the Gentile esteemed it right, he was to act accordingly. The word “be fully persuaded” denotes the highest conviction, not a matter of opinion or prejudice, but a matter on which the mind is made up by examination; see [Romans 4:21](#); [2Timothy 4:5](#). This is the general principle on which Christians are called to act in relation to festival days and fasts in the church. If some Christians deem them to be for edification, and suppose that their piety will be promoted by observing the days which commemorate the birth, and death, and temptations of the Lord Jesus, they are not to be reproached or opposed in their celebration. Nor are they to attempt to impose them on others as a matter of conscience, or to reproach others because they do not observe them.

Notice how the Treasury of Scriptural Knowledge, which primarily references other verses that are referring to the same topic, has referenced the passages that Paul discussed with the Romans, Galatians and Colossians regarding the ceremonial law also. This as we have now seen is because these verses are all referring to the ceremonial law.

**Treasury of Scriptural Knowledge. Romans 14:5 - esteemeth:** [Galatians 4:9](#), [Gal 4:10](#); [Colossians 2:16](#), [Col 2:17](#)

**People’s New Testament By B. W. Johnson. One man esteemeth one day above another.** A second difference of opinion is now cited. Some, Jewish converts or Gentiles who did not understand that the old covenant was ended, believed that the Jewish Sabbaths and new moons should be kept sacred. Compare [Col 2:16](#), and [Gal 4:10](#).

This ends the Commentaries on Romans 14:5. You will note that the People’s New Testament commentary above also references Colossians 2:16 and Galatians 4:10. It should now be clear that the context and the meaning of all these passages is the ceremonial law with all its various holyday festivals, new moons and ceremonial sabbaths.

The following table should clear up any remaining misunderstanding between the ceremonial Sabbaths and the Sabbath of our Lord. Please look at this table carefully and give the statements that follow some serious thought.

| Sabbath of the Lord   | Ceremonial Sabbaths  |
|---|--|
| Spoken by God personally -- ( <a href="#">Exodus 20:1, 8-11</a> )                               | Spoken by Moses -- ( <a href="#">Exodus 24:3</a> )   |
| Written in stone by God Himself -- ( <a href="#">Exodus 31:18</a> )                             | Written by Moses hand on paper -- ( <a href="#">Exodus 24:4</a> )                                |
| Placed inside the Ark of the covenant -- ( <a href="#">Deuteronomy 10:5</a> )                   | Stored on the outside of the Ark -- ( <a href="#">Deuteronomy 31:26</a> )                        |
| Breaking the Sabbath is sin -- ( <a href="#">1 John 3:4</a> )                                   | These were kept because of sin -- ( <a href="#">See Leviticus</a> )                              |
| It is a law of love -- ( <a href="#">Matthew 22:35-40</a> , <a href="#">Isaiah 58:13-14</a> )   | They were not love -- ( <a href="#">Colossians 2:14</a> , <a href="#">Galatians 4:9-10</a> )     |
| It is a law of liberty (freedom) -- ( <a href="#">James 1:25</a> , <a href="#">2:10-12</a> )    | They were bondage -- ( <a href="#">Galatians 4:9-10</a> , <a href="#">Colossians 2:14</a> )      |
| Was established before sin -- ( <a href="#">Genesis 2:1-3</a> )                                 | Were established after sin -- ( <a href="#">Exodus 20:24</a> )                                   |
| Was made at creation -- ( <a href="#">Genesis 2:1-3</a> )                                       | Were made after Sinai -- ( <a href="#">Exodus 20:24</a> )  |
| The Sabbath is for everyone -- ( <a href="#">Mark 2:27</a> )                                    | Only for the children of Israel & Jews -- ( <a href="#">Read Old Testament</a> )                 |
| God calls it MY sabbath -- ( <a href="#">Exodus 31:13</a> , <a href="#">Ezekiel 20:20</a> )     | God calls them HER Sabbaths -- ( <a href="#">Hosea 2:11</a> , <a href="#">Lam 1:7</a> )          |
| The Sabbath is eternal -- ( <a href="#">Exodus 31:16-17</a> , <a href="#">Isaiah 66:22-23</a> ) | Were nailed to the cross -- ( <a href="#">Colossians 2:14</a> , <a href="#">Ephesians 2:15</a> ) |

#### The Facts:

God is all knowing. (Omniscience)

He is a God of infinite wisdom.

God is love. (1 John 4:8, 16)

God’s Ten Commandments are a law of love. (Moral law)

The ceremonial sabbaths were observed as a result of sin. (Are not love)

The Sabbath of the Lord is for personal quality time with our Creator. (A love Commandment)

#### The Questions:

Why would our omniscient God put His Sabbath in His eternal law of love if it’s not eternal?

Why didn’t God put His Sabbath with all the ceremonial Sabbaths if it was to end at the cross?

Why didn’t God put His Sabbath with the Jewish ceremonial Sabbaths if His Sabbath was only for the Jews?

Why would our God of infinite wisdom put His Sabbath in His law of love if it is not a law of love?

#### The Sabbath truth:

God did not put His Sabbath with the ceremonial sabbaths that ended at the cross because His Sabbath is not a ceremonial Sabbath. God did not put His Sabbath with the ceremonial Sabbaths that were only for the Jews because His Sabbath is for EVERYONE. What sort of God would place a temporary law in an eternal law or a law that is not a moral law of love in a law that is a moral law of love? God is not stupid. He put His Sabbath in His law of love because it is a law of love and a very special one that is a SIGN it is God we love, worship and belong to.

## Was the Sabbath Changed to Sunday?

Did God destroy the current stone tablets that were placed in the Ark of the Covenant for all eternity and write another set which John in Revelation saw in heaven with the amendment, “Remember to keep the first day”? Never. You can’t change a memorial day of creation. It is the day it is. Paul said in [1 Corinthians 7:19](#), “Circumcision is nothing, and uncircumcision is nothing, but obeying God’s commandments is everything.” Paul plainly identifies here how important God’s Commandments are in comparison to circumcision. Despite this, any other changed law less significant than the Ten Commandments such as circumcision, Paul mentioned more than 33 times and up to 10 verses at a time, and they were not verses you were left to make an assumption on and yet there is not one clear verse in the whole Bible that says the Sabbath was changed to Sunday. Paul’s letters always had plenty to say when people needed correcting or misunderstood the scriptures but the Sabbath was so ingrained in the culture that Paul never had to correct them. Observing the Pharisees reaction to breaking the Sabbath clearly shows this also but they went overboard and turned the day into a burden instead of a blessing, which Jesus found need to correct them on a few times. In John 5:18 they accused Jesus of breaking the Sabbath by healing a man on the Sabbath, but in Matthew 12:10-12 Jesus heals a man and He says to them, “...it is lawful to do good on the Sabbath.” Jesus shows that they misunderstood the *intent* of the Sabbath day, not the day to keep it. Imagine if Jesus had proposed changing the Sabbath, what a dreadful uproar would have ensued and would be heard in several books of the Bible.

When Christ was in the flesh, and lived on this earth, how did He regard the Sabbath? [Luke 4:16](#), “So He came to Nazareth, where He had been brought up. And as HIS CUSTOM was, He went into the synagogue on the SABBATH DAY, and stood up to read.” Jesus made the seventh day Sabbath and He also kept the seventh day Sabbath. He is our perfect example. We also find after the cross that Sabbath observance continued as we see by Paul’s example. In Acts 13:42-44 there is no conflict between Jews and Gentiles over the day to keep the Sabbath. The Jews of course still continue to keep the seventh day Sabbath today. What a perfect opportunity for the Jews to bring a valid accusation against Paul but all allegations against Paul were always false and never involved an accusation against breaking the Sabbath like they falsely and on several occasions brought against Jesus.

[Acts 13:42-44](#) “And when the Jews were gone out of the synagogue, the Gentiles besought that these words might be preached to them the next Sabbath. [43](#) Now when the congregation was broken up, many of the Jews and religious proselytes followed Paul and Barnabas: who, speaking to them, persuaded them to continue in the grace of God. [44](#) And the next Sabbath day came almost the whole city together to hear the word of God.”

Again in this example, we find no conflict between the Jews (who still keep Saturday today) or Greeks in regard to the day. Paul “came to Corinth ... he reasoned in the synagogue every Sabbath, and persuaded the **Jews and the Greeks**” [Acts 18:1, 4](#). “He continued a year and six months, teaching the word of God among them” (verse 11). Paul did not preach the traditions of men, but only “the word of God.” “Many of the Corinthians hearing believed, and were baptized,” including “Crispus, the chief ruler of the synagogue” (verse 8). Crispus was a Sabbath keeper who probably became one of the leaders (see [1 Corinthians 1:14](#)) of the early New Testament Sabbath keeping Church of Jesus Christ in Corinth. Paul’s letters, First and Second Corinthians, were written to this church.

After Paul was finally arrested in the Temple in Jerusalem in Acts 21, we find at his trial before the Sanhedrin, even the Pharisees said, “we find no evil in this man” [Acts 23:9](#). Before Felix, Paul declared, “so worship I the God of my fathers, believing all things which are written in the law and in the prophets” [Acts 24:14](#). Before Festus, “to the Jews have I done no wrong” [Acts 25:10](#). Before Agrippa, “I continue unto this day ... saying none other things than those which the prophets and Moses did say should come” [Acts 26:22](#). The prophets and Moses did not say that “Sunday keeping should come.” Finally, Paul spoke to the Jews in Rome, “persuading them concerning Jesus, both out of the law of Moses, and out of the prophets, from morning till evening” [Acts 28:23](#). During all his trials, the Jews never once accused Paul of breaking the Sabbath. Why? Because he never did! Paul was a Pharisee from childhood.

We also see Paul going into a Jewish synagogue in Thessalonica and “as his custom was, Paul went into the synagogue and on three Sabbath days reasoned with them from the scriptures...” [Acts 17:1-4](#). As already stated, all practicing Jews still keep the seventh day Sabbath today, always have and undeniably did then and so there is no mistake as to what day Paul kept the Sabbath on as was “HIS CUSTOM” as this was a Jewish synagogue. As for his custom, Paul was a Jew and a Pharisee since childhood. [Acts 26:5-6](#) “The Jews all know the way I have lived ever since I was a child, from the beginning of my life in my own country, and also in Jerusalem. They have known me for a long time and can testify, if they are willing, that according to the strictest sect of our religion, I lived as a Pharisee.”

Jesus also said in [Matthew 5:18](#), “...Till the heaven and the earth pass away, not one jot or one tittle shall in any way pass from the Law...” Not even a comma of the law will be altered. Just for arguments sake, let’s say that God was going to change the day or abolish the Sabbath; God would NOT leave us to make assumptions on something so important that HE personally spoke with HIS own voice from the mountaintop and wrote personally with HIS own finger in STONE. It is the only thing that God personally added to the Bible. There is no way in this universe that God would not unmistakably tell us in His Word if He were to alter the Ten Commandments by even the smallest amount.

Now for that one verse assumption that some use to argue that the Sabbath was changed to Sunday. In Acts 20:7 we find a religious meeting on the first day of the week but it was not a Sunday meeting. It was after sunset, prior to midnight on the first day of the week. At that time in history the first day of the week did not start at midnight but at sunset. All Bible days begin and end at sunset. Therefore this meeting and Paul’s preaching took place on what we call Saturday night. It was not a Sunday meeting at all. Regardless of this fact anyway, breaking bread is commonly understood by the Jews as having a meal together and was not the Lord’s Supper. Note how the Good News Bible translates it “*The fellowship meal*”. Here are two examples using the King James and the Good News Bible.

- (Acts 20:7 King James) “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.”
- (Acts 20:7 Good News Bible) “On Saturday evening we gathered together for the **fellowship meal**. Paul spoke to the people and kept on speaking until midnight, since he was going to leave the next day.”
- (Acts 2:42 King James) “And they continued stedfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, and in **breaking of bread**, and in prayers.”
- (Acts 2:42 Good News Bible) “They spent their time in learning from the apostles, taking part in the fellowship, and sharing in the **fellowship meals** and the prayers.”

The following verse shows not only that breaking of bread was having a fellowship meal but also demonstrates that this breaking of bread was done every day of the week! Therefore, even if it was the Lord's Supper, which it is not, it was done every day of the week making the argument of the Saturday night meeting irrelevant anyway.

- (Acts 2:46 King James) “And they, continuing **daily** with one accord in the temple, and **breaking bread** from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart,”
- (Acts 2:46 Good News Bible) “**Day after day** they met as a group in the Temple, and they had their **meals** together in their homes, eating with glad and humble hearts,”

### Sunday Keeping in Corinth?

In 1 Corinthians 16:1-2 Paul wrote: “Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given order to the churches of Galatia, even so do ye. Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come...whomsoever ye shall approve by your letters, them will I send to bring your liberality unto Jerusalem.” Please carefully notice what the apostle said, and also, what he did not say. Many have assumed that a religious meeting was held and a collection plate passed. This is not the case. Paul was writing special appeals to the churches in Asia Minor, because many of the Christians in Jerusalem were suffering greatly for lack of food and daily necessities. Paul asked the church at Corinth to gather food, clothing, etc., and store it up at home until he could send men to transport it to Jerusalem. The expression “lay by him in store” in the original Greek gives the clear connotation of putting aside at home. Even Sunday advocates agree to this. There was no service held on the first day of the week. The gathering up and storing was to be done on that day. Why did Paul suggest that this work be done on Sunday, and what was involved in getting it done? First of all, the letter would have been shared with the church on the Sabbath when they were all gathered for worship. The first opportunity to do the work would be the next day - the first day of the week. Keep in mind that there was an apparent food shortage in Jerusalem, and the need was not primarily for money. Such famine conditions were not unusual in areas of the Middle East, as Luke reminds us in Acts 11:28-30. Paul urges them to return carnal, or material, gifts in appreciation of the spiritual truths received from them. This throws light on Paul's counsel to the Corinthian Christians to do their work on the first day of the week, “so that there be no gatherings when I come.” Such work as gathering and storing up produce from the field would certainly not be appropriate on the Sabbath. Sunday is identified again as a day for secular activities and gives no indication of religious observance.

Besides the two assumptions that are used to try and justify Sunday keeping, the Bible and history show them not to be correct. We have already seen that both Jesus and Paul kept the Sabbath and there can be no doubt that it was the seventh day Sabbath that Paul kept as he was a Jew and a Pharisee and kept it as was his custom since childhood. It has also been established by many historians and theologians holding PhD's in their field that Matthew and Luke were written between 60 and 80 AD and there was never a better time for Luke to tell us of a day change but instead he states in Luke 23:56, “...And they rested on the Sabbath according to the commandment.” Jesus also showed that the Sabbath would still be kept after the cross and speaks of no day change when He is talking to the Apostles about the destruction of the temple in about 70 AD. Jesus says in Matthew 24:20, “And pray that your flight may not be in winter or on the Sabbath.” World leading historians also confirm this and that the Sabbath was kept by Jews and Gentiles till about 120 AD where the persecution of the Jews for Sabbath keeping became so great that many Christians decided to start keeping Sunday using the excuse that it was in honour of the resurrection in order to avoid persecution and death. Later you will find out how the Sabbath got changed to Sunday when it was made law around 321 AD. As a result it was about 461 AD when Sunday eventually took on the name of the Lord's Day.

### If the Sabbath is Saturday, then why do most Keep Sunday?

Bible prophecy actually plays an enormous part in how the change came about, so to fully comprehend the following paragraphs in regards to the time periods involved you will first need to be aware that when Bible prophecy is symbolic in nature, we use what is called the day for a year rule demonstrated by Ezekiel 4:6 and Numbers 14:34.

Starting in Daniel 7:3, we find him in vision and he sees “four great beasts came up from the sea, diverse one from another.” These four beasts were like a lion (Babylon), a bear (Medo-Persia), a leopard (Greece) with four heads (Alexanders four generals that took over when he died suddenly) and some dreadful, terrible beast (Rome) that had ten horns. Verse 23 says, “The fourth beast (Rome) shall be the fourth kingdom upon earth, which shall be diverse from all kingdoms, and shall devour the whole earth, and shall tread it down, and break it in pieces.” Verse 24 tells us that “the ten horns out of this kingdom (Rome) are ten kings (divided Europe) that shall arise: and another shall rise after them; and he shall be diverse from the first, and he shall subdue three kings.” The king that subdued three kingdoms is called the little horn in verse 8 and it destroyed the Vandals the Heruli and the Ostrogoths. A history check already reveals that this diverse kingdom was a religious political power that was responsible for their demise. Do you know who this is yet? Verse 25 says this little horn power would “speak great words against the most High” (God) and oppress God's people and very importantly it states that he will “think to change times and laws.”



Moving on to the book of Revelation chapter 13, John in his vision sees the same thing that Daniel saw. Note how it matches Daniel seven. It says that a beast (*kingdom government or political power*) with *seven heads (total beast heads in Daniel 7)* and *ten horns* rises out of the sea with a crown upon each horn (*ten kings*) and upon his heads the name of blasphemy. Verse 2 goes on to say the beast was like unto a *leopard* and feet of a *bear* and mouth of a *lion (same four beasts)* and that the dragon (*Satan*) gave this beast his power, his throne, and his vast authority. The meaning of these beasts come out of the sea is found in [Revelation 17:15](#) which reads, "And he saith unto me, *The waters which you sawest, where the whore sitteth, are peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues.*"

Verses 3 through 6 then states that one of the seven heads had received a fatal wound (*causing death*) but his deadly wound was healed and all the world would wonder after the beast and they worshipped the dragon which gave power to the beast and they worshipped the beast also. The beast was allowed to make proud claims which were insulting to God, and it was permitted to have authority for 42 months. Daniel 7:25 says, "a *time (1 year) and times (2 years) and the dividing of time (half a year = total 3.5 years \* 12 Months = 42 months)*" which of course is the same period of time. (*Bible time works in lunar months which = 30 days \* 42 months = 1260 days and using the day for a year rule = 1260 years*). It opened its mouth and uttered *blasphemies against God* and blasphemed his name and his residence, that is, those who are living in heaven. Verse 7 states that it was also allowed to fight against God's people and defeat them, and it was given authority over every tribe, nation, language, and race.

In order for this to all make sense, note that [Revelation 12:17](#) says, "the dragon was wroth with the woman (The Church), and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which *KEEP the Commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.*" Satan hates those who keep the commandments of God, especially the Sabbath and desires to make war with this remnant people. Those who receive the mark of the beast will be those who chose to follow the commandments and traditions of man above the Commandments of God. In effect a line will be drawn between those that follow the Commandments of God and those that follow the traditions of man. Sadly, the majority are proving to be traditionalists. Read what [Mark 7:6-9](#) says about keeping human traditions, which is exactly what we are doing by keeping the Sabbath on Sunday as I will eventually prove. "Jesus answered them, "How right Isaiah was when he prophesied about you! You are hypocrites, just as he wrote: *These people, says God, honor me with their words, but their heart is really far away from me. It is no use for them to worship me, because they teach human rules as though they were my laws!*" "You put aside God's command and obey human teachings." And Jesus continued, "You have a clever way of rejecting God's law in order to uphold your own teaching."

Now back to Daniel 7:25 where Bible prophecy shows that a power would arise and think and try to change times and God's law. There is a commandment which is both a time and law. Now which one of the Commandments is a time? There is only one, which is the fourth Commandment. "Remember to keep *The Sabbath*". In several places in the Bible it says that keeping the Sabbath is a *sign* between God and those who love Him and keep His Commandments, that we belong to him and that it is God that we worship. With this being the case what would Satan desire to do? Since keeping the Sabbath, and on God's Holy day is a *sign* that it is God we worship and belong to, then it becomes obvious that Satan would endeavour to change the day so that we are no longer keeping the fourth Commandment as we are not keeping it at God's appointed time. Now who actually is this Beast power?

A beast as already stated is a kingdom or government or a political power. In 321 A.D. after the severest persecution, Constantine who was a pagan became Caesar in Rome and he begun to see the balance of power shift from paganism to the Church. So, in 321 A.D. he passed the first law enforcing Sunday worship. Until then, there had never been a law enforcing Sunday observance. Two years later Constantine joined the Roman Church and so now we had a mingling of paganism and the Church. In order to control the eastern and western half's of his empire, he moved his empire from Rome to Byzantium by building a new city there, which he named Constantinople after himself and hence transferred his headquarters over to Constantinople leaving Rome vacant. As a result the Papacy moved in and sat on the throne of Caesar and so the Church took over Rome. This explains what the Bible said, "and the dragon gave him his power, and his seat, and great authority." The dragon as previously stated is the devil. In the Vatican there's a tapestry on the wall about 75 feet long, and underneath the tapestry it say's "The donation of Constantine to the Pope" What did he donate? He donated the city of Rome and the Church became a kingdom.

This is the first beast. Revelation 13 states that he would blaspheme God. [Luke 5:21](#) reads, "And the scribes and the Pharisees began to reason, saying, *Who is this which speaketh blasphemies? Who can forgive sins, but God alone?*" Today in the Roman Church they allege that every Priest can forgive sins. No man on Earth can forgive sins. As for power, Elizabeth I defied the Pope and he sent word to all Catholics in England not to obey the Queen. Henry of Germany offended the Pope and he had to stand barefoot in the snow for three days to pay pennants to the Pope before he would forgive him. Verse 7 says the beast would fight against God's people and defeat them. The coming statement is not intended to foster ill towards another as this would be contrary to Christian teaching, plus over the centuries this Church has done many great things by many wonderful people. But the truth is the Roman Church murdered and tortured an estimated 70 million people as heretics largely for keeping God's Sabbath rather than Satan's counterfeit day made law by the Papacy. All this is a matter of history and can be read in your local library.

Every criteria mentioned in the Bible is met by this first beast power. Now the Bible says that this beast would receive a deadly wound to its head. The Pope took over Rome and rose to power in 538 A.D. The Bible says he would have power for 1260 years which takes us to 1798. What happened in 1798? Precisely on time as prophesied in the Bible, in 1798 Napoleon's General Berthier was sent down to Rome to kidnap the Pope and exiled and imprisoned him in France. In 1799 the Pope got sick and died. The head of the Catholic Church was dead! This is the deadly wound to the head. For a while there was no head of the Roman Church. But the Bible says the deadly wound would be healed, and in 1800 they elected a new Pope and the healing of the deadly wound got started.

However, this new Pope had no real power until 1929. At that time a man in Italy called Benito Mussolini signed a concordat in Rome giving back to the Pope, not the whole city but about 108 acres called the Vatican and so the deadly wound was healed. As a result, the Bible says, *“the whole world wondered after the beast.”* American Presidents have bowed before the Pope but they have never bowed before the head of any other Church.

In 1562 the Archbishop of Reggio openly declared that tradition now stood above scripture. This is what he wrote. *“The authority of the Church is illustrated most clearly by the scriptures, for on one hand she recommends them, declares them to be divine, and offers them to us to be read, and on the other hand, the legal precepts in the scriptures taught by the Lord have ceased by virtue of the same authority. The Sabbath, the most glorious day in the law, has been changed into the Lord’s day. These and other similar matters have not ceased by virtue of Christ’s teaching (for He says that He has come to fulfill the law, not to destroy it), but they have been changed by the authority of the Church.”* Gaspare de Posso, Archbishop of Reggio, Council of Trent.

Sadly, Bible truth has been weighed against tradition, and men by the millions voted for tradition and still are today regardless of what God’s Word says. In the Catholic catechism you will find the following questions and answers.

Question: Which day 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. 366), transferred the solemnity from Saturday to Sunday. *Rev. Peter Geiermann, The Coverts Catechism.* These councils sometimes sat for up to 18 years or more.

Here is something to really think about. The Pope wears a *triple* tiered crown which means he is the king of Heaven and Earth and Purgatory. This of course is obviously wrong. There is a King of Kings and His name is Jesus Christ our Lord. He is King of Heaven and King of Earth and since there is no purgatory, that one can go to the Bishop of Rome. On the original crown are inscribed the words in Latin “VICARIUS FILII DEI” which means Vicar of the Son of God. What really becomes interesting here is what happens when these numbers are added up in Roman, Latin or Greek Numerals. For this example we will use Roman numerals. The Bible says this result is the number of a man.



|       |      |       |
|-------|------|-------|
| V=5   | F=0  | D=500 |
| I=1   | I=1  | E=0   |
| C=100 | L=50 | I=1   |
| A=0   | I=1  |       |
| R=0   | I=1  |       |
| I=1   |      |       |
| U=5   |      |       |
| S=0   |      |       |

Total  $\overline{112} + \overline{53} + \overline{501} = 666$

**Revelation 13:16-18** reads, *“And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads: 17 And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name. 18 Here is wisdom. Let him that hath understanding count the number of the beast: for it is the number of a man; and his number is Six hundred threescore and six.”* If you have not already noticed, almost all things in the book of Revelation are symbolic

and so is the “mark of the beast” as is the “mark or seal of God” that goes on the forehead of Christians who love God and keep His commandments. For example, see Deuteronomy 6:1-8. Note verse 8 which says, *“you shall bind them for a sign upon thine hand, and they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes.”* Does anyone really think in the end times that everyone is going to walk around with a mark on their forehead? We know that the “mark or seal of God” is obviously not going to be some barcode or computer chip. Therefore it stands to reason that the “mark of the beast” will also be a symbolic mark. The Devil is extremely deceptive and counterfeits many things of God. Most people in the world have heard of the mark of the beast, so who in their right mind would take such a mark? Here is another statement from the Papacy: *“Of course the Catholic church claims that the change was her act, and the act as a **MARK** of her ecclesiastical authority in religious things.”* H.F. Thomas, Chancellor to Cardinal Gibbons.

In **Mark 7:6-9**, Jesus said, *“...This people honor me with their lips, but their heart is far from me. But in vain do they worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men. For laying aside the commandment of God, you hold the tradition of men...Full well you reject the commandment of God, that you may keep your own tradition.”* Jesus does not want us following the traditions of man and even more so something changed by the “Beast” or more specifically the one behind the beast, which is the dragon and this as already mentioned is Satan himself. I don’t know about you but our family is not going to keep the Sabbath on Sunday just because the Catholic Church chose to change it on their own human authority and tradition and even more so because Satan himself was directly behind it. **Joshua 24:15** says, *“...choose you this day whom ye will serve...but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.”* Me and my house choose to serve the Lord and not man or the beast. Choose Christ, He chose us!

Remember that keeping the Sabbath is a *Sign* between God and us that it is *Him we Love and Worship* and Satan hates the Sabbath for this reason. This is why Satan set out to change the day to Sunday, which throughout the Old Testament is about Baal worship (Sun worship, Sun-day) and God makes it quite clear that this was detestable to Him. If we don’t keep the Sabbath on Saturday we are following the traditions of man or more specifically the day Satan changed it to as prophesied in **Daniel 7:25**, *“And he shall...think to **change times and laws.**”* God said to love and follow Him is to keep the Sabbath on His Holy day. The mere fact that Satan changed the Sabbath should tell us that keeping the exact day is important to God or Satan through the “Beast” would not have changed it to Sunday.

Satan knows the consequences for *NOT* keeping God’s Commandments and James 2:10-12 says if we break one commandment we’ve broken them all. So Satan has attacked the one Commandment that is most important to God and because it was the easiest one to attack as he knew how *most* people would make every excuse to not give this time to God. Jesus said in **John 14:15**, *“If you love Me, keep My commandments.”* Do you truly love Jesus? If you do truly love Jesus, you will desire to keep all God’s Commandments without excuses and devote His Holy day to Him.

## How do we KEEP the Sabbath?

Just how are we to keep the Sabbath? The scribes and Pharisees tried to legislate in minute detail all that was acceptable or unacceptable to do on the Sabbath. In doing so, they made the Sabbath a great BURDEN which was something God never intended (cf. 1 John 5:3). God gave the Sabbath in Exodus 20 and *magnified* it in other places in His Word with *some* specifics, but mainly by expounding broad, spiritual principles. So what does God tell us?

God wrote and spoke these words in the fourth commandment, "*But the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord your God. In it you shall do no work: you, nor your son, nor your daughter, nor your manservant, nor your maidservant, nor your cattle, nor your stranger who is within your gates*" Exodus 20:10. So you are not to do any kind of real *work* on the Sabbath be it your occupation, personal business, housework or any laborious activity. And neither are those in the environment over which you have control. Of course, preparing or cleaning up after a light meal would not be wrong as we find a number of occasions when Jesus enjoyed a Sabbath meal with others. And He *never* condemned the practice of hospitality on the Sabbath (cf. Luke 14:1-6). Since Jesus said in Matthew 12:10-12 "...it is lawful to do good on the Sabbath", such as rescuing an animal or healing the sick, that would no doubt include *Essential Services* such as Doctors, Nurses and Ambulance etc. Finally, to really understand how God intended the Sabbath to be used, look at what He said in Isaiah 58:13-14 "*If you turn away your foot from the Sabbath, from doing your pleasure on My holy day, and call the Sabbath a delight...not doing your own ways, nor finding your own pleasure, nor speaking your own words, then you shall delight yourself in the Lord; and I will cause you to ride on the high hills of the earth...*" So we are not to be doing our own pleasure on God's Holy Day. That does not preclude doing any enjoyable things on the Sabbath whatsoever, for we are to find *delight* in it. The point is that, whatever we do, God must be an intrinsic part of it. A family walk through a natural setting for example, is a wonderful way to get in touch with God who made the beautiful creations we see. When the seventh day arrives, we must stop pursuing our "*own ways*" (the things we normally do), seeking our "*own pleasure*" (your normal things of enjoyment) and speaking our "*own words*" (the everyday things we talk about that do not involve God). This last one is often *very hard* to follow because "*out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks*" Matthew 12:34. To truly keep the Sabbath in the spirit, we must focus our minds on God and those things He wants us to be concerned with during His holy time. Then, as God promises, we will be truly blessed. And since it is lawful to do good on the Sabbath, we can make encouraging phone calls or write letters to the sick or visit Christians who are lonely. It may also be possible to *visit* the sick or others in need on the Sabbath or to have them over for an evening meal. Matthew 25:34-36. The Sabbath is also a "...*sabbath of rest, an holy convocation*" (Leviticus 23:3) and is therefore ideal for worship services. When we fellowship with other people in whom God dwells, we are in fact also fellowshiping with Him (cf. 1 John 1:3, 7). So we should not think of the Sabbath as the day we can't do this or that! Rather, we should approach this very special day as a period when we *can* and *should* really take time to deeply *study* and thoughtfully *analyse* the scriptures. It is a time when we can sit quietly, meditating over and *thinking through* the truly big issues of life. In addition, the Sabbath is the perfect time for unhurried, thoughtful, heartfelt *prayer* to our Father in heaven to *commune* with our Creator, to *worship* Him, to get to *know* Him intimately. This is how to keep God's Sabbath holy.

Another way to establish how the Sabbath should be kept is to imagine spending the day with someone you are absolutely head over heels in love with and that you have the opportunity to spend this one specific day with. You would have as many things as possible prepared the day before so you could spend as much time as possible with that person because you are so in love with them and you want every available moment to spend with them. This is what the Sabbath is all about. Are you head over heels in love with God? If you are then do the same for Him.

The Sabbath is and always has been the real *test* commandment (cf. Exodus 16:4). Many can accept the other nine but the fourth Commandment is quite different. It means living differently from the society around you, perhaps even being looked upon as odd or weird. Yet Jesus said in Luke 14:26-27, "*Those who come to me cannot be my disciples unless they love me more than they love father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, and themselves as well.*" Does this mean giving up some personal activity on the Sabbath? The answer lies in what your conscience tells you and what the Holy Spirit lays upon your heart. The main considerations is the rest our bodies need and the most beautiful part is that it is a day that we devote entirely to God, i.e. everything we do, God should be an intrinsic part of it. How spending one day a week with God who we claim to love so much could ever be called legalism or a burden is beyond me. Our relationship with Jesus is supposed to be one of faith and trust believing He will always provide our needs when we trust and obey Him. The sacrifice of moving an activity to another day is nothing in comparison to what Jesus did for us in His sacrifice. He was beaten, scourged and nailed to a cross for us. If the only thing that He asks in return is to keep the Sabbath holy then I think our sacrifice is no comparison. "*For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous.*" 1 John 5:3

In Daniel 3, King Nebuchadnezzar made a gold *image* with dimensions equal to 666 that he commanded all to worship. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego would not disobey God's commandment and refused to obey the king. Since they refused, the king threw them into a blazing furnace heated seven times hotter than usual. The King in amazement said, "Why do I see four men walking around in the fire? They are not tied up, and they show no sign of being hurt and the fourth is like that of the Son of God. Praise the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego! They disobeyed my orders and risked their lives rather than bow down and worship any god except their own. There is no other god who can rescue like this." As a result, the king promoted them to higher positions in Babylon. Here is a beautiful example of obedience to God. This example is a parallel of Revelation 14 showing how we need to respond in end times, i.e. is we should obey God rather than man and not worship the Beast or his image. So do we worship God on the day specified by the Beast and get the mark of the Beast or on the day God commanded and receive the Seal of God? Do you love the "praise of men" more than the praise of God? Or do you have the FAITH and the COURAGE to obey God's commandments, even if you were to lose your job and perhaps a few of your friends?

## Sabbath truth Summary

The Sabbath was not changed in honour of the resurrection proven by the irrefutable fact that the Papacy changed it to Sunday and God's Word even tells us they would do so because it is extremely relevant to end time events. God is not prepared to accept any day in seven demonstrated by one example in Exodus 16:4, 27-28. God *blessed* and made *holy* ONLY the *seventh* day. God's law of love is not a temporary one designed to end or become obsolete at the cross or any other time and can no more change than God's character can. He is *the same yesterday, and today, and forever*. It is not a special law for one nation only. God is not a respecter of persons. Acts 10:34, Romans 1:16. Neither Gentiles nor Christians are excluded from the laws of God. Exodus 12:38, 48-49, Isaiah 56:1-3, 6-7. God is omniscience, (all knowing) and the seventh day Sabbath was not made one of God's eternal Commandments by some oversight. There is no new law in Christ based on Matthew 22:37-40. Firstly all the law hang on these two commandments and secondly, it was not anything new as Jesus was quoting the Old Testament. Thirdly, loving your neighbour as yourself means obeying the last six Commandments (Matthew 19:18-19, Romans 13:9) and to love God with all your heart means to obey the first four. The Law is LOVE. If you truly Love God, you would not have other God's before Him or worship idols and you certainly would not take His name in vain. And speaking of Loving and Worshipping God with all your heart, that is *EXACTLY* what the Sabbath is all about. *"Therefore the children of Israel shall keep the Sabbath, to observe the Sabbath throughout their generations as a PERPETUAL covenant. It is a SIGN between Me and the children of Israel FOREVER..." Exodus 31:16-17.* All Commandments show our allegiance but the fourth is a special SIGN of loyalty that we may know we truly love and follow God as His people.

We are also *children of Israel* as is Abraham. [Galatians 3:29](#) *"And if you be Christ's, then are you Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise."* We are and need to be children of Israel as both covenants were made with the house of Israel. [Hebrews 8:10](#), *"For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel...says the Lord: I will put My Laws into their mind and write them in their hearts, and I will be their God, and they shall be My people."*

The Bible unmistakably shows that the real test of love is obedience to God. These following scriptures are just three of many that could be quoted. [John 14:15](#) *"If ye love me, keep my commandments."* or [1 John 2:4](#) *"He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a LIAR, and the truth is not in him."* and [1 John 5:3](#) *"For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous."* This last verse says we should keep God's Commandments because we love God so much that it is our heart's desire to do so as Psalms 119 shows and not because we feel obligated to do so. Devoting a whole day to God should be to us a most beautiful and gratifying experience and should be our hearts desire, not something we call a burden or legalism. Jesus spoke of those who said, *"Lord, Lord,"* but did not do the will of the Father. Then He described many who would seek entrance to the kingdom claiming to be workers of miracles in the name of Christ. But He would sorrowfully have to say, *"I never knew you: depart from me."* [Matthew 7:21-23](#). This is terribly sad because Jesus is saying, *"Not everyone who calls me 'Lord, Lord' will enter the Kingdom of heaven"*. [Revelation 22:14](#) describes those who will live with God the Father and Christ throughout eternity in the New Jerusalem: *"Blessed are those who do his commandments, that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter through the gates into the city."*

[1 John 3:4 GNB](#) says that, *"Whoever sins is guilty of breaking God's law, because sin is a breaking of the law."* So if there were no requirement to keep God's Commandments, then there would be no sin and if there were no sin, then Jesus did not need to die on a cross for us and therefore the Gospel would be immaterial as would be Christianity and we would be no different to anyone else in this secular world. Do you see how absolutely absurd this is? Some have twisted this the other way by saying if we still have to obey the law then Jesus died for nothing. This is a very distorted view of the Gospel. Jesus redeemed us by His blood and paid the penalty for our sins which was death. He died on the cross so by faith and Grace we can repent and go on living, not go on sinning! This is Satan's attempt at deceiving us into believing that since we are under Grace we no longer have to keep God's Commandments. Jesus said *if you love me keep my Commandments*. He did not say I died for you so you can disobey my Commandments. Paul clarifies this well in [Romans 6:14-15](#), *"For sin shall not have dominion over you: for you are not under the law, but under grace. What then? shall we sin, because we are not under the law, but under grace? God forbid."* It really is just this plain and simple. The ceremonial laws that have evidently confused so many were temporary and are gone. The Ten Commandments are *Eternal* and if we love God and man then we obey ALL of them FOREVER. They are NOT the Ten Suggestions and they are NOT the Nine Commandments and the One Suggestion. The Sabbath is the real test of love for God, yet never have I seen so many people twist and distort the word of God and fight so hard to justify why they can dodge this one Commandment. God is saying that He wants us to fully devote one day a week to Him because He loves us so much and people respond by searching for every excuse under the sun as to why they do not have to spend this time with God. I pray with all my heart that you are not one of them.

Isn't it interesting that the only part of the Bible specifically written by God's own hand, His Law, is the part so many people want to excuse away? And isn't it interesting that the only part of that Law some say is for the Jew only, is the one commandment that states it was for the *"stranger"* also? And isn't it interesting that it is the only commandment that specifically states it was instituted at Creation, long before sin or Jews or ceremonies? And isn't it interesting that the only commandment man wants to forget is the one God specifically says to *"remember?"* Jesus said, *"For truly I say to you, Till the heaven and the earth pass away, not one jot or one tittle shall in any way pass from the Law..."* and Jesus then went on to say *"...whoever shall relax one of these commandments, the least, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the LEAST in the kingdom of Heaven. But whoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called GREAT in the kingdom of Heaven"* I don't know about you but the thought of being called least in Heaven because I have not taught or have relaxed even one of God's Commandments definitely does not appeal to me in the slightest. There are the most wonderful blessings beyond comprehension both now and in eternity for obeying God's Commandments and especially when it is done in love for our heavenly Father and our fellow man.

## Additional reading and information

The following pages contain more detail on the seal of God and the mark of the beast as well as prophecy time charts and scriptures pertinent to the Sabbath and loving God and keeping His commandments. Also below is the Great Catholic diversion that briefly explains how the Catholic Church changed the historical truth (Historicism) of prophecy to what is called Futurism and or Preterism, which is changing history to move events away from their true time periods to prevent people from seeing the truth. This is recommended reading. If you still doubt the Catholic Church changed the Sabbath, then read Statements made by the Catholic Church about the Sabbath. They say that their authority stands above scripture, and so they believe they can change anything in God's word including His Commandments, which they did. Protestants correctly say that their authority is of course the Word of God. The article from Wikipedia on Sabbath keeping in the New Testament is also very good reading and very accurate.

## Sabbath - From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

**New Testament basis for Christian Sabbatarianism** (Material is totally unedited on its inclusion on 03-05-2006.)

Some Christians continue to keep the seventh day as the Sabbath day of rest. Some of the New Testament reasons for this are as follows. From Mark 2:28 and Matthew 12:8, the statement made by Jesus, "the Son of Man is lord even of the Sabbath," indicates for some, that Sabbath keeping is central to following Christ. In other words, since He kept the seventh day Sabbath, this is the true Lord's Day according to seventh day Christians. Further, in reference to the future destruction of Jerusalem, Christ states in Matthew 24:20, "And pray that your flight may not be in winter or on the Sabbath." Sabbatarians maintain that this indicates Christ expected the Sabbath to be kept subsequent His death. Also, on the weight of Hebrews 4:8-11, the Sabbath remains a Christian Holy Day, and Sabbath-keeping is an abiding duty as prescribed in the fourth commandment. The gospel of Luke states in Luke 23:56 that when the body of Christ was being prepared by His followers, they rested on the Sabbath before finishing their work.

While a clear mandate is given for the Sabbath in Exodus 20:8-11 and Deuteronomy 5:12-15, the closest passage to a command for Sabbath-keeping in the New Testament is found in Hebrews 4:9. In that passage is found the word "sabbatismos". The Authorized Version (King James Version of 1611) and New King James Version and several others render that word as "rest". The American Standard Version of 1901, New American Standard Bible 1995 Updated Edition and several other translations somewhat more correctly render that word as "Sabbath rest". A few, such as the Darby translation, transliterate the word as "Sabbatism". However, its literal translation is "Sabbath observance", and The Scriptures, translated by The Institute For Scripture Research, render it as such, while The Bible in Basic English gives the equally literal "Sabbath keeping". In regard to taking Sabbatismos literally, Professor Andrew T. Lincoln, on page 213 in his symposium From Sabbath To The Lord's Day, states "The use of sabbatismos elsewhere in extant Greek literature gives an indication of its more exact shade of meaning. It is used in Plutarch, De Superstitione 3 (Moralia166A) of Sabbath observance. There are also four occurrences in post canonical literature that are independent of Hebrews 4:9. They are Justin, Dialogue with Trypho 23:3; Epiphanius, Adversus Haereses 30:2:2; Martyrium Petri et Pauli 1; Apostolic Constitutions 2:36:2. In each of these places the term denotes the observance or celebration of the Sabbath. This usage corresponds to the Septuagint usage of the cognate verb sabbatizo (cf. Ex. 16:30; Lev. 23:32; 26:34; 2 Chron. 36:21). Thus the writer to the Hebrews is saying that since the time of Joshua an observance of the Sabbath rest has been outstanding." The literal translation then of Hebrews 4:9 is "Therefore a Sabbath observance has been left behind for the people of God." Further, the internal evidence of the preceding verses would indicate that the Sabbath observance mentioned in this verse is indeed the seventh day Sabbath and not the Lord's Day Sabbath. In verse 8, the Hebrew writer states, "For if Joshua had given them rest, he would not have afterward spoken of another day." On first glance in our English translations, that word "another" would give the appearance of a different day. However, in the Greek, there are two words that mean "another". "Heteros" means "another of a different kind", while "allos" means "another of the same kind". The word used in Hebrews 4:8 is "allos", indicating a Sabbath day of the same kind as referred to in Hebrews 4:8-5, that is, the seventh-day Sabbath. In verse 7, the Hebrews writer uses the term "certain day". The Greek word for "certain" is "tis". It is clearly referencing a specific day, and not the general thought of an eternal rest. The force of Hebrews 3:11-4:11 then seems to be saying that because Christians look toward the eternal rest of heaven, the type or shadow of the earthly Sabbath rest still remains, or is "left behind", literally, for Christians to observe. This is significant, in light of the greater context of the book of Hebrews, which deals with the entire Aaronic priesthood and its methods of worship as found in the Old Covenant being supplanted by the Melchizedek priesthood of Jesus Christ. As the Hebrews writer states in Hebrews 12:27, "And this word, Yet once more, signifies the removing of those things that are shaken, as of things which have been made, that those things which are not shaken may remain." *This next paragraph is also from Wikipedia on keeping the Sabbath and is well worthy of inclusion here.*

### **Primary Sabbath (Friday sunset to Saturday sunset) Sabbatarianism**

For many sabbatarians, keeping the Seventh-day is about worshipping God as Creator. It is the ultimate positive worship of God given in His commandments, and is in recognition of His authority. Just as tithes and offerings are an honor to give to the cause of worship, so also it is an honor to give time to God to meet with Him on the appointed day. It is a reminder that since God created in six days, by the same power He can also resurrect from the dead. It is a reminder that after resurrection, when the earth is recreated, we will worship in His immediate presence on the Sabbath, Isaiah 66:22-23. It is the time to rest, indicating we should be productive all other days. For without work, what is the point of rest? As with the symbol of baptism, there is new life in work and action on the first day after rest and dying to self. And naturally, it is an expression of love to God, John 14:15, 14:21.

# The Seal of God and the Mark of the Beast

## THE SEAL OF GOD

This is only a brief overview of this topic and it would be advisable to read the full article from [666mark-of-the-Beast](#). When I ask people what is their understanding of the Mark of the Beast, they almost always respond that the Mark is the number 666. Is this actually true or have we already been deceived at this point in our understanding? In actual fact, [Revelation 13:17](#) shows quite clearly that the Mark of the Beast is different to the number, which is the number of a man. It says, *“And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name.”* It is true that Satan counterfeits many things of God, such as healing, tongues and other miracles. Is it possible that Satan is also going to counterfeit God’s mark, which is called the Seal of God? Was the mark the Lord set upon Cain a physical mark or a spiritual mark? [Genesis 4:15](#) reads, *“...And the LORD set a mark upon Cain, lest any finding him should kill him.”* Did Cain spend the rest of his life with writing on His forehead? And assuming this would others that existed then known about or bothered to take notice of any such mark on his head?

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

- ❑ [John 6:27](#) *“Do not labor for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to everlasting life, which the Son of Man will give you, because God the Father has set His seal on Him.”*
- ❑ [2 Corinthians 1:21-22](#) *“Now He who establishes us with you in Christ and has anointed us is God, **22** who also has sealed us and given us the Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee.”*
- ❑ [Ephesians 1:13](#) *“In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise.”*
- ❑ [Ephesians 4:30](#) *“And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.”*
- ❑ [2 Timothy 2:19](#) *“Nevertheless the solid foundation of God stands, having this seal: “The Lord knows those who are His,” and, “Let everyone who names the name of Christ depart from iniquity.”*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- ❑ [Isaiah 8:16](#) *“Bind up the testimony, Seal the law among my disciples.”*

Another very important point not to miss here is that the disciples of God are *sealed with His law*. The seal of God is in His law, so clearly this is a symbolic seal and not a literal one.

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

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

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

Note the Commandments are written on both sides of the stone tablets. In Old Testament times, covenants were stamped with the kings seal right in the middle of the text which made them unreadable were the seal was. To solve this problem, covenants were written on both sides. The fourth Commandment, the Sabbath is exactly in the middle of God's Commandments. If you count the Hebrew syllables on each side of the fourth Commandment you will get precisely the same count, it is exactly in the middle and not by coincidence. This being the case you would expect to find the seal of God in the fourth Commandment which it indeed is. A seal is typically made up of three things; the kings Name, his Title and his Domain. Notice that we can find the seal of God in the fourth Commandment below. His name is the Lord and His title is Creator and His domain is the Heaven and Earth, the Sea, and all that in them.

- **Exodus 20:8-11** *“Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. 9 Six days you shall labor and do all your work, 10 but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord your God. In it you shall do no work: you, nor your son, nor your daughter, nor your male servant, nor your female servant, nor your cattle, nor your stranger who is within your gates. 11 For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day. Therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it.”*

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

## THE MARK OF THE BEAST

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

- **Revelation 13:16-18** *“He causes all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on their right hand or on their foreheads, 17 and that no one may buy or sell except one who has the mark or the name of the beast, or the number of his name. 18 Here is wisdom. Let him who has understanding calculate the number of the beast, for it is the number of a man: His number is 666.”*
- **Revelation 14:9-12** *“Then a third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, “If anyone worships the beast and his image, and receives his mark on his forehead or on his hand, 10 he himself shall also drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out full strength into the cup of His indignation. He shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb. 11 And the smoke of their torment ascends forever and ever; and they have no rest day or night, who worship the beast and his image, and whoever receives the mark of his name.” 12 Here is the patience of the saints; here are those who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus.”*
- **Revelation 15:2** *“And I saw something like a sea of glass mingled with fire, and those who have the victory over the beast, over his image and over his mark and over the number of his name, standing on the sea of glass, having harps of God.”*
- **Revelation 16:2** *“So the first went and poured out his bowl upon the earth, and a foul and loathsome sore came upon the men who had the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image.”*
- **Revelation 19:20** *“Then the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet who worked signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image. These two were cast alive into the lake of fire burning with brimstone.”*
- **Revelation 20:4** *“And I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was committed to them. Then I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God, who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received his mark on their foreheads or on their hands. And they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.”*

Notice how many times worship is mentioned in connection with the mark of the beast. Since the seal of God has been shown not to be a literal seal, why should the mark of the beast be a literal mark? If the mark on Cain was a literal mark, how would others have known to acknowledge it? Since those who worship on the Saturday Sabbath have the seal of God, what is a likely mark for the beast? It looks like worship is a factor. Notice in Revelation 13:17 that the mark of the beast is not the number of his name which is 666. Many people think this number is the mark of the beast. The mark of the beast and the name of the beast and the number of his name are separate things, all which must be avoided. Obviously, it is important we know who the beast is. As shown previously in this document titled, “Sabbath and Antichrist truth revealed” the beast is the Papacy and Catholic Church identified in one instance by the number 666, which equates to the papal title of VICARIUS FILII DEI, when you add up the Roman numeral values for the letters. It means the Vicar of the Son of God or Vicar of Christ. A Vicar General is defined in the 1994 Catholic Almanac on page 330 as “a *priest or bishop appointed by the bishop of a diocese to serve as his deputy, with ordinary executive power, in the administration of the diocese.*” So a vicar serves in the place of (substituting for) the bishop, and assumes his power of office for certain duties. The Papal title of VICAR OF CHRIST which in Latin is VICARIUS CHRISTI, means a Substitute For Christ, which is synonymous with Antichrist, i.e., assuming the power of God on earth. This blasphemous claim is made repeatedly by various Popes and is the very foundation of Roman Catholicism and its Papacy. The reformation was based on the identification of Roman Catholicism as the beast, and the Pope as the Antichrist, but this is something that has been forgotten or overlooked by Protestantism today. Now look at Revelation 14:9-12 again. Note how the saints of God are described in contrast to those with the mark of the beast. The saints *keep* the commandments of God, and so they do not receive the mark of the beast!

## **Statements made by the Roman Catholic Church about the Sabbath**

"Most Christians assume that Sunday is the biblically approved day of worship. The Catholic Church protests that it transferred Christian worship from the biblical Sabbath (Saturday) to Sunday, and that to try to argue that the change was made in the Bible is both dishonest and a denial of Catholic authority. If Protestantism wants to base its teachings only on the Bible, it should worship on Saturday." Rome's Challenge [www.immaculateheart.com/maryonline](http://www.immaculateheart.com/maryonline) Dec 2003

"Is not every Christian obliged to sanctify Sunday and to abstain on that day from unnecessary servile work? Is not the observance of this law among the most prominent of our sacred duties? 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 never sanctify." James Cardinal Gibbons, *The Faith of Our Fathers* (1917 edition), p. 72-73 (16th Edition, p 111; 88th Edition, p. 89).

"For example, nowhere in the Bible do we find that Christ or the Apostles ordered that the Sabbath be changed from Saturday to Sunday. We have the commandment of God given to Moses to keep holy the Sabbath day, that is the 7th day of the week, Saturday. Today most Christians keep Sunday because it has been revealed to us by the [Roman Catholic] church outside the Bible." *Catholic Virginian*, October 3, 1947, p. 9, article "To Tell You the Truth."

### **Who Made Sunday Holy?**

"Written by the finger of God on two tables of stone, this Divine code (ten commandments) was received from the Almighty by Moses amid the thunders of Mount Sinai...Christ resumed these Commandments in the double precept of charity--love of God and of the neighbour; He proclaimed them as binding under the New Law in Matthew 19 and in the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5)...The (Catholic) Church, on the other hand, after changing the day of rest from the Jewish Sabbath, or seventh day of the week, to the first, made the Third Commandment refer to Sunday as the day to be kept holy as the Lord's Day...He (God) claims one day out of the seven as a memorial to Himself, and this must be kept holy..." *The Catholic Encyclopaedia*, vol. 4, "The Ten Commandments", 1908 edition by Robert Appleton Company; and 1999 Online edition by Kevin Knight, Imprimatur, John M. Farley, Archbishop of New York.

"Question: How prove you that the church had power to command feasts and holydays?"

"Answer: By the very act of changing the Sabbath into Sunday, which Protestants allow of and therefore they fondly contradict themselves by keeping Sunday strictly, and breaking most other feasts commanded by the same church.

"Question: Have you any other way of proving that the church has power to institute festivals of precept?"

"Answer: Had she not such power, she could not a 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." Stephen Keenan, *A Doctrinal Catechism On the Obedience Due to the Church*, 3rd edition, Chapter 2, p. 174 (Imprimatur, John Cardinal McCloskey, Archbishop of New York).

"Perhaps the boldest thing, the most revolutionary change the Church ever did, happened in the first century. The holy day, the Sabbath, was changed from Saturday to Sunday. 'The day of the Lord' was chosen, not from any direction noted in the Scriptures, but from the (Catholic) Church's sense of its own power...People who think that the Scriptures should be the sole authority, should logically become 7<sup>th</sup> Day Adventists, and keep Saturday holy." *St. Catherine Church Sentinel*, Algonac, Michigan, May 21, 1995.

"Nowhere in the Bible is it stated that worship should be changed from Saturday to Sunday...Now the Church...instituted, by God's authority, Sunday as the day of worship. This same Church, by the same divine authority, taught the doctrine of Purgatory long before the Bible was made. We have, therefore, the same authority for Purgatory as we have for Sunday." Martin J. Scott, *Things Catholics Are Asked About*, 1927 edition, p. 136.

"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." Peter Geiermann, C.S.S.R., *The Convert's Catechism of Catholic Doctrine*, p. 50, 3rd edition, 1957.

"Is Saturday the seventh day according to the Bible and the Ten Commandments? I answer yes. Is Sunday the first day of the week and did the Church change the seventh day - Saturday - for Sunday, the first day? I answer yes. Did Christ change the day? I answer *no!*"

"Faithfully yours, J. Card. Gibbons." James Cardinal Gibbons, Archbishop of Baltimore, Md. (1877-1921), in a signed letter.

"Question. - How prove you that the Church hath power to command feasts and holy days?"

"Answer. - By the very act of changing Sabbath into Sunday which Protestants allow of; and therefore they fondly contradict themselves, by keeping Sunday strictly, and breaking most other feasts commanded by the same Church.

"Question. - How prove you that?"

"Answer. - Because by keeping Sunday, they acknowledge the Church's power to ordain feasts, and to command them under sin: and by not keeping the rest by her commanded, they again deny, in fact, the same power." An Abridgment of the Christian Doctrine, composed by Henry Tuberville, p. 58.

"Some theologians have held that God likewise directly determined the Sunday as the day of worship in the New Law, that He Himself has explicitly substituted the Sunday for the Sabbath. But this theory is now entirely abandoned. It is now commonly held that God simply gave His Church the power to set aside whatever day or days she would deem suitable as Holy Days. The (Roman Catholic) Church chose Sunday, the first day of the week, and in the course of time added other days as holy days." John Laux, *A Course in Religion for Catholic High Schools and Academies*, 1936 edition, vol. 1, p. 51.



"Question. What warrant have you for keeping Sunday preferably to the ancient sabbath which was Saturday?

"Answer. We have for it the authority of the Catholic church and apostolic tradition.

"Question. Does the Scripture anywhere command the Sunday to be kept for the Sabbath?

"Answer. The Scripture commands us to hear the church (St.Matt.18:17; St. Luke 10:16), and to hold fast the traditions of the apostles. 2 Thess 2:15. But the Scripture does not in particular mention this change of the Sabbath.

"St John speaks of the Lord's day (Rev 1:10) but he does not tell us what day of the week that was, much less does he tell us what day was to take the place of the Sabbath ordained in the commandments. St.Luke speaks of the disciples meeting together to break bread on the first day of the week. Acts 20:7. And St. Paul (1 Cor.16:2) orders that on the first day of the week the Corinthians should lay in store what they designated to bestow in charity on the faithful in Judea: but neither the one or the other tells us that this first day of the week was to be henceforth a day of worship, and the Christian Sabbath; so that truly the best authority we have for this ancient custom is the testimony of the church. And therefore those who pretend to be such religious observers of Sunday, whilst they take no notice of other festivals ordained by the same church authority, show that they act more by humor, than by religion; since Sundays and holidays all stand upon the same foundation, namely the ordinance of the (Roman Catholic) church." Catholic Christian Instructed, 17th edition, p. 272-273.

"Protestantism, in discarding the authority of the (Roman Catholic) Church, has no good reasons for its Sunday theory, and ought logically to keep Saturday as the Sabbath." John Gilmary Shea, *American Catholic Quarterly Review*, January 1883.

"The Catholic church for over one thousand years before the existence of a Protestant, by virtue of her divine mission, changed the day from Saturday to Sunday...The Protestant World at its birth found the Christian Sabbath too strongly entrenched to run counter to its existence; it was therefore placed under the necessity of acquiescing in the arrangement, thus implying the (Catholic) Church's right to change the day, for over three hundred years. The Christian Sabbath is therefore *to this day*, the acknowledged offspring of the Catholic Church as spouse of the Holy Ghost, without a word of remonstrance from the Protestant World." James Cardinal Gibbons in the *Catholic Mirror*, September 23, 1983.

### **Whose Day of Worship is Sunday?**

"They [the Protestants] deem it their duty to keep the Sunday holy. Why? Because the Catholic Church tells them to do so. They have no other reason...The observance of Sunday thus comes to be an ecclesiastical law entirely distinct from the divine law of Sabbath observance...The author of the Sunday law...is the Catholic Church." *Ecclesiastical Review*, February 1914.

"The Sunday...is purely a creation of the Catholic Church." *American Catholic Quarterly Review*, January 1883.

"Sunday...is the law of the Catholic Church alone..." *American Sentinel (Catholic)*, June 1893.

"Sunday is a Catholic institution and its claim to observance can be defended only on Catholic principles...From beginning to 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." *Catholic Press*, Sydney, Australia, August 1900.

"It is well to remind the Presbyterians, Baptists, Methodists, and all other Christians, that the Bible does not support them anywhere in their observance of Sunday. Sunday is an institution of the Roman Catholic Church, and those who observe the day observe a commandment of the Catholic Church." Priest Brady, in an address reported in *The News*, Elizabeth, New Jersey, March 18, 1903.

### **Who Do We Reverence and Pay Homage to by Keeping Sunday Holy?**

"From this we may understand how great is the authority of the church in interpreting or explaining to us the commandments of God - an authority which is acknowledged by the universal practice of the whole Christian world, even of those sects which profess to take the holy Scriptures as their sole rule of faith, since they observe as the day of rest not the seventh day of the week demanded by the Bible, but the first day. Which we know is to be kept holy, only from the tradition and teaching of the Catholic church." Henry Gibson, *Catechism Made Easy*, #2, 9th edition, vol. 1, p. 341-342.

"It was the Catholic church which...has transferred this rest to Sunday in remembrance of the resurrection of our Lord. Therefore the observance of Sunday by the Protestants is an homage they pay, in spite of themselves, to the authority of the (Catholic) church." Monsignor Louis Segur, *Plain Talk About the Protestantism of Today*, p. 213.

"Sunday is our mark or authority...the church is above the Bible, and this transference of Sabbath observance is proof of that fact." *Catholic Record of London*, Ontario, September 1, 1923.

"Of course the Catholic Church claims that the change (Saturday Sabbath to Sunday) was her act...And the act is a mark of her ecclesiastical authority in religious things." H.F. Thomas, Chancellor of Cardinal Gibbons.

"I have repeatedly offered \$1,000 to anyone who can prove to me from the Bible alone that I am bound to keep Sunday holy. There is no such law in the Bible. It is a law of the holy Catholic Church alone. The Bible says, 'Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy.' The Catholic Church says: 'No. By my divine power I abolish the Sabbath day and command you to keep holy the first day of the week.' And lo! The entire civilized world bows down in a reverent obedience to the command of the holy Catholic Church." father T. Enright, C.S.S.R. of the Redemptoral College, Kansas City, in a lecture at Hartford, Kansas, February 18, 1884, printed in *History of the Sabbath*, p. 802.

"Protestants...accept Sunday rather than Saturday as the day for public worship after the Catholic Church made the change...But the Protestant mind does not seem to realize that...In observing the Sunday, they are accepting the authority of the spokesman for the church, the Pope." *Our Sunday Visitor*, February 15, 1950.

## Conclusion and the Challenge.

"The (Roman Catholic) Church changed the observance of the Sabbath to Sunday by right of the divine, infallible authority given to her by her founder, Jesus Christ. The Protestant claiming the Bible to be the only guide of faith, has no warrant for observing Sunday." *The Catholic Universe Bulletin*, August 14, 1942, p. 4.

"Sunday is founded, not of scripture, but on tradition, and is distinctly a Catholic institution. As there is no scripture for the transfer of the day of rest from the last to the first day of the week, Protestants ought to keep their Sabbath on Saturday and thus leave Catholics in full possession of Sunday." *Catholic Record*, September 17, 1893.

"Regarding the change from the observance of the Jewish Sabbath to the Christian Sunday, I wish to draw your attention to the facts:

"1) That Protestants, who accept the Bible as the only rule of faith and religion, should by all means go back to the observance of the Sabbath. The fact that they do not, but on the contrary observe the Sunday, stultifies them in the eyes of every thinking man.

"2) We Catholics do not accept the Bible as the only rule of faith. Besides the Bible we have the living Church, the authority of the Church, as a rule to guide us. We say, this Church, instituted by Christ to teach and guide man through life, has the right to change the ceremonial laws of the Old Testament and hence, we accept her change of the Sabbath to Sunday. We frankly say, yes, the Church made this change, made this law, as she made many other laws, for instance, the Friday abstinence, the unmarried priesthood, the laws concerning mixed marriages, the regulation of Catholic marriages and a thousand other laws...

"It is always somewhat laughable, to see the Protestant churches, in pulpit and legislation, demand the observance of Sunday, of which there is nothing in their Bible." Peter R. Kraemer, *Catholic Church Extension Magazine, USA* (1975), Chicago, Illinois, "Under the blessing of the Pope Pius XI"

"I am going to propose a very plain and serious question to those who follow 'the Bible and the Bible only' to give their most earnest attention. It is this: Why don't you keep holy the Sabbath day?..."

"The command of the Almighty God stands clearly written in the Bible in these words: '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; in it thou shalt not do any work.' Exodus 20:8-10..."

"You will answer me, perhaps, that you do keep the Sabbath; for that you abstain from all worldly business and diligently go to church, and say your prayers, and read your Bible at home every Sunday of your lives..."

"But Sunday is not the Sabbath day. Sunday is the first day of the week: the Sabbath day is the seventh day of the week. Almighty God did not give a commandment that men should keep holy one day in seven; but He named His own day, and said distinctly: 'Thou shalt keep holy the seventh day'; and He assigned a reason for choosing this day rather than any other - a reason which belongs only to the seventh day of the week, and cannot be applied to the rest. He says, 'For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea and all that in them is, and rested on the seventh day: wherefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it', Exodus 20:11, Genesis 2:1-3. Almighty God ordered that all men should rest from their labor on the seventh day, because He too had rested on that day: He did not rest on Sunday, but on Saturday. On Sunday, which is the first day of the week, He began the work of creation; He did not finish it. It was on Saturday that He 'ended His work which he had made: and God blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it: because that in it He had rested from all His work which God created and made.' Genesis 2:2-3..."

"Nothing can be more plain and easy to understand than all this; there is nobody who attempts to deny it. It is acknowledged by everybody that the day which Almighty God appointed to be kept holy was Saturday, not Sunday. Why do you then keep holy the Sunday and not Saturday?"

"You will tell me that Saturday was the Jewish Sabbath, but that the Christian Sabbath has been changed to Sunday. Changed! But by whom? Who has the authority to change an express commandment of Almighty God? When God has spoken and said, 'Thou shalt keep holy the seventh day', who shall dare to say, 'Nay, thou mayest work and do all manner of worldly business on the seventh day: but thou shalt keep holy the first day in its stead?' This is a most important question, which I know not how you answer..."

"You are a Protestant, and you profess to go by the Bible and the Bible only; and yet, in so important a manner as the observance of one day in seven as the holy day, you go against the plain letter of the Bible, and put another day in the place of that day which the Bible has commanded. The command to keep holy the seventh day is one of the Ten Commandments; you believe that the other nine are still binding. Who gave you authority to tamper with the fourth? If you are consistent with your own principles, if you really follow the Bible, and the Bible only you ought to be able to produce some portion of the New Testament in which this fourth commandment is expressly altered." Excerpts from "Why Don't You Keep Holy the Sabbath Day?", pages 3-15 in *The Clifton Tract*, vol. 4, published by the Roman Catholic Church 1869.

"The arguments...are firmly grounded on the word of God, and having been closely studied with the Bible in hand, leave no escape for the conscientious Protestant except the abandonment of Sunday worship and the return to Saturday, commanded by their teacher, the Bible, or, unwilling to abandon the tradition of the Catholic Church, which enjoins the keeping of Sunday, and which they have accepted in direct opposition to their teacher, the Bible, consistently accept her (the Catholic Church) in all her teachings. Reason and common sense demand the acceptance of one or the other of these alternatives: either Protestantism and the keeping holy of Saturday, or Catholicism and the keeping holy of Sunday. Compromise is impossible." James Cardinal Gibbons, in *Catholic Mirror*, December 23, 1893.

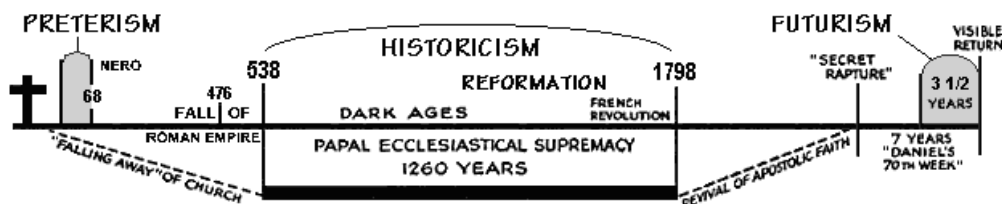
## The Great Catholic Diversion Revealed

With the arrival of the printing press in the 15th century and the resulting explosion of Bibles accessible in the common language from Protestant sources, it became readily apparent to those who could now study the prophecies of Daniel and Revelation in particular, that Bible prophecy identified by symbols a persecuting apostate entity generally known as antichrist. If we list characteristics of antichrist, the following becomes readily apparent.

1. It will rise to be a great power after the fall of the pagan Roman Empire (after 476 A.D.). See table next page.
2. It will be a geographically small nation (a little horn).
3. It will rule over many people, nations, and tongues (it will be universal).
4. It will be headquartered in the city of seven hills, Rome.
5. It will be a religio-political entity - a political city-state ruled by a priest-king.
6. Its priest-king will make great and blasphemous claims.
7. It will claim authority over all kings.
8. It will claim its power to change the holy times and laws of God as its mark of authority.
9. It will be an apostate church that makes the nations drink her cup of apostate doctrine.
10. It will be a "mother" church, with apostate daughters coming from her.
11. It will be a persecuting power, killing the faithful saints of Jesus Christ as heretics.
12. It will hold power and authority for 1260 years following the fall of pagan Rome.
13. It will suffer a deadly wound that will end 1260 years of dominance and persecution.
14. It will be revived after the deadly wound, and all the world would wonder at its revival.

In this the "Historical" interpretation, the antichrist was clearly not merely a single individual, it was a system of apostasy and persecution that would hold control for over twelve centuries. The inevitable conclusion of those who studied these prophecies in scripture, before and during the Protestant Reformation, was that there was only one entity that fit all the above characteristics: the papal dynasty of the Roman Catholic Church. Is it any wonder that the Catholic Church was so violently opposed to the scriptures being available for everyone to read for themselves? There was such a stir created during the reformation that the Fifth Lateran Council (1512-17 A.D.) resorted to strictly forbidding anyone to publish a book without prior censorship, and also prohibited anyone from preaching on the subject of antichrist. The intent of both Futurism and Preterism was to be diversionary, to counter or offset the Protestant Historical interpretation, and present alternatives, no matter how implausible they might be.

The result is evident from the following chart, which illustrates the three schools of interpretation regarding antichrist. Ribera's futurism puts the antichrist into a future three and one-half literal years. Alcazar's preterism identifies the



antichrist as Nero. Both of them put antichrist outside the Middle Ages and the reformation period, identified by Protestant Historicists as antichrist's reign of 1260 prophetic years.

Now the truly amazing part of all this is that the Futurist theory dominates Protestant teaching today. About all you hear or read about today is the yet to appear antichrist, who will be unveiled in the last 3 1/2 years of Daniel's 70th week, when he declares himself to be God in a rebuilt temple in Jerusalem. That scenario, as you can now see, is directly traceable back to the pen of the Jesuit Francisco Ribera who manufactured this theory for the sole purpose of diverting attention from the papacy. Note what one Protestant writer had to say over one hundred years ago:

*"Accordingly, towards the close of the century of the Reformation, two of her most learned doctors set themselves to the task, each endeavouring by different means to accomplish the same end, namely, that of diverting men's minds from perceiving the fulfilment of the prophecies of the Antichrist in the Papal system. The Jesuit Alcazar devoted himself to bring into prominence the Preterist method of interpretation, which we have already briefly noticed, and thus endeavouring to show that the prophecies of Antichrist were fulfilled before the Popes ever ruled in Rome, and therefore could not apply to the Papacy. On the other hand the Jesuit Ribera tried to set aside the application of these prophecies to the Papal Power by bringing out the Futurist system, which asserts that these prophecies refer properly not to the career of the Papacy, but to that of some future supernatural individual, who is yet to appear, and to continue in power for three and a half years. Thus, as Alford says, the Jesuit Ribera, about A.D. 1580, may be regarded as the Founder of the Futurist system in modern times."*

*"It is a matter for deep regret that those who hold and advocate the Futurist system at the present day, Protestants as they are for the most part, are thus really playing into the hands of Rome, and helping to screen the Papacy from detection as the Antichrist. It has been well said that 'Futurism tends to obliterate the brand put by the Holy Spirit upon Popery.' More especially is this to be deplored at a time when the Papal Antichrist seems to be making an expiring effort to regain his former hold on men's minds."* From Daniel and the Revelation: The Chart of Prophecy and Our Place In It, A Study of the Historical and Futurist Interpretation, by Joseph Tanner, published in London by Hodder and Stoughton, 1898, pages 16,17.

In what could only be described as a stunning reversal, Protestants have over time actually become the papacy's greatest ally by spreading its Jesuit spawned propaganda. What irony that Protestants, who originally broke away from what they clearly recognized to be the harlot antichrist led church of prophecy, now champion the Futurist interpretation from high profile ministries. Futurism has without doubt, been successful beyond the wildest dreams of its Jesuit authors. The same applies to the Preterist interpretation of Luis De Alcazar, although to a lesser degree.

## Prophecy Time Charts and further Evidence

Due to the importance of the identity of the antichrist beast power and to see how this truth could not be quite so easily established without using the book of Daniel, we are going to cover this topic with some more detail and charts. Understanding how Daniel and Revelation work together is an important part of understanding 666 and the mark of the beast, the identity of mystery Babylon and the battle of Armageddon. If you still want further evidence that the antichrist beast power is an Apostate Church, I would recommend reading the web site [Mystery Babylon](#).

### 1) What does the Bible have to say about “Antichrist”?

Some are surprised to know that the word antichrist appears nowhere in the book of Revelation. The word antichrist occurs only five times and only in the Books of 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> John.

- 1 John 2:18-22 – He is antichrist that denies Jesus is Christ. In John’s time there were many antichrists.
- 1 John 4:1-3 – Test the Spirits. Every spirit that denies Jesus came in the flesh is the spirit of antichrist.
- 2 John 1-11 – Those that deny Jesus came in the flesh are a deceiver and antichrist.
- Antichrist = “against Christ”, attacking Christ’s character (Gnosticism), specifically with regard to love expressed in obedience to God’s Ten Commandments.

### 2) What is one method Satan uses to “deny” Christ?

2 Corinthians 11:3-4, 13-15 – Appear as “*apostles of Christ*” but preach a “*different Jesus*”

### 3) Does the Bible give us a way to identify the Antichrist power?

Review Daniel 2 to get a prophetic blueprint of history: Babylon --> Medo-Persia --> Greece --> Rome --> 10 Divisions of Rome --> Kingdom of the Stone.

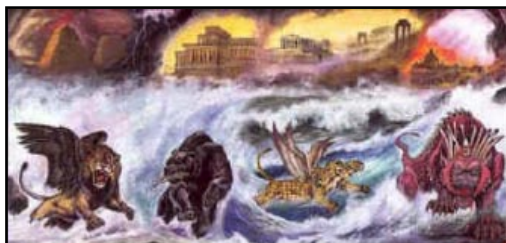
Now apply the principle of repetition and enlargement to Daniel’s next vision.

#### Prophecy Symbols:

- Beasts – Kings/kingdoms (political powers). Daniel 7:17, 23
- Horns/heads – Subdivisions of political powers. Daniel 7:24, 8:22
- Wings – Speed or swiftness.
- Winds – War/Strife. Jeremiah 49:35-37
- Sea – Multitudes of people. Revelation 17:1, 15

#### Daniel 7:1-8 – Daniel’s vision of four beasts

- The Lion - Babylon. Wings represent conquering speed. King Nebuchadnezzar.
- The Bear - Medo Persia. One shoulder raised above the other represents the dominance of the Medes over the Persians. The three ribs represent the three kingdoms overthrown by this kingdom - Egypt, Lydia, and Babylon. (Daniel 8:20)
- The Leopard - Greece. Four wings representing great conquering speed. The four heads represent Alexander the Great’s four generals who ruled Greece after his death – Seleucus, Ptolemy, Lysimachus and Cassander. (Daniel 8:21-22)
- The different beast - Rome. The ten horns - the divisions of Rome



(Same as the toes of Chapter 2) The ten horns are the 10 divisions of the Roman Empire as it fell apart. These were the Anglo Saxons (England), Alemanni (Germany), Heruli (x493AD), Vandals (x534AD), Ostrogoths (x538AD), Visigoths (Spain), Suevi (Portugal), Lombard's (Italy), Burgundians (Swiss) and the Franks (France).

### 4) What 9 characteristics help us to identify the little horn power?

- 1) Location: out of 4th beast and among the ten horns (v.8) - The Papacy arose out of Rome among the ten tribal divisions of Rome
- 2) Timing: after the ten were established (v.8) - the Papacy became a political power by decree of the Roman emperor Justinian in AD 538 which was after the emergence of the ten tribal divisions that emerged as the Roman Empire fell apart in AD 476.
- 3) Uprooted three of the ten horns (v.8) - As the Papacy came to prominence, it influenced Pagan Roman armies to destroy three of the tribes which opposed its Christian doctrines. These three were the Vandals, Ostrogoths, and Heruli. The last of these was destroyed in AD 538 when Justinian’s decree went into effect.
- 4) Eyes and mouth of a man (v.8) - the Papacy has a man as its visible head.
- 5) Persecutes the saints (v.21, 25) - Ever hear of the Papal persecution during the dark ages - Inquisition, etc. More than 50 million Protestant Christians tortured and killed by the Catholic Church.
- 6) Different than the other ten horns (v.24) - the Papacy was a religio-political entity different from the kingdoms before it.
- 7) Speak out against the God (v.8, 11, 20, 25) - Verse 8 says it will utter boastful or blasphemous things. One quote of many like it from Prompta Bibliotheca Canonica Juridicia Moralis Theologica appearing in the Catholic Encyclopedia Volume VI, pp. 25-29, “*The Pope is of so great dignity, and so exalted, that he is not a mere man, but as it were, God and the Vicar of God. The Pope is, as it were, God on earth, chief king of kings, having plentitude of power.*”
- 8) Little Horn attempts to change God’s times and laws (v.25) - The Papacy deleted the second commandment

of the Decalogue on idolatry, changed the Sabbath to Sunday in favour of sun worship and divided the tenth commandment on coveting into two parts to get back to Ten Commandments.

- 9) Have power for a time, times, and half a time (or three and a half years, forty two months, or 1260 days - see Rev 12:6, 14) (v.25) - Applying the prophetic day for year principle established in Numbers 14:34 and Ezekiel 4:6 that equals 1260 years. The Papacy lasted in primary power from AD 538 to 1798 in which year Napoleon's general Berthier marched into Rome, deposed the Pope, and carried him into exile where he died.

**5) How does Daniel's vision compare with John's vision in Revelation 13?**

The table below also demonstrates how a lot of Bible prophecy can be understood by comparing Revelation with the Old Testament and the book of Daniel in particular. Again this is very important to understanding the Battle of Armageddon as the beast is Mystery Babylon who is the major player in this prophecy.

| Antichrist Power - Daniel 7            | Antichrist Power - Revelation 13  |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| Four beasts from the Sea. vs.3         | Four Beasts in one from sea. vs.1 |
| Lion. vs.4                             | Lion vs.2                         |
| Bear. vs.5                             | Bear. vs.2                        |
| Leopard. vs.6                          | Leopard. vs.2                     |
| Ten horned beast vs.7                  | Ten horned beast. vs.1            |
| Mouth Speaking great things. vs.8      | Mouth Speaking great things. vs.5 |
| Make war with the Saints. vs.21        | Make war with the Saints. vs.7    |
| Power for 3.5 years = 42 Months. vs.25 | Power for 42 Months. vs.5         |

The above similarities are not a coincidence. God deliberately concealed many things like this so that they would not be seen until the time of the end. This applies to most prophecies involving the book of Daniel.

**Daniel 12:4** "But you, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end: many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased."

There has only been one power that has persecuted Christians for 1260 years and only one power had the privilege of taking out three of the ten kingdoms from the collapse of the Roman Empire. It can be no other than the Papacy on these two points alone, and as we have seen there are far more identifying points.

**Table showing common elements that help identify the antichrist power just described:**

| Characteristics                      | The Little Horn (Daniel 7)   | The Man of Sin (2 Thessalonians 2:3)  | The Sea Beast (Revelation 13)  | Woman on Beast (Revelation 17-18)  |
|--------------------------------------|--|---|--|--|
| Source                               | Comes out of the head of the 10 horned fourth beast (Rome)   | Owes his rise to removal of a hindering power   | Comes from the "sea" meaning many people (densely populated Europe)                                  | Arises in a city with seven hills (Rome) and rules over many waters (peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues)  |
| Time of Origin                       | Comes up among 10 horns (the divided successors of the Pagan Roman Empire)                                     | Revealed only after the fall of the hindering Pagan Roman Empire  | Receives power, seat and authority from the Dragon (Satan working through Pagan Rome)                | Arises among the ten horns (divisions of Rome) that will hate her  |
| Religio-political Church-State Power | Diverse power, blasphemes God, exercises authority over the saints, changes times and laws of the most high    | Political characteristics not mentioned, but demands and receives worship                                 | Composite of Daniel's beasts, which are kingdoms, and wear crowns, that demands and receives worship | The woman is an apostate church the beast is the power of the state hence this is a religio-political power having a priest-king ruler                                 |
| Blasphemous Presumption              | In this horn were eyes like the eyes of man, and a mouth speaking great things and words against the most high | Exalts himself above God.   | Has a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies  | Full of names of blasphemy   |
| Time of Dominance                    | Given power over the saints for a time, times and a dividing of time. (1260 years)                             | ---   | Given power forty and two months (1260 years)  | ---  |
| Warring against God's people         | Made war with the saints and prevailed against them  | ---   | Makes war with the saints and overcomes them   | This woman (apostate church) is drunk with the blood of the saints - in her was found the blood of prophets, and of saints, and of all that were slain upon the earth. |
| Great Power                          | Looks more stout than his fellows  | Has all power, signs and lying wonders  | Who is able to make war with him?  | The woman which thou sawest is that great city, which reigneth over the kings of the earth.  |
| Demands Divine Homage                | Sets himself over the saints, times, and laws of the most high   | Sets himself up as God, above all that is worshipped  | Causes multitudes to worship him   | This woman is the apostate "mother" of harlot churches   |
| End                                  | They shall take away his dominion, to consume and to destroy it unto the end (the second coming)               | The Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming: | Cast into the lake of fire   | Utterly burned with fire   |

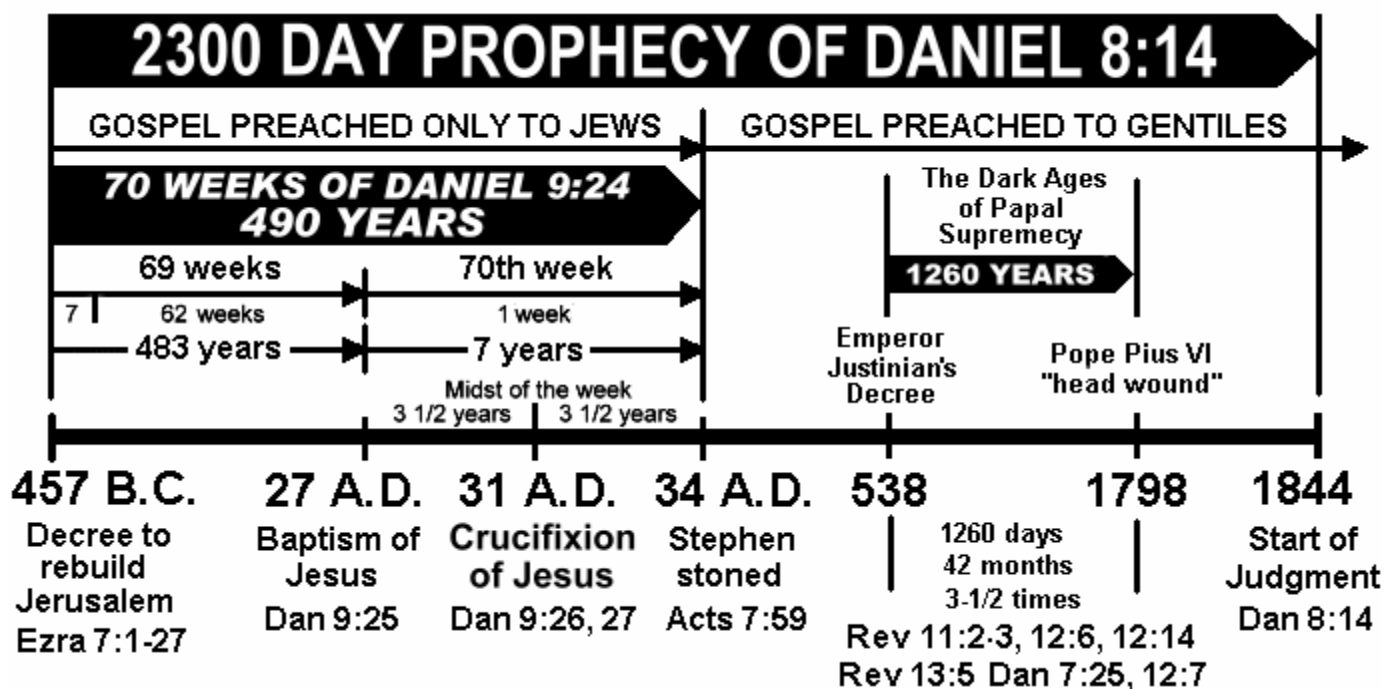
## The Empires of Daniel and Revelation

As already demonstrated, Bible prophecy quite often uses the principle of repetition and enlargement to allow you to see and understand the full picture. This is a very simple principle that so many do not understand which is why Satan succeeds in having so many interpretations of Bible prophecy in the world. As you can see from below, interpretations are not required. Besides the fact that history shows that Medo-Persia conquered Babylon, we are also told directly in Daniel 8 that Medo-Persia follows Babylon and Greece follows them.

| Empire  | Daniel 2                                     | Daniel 7  | Daniel 8                       | Revelation 13   |
|---|--|---|--------------------------------|---|
| BABYLON<br>Until 538 B.C.                             | Head of Gold<br>vs. 32, 38                   | Lion from Sea<br>vs. 4, 17                                      | ---                            | Mouth of a Lion v. 2  |
| MEDO - PERSIA<br>Until 331 B.C.                       | Chest of Silver<br>vs. 32, 39                | Bear from Sea<br>vs. 5, 17                                      | Ram vs. 3, 20                  | Feet of a Bear v. 2   |
| GREECE<br>Until 168 B.C.                              | Belly of Brass<br>vs. 32, 39                 | Leopard from Sea<br>vs. 6, 17                                   | He-Goat<br>vs. 5, 21           | Body like a Leopard v. 2  |
| PAGAN ROME<br>Until 476 A.D.                          | Legs of Iron vs. 33, 40                      | 4 <sup>th</sup> Diverse Beast from<br>Sea, Iron Teeth vs. 7, 17 | ---                            | World power of John's time<br>Rome / Dragon v.2                                 |
| Europe Divided<br>(Ten Kingdoms)                      | 10 Toes (kingdoms)<br>Iron & Clay vs. 33, 41 | 10 Horns (kingdoms)<br>vs. 20, 24                               | ---                            | 10 Horns (kingdoms)<br>Beast from the Sea v. 1                                  |
| PAPAL ROME<br>Begins 538 A.D.<br>Head Wound 1798 A.D. | Clay & Iron<br>Church & State<br>Jer. 18:1-6 | Diverse Little Horn<br>vs. 8, 11, 24-25                         | Little Horn<br>vs. 9-12, 23-25 | Composite of previous<br>Empires headed 10 horned<br>Beast from the Sea vs. 1-3 |
| JUDGMENT BEGINS<br>1844 A.D.                          | ---  | Judgment scene<br>vs. 9-10, 22, 26                              | Sanctuary<br>Cleansed v. 14    | ---   |
| UNITED STATES   | ---  | ---   | ---                            | Lamb-like<br>2 Horned Land Beast v. 11  |
| PAPAL<br>Head Wound Healed<br>Lateran Treaty 1929     | ---  | ---   | ---                            | Head Wound<br>to Sea Beast Healed vs. 3,12                                      |
| GOD'S KINGDOM   | Stone – Mountain<br>vs. 35, 44               | God's Kingdom<br>vs. 13-14, 27                                  | ---                            | ---   |

### Daniels Prophecy proves the Day for a Year Rule.

The following is just some of the evidence that shows the day for a year rule is correct when prophecy is symbolic. The Book of Daniel was written while the Jews were in Babylon in exile because of their sins. Daniel 9:24-27 contains a prophecy from the angel Gabriel to encourage the Jewish people that they would be given a "second chance" to return to Jerusalem, rebuild their temple and ultimately receive Jesus Christ as their Messiah. Thus we have a prophecy of "seventy weeks." Gabriel subdivides the period into three smaller periods of seven weeks (verse 25), sixty-two weeks (verse 25), and one week (verse 27).  $7+62+1=70$ . Seventy weeks = 490 days and on the day for a year rule is actually 490 years. The prophecy starts with a "commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem" (verse 25) after the Babylonian captivity and reaches down to the first coming of Jesus Christ. After 69 weeks (483 years), "shall Messiah be cut off" (verse 26), i.e. the Messiah would die. So after the 69 weeks and in this final week it says "And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease" (verse 27.) The sacrifices and offerings ceased of course when Jesus became the final perfect sacrifice for us. Here we see the day for a year rule fits history absolutely 100% perfectly.



## **Scriptures Related to Loving God and Keeping the Sabbath**

**Genesis 2:2-3** And on the seventh day God ended his work which he had made; and he rested on the seventh day from all his work which he had made. **3** And God blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it: because that in it he had rested from all his work which God created and made.

**Exodus 16:27-28** And it came to pass, *that* there went out *some* of the people on the seventh day for to gather, and they found none. **28** And the LORD said unto Moses, How long refuse you to keep my commandments and my laws? (*God's children thought they could keep any day as the Sabbath and God was very angry and had only one response.*)

**Exodus 20:8-11** Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. **9** Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work: **10** But the seventh day *is* the sabbath of the LORD thy God: *in it* thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that *is* within thy gates: **11** For *in* six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them *is*, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it. (*The Sabbath was made Holy. Remember to keep it that way.*)

**Exodus 31:12-18 GNB** The LORD commanded Moses **13** to tell the people of Israel, "Keep the Sabbath, my day of rest, because it is a sign between you and me for all time to come, to show that I, the LORD, have made you my own people. **14** You must keep the day of rest, because it is sacred. Whoever does not keep it, but works on that day, is to be put to death. **15 KJV** Six days may work be done; but in the seventh *is* the sabbath of rest, holy to the LORD: whosoever doeth *any* work in the sabbath day, he shall surely be put to death. **16** Wherefore the children of Israel shall keep the sabbath, to observe the sabbath throughout their generations, *for* a perpetual covenant. **17** It *is* a sign between me and the children of Israel for ever: for *in* six days the LORD made heaven and earth, and on the seventh day he rested, and was refreshed. **18** And he gave unto Moses, when he had made an end of communing with him upon mount Sinai, two tables of testimony, tables of stone, written with the finger of God. (*All Christians are children of Israel and spiritual Jews. See Galatians 3:29 below and see also Romans 2:28-29.*)

**Exodus 35:2** Six days shall work be done, but on the seventh day there shall be to you an holy day, a sabbath of rest to the LORD: whosoever doeth work therein shall be put to death. (*Another reminder of the day to keep.*)

**Deuteronomy 6:5** And you shall love the LORD your God with all thine heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might. (*Loving God with all your heart was not a new law. See also Leviticus 19:18 and Romans 13:9.*)

**Deuteronomy 31:24-26** And it came to pass, when Moses had made an end of writing the words of this law in a book, until they were finished, **25** That Moses commanded the Levites, which bare the ark of the covenant of the LORD, saying, **26** Take this book of the law, and put it in the side of the ark of the covenant of the LORD your God, that it may be there for a witness against thee. (*This book contained the ordinances and was stored on the side of the Ark. The Ten Commandments went inside the Ark.*)

**Leviticus 19:18** You shall not avenge, nor bear any grudge against the children of your people, but you shall love your neighbour as thyself: I *am* the LORD. (*Loving your neighbour as your self was not a new law. See also Deuteronomy 6:5 and Romans 13:9.*)

**Leviticus 23:3** Six days shall work be done: but the seventh day *is* the sabbath of rest, an holy convocation; you shall do no work *therein*: it *is* the sabbath of the LORD in all your dwellings. (*Note how it is a holy convocation, that is, the Sabbath day is ideal for fellowshiping with other Christians. When we fellowship with other people in whom God dwells, we are in fact also fellowshiping with Him. See also Exodus 20:10 and 1John 1:3, 7.*)

**Leviticus 23:32** It *shall be* unto you a sabbath of rest, and you shall afflict your souls: in the ninth *day* of the month at even, from even unto even, shall you celebrate your sabbath. (*The Sabbath is kept from evening to evening.*)

**2 Chronicles 8:13** Even after a certain rate every day, offering according to the commandment of Moses, on the sabbaths, and on the new moons, and on the solemn feasts, three times in the year, *even* in the feast of unleavened bread, and in the feast of weeks, and in the feast of tabernacles. (*This and some of the next verse refer to the Ceremonial law written in Moses handwriting. They are also called the ordinances.*)

**2 Chronicles 33:8** Neither will I any more remove the foot of Israel from out of the land which I have appointed for your fathers; so that they will take heed to do all that I have commanded them, according to the whole law and the statutes and the ordinances by the hand of Moses. (*The Commandments and the ordinances are two distinct laws.*)

**Isaiah 58:13-14** If you turn away your foot from the sabbath, *from* doing your pleasure on my holy day; and call the sabbath a delight, the holy of the LORD, honourable; and shall honour him, not doing thine own ways, nor finding thine own pleasure, nor speaking *thine own* words: **14** Then shall you delight thyself in the LORD; 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 the LORD has spoken *it*. (*Note how God says that we are to find it a DELIGHT, not a BURDEN as many offend God by calling it so. When you spend quality time with someone you love the love relationship grows and this is what happens when we keep God's Sabbath. See also 1John 1:3, 7*)

**Isaiah 66:22-23** For as the new heavens and the new earth, which I will make, shall remain before me, saith the LORD, so shall your seed and your name remain. **23** 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, saith the LORD. (*The Ten Commandment Sabbath was made at creation and will be kept for all eternity. This includes now! See also Exodus 31:16-17.*)

**Daniel 7:25** 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: and they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and the dividing of time. (*The Roman Catholic Church did do all these things.*)

**Hosea 4:6** My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because you have rejected knowledge, I will also reject you, that you shall be no priest to me: seeing you have forgotten the law of your God, I will also forget your children. (*Many Christians will perish because they reject truth and don't keep God's Commandments.*)

**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 fulfil. **18** 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. **19** Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven: but whosoever shall do and teach *them*, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven. (*Forget all the excuses! Here are concrete words from Jesus. No change to the Law.*)

**Matthew 7:13-14** Enter you in at the strait gate: for wide *is* the gate, and broad *is* the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: **14** Because strait *is* the gate, and narrow *is* the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it. (*Not many love God enough to take the strait and narrow way.*)

**Matthew 7:21-23** Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. **22** Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in your name? and in your name have cast out devils? and in your name done many wonderful works? **23** And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, you that work iniquity. (*Jesus will sadly have say too many Christians that He did not know them because they practised lawlessness.*)

**Matthew 12:8** For the Son of man is Lord even of the sabbath day.

**Matthew 12:12** Of how much more value then is a man than a sheep? Therefore it is lawful to do good on the Sabbath."

**Matthew 19:16-17** And, behold, one came and said unto him, Good Master, what good thing shall I do, that I may have eternal life? **17** And he said unto him, Why callest thou me good? *there is* none good but one, *that is*, God: but if you will enter into life, keep the commandments.

**Matthew 22:35-40** Then one of them, *which was* a lawyer, asked *him a question*, tempting him, and saying, **36** Master, which *is* the great commandment in the law? **37** Jesus said unto him, You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. **38** This is the first and great commandment. **39** And the second *is* like unto it, You shall love your neighbour as thyself. **40** *On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets. (ALL God's law of love hangs on these two Commandments. ALL includes the Sabbath. See also Romans 13:9, Deuteronomy 6:5 and Leviticus 19:18.)*

**Matthew 24:20-21** But pray ye that your flight be not in the winter, neither on the sabbath day: **21** For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be. (*More evidence the Sabbath was kept 40 years after Jesus was crucified.*)

**Mark 2:27-28** And he said unto them, The sabbath was made for man, and not man for the sabbath: **28** Therefore the Son of man is Lord also of the sabbath.

**Mark 7:6-9 GNB** Jesus answered them, "How right Isaiah was when he prophesied about you! You are hypocrites, just as he wrote: 'These people, says God, honor me with their words, but their heart is really far away from me. **7** It is no use for them to worship me, because they teach human rules as though they were my laws!' **8** "You put aside God's command and obey human teachings." **9** And Jesus continued, "You have a clever way of rejecting God's law in order to uphold your own teaching. (*Man cannot change God's law such as changing the Sabbath to Sunday.*)

**Mark 10:17-19** And when he was gone forth into the way, there came one running, and kneeled to him, and asked him, Good Master, what shall I do that I may inherit eternal life? **18** And Jesus said unto him, Why callest thou me good? *there is* none good but one, *that is*, God. **19** You knowest the commandments, Do not commit adultery, Do not kill, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Defraud not, Honour your father and mother.

**Mark 12:28-32** A teacher of the Law was there who heard the discussion. He saw that Jesus had given the Sadducees a good answer, so he came to him with a question: "Which commandment is the most important of all?" **29** Jesus replied, "The most important one is this: 'Listen, Israel! The Lord our God is the only Lord. **30** Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.' **31** The second most important commandment is this: 'Love your neighbor as you love yourself.' There is no other commandment more important than these two." **32** The teacher of the Law said to Jesus, "Well done, Teacher! It is true, as you say, that only the Lord is God and that there is no other god but he. (*See also Matthew 22:35-40. All the law hang on these two Commandments.*)

**Luke 1:6** And they were both righteous before God, walking in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blameless. (*The Commandments and the ordinances of the ceremonial law are two distinct laws.*)

**Luke 6:5** And he said unto them, That the Son of man is Lord also of the sabbath.

**Luke 23:52-56** He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. **53** Then he took it down, wrapped it in a linen cloth, and laid it in a tomb cut in the rock, in which no one had yet been laid. **54** It was the Preparation Day, and the Sabbath was just beginning. **55** So the women who had come with Jesus from Galilee, following close behind, saw the tomb and how his body was laid. **56** Then they went back and prepared spices and perfumes, and on the Sabbath they rested according to the commandment. **Luke 24:1** 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.

**John 14:15** If ye love me, keep my commandments. (*Pretty simple verse. Jesus saying that if we really love Him then keep the Commandments.*)

**John 14:21** He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him.

**John 15:10** If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love.

**Acts 17:1-2** When they had passed through Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to Thessalonica, where there was a Jewish synagogue. **2** As his custom was, Paul went into the synagogue, and on three Sabbath days he reasoned with them from the Scriptures. (*Paul was a Jew and Pharisee since childhood and his custom therefore was to keep Saturday as Jews always have.*)

**Acts 18:4** And he reasoned in the synagogue every sabbath, and persuaded the Jews and the Greeks. (*Jews and Gentiles kept the Sabbath and there was no conflict between them on which day to keep.*)

**Romans 3:31** Do we then make void the law through faith? God forbid: yea, we establish the law.

**Romans 5:19-21** For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous. **20** Moreover the law entered, that the offence might abound. But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound: **21** That as sin hath reigned unto death, even so might grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our



Lord. **Romans 6:1-2** What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? **2** God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?

**Romans 6:14-15** For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace. **15** What then? shall we sin, because we are not under the law, but under grace? God forbid. (*God's grace is not a license to continue sinning. Paul explains this well in the next verses.*)

**Romans 7:7-25** What shall we say then? *Is* the law sin? God forbid. Nay, I had not known sin, but by the law: for I had not known lust, except the law had said, Thou shalt not covet. **8** But sin, taking occasion by the commandment, wrought in me all manner of concupiscence. For without the law sin *was* dead. **9** For I was alive without the law once: but when the commandment came, sin revived, and I died. **10** And the commandment, which *was ordained* to life, I found *to be* unto death. **11** For sin, taking occasion by the commandment, deceived me, and by it slew *me*. **12** Wherefore the law *is* holy, and the commandment holy, and just, and good. **13** Was then that which is good made death unto me? God forbid. But sin, that it might appear sin, working death in me by that which is good; that sin by the commandment might become exceeding sinful. **14** For we know that the law is spiritual: but I am carnal, sold under sin. **15** For that which I do I allow not: for what I would, that do I not; but what I hate, that do I. **16** If then I do that which I would not, I consent unto the law that *it is* good. **17** Now then it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me. **18** For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but *how* to perform that which is good I find not. **19** For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do. **20** Now if I do that I would not, it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me. **21** I find then a law, that, when I would do good, evil is present with me. **22** For I delight in the law of God after the inward man: **23** But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. **24** O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death? **25** I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin. (*Love the law, agree it's good, try to keep it and when we fail, repent.*)

**Romans 13:9** For this, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not kill, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness, Thou shalt not covet; and if *there be* any other commandment, it is briefly comprehended in this saying, namely, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. (*See also Deuteronomy 6:5 and Leviticus 19:18.*)

**1 Corinthians 7:19** ISV Circumcision is nothing, and uncircumcision is nothing, but obeying God's commandments is everything.

**Galatians 3:29** And if ye *be* Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise. (*We are spiritual Jews.*)

**Colossians 2:14, 16-17** Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross; **16** Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holyday, or of the new moon, or of the sabbath *days*: **17** Which are a shadow of things to come; but the body *is* of Christ. (*Speaks of the ordinances.*)

**Ephesians 2:8-9** For by grace are you saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: *it is* the gift of God: **9** Not of works, lest any man should boast. (*You cannot earn your salvation but when you have it you allow Christ to change your heart to love more perfectly.*)

**2 Timothy 4:3-4** For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; **4** And they shall turn away *their* ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.

**Hebrews 4:9-11** NIRV So there is still a Sabbath rest for God's people. **10** God rested from his work. Those who enjoy God's rest also rest from their work. **11** So let us make every effort to enjoy that rest. Then no one will fall into sin by following the example of those who didn't obey God.

**Hebrews 8:10** For this *is* the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people:

**James 2:10-11** For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one *point*, he is guilty of all. **11** 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.

**James 2:19-20** NLT Do you still think it's enough just to believe that there is one God? Well, even the demons believe this, and they tremble in terror! **20** Fool! When will you ever learn that faith that does not result in good deeds is useless? (*Faith alone is not enough for salvation.*)

**1 John 2:3-4** And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments. **4** He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. (*Jesus is the TRUTH. If you have not truth you have no access to the Father.*)

**1 John 5:3** For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous. (*We should desire to love.*)

**1 John 3:4** GNB Whoever sins is guilty of breaking God's law, because sin is a breaking of the law. (*Sin is breaking God's Commandments.*)

**1 John 3:22** And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight.

**1 John 3:24** And he that keepeth his commandments dwelleth in him, and he in him. And hereby we know that he abideth in us, by the Spirit which he hath given us.

**Revelation 12:17** And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ. (*Satan especially hates this Church that keeps all God's Commandments.*)

**Revelation 14:12** Here is the patience of the saints: here *are* they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.

**Revelation 22:14** Blessed *are* they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city. (*A very clear verse! The ones that get through the straight and narrow gate into heaven are those that keep God's Commandments.*)

## **100 Bible Facts Concerning the Sabbath**

WHY keep the Sabbath day? What is the object of the Sabbath? Who made it? When was it made, and for whom? Which day is the true Sabbath? Many keep the first day of the week, or Sunday. What Bible authority have they for this? There is now a growing count of over [500 denominations](#) in the world that keep the seventh day, or Saturday. What Scripture have they for that? Here are the facts about both days, as plainly stated in the Word of God.

1. After working the first six days of the week in creating this earth, the great God rested on the seventh day. (Genesis 2:1-3.)
2. This stamped that day as God's rest day, or Sabbath day, as Sabbath day means rest day. To illustrate: When a person is born on a certain day, that day thus becomes his birthday. So when God rested upon the seventh day, that day became His rest, or Sabbath, day.
3. Therefore the seventh day must always be God's Sabbath day. Can you change your birthday from the day on which you were born to one on which you were not born? No. Neither can you change God's rest day to a day on which He did not rest. Hence the seventh day is still God's Sabbath day.
4. The Creator blessed the seventh day. (Genesis 2:3.)
5. He sanctified the seventh day. (Exodus 20:11.)
6. He made it the Sabbath day in the Garden of Eden. (Genesis 2:1-3.)
7. It was made before the fall; hence it is not a type; for types were not introduced till after the fall.
8. Jesus says it was made for man (Mark 2:27), that is, for the race, as the word man is here unlimited; hence, for the Gentile as well as for the Jew.
9. It is a memorial of creation. (Exodus 20:11; 31:17.) Every time we rest upon the seventh day, as God did at creation, we commemorate that grand event.
10. It was given to Adam, the head of the human race. (Mark 2:27; Genesis 2:1-3.)
11. Hence through him, as our representative, to all nations. (Acts 17:26.)
12. It is not a Jewish institution, for it was made 2,300 years before ever there was a Jew.
13. The Bible never calls it the Jewish Sabbath, but always "the Sabbath of the Lord thy God." Men should be cautious how they stigmatize God's holy rest day.
14. Evident reference is made to the Sabbath and the seven-day week all, through the patriarchal age. (Genesis 2:1-3; 8:10-12; 29:27-28.etc.)
15. It was a part of God's law before Sinai. (Exodus 16:4, 27-29.)
16. Then God placed it in the heart of His moral law. (Exodus 20:1-17.) Why did He place it there if it was not like the other nine precepts, which all admit to be immutable?
17. The seventh-day Sabbath was commanded by the voice of the living God. (Deuteronomy 4:12-13.)
18. Then He wrote the commandment with His own finger. (Exodus 31:18.)
19. He engraved it in the enduring stone, indicating its imperishable nature. (Deuteronomy 5:22.)
20. It was sacredly preserved in the ark in the holy of holies. (Deuteronomy 10:1-5.)
21. God forbade work upon the Sabbath, even in the most hurrying times. (Exodus 34:21.)
22. God destroyed the Israelites in the wilderness because they profaned the Sabbath. (Ezekiel 20:12-13.)
23. It is the sign of the true God, by which we are to know Him from false gods. (Ezekiel 20:20.)
24. God promised that Jerusalem should stand forever if the Jews would keep the Sabbath (Jeremiah 17:24-25.)
25. He sent them into the Babylonish captivity for breaking it. (Nehemiah 13:18.)
26. He destroyed Jerusalem for its violation. (Jeremiah 17:27.)
27. God has pronounced a special blessing on all the Gentiles who will keep it. (Isaiah 56:6-7.)
28. This is in the prophecy, which refers wholly to the Christian dispensation. (See Isaiah 56.)
29. God has promised to bless all who keep the Sabbath. (Isaiah 56:2.)
30. The Lord requires us to call it "honourable". (Isaiah 58:13.) Beware, ye who take delight in calling it the. "old Jewish Sabbath," "a yoke of bondage," etc.
31. After the holy Sabbath has been trodden down "many generations," it is to be restored in the last days. (Isaiah 58:12-13.)
32. All the holy prophets kept the seventh day.
33. When the Son of God came, He kept the seventh day all His life. (Luke 4:16; John 15:10.) Thus He followed His Father's example at creation. Shall we not be safe in following the example of both the Father and the Son?
34. The seventh day is the Lord's Day. (See Revelation 1:10; Mark 2:28; Isaiah 58:13; Exodus 20:10.)
35. Jesus was Lord of the Sabbath (Mark 2:28), that is, to love and protect it, as the husband is the lord of the wife, to love and cherish her (1 Peter 3:6.)
36. He vindicated the Sabbath as a merciful institution designed for man's good. (Mark 2:23-28.)
37. Instead of abolishing the Sabbath, He carefully taught how it should be observed. (Matthew 13:1-13.)
38. He taught His disciples that they should do nothing upon the Sabbath day but what was "lawful" (Matthew 12:12.)
39. He instructed His apostles that the Sabbath should be prayerfully regarded forty years after His resurrection. (Matthew 24:20.)
40. The pious women who had been with Jesus carefully kept the seventh day after His death. (Luke 23:56.)
41. Thirty years after Christ's resurrection, the Holy Spirit expressly calls it "the Sabbath day," (Acts 13:14.)
42. Paul, the apostle to the Gentiles, called it the "Sabbath day" in A.D. 45. (Acts 13:27.) Did not Paul know? Or shall we believe modern teachers, who affirm that it ceased to be the Sabbath at the resurrection of Christ?
43. Luke, the inspired Christian historian, writing as late as A.D. 62, calls it the "Sabbath day." (Acts 13:44.)
44. The Gentile converts called it the Sabbath. (Acts 13:42.)
45. In the great Christian council, A.D. 49. In the presence of the apostles and thousands of disciples, James calls it the "Sabbath day." (Acts 15:21.)
46. It was customary to hold prayer meetings upon that day. (Acts 16:13.)
47. Paul read the Scriptures in public meetings on that day. (Acts 17:2-3.)
48. It was his custom to preach upon that day. (Acts 17:2-3.)
49. The Book of Acts alone gives a record of his holding eighty-four meetings upon that day. (See Acts 13:14, 44; 16:13; 17:2; 18:4, 11.)
50. There was never any dispute between the Christians and the Jews about the Sabbath day. This is proof that the Christians still observed the same day that the Jews did.
51. In all their accusations against Paul, they never charged him with disregarding the Sabbath day. Why did they not, if he did not keep it?

52. But Paul himself expressly declared that he had kept the law. "Neither against the law of the Jews, neither against the temple, nor yet against Caesar, have I offended any thing at all." Acts 25:8. How could this be true if he had not kept the Sabbath?
53. The Sabbath is mentioned in the New Testament fifty-nine times, and always with respect, bearing the same title it had in the Old Testament, "the Sabbath day."
54. Not a word is said anywhere in the New Testament about the Sabbath's being abolished, done away, changed, or anything of the kind.
55. God has never given permission to any man to work upon it. Reader, by what authority do you use - the seventh day for common labor?
56. No Christian of the New Testament, either before or after the resurrection, ever did ordinary work upon the seventh day. Find one case of that kind, and we will yield the question. Why should modern Christians do differently from Bible Christians?
57. There is no record that God has ever removed His blessing or sanctification from the seventh day.
58. As the Sabbath was kept in Eden before the fall, so it will be observed eternally in the new earth after the restitution. (Isaiah 66:22-23.)
59. The seventh-day Sabbath was an important part of the law of God, as it came from His own mouth, and was written by His own finger upon stone at Sinai. (See Exodus 20.) When Jesus began His work, He expressly declared that He had not come to destroy the law. "Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets." Matthew 5:17
60. Jesus severely condemned the Pharisees as hypocrites for pretending to love God, while at the same time they made void one of the Ten Commandments by their tradition. The keeping of Sunday is only a tradition of men.

### **Forty Bible Facts Concerning the First Day of the Week**

1. The very first thing recorded in the Bible is work done on Sunday, the first day of the week. (Genesis 1: 1-5.) The Creator Himself did this. If God made the earth on Sunday, can it be wicked for us to work on Sunday?
2. God commands men to work upon the first day of the week. (Exodus 20:8-11.) Is it wrong to obey God?
3. None of the patriarchs ever kept it.
4. None of the holy prophets ever kept it.
5. By the express command of God, His holy people used the first day of the week as a common working day for 4,000 years, at least.
6. God Himself calls it a "working" day. (Ezekiel 46:1.)
7. God did not rest upon it.
8. He never blessed it.
9. Christ did not rest upon it.
10. Jesus was a carpenter (Mark 6:3), and worked at His trade until He was thirty years old. He kept the Sabbath and worked six days in the week, as all admit. Hence He did many a hard day's work on Sunday.
11. The apostles worked upon it during the same time.
12. The apostles never rested upon it.
13. Christ never blessed it.
14. It has never been blessed by any divine authority.
15. It has never been sanctified.
16. No law was ever given to enforce the keeping of it, hence it is no transgression to work upon it. "Where no law is, there is no transgression." Romans 4:15 (See also 1 John 3:4.)
17. The New Testament nowhere forbids work to be done on it.
18. No penalty is provided for its violation.
19. No blessing is promised for its observance.
20. No regulation is given as to how it ought to be observed. Would this be so if the Lord wished us to keep it?
21. It is never called the Christian Sabbath.
22. It is never called the Sabbath day at all.
23. It is never called the Lord's day.
24. It is never called even a rest day.
25. No sacred title whatever is applied to it. Then why should we call it holy?
26. It is simply called "first day of the week."
27. Jesus never mentioned it in any way, never took its name upon His lips, so far as the record shows.
28. The word Sunday never occurs in the Bible at all.
29. Neither God, Christ, nor inspired men ever said one word in favour of Sunday as a holy day.
30. The first day of the week is mentioned only eight times in all the New Testament. (Matthew 28:1; Mark 16:2,9; Luke 24:1; John 20:1, 19; Acts 20:7; 1 Corinthians 16:2.)
31. Six of these texts refer to the same first day of the week.
32. Paul directed the saints to look over their secular affairs on that day. (1 Corinthians 16:2.)
33. In all the New Testament we have a record of only one religious meeting held upon that day, and even this was a night meeting. (Acts 20:5-12.)
34. There is not intimation that they ever held a meeting upon it before or after that.
35. It was not their custom to meet on that day.
36. There was no requirement to break bread on that day.
37. We have an account of only one instance in which it was done. (Acts 20:7.)
38. That was done in the night-after midnight. (Verses 7-11.) Jesus celebrated it on Thursday evening (Luke 22), and the disciples sometimes did it every day (Acts 2:42-46.)
39. The Bible nowhere says that the first day of the week commemorates the resurrection of Christ. This is a tradition of men, which contradicts the law of God. (Matthew 15:1-9.) Baptism commemorates the burial and resurrection of Jesus. (Romans 6:3-5.)
40. Finally, the New Testament is totally silent with regard to any change of the Sabbath day or any sacredness for the first day.

Here are one hundred plain Bible facts upon this question, showing conclusively that the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord in both the Old and New Testament.\*

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