

THE ETERNAL TRUTH AND HISTORICAL REALITIES BEHIND THE SEVENTH DAY SABBATH

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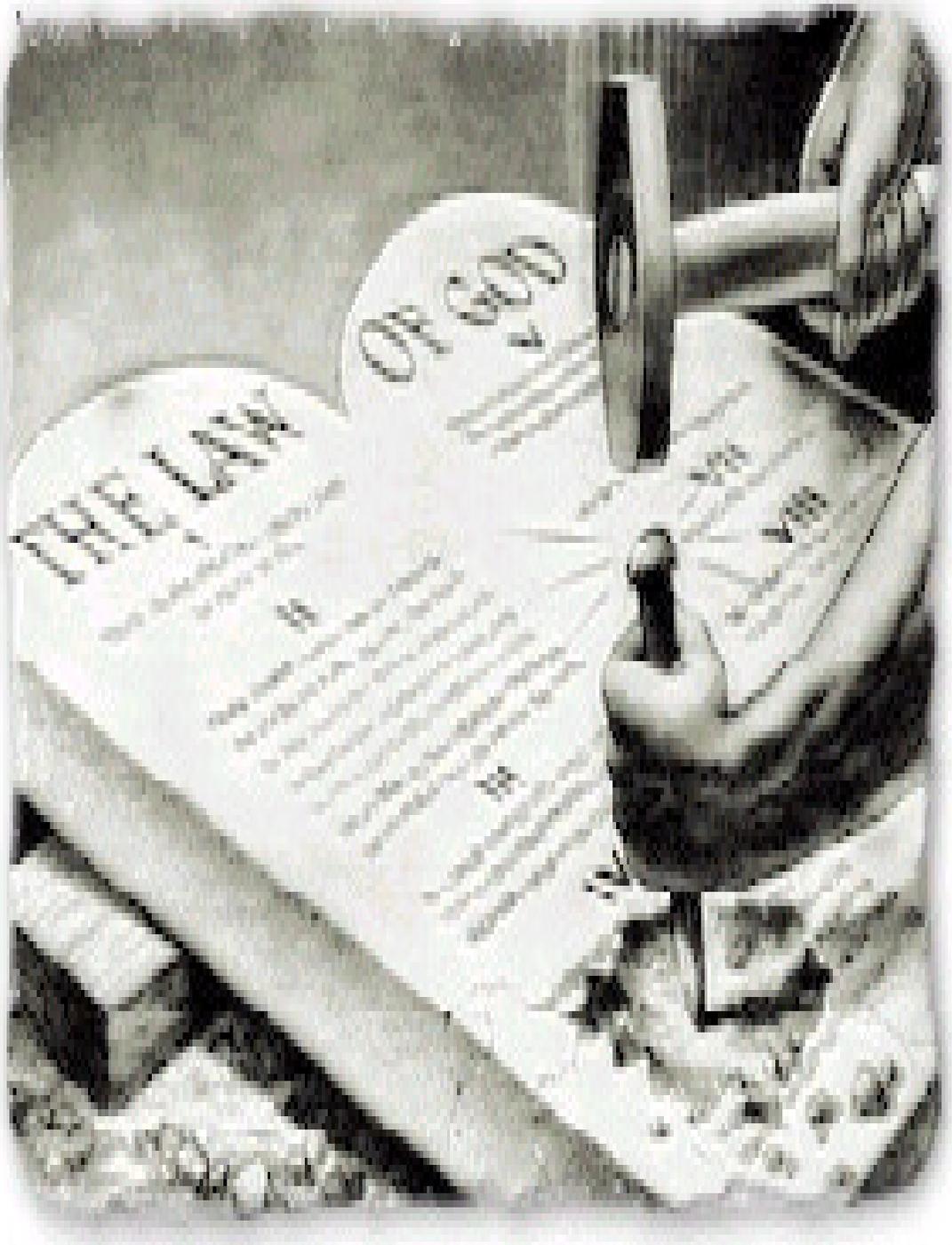
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CONTENTS

	Pg no.
Preface	5
Historical Context of the Sabbath Day	8
The Purpose of the Sabbath Day	14
How To Keep the Sabbath Holy	21
Some Arguments Used Against the Sabbath	24
Who Changed the Sabbath - The Origin of Sunday Holiness	30
Appendix– Differences Between the Sabbath Of God and Ceremonial Sabbaths	38



The Eternal Truth and Historical Realities Behind The Seventh Day Sabbath

Preface

For too long the truth of the Seventh Day Sabbath has been neglected, stamped upon, misunderstood and disregarded. It has been made to be seen as a burdened by many a religious leaders, who have failed to keep the word of God as their guide. Having the word of God as a bench mark for all theological thought and doctrines is important, for it helps to sharpen the theological acumen of all. It also gives a taste of the holiness and sanctifying ingredients from God, that could only make the life of anyone a blessing to many.

The Sabbath is indeed God's gift to all humanity and it is ten-fold a blessing to all those who acknowledges the blessing and have honored and sanctified it in their very existence. Understanding the truth thereof, is of extreme necessity for man's growth even before and even more so after sin. This blessing must be explored and the magnitude of it realized so that its theological, moral and spiritual benefits can be experienced by all.

The historical realities of this day and its ever existing benefits are hereby combined in this small booklet to show why its necessity was a must then and ever binding upon us now. On the first week of creation God placed His stamped and highest honors on the seventh day, blessing it and sanctifying it for holy usage.

The scriptures clearly states *“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. 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.

This is the first reference in the holy scriptures of the importance placed upon the seventh day, referring to the seventh day as the rest day of God or the Sabbath Day. It is God who rested, He who blessed and He who sanctified this day. Therefore it then behooves each of His creation who are made in His image and likeness to understand God's behavior, thus His very character and purpose in giving us this day.

The Sabbath is God's rest and having set it apart and sanctified it for holy usage for man, it has stand to give man the psychological, emotional, spiritual and physical refreshment that is needed by all. It is therefore God's intent to reinforce his loving commitment to us on a weekly basis by His command. I quote by one of the authors of our time: -

"In our modern age of evolution, the Sabbath calls us back to the worship of our Creator. It is a perpetual reminder of a loving God who is constantly planning for our happiness. The Sabbath sings a song of God's personal concern." **The Almost Forgotten Day -Mark A Finley pg 4**

Thus in this booklet the Sabbath will be viewed from various aspects, so that the eternal realities can be seen that lie within and be blessed by its contents.

The questions are therefore asked, why was the Sabbath given before sin and re emphasized after sin? Is this historical reality an eternal principle that must be honored and kept throughout the ages? Is this truth nationalistic and applies to only a particular race? Is the Sabbath abolished? These are just some of the many questions that this book will attempt to answer by the gift of the Holy Spirit who is the revealer of all truths unto those who seek to understand and to do His Will. (John 16:13)

However, in no way will it attempt to give ALL answers, for the amount of pages this will require, will not be sufficient to pen the truths that are in the heart of God.

I therefore bow in humble submission to this task for I am convince that is due to the Holy Spirit working upon my heart and carrying me back to my earlier days and walk with Him, that this book is written and produced. It was this truth heard by one of my childhood friends, who not being aware of its high importance, told me the little they knew. This was the everlasting water that my heart thirsted for and had since then keenly arose my intense interest in Christianity, giving me a passion to understand and to do my Creator's Will. This desire has lived on since

then and the pages written in this small book is what God has so freely given to me.

My only hope to all those who are given the opportunity to read and study this booklet is that they taste the beauty of God's holiness and be encouraged to hold on to the truths of the Sabbath even amidst the most trying circumstances that are yet to face God's remnant people unto this earth.

It was this truth that God used to call me out of the decadence of this world and it is this truth that will saved all in these our last days of this earth's history. For it is the test that is to come upon all man, to test and determine their loyalty towards the only true God.

Therefore, it is by understanding and living the truths about the Seventh Day Sabbath each day, that would help one to be prepared for the end and to gain a character worthy to see and to live with the only true Creator of the universe.

May God truly add His blessings.

The Historical Context of the Weekly Seventh Day Sabbath

It is a truth that everything that now exists has an historical context or in creationary terms, a beginning. That historical meaning defines its purpose and give it reasons why it should now exists. The Sabbath therefore is no exception.

After God created the world in six literal days, in the beginning of earth's history, the Sabbath was given to man at the end of creation. (Gen 2:1-3) The Sabbath therefore was used to define and helps to place the other days in its right setting.

It is important to note that the Sabbath was not given after the fall of Adam and Eve, in the garden of Eden. It existed long before sin for the benefit of perfect man. Therefore the Sabbath was made for man as a benefit not as a burden and once man stayed in that Rest they were to always experience the joys of perfect communion with the Creator of the Universe. (Mark 2:27).

However, sin interrupted that perfect communion and right down from the Garden of Eden, after sin, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, at the time of Moses, God reemphasized the Sabbath Law by writing it on two tablets of stones as a perpetual reminder of His Divine Will. (Exo 31:18). God in His love towards us, went further by reminding us of who He really is as the meaning of the Sabbath is uphold each week.

When one views the planetary bodies, the earth, the sun and the moon, they have helped to define the daily, monthly and yearly cycles, but none can define the weekly. A week is defined by seven days concluded by the end of the Sabbath and has come down without obstruction from the beginning of time.

“The week is a period of seven days, having no reference whatever to the celestial motions - a circumstance to which it owes its unalterable uniformity.... It has been employed from time immemorial in almost all Eastern countries; and as if forms neither an aliquot part of the year nor of the lunar month, those who reject the Mosaic recital will be at a loss, as Delambre remarks, to assign to it an origin having much semblance of probability.” **Eleventh edition, Encyclopedia Britannica, Vol IV, p. 988.**

Attention should also be made to the changes to the calendar from Julian to

Gregorian in the 16th century, which is being used throughout the world today, but this change it did not interfere with the weekly cycle, as some claims. The occurrence, start and beginning of the week is due to the wisdom and power of the Creator of the heavens and the earth. I quote:

*“Under Pope Gregory XIII the calendar was changed, and a correction of ten days was made to bring back March 21 to the vernal equinox, where it had stood at the time of the Council of Nicaea in 325a.c.b when the question of Easter celebration was settled by that church council. (See Catholic Encyclopedia, Vol. III, pp. 168,169). He published a bull, dated March 1, 1582, annulling ten days, so that the day which would have been reckoned the 5th of October, 1582, was to be reckoned the 15th of October. The new calendar was given the name of the pope in whose pontificate the new calendar was established, Pope Gregory. It is therefore known as the Gregorian calendar.” **From Sabbath to Sunday by Carlyle Haynes pg 67.***

By such a change the days were not changed; Friday the 5th was still then Friday but ten days later, now Friday 15th. Since the date was changed and not the day, there should therefore be no difficulty in locating which day is the seventh day and which day is the first day. The week and the chronological sequence of the days of the week has never been obliterated.

The Gregorian calendar which is now being used throughout the world is both exact and accurate. However what has since changed are the names given to the days of the week.

*“The names given these days are all pagan in their origin. Sunday was named for the sun, the sun’s day; Monday for the moon; Tuesday for the goddess Tiw; Wednesday for the ancient Germanic war god, Woden; Thursday for the old Norse god of thunder, Thor; Friday for the goddess Frigga; and Saturday for the god Saturn. The old Latin names for these days in their order as follows: Dies Solis, Dies Lunae, Dies Martis, Dies Mercurii, Dies Jovis, Dies Veneris, Dies Saturni, these names being given in the honor of the sun, the moon, Mars, Mercury, Jove, Venus and Saturn, respectively.” **Ibid pg 65.***

The pagan influence of ancient times while it could not change the weekly cycle itself, decided to change the numerical name given to the weekly days in scripture to the names of their pagan gods being worshipped. Note however, that only the sixth day and the seventh day was given specific names in scriptures. The sixth day was called Preparation Day and the seventh day is called the Sabbath Day.

(Mk 15:42; Luk 23:54,55; Exo 20:8-11).

From the very beginning of time the Sabbath was given to man by God, who not only placed a blessing on this day but had set it aside for holy usage. No other day was given such recognition as the seventh day, for at the end of creation, after pronouncing everything good and further proclaiming all things created very good, (Gen 1:31) God rested on the seventh day and gave it to Adam and Eve in the garden of Eden; and then gave it to Moses after writing it on the hardest, enduring material called a stone to show the perpetuity of what was written. Exodus 31:18 states:

“And he (God) 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”

Therefore with such exactness, a gift given directly by God Himself, the Law of God, the Sabbath written within, why should we treat it callously with little concern or thought? Why should we not remember it as God commands us to do in Exodus 20:8-11.

“Remember the Sabbath day to keep in 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, thou, or thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle nor thy stranger that is within thy gates: 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 reason being can only either be ignorance, insincerity or disregard for what is so clearly written by God Himself. The ten commandments is the basis of all moral law in which the Sabbath commandment bears its eternal moral importance. One cannot keep eight or nine and claim to be in obedience to God, for as James said, if you break one you are guilty of all. (James 2:10).

Right down through the ages, the seventh day Sabbath has been kept, taught and exalted from the Garden of Eden, by Patriarchs and Prophets, Christ Himself, the Apostles, Reformers, Advent Movement and the faithful few that exist in our time.

“The patriarchs could not possibly have been ignorant of the facts and the obligation which the fourth commandment shows to have originated in the beginning, for Adam was present with them for a period equal to nearly half the

Christian dispensation.

Those, therefore, who walked with God in the observance of his commandments, did certainly hallow his Sabbath.

The observers of the seventh day must therefore include the ancient godly patriarchs, and none will deny that they include also the prophets and the apostles. Indeed, the entire church of God embraced within the records of inspiration were Sabbath-keepers. To this number must be added the Son of God.

*What a history, therefore, has the Sabbath of the Lord! It was instituted in Paradise, honored by several miracles each week for the space of forty years, proclaimed by the great Lawgiver from Sinai, observed by the Creator, the patriarchs, the prophets, the apostles, and the Son of God! It constitutes the very heart of the law of God, and so long as that law endures, so long shall the authority of this sacred institution stand fast.” **The History of the Sabbath by J.N Andrews, pg 2***

There can be no doubt that the Sabbath existed down throughout all history. However, as time progresses the truth of the Sabbath was lost in the decadence of time but still have born witness by the faithful few from the 1st century right down to the 21st century.

Many people have kept their OWN day with total disregard to the Sabbath of our Lord – the Lord’s Day (Rev 1:10). However, the truth of the Sabbath Day has never been lost by those who were willing to obey sola scripture and to have the bible as the sole foundation of all truth; a bench mark for all theological thought.

We do have some who claim that the Seventh Day Sabbath or Saturday was changed to the first day or Sunday and that the day is not important or that it does not matter which day is set aside for worship. This knowledge or thought did not resonate nor is it ratified by scripture, for no text can be found to show that God changed His mind. Who then brought about this change and produced such ideas in the minds of so many? As we continue to read, such questions will be answered with all certainty.

In their disregard, traditions and doctrines of devils have taken the placed of “thus said the Lord”, but there are still many who prefer to love God instead of violating their consciences made soften by the work of the Holy Spirit in their lives (1Tim 4:1,2; Heb 3:15).

For what reason would so many people in history die for the Sabbath; be scoffed upon; be considered the oddity of the world and still maintain their steadfast allegiance to God?

To answer these questions, I give room to the next chapter of this booklet that would help to raise the reality and meaning of the day. This is certainly not just an ordinary day, but the Sabbath Day, a day honored and consecrated by God, Himself.

The Purpose and Meaning of the Sabbath

The term Sabbath means rest and the first reference of the Sabbath was given in Genesis 2:1-3 where God Himself instituted the Sabbath and rested from all His work and in turn placed the seventh day above all other days by blessing and sanctifying it.

God Himself rested not that He was weary, for the following scriptures says that God is Spirit, (John 4:24) and only that which is physical needs to rest after industrious labor. The bible states, “Hast thou not known? Hast thou not heard, that the everlasting God the Lord, the Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary?... (Isaiah 40:2).

The bible also states that He rested and was refreshed (Exodus 31:17). All God has to do is to speak and everything came to past... and “**God said**” those words are powerful to bring anything into being. Therefore the nature of God’s resting was a declaration, adoration and delight of His work of creation accomplished in the past six working days. (Gen 1:31). By so doing He, Himself has declared the day a REST day in His commandments given to man in Exodus 20:8-11.

“Sabbath keeping has a double object; in obedience to God we must rest in peace and pray to God for all holiness....this rest is realized in man’s recognition that holiness comes from no other source than Christ and that we must be holy as God is holy.” Andreas Bodenstein Von Carlstadt 16th Century

After resting, God blessed the day therefore placing a blessing on that day and then sanctifying it. This blessing is the blessing of separating all those who keep the day holy, from sin; sanctifying them in the truth of the day. Therefore it is a blessing of Justification (God making you righteous) and Sanctification (God maintaining that righteousness within your heart). A blessing of the salvific work of salvation upon the heart of a true Christian (John 17:17; John 14:23,24; Rev 22:14,15).

To sanctify something is to set it aside for holy usage. Thus the Sabbath - Saturday, above all other days was set apart and given as a day of worship.

The Hebrew verb qadash, here rendered sanctified, and in the fourth commandment rendered hallowed, is defined by Gesenius, meaning “To pronounce holy, to sanctify; to institute any holy thing, to appoint. Further explanation can be seen in the following texts - (Joshua 20:7; Joel 1:14, 2:15; 2 Kings 10:20, 21; Zephaniah 1:7)

I want to emphasize here, so that my readers will be clear. God never rested, blessed, sanctified the first day (Sunday), the second day (Monday), the third day (Tuesday), the fourth day (Wednesday), the fifth day (Thursday) or the sixth day (Friday) but the **Seventh day (Saturday)**. **The Seventh Day (Saturday) is not YOUR day it is God’s day, the Lord’s day.**

“ Therefore the Son of man is Lord also of the Sabbath” Mark 2:28, Rev 1:10

It does not matter what day you choose to rest, once it is not the day that God has rested, blessed and sanctified you are not given the blessing and therefore in total contradiction and disobedience to God’s commandment. The Sabbath Day – Seventh Day is what God has blessed, so the question and the test of keeping the true Sabbath has to do with who is your master, where your loyalties lie, or who are you loyal to? This is the question that all are asked. For the bible states:-

“No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other: or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.” Matt 6:24

Ever wonder why God gave the Sabbath even before sin existed in our world? You see the truth of the Sabbath is eternal and means a lot to God, for it points to God and by so giving it to man, it then becomes a gift that can only be of tremendous benefit to man, even before sin existed in the garden of Eden.

We therefore must examine this in some detail to understand the character of this truth. Why in essence the Sabbath was given to us, for it was made for us and therefore has tremendous meaning to all humanity, giving us a true insight or knowledge about the true God and Creator of the Universe.

Therefore we must view the meaning in two parts; what the Sabbath means to God and to man.

The Sabbath shows the following about God:

- (a) God is Creator. The creatorship of God places in the heart of His moral creation, a moral obligation to get to know Him. God created all things, therefore the truth about the Sabbath refutes science falsely so called. Evolution or Naturalism has no place in the psychic of man, when the Sabbath is upheld as a loving experience in the heart. It is a fact that if the Sabbath truth was thoroughly kept and honored by many, there would not be any atheist on this planet. (Isa 40:25,26,28; Jn1:1-3; Col 1:16,17, Rev 10:6; Mal 2:10)
- (b) The intimacy of God: God shows His intimate longing to be a significant part in His creation's existence yea in man's life - His longing to have a loving relationship with us. He says, "Even every one that is called by my name: for I have created him for my glory, I have formed him; yea, I have made him" (Isa 43:7,10,15; 45:11,12). Therefore when the Sabbath Day comes along each week it helps to raise man's consciousness of an intimate God, a God who is interested in our welfare and want you to rest in Him. (Matt 11:28,29; Ps 37:7; Isa 28:12; Ex 33:14; 1Cor 8:6). You see, we were created to glorify God therefore this very fact destroys the concept of deism which claims that God made all things but has left it on its own, having no interest in man.
- (c) God self disclosure - His longing to be known and to be understood by all this creation. It is important to God that man has a correct understanding of who He really is. It helps to remind man that He is Creator and having that understanding means that man would not pay homage or allegiance to any other god that does not have the ability to make things happen out of what that does not exist. This shows God's omnipotence grace to make things happen in your life. Yes, the truth of the Sabbath is miracle producing; it changes man and brings him in close union and proximity with his Creator. God is indeed interested in His creation and in keeping the Sabbath holy, shows our interest in our Creator. (Col 1:16,17; Heb 1:2,10; Isa 44:24; Eph 3:3).
- (d) God's exclusivity from all other gods. (Isa 40:17-19; Ps 95:3-5; Ps 96:4,5; Ps 97:9; Ps 95:3). It is important for God to be seen as the only being who can give to you your heart desires, accordingly to His will for your life. The Sabbath shows God as having a place in your life that no other should

occupy. God is above all other admirations, desires and that is what He wants us to be cognizant of, when the Sabbath comes about at every weekly cycle. It indeed warms the heart of God when His creation sees Him as being the best in their lives. He is a jealous God, because He has the right of our time and worship (Exo 20:5,6; Rev 4:11; Rev 10:6).

From the above we can see what the Sabbath emphasizes about God and means to God, and below further emphasis is made in showing how it relates to man and the blessing to all those who understands this and acknowledges the Seventh Day Sabbath.

The Meaning of the Sabbath To Man

- (a) The Sabbath is a sign of the True Living God (Exo 31:13; Lev 19:3,4, Eke 20:12,20). Therefore man has no excuse in knowing who they should worship. It speaks volumes of who the true God is and who you ought to give your allegiance and worship towards.

*“And hallow my Sabbaths; and they shall be a **SIGN** between me and you, that you may know that **I AM THE LORD YOUR GOD.**” Ezekiel 20:20*

While there are many things created that claims to be gods and goddesses and man in his folly worships such things; the only sign of the **ONLY** true God which demands worship and attention is seen in the truth of the Sabbath Day. Only the true God can create therefore it refutes the doctrine of evolution.

- (b) It is a fruit sign that shows the sanctifying power of God in your life. (Eke 20:12; Exo 31:13-17;) It actually points one out as being a child of God; one who worships the true living God. It further shows one's allegiance and loyalty to God.

*“Speak you also unto the children of Israel, saying, Verily my Sabbaths you shall keep: for it is a **SIGN** between me and you throughout your generations; that ye may know that I am the Lord that doth sanctify you. Ye shall keep the Sabbath therefore; for it is holy unto you:.....”*
Exodus 31:13,14)

- (c) It is a sign of deliverance from sin and it indicates that the person is being justified and sanctified by the Holy Spirit in their lives. (Deu 5:13-15).

- (d) It educates man therefore it is knowledge bearing in its nature. The truth of the Sabbath answers the great three questions for all humanity:
- (i) Who am I? - Because the Sabbath is a fundamental truth that teaches that the world did not self exist or that there is a God who created everything that is seen. (Isaiah 45:12,18). God then give each one of us an identity that resonates from God. We are his children not only by creation but more importantly by the work of salvation upon our hearts. (Malachi 2:10; 1John 3:1,2; Rom 8:14; Phil 2:15; Gal 4:7; John 12:36).
 - (ii) Why am I here? - Since all of us was created by God. Then God has therefore given us purpose for our existence. We are here to serve God because we were made by the one supreme God– Yahweh. (Ecc12:13,14; Isa 43:7).
 - (iii) Where am I going when I die? - Because there is a supreme intelligent Creator, how one relates to his true purpose, given to him by God, will determine whether one will gain the prize of obedience which is eternal life or disobedience which brings eternal death. (Deu 30:6; Deu 28:58,59; 11Chr 20:20; Rev 22:13,14)

You see, everything that God has given to man has its purpose and meaning not only to us but also to God. For too long man has viewed God as transcendental, callous, a stern judge or one who just shows His presence in retribution upon man; difficult to understand; or one who wants to take away what we term “happiness” by His laws given to us.

However, the truth is that we all have been wrong about God, but God has been shouting louder at the end of each weekly cycle, about Himself and His desires for man. So we have no excuse. He even has revealed Himself through His Son, Jesus Christ by the work of the Incarnation. (Jn 1:1-3;14). If only one can slow down, yes stop from all your daily toils during the week and come and rest awhile, His blessings would be realized.

God crazes our attention even more so on the seventh day Sabbath, but what has prevented you from listening? What has occupied our lives to make you not conscious of God’s Divine purpose for your life? It could only be two things, (i) ignorance (ii) due to the acceptance of false arguments that have been presented

by many who do not take the time to study the Holy Scriptures by the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

These points will be discussed in following chapters to enlighten one about how to keep the Sabbath and to clarify some of the arguments presented by many. These arguments lack veracity and once held on to, in such a light being explained to your heart can only lead to utter darkness. May this not be yours or mine's eternal demise.

How To Keep the Sabbath Holy

The truth of the Sabbath while held as fact by many a religious organization as truth, still many have lost the true spiritual significant and blessing of the day by not understanding how to keep the Sabbath holy.

God has commanded us to keep the Sabbath holy, designating six days as secular days but the Seventh Day as a day of worship and consecrated unto God.

At the dawn of each day, starts the beginning of a new day, as the evening and the morning has been designated as a whole day in the bible (Gen 1:5,8,13,19). In Lev 23:32 it shows tacitly how the Sabbath was celebrated by the children of Israel - "from even unto even, shall ye celebrate your Sabbath."

Therefore amidst the customs of our times, a day by God and in bible times has been designated from evening to evening or sunset to sunset. Therefore as followers of scriptural truth we should hold to this principle even moreso in keeping the Sabbath Day holy as God commanded.

On that day all secular work in thought and action must be put aside and that day sanctified for holy usage alone in having a special communication between God and man. (Ex 34:21).

How to keep the day and what to do on that day has had several controversies among those who at least acknowledge the seventh day as a day of worship. However God has stated in the holy scriptures how to regard the day itself, in Isaiah 58:13:

"If thou turn away thy foot from the Sabbath, from doing thy pleasure on my holy day; and call the Sabbath a delight, the holy of the Lord, honorable: and shalt honor him, not doing thine own ways, nor finding thine own pleasure nor speaking thy own words: then shalt thou delight thyself in the Lord: and I will cause thee to ride upon the high places of the earth and feed thee with the heritage of Jacob thy father."

Here God has discounted doing your own pleasure on His day as dishonoring the Sabbath or not keeping the Sabbath in the way for us to gain the benefit or blessing of the day. (Ex 35:3; Le 26:2; Deu 5:12; Neh 10:31).

In further extension, God has placed a blessing upon all who keep the Sabbath (Isa 56:2) and has thoroughly stated the following works that are held as good works, for it is good to do well on the Sabbath (Matt 12:12) and those works are acceptable unto God even more so on the Sabbath day:

(1) Teaching the truth (Mk 6:2; Acts 17:2; Luk 6:6; Jn 5:9)

(2) Helping humanity (Jn 7:23; Jn 9:14)

However, it is not doing these works that makes the Sabbath a blessing to many, it is because the blessing of justification or of God's righteousness in the heart that makes these works acceptable, not only on the Sabbath day but during the rest of the secular days of the week. For by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified (Rom 3:20; Mat 7:22; Gal 2:26; Ep 2:8; Tit 3:4,5).

The Sabbath points out God's sanctifying grace in the heart of the individual as a sign that God is working in the heart of man to deliver him from sin (Ek 20:12). These works are fruit signs or a sign of a work that has taken place in the heart.

Therefore, while one can set aside the seventh day as a day of worship, if the person is not being justified and delivered from sin, one cannot truly keep the Sabbath holy and therefore the blessings and meanings of the Sabbath cannot be realized. In practical terms, one will be essentially breaking the Sabbath while acknowledging the true day of worship because of the unregenerate heart of the man. (1Cor 5:17; Gal 6:15; Eph 4:24)

I ask, how could one being unholy keep the Sabbath holy? One cannot and therefore while the day is being acknowledged, the blessing of the day is not achieved.

Keeping the day as a formality or a tradition is not keeping the Sabbath holy; God wants more, yea he wants the experience of being delivered from sin as the epitome of works obedience. Keeping the Sabbath is in reality, works obedience being expressed as a dogma that the Creator of the Universe is doing an inner work of re-creation in the heart.

This day is to be given such high priority and significance in one's life, the heart of man must be thoroughly refreshed by the work of the Holy Spirit in the life in order to keep the Sabbath holy.

Some Arguments Used Against the Sabbath

As we have already seen, the true Sabbath has been given to us by God and it is one out of the two institutions given to us in the Garden of Eden; marriage being the other oldest institution.

Down throughout history, the Patriarchs and Prophets, the nation chosen by God – Israel, the faithful followers of God down through the centuries has kept this true day, in harmony with God’s commands.

Christ, Himself in total obedience is reported in the holy scriptures as honoring the Sabbath day by going to the synagogue as His custom was (Luke 4:16) and even advising His followers, about an event that was to take place in 70Acb, long after His death that their flight should not be on the Sabbath Day (Matt 24:20).

If the Sabbath was abolished after Christ’s death, then why warn His followers to make sure that their flight be not on the Sabbath Day? The answer can only be that His death had no bearing whatsoever in abolishing the keeping of the Seventh Day Sabbath.

Even if one has not heard of the Sabbath day before, almost everyone will agree through observance that the majority of the Christian world do not acknowledge the seventh day (Saturday) as a holy day of worship in honor of God’s commandment. Instead many churches in Christendom today honor the First Day (Sunday) of the week as the day of worship, in total contradiction to the Bible commandment.

“Many Christians believe that the seventh day ceased to be the Sabbath, and that the first day of the week, upon which Christ rose from the dead, took its place as the Sabbath, by divine appointment, to be kept through out the new dispensation. Others believe that the Sabbath law was abolished, and that we have no sacred day of rest now binding upon us.” **The Change of the Sabbath by George I. Butler pg 39**

Could these claims be substantiated by scriptures and historical documents? Of course not!

However, the burden of this chapter of the book truly requires your attention as I touch on the points of argument that many have represented as proof against God's Divine Will.

(a) Did Christ changed the Seventh Day Sabbath by His Resurrection?

By reviewing the testimony of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John – the gospels that were written years after Christ's death and resurrection, there is no indication of a change from the Seventh Day Sabbath to Sunday nor that Christ specified that such a change exist after his death. The bible states that the "Messiah will magnify the law and make it honorable" (Isa 42:21). Christ's resurrection did not belittle the law nor made it dishonorable, but instead it further emphasis our hope (1Cor 15:16,17).

Christ further stated in Matt 5:17 that he "did not come to destroy the law, or the prophets, but to fulfill". The word fulfill does not mean to end but to establish or complete. Before Christ's departure from the earth on His last instructions were given to his disciples in Matt 24:20, which states "But pray ye that your flight be not in the winter, neither on the Sabbath day". Christ here was pointing to the destruction of Jerusalem which took placed in 70ACB (Luk 21:20) years after His resurrection. If Christ had intentions of changing the Seventh Day Sabbath from Saturday to Sunday, there is no indication of such a change in the Holy Scriptures.

What can we therefore conclude here, more than in 70 acb Christ expected the same Sabbath that He himself kept(Luk 4:16; Matt 12:8) will still be in existence in 70acb and that His disciples will be keeping it holy has He commanded.

The are ample evidences that Christ disciples kept the seventh day Sabbath after the cross and it was kept by both Jews and Gentiles (Luk 23:54-56; Matt 24:20; Acts 13:42-52; Acts 16:13). There is therefore, no scriptural and historical records to substantiate that Christ ever changed the Seventh Day Sabbath to the first day in honor of His resurrection.

(b) Is the Sabbath nationalistic and therefore only for the Jews? The Sabbath was given to Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden (Gen 2:3) before sin existed on this earth and both Adam and Even were not Jews. Abraham was

said to have kept God's laws, long before the children of Israel came into being, and Abraham was not a Jew (Gen 26:5; Gen 29:27).

The bible tells us, however, that the Sabbath was made for man, and the word man implies all humanity, regardless of race or gender. (Mk 2:27)

There are historical records that the Sabbath was kept and honored among many various nationalities and countries. The Asian Journal states "The Prime Minister of the empire affirms that the Sabbath was anciently observed by the Chinese, in conformity to the directions of the king." I quote again

"We also learn from the testimony of Philo, Hesiod, Josephus, Porphyry, and others that the division of time into weeks and the observance of the Seventh day of common to all nations of antiquity. They would not have adopted such a custom from the Jews. Whence then could it have arrived, but through tradition, from its original institution from the Garden of Eden."
Natural and Revealed Theology, p. 396 by John G. Butler.

The "stranger" or the gentiles were suppose to rest on Sabbath as well (Ex 20:10; Isa 56:5; Acts 13:42-42).

The bible tells us that a true Jew is not one of the flesh but one who keeps the commandments of God see Ps 73:1,2; Romans 2:28-29, Romans 9:6-8 and Galatians 3:28-29. Therefore while the tablets of stone was placed in the hands of the physical Jew, for the bible tells us that they were depositaries of the word of God (Rom 1:16), it never mean that they were the only one God wanted strict observance from and obedience. God requires all his creation to obey His commandments, regardless of race, nations or gender.

- (c) Is the Sabbath given at Creation the same as the Sabbaths which are a shadow of things to come (Col 2:14-17)?

This has been one of the main texts that have been used by many who do not want to follow God's principles or who just plainly do not understand what the text means. Therefore it is of much importance that we understand what Paul meant by this text to clear up all misconceptions. Col 2: 14-17 states "Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against

us...nailing it to his cross....” The law that is being refer to in this text is certainly not the ten commandments in which we have the glorious command of the Sabbath day. (James 2:10-12; Rom 7:7,12) . The handwriting of ordinances refer to the ceremonial laws or sacrifices given to the children of Israel as an antitype of the work of Christ, Himself before His incarnation. (Deu 31:24-26).

If you then read verse 16 “ Let no man judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holy day or the new moon, or of the Sabbath days: which are a shadow of things to come...” Here Paul is referring to the meat, drink, offerings and the yearly sabbaths of the ceremonial law which were all shadows pointing forward to Christ. These were all shadows but the Creation Sabbath is NOT. The seventh day Sabbath points back to the work of Creation accomplish by God before the existence of man.

(d) Are those who keep the Seventh Day Sabbath legalistic?

Many have brought this argument to throw aspersions on works obedience. But then I asked, is obedience legalistic? No, God has never commanded our keeping of the Sabbath a legalistic work but it is a work or test of love and a demonstration of who is your master. (Matt 7:21).

One does not keep the Sabbath to be saved, but it is because you are being saved you will keep it. The bible tells us that by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified in God’s sight, but it is by the faith of Jesus Christ that we are saved. (Rom 3:20)

But then I asked, will faith do away with your divine responsibility to keep the law of God, in which the Sabbath is the center? NO, absolutely not! Faith and Law do not fight against each other but works in perfect unison (Rom 3:27-31, James 2:20)

The claims that you are not under law or under grace is another phrase that is used to justify disobedience. But let the bible make it clear. To be under the law has two meanings (i) to be under the jurisdiction of the law, therefore one is under obligation to keep the law (Gal 4:4) (ii) to be under condemnation of the law because of the guilt of breaking the law (Gal4:5). To those who have been justified and keeping the law of God, they are not condemned but they are still obligated to keep the law. Anyone who will be

saved, will be saved in obedience not disobedience.

No one, who is interesting in truth will deny that Christ kept the Sabbath day/ the Law of God. Was Christ under the Law? Certainly, he was under obligation to keep the Law of God as much as we are to do the same. But He was never condemned by the law because He kept the Will of His father.

Who Changed the Sabbath – The Origin of Sunday Holiness

From the above, we have conclusive evidences that the Seventh Day Sabbath is binding with us today for there are no scriptural evidences to say otherwise. However, we must now explore the origin of the deadly doctrine of Sunday holiness; where or from whom it originated, since it is not from scriptures.

Sunday was considered as a heathen religious festival in honor of the sun god and was looked upon in high regard by many pagans who considered the sun as their highest diety. I quote:

“The festival of Sunday is very ancient, reaching back to hoary antiquity. No one can tell where or when it originated. It was of an idolatrous origin and was consecrated to the worship of the sun. There was a time in the days of the early Patriachs when the worship of the true God was universal. But Satan, the great enemy of God, instituted idolatry. The worship of the sun, moon and stars, especially the former, was the most prevalent form of idolartry. Under various names, in all heathen nations, the sun was adored. Sunday was evidently a rival to God’s ancient Sabbath, as idolatry was a great counterfeit system to the worship of the true God.” **The Change of the Sabbath was it Divine or Human Authority**
pg 95 –by George I. Butler

Here we see that Sunday holiness or the worship of Sunday had its pagan origins among all heathen nations. However, as Christianity spread among those nations many compromised their stand in keeping the word of God as their guide and adopted the customs of these nations. Many thought by uniting with their neighbours that they would some how convert them, but such thinking can only place one on Satan’s ground. One cannot unite with Satan and then try to fight against him, that does not make practical military divine sense.

Nevertheless this is exactly what took place in early christendon in the origin of the sanctity of Sunday above the biblical doctrine of true Sabbath keeping. I quote:

“It is such politic reasoning as this which has lead to the apostasy and conformity to the world. It finally developed fully into the Roman Catholic Church, a mixture

*of heathenism and Christainity. This conformity to the heathen custom of regarding Sunday as a festival day, was carried so far as many thought that the Christains worshipped the sun as a god; so that Tertullian, one of the Christain fathers defended them in this charge. He answered, that though they worshipped toward the east, like the heathen they did it for another reason than sun worship.... Tertullian is therefore a witness to the fact that Sunday was a heathen festival when it was adopted by the Christain church.” **Ibid pg 104-105.***

Here we see the tremendous changes taking place in the early church and has unfortunately spill down to our time. Let us explore further to see the devilish nature of such a change that many have accepted without thought and have allowed themselves to be deceived by the enemy itself-even Satan and his host of evil angels.

One can therefore see that Sunday holiness did not have its origin in bible truth; instead it came down to us from an apostasy from the truth.

The first reference made of Sunday being a day of worship was mentioned by Justin Martyr in 140acb in addressing a Roman Emperor. While he never hinted that the day was to be regarded as a Sabbath nor that work should cease on that day, he only made reference to the day being a day to hold religious meeting. It was however, only about fifty years later that the day was given any title as the Sabbath day or any acquirement of holiness. I quote:

*“The festival of Sunday, like all other festivals, was only a human ordinance, and it was far from the intentions of the Apostles to establish a divine command in this respect - far from them, and from the early aposolitic church to transfer the law of the Sabbath to Sunday. Perhaps at the end of the second century a false application of this kind had begun to take place; for men at that time begin to have considered laboring on Sunday a sin.” **Neander’s Church History, translated by Rose, pg 186.***

Therefore we can clearly see that the origin of Sunday worship or observance was not from Christ or His apostles.

So far from the above we have only seen where Sunday has been referenced as the day of worship but no holy edict or Sabbatic powers were given to it to transfer to it in any way. After all it was hard to say the Lord says, to give it any holy origin, for there was no bible reference of the same.

However, it was Constantine, who claimed to be converted to Christianity and confessed the Christian faith, who went further in giving Sunday some further significance.

It was the year 321 acb that Constantine issued this edict:

“Let all judges and town people, and the occupation of all trades rest on the venerable day of the sun; but let those who are situated in the country, freely and as full liberty attend to the business of agriculture; because it often happens that no other day is so fit for sowing corn and planting vines; lest, the critical moment being let slip, men should lose the commodity granted by Heaven.” The Change of the Sabbath was it Divine or by Human Authority, pg 118 by George Butler.

Here we see the first reference given to Sunday as a day of rest or to be considered as a Sabbath. In an effort to exalt Sunday holiness or the day as a day of worship this decree was welcomed by many. It was at this time that history has proven that the barriers between heathenism and Christianity were broken down. They both felt at home with each other but many true Christians that existed in those times had to leave for conscience sake and retired to places where, not without persecution, to worship the true God of the Seventh Day Sabbath.

When in history we see another event taking place in the regression and decadence of the church as they seek to regard Sunday above Saturday the true day of worship.

Sunday was then now being referred to the Lord's day. Again, is there any scriptural evidences NO, and again I say No. However, let history speak for itself in defining this moment where Sunday was then being referred to as the Lord's day.

History has revealed that it was Pope Sylvester, by his apostolic authority imposed the title “the Lord's day” upon Sunday. (**See Ecclesiastical History of Lucius, cent 4, cap. 10, pp. 739.740.**)

However, there was one more thing for the church -Roman church to do and that was to refer to Sunday as the Sabbath day unlike the name given to it as the First day in Holy Scriptures.

It was not until the Dark Ages which would be between 538 acb to 1798 acb that Sunday was referred to as the Sabbath. Until such time Sunday was exalted, edicts

were passed by the church to refer to observance with special significance. It was to be a day of rest, and further identified as the Lord's day but it was during those ages, where man was in darkest concerning spiritual things that the Roman Church claiming to have divine authority and the power of the pope was supreme that many accepted Sunday and called it the Sabbath day.

Down through the Reformation of the sixteenth century stated by Martin Luther you then had many eyes being directed to the holy writings and many reformers realized that Sunday observance was not scriptural. I quote:

The Confession of the Swiss Churches

“The observance of the Lord's Day (Sunday) is founded not on any commandment of God, but on the authority of the church; and the church may alter the day at pleasure”. Ibid pg 134

So here we see that the church -Roman church is who was responsible for changing the true Sabbath from Saturday to Sunday. Here are some further quotations:

“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.”

“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.”

“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 7th Day Adventists, and keep Saturday holy.” St. Catherine Church Sentinel, Algonac, Michigan, May 21, 1995.

“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.

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.

“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 by Keeping Sunday Holy?

“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.

"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.

Here we have seen ample proofs from documents, who is responsible for changing the Seventh Day Sabbath that the Lord Himself has given to us, to that to the first day of the week. The Roman church has boasted about it and have not held back to claim their authority in shaping many protestants concepts. I then asked, who you rather obey, God or man? This is the question that all of us will have to answer for ourselves when faced with such an important issue like what you have just read.

The truths identified here is to help you to choose and to make the right decision. This is the work that God has placed upon my heart and I bow with a special diligence, working out my own salvation with fear and trembling to His very commands. I can only pray that you have the courage to do the same.

If I have invigorated you to search more for evidences on this issue then my work has been accomplished by the Lord. For the scriptures clearly challenge all of us to scrtinize it. Paul states " Search the Scripture for in them ye think he have eternal life, for it testifies of Christ" 1Tim 3:15, and He and He alone we ought to obey. Study to show thyself approve unto God for it so doing one will not only save thyself but others as well.

Amen..

APPENDIX

Differences Between The Sabbath of the Lord and the Ceremonial Sabbaths.

Sabbath of God

Spoken by God personally (Exodus 20:1, 8-11)

Written By God , Himself (Exodus 31:18)

Placed inside the Ark of the Covenant (Deut 10:5)

Was established before sin (Genesis 2:1-3)

Was established before sin (Genesis 2:1-3)

Was made at creation (Genesis 2:1-3)

The Sabbath is for everyone (Mark 2:27)

God calls it MY Sabbath (Exodus 31:13, Ezekiel 20:20)

The Sabbath is eternal (Exodus 31:16-17, Isa 66:22-23)

Ceremonial Sabbaths

Spoken by Moses (Exodus 24:3)

Written by Moses hand on paper (Exodus 24:4)

Stored on the outside of the Ark (Deuteronomy 31:26)

Were established after sin (Exodus 20:24)

Were made after Sinai (Exodus 20:24)

Only for the children of Israel & Jews (Read Bible)

God calls them HER sabbaths (Hosea 2:11, Lam 1:7)

Were nailed to the cross (Colossians 2:14, Eph 2:15)

Fin