

# What Is God's Rest for A Believer: the Sabbath Day or God's Sabbath Spirit?

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**A Note from the Author:** Since Almighty God, the Lord Jesus Christ, gives His Salvation and His Word to all freely (Rev 22:17, Mt 10:7-8), this book, and all other books, written by Harry A. Peyton are given without charge, and can be accessed through the Internet at the following address: <http://www.DoctrinesOfChrist.com>. Therefore, feel free to copy it in digital or written form, and share it with others. Since this book is copyrighted, the author forbids any alteration of its contents, and the reproduction of it in any form for Marketing Purposes. This book may be placed on anyone's web page, as long as my website address is attached to it.

The author believes that the Word of God is *infallible* in the ORIGINAL LANGUAGE it was written in, and all translations of the Bible regardless of how good they may be are NOT. Since the author has implicit faith in the *infallibility* of the Word of God, the author has formed his beliefs firmly on the truth of the Bible. This author uses the ancient ANTIOCHIAN LITERAL-HISTORICAL METHOD OF INTERPRETING THE BIBLE, which was used by early Christian Prophets and Apostles of the Bible.

I definitely believe that the ancient Alexandrian Allegorical Method of spiritualizing scripture, which was made popular by the ancient Jewish philosopher Philo Judaeus (13 BC – 50 AD) and later used by the Ante-Nicene Catholic Priests, especially Origen and his student Clement of Alexandria (200 AD), is an

abomination to our Lord. Therefore, all scriptures will be interpreted in a literal exegetical fashion, unless the language used and the context demands a spiritual interpretation.

All CAPITALIZATION and ITALICIZATION in QUOTES used in this book is *always* MINE. All Biblical quotes used in this book will be in **dark red**, and from the New King James version of the Bible, unless another version is stated as the reference. The vast majority of all translations of the Bible, as well as Hebrew and Greek Lexical definitions and grammar, will come from BibleWorks computer software program version 7.0. The author in most places will quote verses from the Bible instead of commenting on a verse and giving a reference; for He believes that the written Word of God's has greater power to inspire and enlighten a heart to understand and act upon truth, than the elegant oratory or writings of any man.

If this book has been a blessing to my beloved readers, and they would like to send an offering to the author, feel free to do so. If anyone wishes to send any biblical or historical materials to the author, my address is: 148 Little Creek Hills Rd.: Alto, NM 88312: Phone # 575-336-2800: Email address: DoctrineOfChrist@Hotmail.com.

**Special Note:** Before I begin this Bible Study, I want to make it clear that I do not have a problem with anyone keeping the Sabbath Day, or any other day, as their holy day or day of rest, but I do have a problem with those who want to make it sin if others do not keep the day they chose as their holy day. I personally do not esteem one day above another (Rom 14:4-5, 13). To me every day is a Sabbath in which to be holy, draw near to God through prayer, worship, studying the Bible, and doing the will of God. Sabbath Keepers are the ones who put a stumbling block in the path of God's Children to sin, by telling them they are committing sin by not keeping their holy day. They openly declare that one is breaking the Fourth Commandment if they do not keep Saturday as their Sabbath. Therefore, this book is a rebuttal and refutation of this doctrine of devils. The Author definitely believes that the Sabbath Day was FULFILLED in God's true REST, that is, the Holy Spirit of God that all true believers will receive!

## **My Testimony of How I Found the Truth Concerning the Sabbath**

On the 16<sup>th</sup> of March in 1971, I became a Child of God and entered into Jesus' New Covenant through the New Birth. Two and half years later, I did a study on the Sabbath Day. After I finished this Biblical Study, I decided to visit an orthodox Jewish Rabbi in New Orleans, LA, the place where I was born and raised, and asked him to teach me about the Sabbath Day. In my discussion with him I asked him the following questions:

“What day of the week is the Seventh Day in America? Is it Saturday, Sunday, or some other day of the week? Also, is there a historical record somewhere that gives a succession of days beginning with the 7<sup>th</sup> Day of creation until now, or even a succession record of days beginning with

the 7<sup>th</sup> day that God gave the Children of Israel in the Wilderness? Since the infallible Word of God teaches that the Sabbath begins at sunset on the 7<sup>th</sup> day and goes through the following sunset, does God go by *Jerusalem sunset time*, which is 6 1/2 hours ahead of *Eastern Standard Time*, or by our sunset time? Also, what do God's Children do who live in Alaska, where a sunrise can last for 6 months, and night or darkness last 6 months? How do they keep time?"

After the Rabbi heard these questions, he laughed and said: "When you are in the wilderness, you pick out a day and keep it from sunset to sunset!" The wilderness he was referring to was any place outside of Israel. As my beloved reads can probably perceive, the Rabbi was reluctant to answer most of my questions, for this is all he would say. Evidently, he did not know what day is the Sabbath according to our calendar. Obviously the Jewish Calendar did not go back to Creation or the time the Children of Israel were in the Wilderness, as a result, they picked out a day and kept it.

After this I went to a Seventh Day Adventist Pastor, and asked him to teach me what he believed about the Sabbath. After he taught me for about two hours, he then showed me a film on the Mark of the Beast, in which the Mark was a Law given by Roman Emperor Constantine, and later confirmed by the Catholic Church in their decrees, which demanded that all Christians worship God every Sunday in place of the Jewish Sabbath Day; he also told me that one day in the future all of mankind would again be forced to keep Constantine's LAW. He then concluded by quoting James 2:10 to me: "For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles in one *point*, he has become guilty of all." After that he told me if I did not keep Saturday as my Sabbath, I was guilty of breaking the Fourth Commandment, and no sinner could inherit the Kingdom of God.

I then proceeded to ask him the questions I asked the Rabbi. He did not or could not answer any of them. All he could say was, according to his belief, the Sabbath was from Friday 6 PM to Saturday 6 PM. I then pressed him to produce historical evidence, that is, a historical calendar that went back to that time period, which he could not. I then said:

"Evidently you cannot prove that our Friday at 6 PM through Saturday 6 PM is the same day that God gave to the Children of Israel in the Wilderness. This means that any day of the week: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday, or even Sunday could be the Sabbath. Not only this, but if the Mark of the Beast is the Sunday Law that was given by Constantine, and later confirmed by the Catholic Church, then you, and every other Seventh-Day Adventist, and any one who later joins your church, who kept Sunday as the Lord's Day is lost and doomed to hell, even if they did it in ignorance. The only people who could be saved by your doctrine are those who are born and raised in the Seventh-Day Churches."

I then told him: "The infallible Word of God declares: 'If anyone worships the beast and his image, and receives a *mark* on his forehead or upon his hand, he also will drink of the wine of the *wrath* of God, which is mixed in full strength in the cup of His *anger*; and he will be *tormented* with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb. And the smoke of their *torment* goes up forever and ever; and they have no rest day and night, those who worship the beast and his image, and whoever receives the *mark* of his *name*' (Rev 14:9-11). Therefore, there is *no repentance* for anyone who takes the Mark of the Beast! They are definitely lost, if Sunday worship is the Mark of the Beast!"

**This pastor then changed his story and made the Mark of the Beast a future Law by some future world government, who would demand all people to worship their god every Sunday. I then asked him: “Where in the Bible does it say that the Mark of the Beast is Sunday worship?” This Seventh-Day Adventist Pastor could not produce one scripture. I then told him: “Since you cannot produce one scripture that proves your doctrine, how can you tell Christians that they will be lost if they do not keep Saturday as the Lord’s Sabbath! Not only this, but you cannot produce any evidence that Saturday, on our calendar, is the Sabbath the Children of Israel kept in the wilderness!” This ended my discussion on the Sabbath with this Pastor.**

**This author definitely believes it is acceptable to God for His Children to pick out a day of the week, that is, a Sunday, Saturday, or any other day of the week as a day to REST from all physical work, as long as they do not make it a Law for all other Christians to follow, or say that Christians are sinning before God if they do not keep their day as the Holy Day of each week! To me, every day is a holy day; a day to be holy before our God, and a day to pray, study the Bible, worship, serve, and love our Savior and God: “with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength” (Mk 12:30)!!**

**The Bible teaches that God’s Children should not judge each other, when it comes to the matter of Holy Days (Rom 14:1-6, 13). The only reason why I have written this book is because Sabbath Keepers have declared that those who do not keep the Sabbath Day, that is Saturday, as God’s Holy Day of each week are sinning, that is, they are breaking the Fourth Commandment. Therefore, this book is a rebuttal and refutation of that doctrine of devils.**

## **The Sabbath Day Law in the Mosaic Law Covenant**

**The Sabbath was a Law given by God in the Law of Moses to God’s Old Covenant Children: “Moses called all Israel, and said to them: ‘Hear, O Israel, the statutes and judgments which I speak in your hearing today, that you may learn them and be careful to observe them.... The LORD your God commanded you. Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day *is* the Sabbath of the LORD your God. *In it* you shall do no work: you, nor your son, nor your daughter, nor your male servant, nor your female servant, nor your ox, nor your donkey, nor any of your cattle, nor your stranger who *is* within your gates, that your male servant and your female servant may rest as well as you. And remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt, and the LORD your God brought you out from there by a mighty hand and by an outstretched arm; therefore the LORD your God commanded you to keep the Sabbath day” (Deu 5:1, 12-15).**

**What does the word Sabbath mean? *The Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament*, by Dr. R. Laird Harris, defined Sabbath (shaw-bath’) to mean: “cease, desist, [or] rest” (#2323.0). It means the same in both noun and verb forms. No Christian, under the New Covenant of the Holy Spirit, could ever doubt that the Sabbath Day under the Mosaic Law System was celebrated by God Jewish Children on the Seventh Day of each week, WHATEVER DAY that was on our calendar of today.**

No Christian would also deny the biblical fact that the Sabbath Day, under the Old Mosaic Law Covenant, was a command from God to the NATION of ISRAEL, for every Israelite had to *observe* it; for it was a *sign, seal, and a perpetual covenant* between the NATION of ISRAEL and God (Eze 31:12-18). It was a day that they had to *rest and cease* from all their *physical labors* (Exo 23:12; 34:21; Deu 5:13-14), and anyone found working on the Sabbath was put to death (Num 15:32-36; Exo 35:1-3).

The real debate between Christians today is not that God gave the Sabbath Day Law to the Nation of Israel, or what regulations God gave in the mode of keeping it, but whether or not the Sabbath Day Law of the Old Mosaic Law Covenant is in the New Covenant Laws of Christ! IF the Sabbath Day command that was given to Israel is also a Law that New Covenant Christians should keep, than why is there NOT ONE COMMAND by Jesus or His apostles in the New Testament to keep the Jewish Sabbath Day holy?

My readers should remember that according to the Bible and Church History the Day of Pentecost marks the beginning of the New Covenant, and the New Testament Church, which began in the Book of Acts. The infallible Word of God declared that the New Covenant could NOT begin until Jesus died (Heb 9:15-17)!

This Bible study is given to help God Children to understand that the Mosaic Old Testament Sabbath Day Law was fulfilled in the REST the Holy Spirit brings to all believers in our Savior and God, the Lord Jesus Christ. Just as the Sabbath was God's SIGN and SEAL to His Old Testament Children, the Holy Spirit is God's SIGN and SEAL to His New Testament Children (2Co 1:21-22; Eph 1:13; 4:30; Mk 16:17-18). Just as God gave the Sabbath Day as a means to sanctified His Old Testament Children (Eze 20:12), the Holy Spirit sanctifies all of God's New Testament Children in Christ (Rom 15:16; 1Co 6:11). God's New Testament Church kept every day as a Sabbath Day, whereby they rested in the Holy Spirit, worshipped, and drew nigh to God.

This study will reveal that God gave the Sabbath Day to the Children of Israel in the Wilderness because of the hardness of their hearts and their unbelief, but this was not God's perfect will, for God really wanted to give them His TRUE REST, that is, the Holy Spirit (cp Heb 4 with Isa 28:9-12, 1Co 14:21-22 & Acts 2:4). These verses will be thoroughly examined later. Just as God could not give the Children of Israel His Holy Spirit in the Wilderness, God could not fulfill His promise to make them a KINGDOM or NATION of PRIESTS unto Him.

This truth can clearly be seen when: "Moses went up to God, and the LORD called to him from the mountain, saying, 'Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob, and tell the children of Israel: You have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and *how* I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to Myself. Now therefore, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be a special treasure to Me above all people; for all the earth *is* Mine. And you shall be to Me a KINGDOM of PRIESTS and a *holy nation.*' These are the words which you shall speak to the children of Israel" (Exo 19:3-6).

Therefore, because of the hardness of their hearts and rebellion towards YHWH, their God could not give them His Holy Spirit or make them a NATION of

**PRIESTS; all He could do is to take the *tribe* of Levi and make them His *priests*. The Bible definitely reveals that the *Holy Spirit is God's true rest*, and not some day of the week, and every day is a Sabbath Day to the Children of God when they are resting in God's Spirit.**

**From the Book of Acts until the Book of Jude, which contain the Laws of Christ, NO WHERE can we find ONE LAW concerning the keeping of the Sabbath Day. Surely if the Old Covenant Sabbath Day Commandment was a Law that was passed on into the New Covenant, surely the APOSTLES who gave us the New Covenant Laws of Christ would have MENTION it and declared it to be sin not to keep it, as they did with the *other NINE Commandments*. Surely any intelligent Christian would ask the question why the APOSTLES of Christ would mention NINE Commandment, as being in the Laws of Christ in the New Testament, and leave out the Sabbath (Rom 3:21-22; 13:9-10; 1Co 6:9-11; 8:5-11; Ga 4:8-11; 5:19-21; Eph 6:2; Ja 2:7, 11; 4:2-4).**

**Not only this, but when the APOSTLES, ELDERS, and the entire Church in Jerusalem meet in the First Church Council to settle the debate whether or not the Gentile Churches of Christ should keep the Law of Moses, which included the Sabbath Day Law in it. The Bible recorded this event this way: “*And certain men came down from Judea and taught the brethren, ‘Unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you CANNOT be SAVED.’ Therefore, when Paul and Barnabas had no small dissension and dispute with them, they determined that Paul and Barnabas and certain others of them should go up to Jerusalem, to the apostles and elders, about this question....***

**But some of the sect of the Pharisees who believed rose up, saying, ‘It is necessary to circumcise them, and to COMMAND them to KEEP the LAW of MOSES [which included the Sabbath Day].’ Now the apostles and elders came together to consider this matter.... Then it pleased the apostles and elders, with the whole church, to send chosen men of their own company to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas, *namely*, Judas who was also named Barsabas, and Silas, leading men among the brethren.**

**They wrote this *letter* by them: The apostles, the elders, and the brethren, To the brethren who are of the Gentiles in Antioch, Syria, and Cilicia: Greetings. Since we have heard that some [i.e. Jewish Christian Pharisees] who went out from us have TROUBLED with words, unsettling your souls, saying, ‘You must be circumcised and KEEP the LAW [of MOSES, which included the Sabbath Day Law]’ to whom WE [Apostles] GAVE NO SUCH COMMANDMENT.... [Therefore] it seemed GOOD to the HOLY SPIRIT, and to US [i.e. the Apostles, Elders, and the entire Church Body], to lay upon you no greater burden than these necessary things [i.e. Laws]: that you abstain from things offered to idols, from blood, from things strangled, and from sexual immorality. If you keep yourselves from these, you will do well. Farewell” (Acts 15:1-2, 5-6, 22-26, 28-29).**

**Therefore, the Apostle, Elders, and the entire Church Body of Jewish Believers decided through the leading of the Holy Spirit that the Gentiles Churches of God did NOT have to KEEP the LAW of MOSES, including the Sabbath Day Law! This was truly amazing for God's Jewish Churches PROBABLY kept the Law of Moses, including the Sabbath Day, because they were trying to win their fellow Jews to Christianity, who lived in Jerusalem and throughout Israel.**

**If Jewish Christians did not keep the Law of Moses perfectly, or place themselves under the yoke of the Mosaic Law, they would have not converted one Jew to Christianity; for they would have been considered Law breakers by the Jews**

who were living under the bondage of the Old Mosaic Law System. This is why the apostle Paul said: “to the JEWS I became as a JEW that I might WIN Jews; to those who are UNDER the LAW, as under the Law, that I might WIN those who are under the LAW” (1Co 9:20).

Consequently, every Seventh Day Law Keeper, who believes their doctrine is a matter of Salvation, should ask him or herself did the Apostles, Elders, and the Church in Jerusalem commit sin by not demanding the Gentile Churches to keep the Law of Moses, which contain in it the Sabbath Day Law? If they truly believe that any Christian of today, and in times past, *committed sin by not keeping the Fourth Commandment*, then they must say that the Apostles and the early Christians did commit sin!!! Oh, what an awful statement and predicament the Sabbath Day Keepers would find themselves in!

What about my beloved readers, do you believe the infallible APOSTLES, who were definitely taught by our Lord and Savior and led by the Holy of Spirit of God, made a mistake? If so there goes the infallibility and inspiration of the Bible! There is absolutely no contradiction between the REST of the Old Covenant Sabbath Day and its New Covenant fulfillment in Christ through the REST of the Holy Spirit!!!

Those Sabbath Keepers, who live under the Mosaic Old Covenant Law System, teach that the New Covenant began with Jesus’ birth and that He kept the Sabbath Day Law. Jesus did keep the Sabbath, and the reason why He did is: He lived in a time when the Old Mosaic Law Covenant was still in effect. The New Covenant did not begin in Jesus’ life time, for the infallible Word of God declared:

“For where there is a testament [will or covenant], there must also of necessity be the DEATH of the testator [i.e. Christ]. For a testament is in force AFTER men are DEAD, since it has NO POWER at all while the testator [Christ] lives” (Heb 9:16-17); also “IF Christ is NOT RISEN, then our preaching is empty and your faith is also empty.... And IF Christ is NOT RISEN, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins” (1Co 15:14, 17).

Therefore, it took the death, burial, and resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ to bring in or establish the New Covenant! As a result, no Sabbath Keeper could claim that Christ keep the Sabbath in the New Covenant period. If Christ did not keep the Sabbath Day, under the Old Mosaic Covenant, then He would have been a sinner, and His precious blood would not have been able to save anyone. Christ had to fulfill the Law, and not break it, before He could change the Law! Jesus Christ, the one and only God, who gave the Law to Moses, said it this way:

“Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to FULFILL. For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is FULFILLED” (Mt 5:17-18). Paul taught this same truth when he wrote: “For the priesthood being changed, of necessity there is also a CHANGE of the LAW. For He of whom these things are spoken belongs to another tribe, from which no man has officiated at the altar. For it is evident that our Lord arose from Judah, of which tribe Moses spoke nothing concerning priesthood” (Heb 7:12-14).

No Sabbath Keeper cannot deny that Jesus left out the Sabbath Day or Fourth Commandment when naming the Commandments of God (Mt 19:16-19; Mk 10:19; Lk 18:18-20). In the Epistles that the APOSTLES wrote to God's Churches, the Sabbath Day Law is NOT given, or even mentioned, when they named the Commandments! Since this is the truth, every honest hearted Child of God should ask him or herself this question: why did they not mention the Sabbath Day, if they truly believe it was a sin not to keep it? The only time we find the Sabbath Day mentioned during the Church Age is in the Book of Acts, that is, when the apostle Paul went to Jewish synagogues, and other places where Jews meet to pray, to try to CONVERT them to Christianity (Acts 13:14-44; 16:13-15; 18:4). The Sabbath Day is also mention in: Colossian 2:16-17 where it is revealed as a TYPE of the Holy Spirit.

If the Fourth Commandment is a Law that must be kept in the New Covenant, then why did great Jewish apostle Paul give each Child of God in each Church an option to esteem or not to esteem one day above another? Paul said it this way: **“Receive one who is WEAK in the faith, but NOT to disputes over doubtful things. For one believes he may eat all things, but he who is WEAK eats only vegetables.... One person [i.e. one who is weak in faith] esteems *one day ABOVE another*; another esteems *every day ALIKE*. Let each be FULLY CONVINCED [plerophoreo] in his own mind.... [For] he who DOUBTS is condemned if he eats [or keeps or not keep a certain day], because he does *not eat* [or keeps or not keep a certain day] from FAITH; for whatever *is not from faith is sin*”** (Romans 14:1, 5, 23). The verb “plerophoreo” is: in the present tense, imperative mood, passive voice, and 3<sup>rd</sup> person singular. Drs Friberg defined this verb as: “of persons to be fully convinced, be completely certain, be fully assured” (#22166).

If it is a sin for God's Children not to keep the Sabbath day in New Testament times, Paul would have never told the Church: let each one of you be fully convinced, assured, or certain concerning your *choice*, for if you *doubt* your *choice* it is sin. If not keeping the Jewish Sabbath Day is a sin, surely Paul would have told believers who esteemed every day alike: the Law of Moses commands you to keep the Sabbath Day! The only problem with this is: there is no place in the New Testament where Paul, or any other apostle, ever gives such a command! If Paul, or any other apostle, believed that lie of Satan, they would committed a grievous sin by not giving and enforcing that Law on the Gentile Churches of God, who knew nothing about keeping Jewish Sabbaths as a holy day.

## The Mosaic Law System Was Fulfilled and Abolished in Christ

What Sabbath Keepers willing forget, or they are just plain ignorant of: is the fact that God connected Eternal Life with the keeping of all of the Law of Moses under the Old Covenant. This is why God had to abolish the entire Mosaic Law System, and not just the ceremonial ordinances. For as long as the Law was in effect, Jews of the past and present could be saved WITHOUT CHRIST'S SACRIFICIAL ATONEMENT, just by keeping the Laws of Moses. This truth can clearly be seen in the following passages of scripture:

God told the nation of Israel: **“I have made a Covenant with you and with Israel.”** He then told Moses to write **“upon the tables the words of the Covenant, the Ten Commandments”** (Exo 34:27-29), that is, after Moses broke the first tables. The Bible records this covenant this way: **“These are the words of the covenant which the LORD commanded Moses to make with the children of Israel in the land of Moab, besides the covenant which He made with them in Horeb [or Sinai].... Therefore, keep the words of this covenant, and do them.... The LORD your God will circumcise your heart and the heart of your descendants, to love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, that you may LIVE [Eternally]”** (Deut 29:1, 9, 30:6).

Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, who lived in a time when the Law of Moses was still in effect, confirmed this truth when a Jewish lawyer stood up to test Him by saying: **“Teacher, what shall I do to inherit Eternal Life?”** He said to him, **‘What is written in the LAW [of Moses]? What is your reading of it?’** So he answered and said, **‘You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself.’** And He said to him, **‘You have answered rightly; do this and you will LIVE [Eternally]’** (Lk 10:25-28).

Our Lord and God confirmed this truth again when a certain rich man said to Him: **“Good Teacher, what good thing shall I do that I may have eternal life?”** So He said to him... **‘if you want to enter into [Eternal] life, keep the commandments.’** He said to Him, **‘Which ones?’** Jesus said, **‘You shall not 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’** (Mt 19:16-19). Let my readers take note, the 4<sup>th</sup> Commandment or Sabbath Day Law was not mentioned in either of the above scriptures!

Therefore, it is very evident that our Lord connected Eternal Life with keeping the works of the Law under the Mosaic Covenant. God offered Eternal Life under the Old Covenant to the Jews on the condition that they earnestly strive to keep the Mosaic Law System. One should keep in mind that no one could be saved or have Eternal Life under the New Covenant, until Jesus died, was buried, and rose from the dead (Heb 9:15-17; 1Co 15:14-18).

Once the New Covenant began on the Day of Pentecost, the Mosaic Law System began to be *abolished*, whereby no one could be saved by keeping the works of the Law any longer. According to Paul, Israel was lost because they sought salvation through the works of the Mosaic Law System. He said: **“Israel [zealously] pursuing the [Mosaic] Law of righteousness, has NOT attained to the Law of righteousness. Why? Because they did not seek it by faith [i.e. in the gospel of Christ], but as it were, by the works of the Law [i.e. Mosaic Law System]. For they stumbled at that Stumbling Stone”** (Rom 9:31-32).

Who or what was this Stumbling Stone? The apostle Peter said it was Christ (1Pe 2:6-8). Because these Jews rejected Jesus as their Messiah and Savior, and His gospel, they were lost. No one can be saved without the ATONEMENT of Christ, no matter holy they may be and how many commandments they kept! Paul confirmed this when he said: **“If our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost”** (2Co 4:3); and **“For by grace [Christ] you have been saved through faith [in His gospel], and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God”** (Eph 2:8).

**Paul spoke of Israel lost condition this way: “Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is that they *may be saved*. For I bear them witness that they have zeal for God, but *not* according to knowledge. For they being *ignorant* of God’s righteousness [through Christ and His gospel], and *seeking* to establish their *own* righteousness [through the works of the Mosaic Law System], have *not* submitted to the righteousness of God. For Christ is the END of the LAW for righteousness to everyone who *believes*” (Rom 10:2-5). Believes what? It must mean the gospel of Christ. Therefore, according to Paul NO Jew could be saved under the Mosaic Law System any longer; they had to believe in the death, burial, and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ and obey His New Birth message, just as all gentiles must do!**

**Because of this great truth, the great apostle Paul was always fighting and writing against Jewish Christian Pharisees, who taught that all Christians had to keep the entire Mosaic Law System to be saved (Acts 15:1-29); and it appears that things have not changed much today, for the Sabbath Christian Law Keepers still make the Sabbath Day a prerequisite to salvation. Sometimes you wonder if they are reading the same Bible you are. If they are, they are not rightly dividing the Word of Truth by comparing scripture with scripture.**

**The great apostle declared that these Sabbath Keepers are blinded by the veil of the Mosaic Law system. Paul declare that the Old Mosaic Covenant, which contained the Ten Commandment, was fulfilled in Christ through the New Covenant of His precious blood. For the above reason, this GLORIOUS COVENANT was done away with in Christ. Paul said it this way:**

**“Now if the ministry that brought *death*, which was ENGRAVED in letters on STONE came with glory, so that the Israelites could not look steadily at the face of Moses because of its glory, fading though it was, will not the ministry of the Spirit [i.e. in New Covenant] be even more glorious...? And if what was FADING AWAY came with glory, how much greater is the glory of that which lasts” (2Co 3:7-11, NIV).**

**Paul said the same thing, when he told the Church in Ephesus that Christ “ABOLISHED in His flesh the LAW with its COMMANDMENTS and REGULATIONS” (Ephesians 2:15, NIV). Paul told Jewish Christians the same thing when he wrote: “By [God] calling this covenant ‘NEW,’ He has made the FIRST ONE [i.e. the Old Mosaic Covenant] OBSOLETE; and what is OBSOLETE and *aging* will SOON DISAPPEAR” (Heb 8:13); and “He SET ASIDE the FIRST [COVENANT] to establish the SECOND. And by that Will [i.e. the New Covenant], we have been made holy through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ once for all” (Heb 10:9-10).**

**God confirmed Paul’s teaching on the abolishment of the Sabbath, and other Laws of Moses, when He spoke through prophet Hosea and said: “I will also cause all her mirth to CEASE, Her FEAST DAYS, Her New Moons, Her SABBATHS, [and] All her appointed feasts” (Hos 2:11). The Greek OT Septuagint read this way: “I will take away all her gladness, her feasts, and her festivals at the new moon, and her Sabbaths, and all her solemn assemblies” (The English Translation of *The Septuagint Version of the Old Testament* by Sir Lancelot C. L. Brenton).**

**What can be clearer than this prophetic prophecy? God said He would some day abolish or do away with all their Sabbath Days and even all their Feasts. If this did not happen when the New Covenant began, as the apostle Paul above declared, or even in 70 AD, than please tell me when in history was this prophecy fulfilled?**

**God, no doubt, decided to abolish His own laws on: Incense, Sabbath Days, New Moons, and the convocations of Passover, Pentecost, and the Day of Atonement because of the unrepented sins of Israel. In fact, they became so sinful in His sight that they made keeping of His laws an abomination to Him. This is why God thundered out: “Stop bringing meaningless offerings! Your incense is detestable to me. New Moons, SABBATHS, and convocations, I cannot bear your EVIL assemblies” (Isa 1:13, NIV).**

**Paul speaking of salvation in Christ alone told the Galatians: “By the deeds [or works] of the Law [system of Moses] no flesh will be justified [saved or have Eternal Life] in His sight, for by the Law is the knowledge of sin” (Rom 3:20). Therefore, the Law was not their Savior, for it was powerless to save anyone. The Jews, like Law Keepers of today, did *not realize*: “The Law [system of Moses] was our *schoolmaster* to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith” in the gospel of Christ (Ga 3:24); and “What purpose then *does the law serve*? It was ADDED [i.e. given to Israel in the wilderness] because of transgressions, TILL the Seed [Christ] *should come to whom the promise was made*” (Ga 3:19); “Therefore, we conclude that a man is justified by faith [in the gospel of Christ] *apart from the deeds of the Law*” system of Moses (Rom 3:28).**

**The moment a Holiness Preacher declares that the Mosaic Law System was fulfilled and abolished in Christ, Sabbath Keepers wail out and say: “You mean there are no Laws of God today. There is nothing that can be considered as sin. Are you saying that it is no longer sin to violate the Commandments of God? In other words, it is no longer a sin to steal, commit adultery, murder, and so on.” The Holiness Preacher than responds: “God forbid! The Laws of Christ in the New Covenant mentions Nine of the Ten Commandments and many other Commandments as sin.” No one can dispute the fact that the apostles never mentioned the 4<sup>th</sup> Commandment in any of their epistles, but they definite mention as sin the other Nine Commandments. The following is the proof:**

**First Commandment: 1 Corinthians 8:4-6: “Therefore concerning the eating of things offered to *idols*, we know that an *idol* is nothing in the world, and that there is NO OTHER GOD but ONE. For even if there are so-called gods, whether in heaven or on earth (as there are many gods and many lords), yet for us there is ONE GOD, the FATHER.”**

**Second Commandment: 1 John 5:21 : “Little children, keep yourselves from IDOLS;” and Romans 1:22-25: “Professing to be wise, they became fools, and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an IMAGE made like corruptible man -- and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things. Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves, who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and WORSHIPED and SERVED the CREATURE rather than the Creator.”**

**Third Commandment: Romans 2:23-24: “You who make your boast in the law, do you dishonor God through breaking the law? For ‘the NAME of God is BLASPHEMED among the Gentiles because of you,’ as it is written;” and James 2:7: “Do they not BLASPHEME that noble NAME by which you are called?”**

**Fifth Commandment: Ephesians 6:2: “HONOR your FATHER and MOTHER,’ which is the first commandment with promise.”**

**Sixth – Tenth Commandments: “For the commandments, ‘You shall not commit ADULTERY’ [Seventh Commandment], ‘You shall not MURDER’ [Sixth Commandment], ‘You shall not STEAL’ [Eight Commandment], ‘You shall not bear FALSE WITNESS’ [Ninth Commandment], ‘You shall not**

**COVET'** [Tenth Commandment], and if there is any other commandment, are all summed up in this saying, namely, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' Love does no harm to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfillment of the law" (Rom 13:9-10). Compare all of the above commandments with the Ten Commandments given in Deuteronomy 5: 6-21.

The New Testament Commandments cover much more than these nine commandments, for example: Galatians 5:19-21: "Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told *you* in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God."

Romans 1:26-32: "For this reason God gave them up to vile passions. For even their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature. Likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful, and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due. And even as they did not like to retain God in *their* knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting; being filled with all unrighteousness, sexual immorality, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, evil-mindedness; *they are* whisperers, backbiters, haters of God, violent, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, undiscerning, untrustworthy, unloving, unforgiving, unmerciful; who, knowing the righteous judgment of God, that those who practice such things are deserving of death, not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them."

Do you Sabbath Keepers think for one moment the great Jewish apostle accidental missed mentioning the Sabbath Day Law of the OT in this, and all other lists, of SINS that are in the Laws of Christ in the NT. I ask you, where in any of the epistles of the apostles, do you find them ever mentioning the Sabbath Day, especially not keeping it as sin? Where do these inspired men of God eve include the Sabbath Day Law into the NT Laws of Christ? Since you cannot find one place in the Epistles of the Apostles, why do you insist in making it a sin not to keep the Sabbath Day? Where do you find anywhere in the New Testament that our Savior or any of His apostles threaten Christians with any penalty, punishment, or curse for not keeping the Sabbath Day, as you find in many places in the Old Testament against the Jews?

The apostle Paul warned Sabbath Keepers that they would be lost if they did not repent of their false doctrine. The apostle said it this way: "I marvel that you are *turning away* so soon from Him [God] who called you in the *grace* of Christ, to a DIFFERENT GOSPEL, which is not another; but there are some who trouble you and want to PERVERT the *gospel* of Christ" (Ga 1:6-7); and "I do not *set aside* the *grace* [i.e. salvation] of God; for if righteousness comes through the Law [of Moses], then *Christ died in vain*" (2:21); and "You OBSERVE [Jewish] DAYS and months and seasons and years. I am *afraid* for you.... Tell me, you who desire to be under the Law [of Moses], do you not hear the Law?" (4:10-11, 21); and "You have become *estranged* [i.e. alienated] from Christ, you who attempt to be *justified by Law* [i.e. the Law of Moses]; you have FALLEN from GRACE" that is, the SALVATION of Christ (5:4).

**Summary:** Paul emphatically told both Jewish and Gentile Christians that God was no longer offering Eternal Life through the Mosaic Law System; for it was a schoolmaster to point or lead them to Christ. In other words, because people are

not perfect, no one could keep the Law perfectly, regardless of how hard they tried. Because we all have sinned, we all need a Savior to redeem us from our sins and the curse of death that came through the Law. The Law showed man that he was a sinner and that he need the grace of Christ, which under the Old Covenant was contained or hidden in the *types* and *shadows* of the *sacrificial laws*.

Since the New Covenant began, God's grace can only be received by faith in Christ and our obedience to His New Birth message, which is how we receive, become partakers of, or enter into Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection; (for a comprehensive study on how to receive Eternal Life, read my book on my website entitled: *Preacher, What Must I Do to Receive Eternal Life*).

Therefore, the entire Mosaic Law System, including the Sabbath, had to be abolished, so Eternal Life could come through the atonement of Christ. All the types and shadows mention in the Mosaic Law System were fulfilled in Christ. The Law began to be eradicated on the Day of Pentecost and was completely abolished in 70 AD, when the city of Jerusalem and the Temple was destroyed by the Roman Army under General Titus.

## The Sabbath Was a Shadow or Type of the Holy Spirit

The apostle Paul, no doubt referring to the prophecy of Hosea 2:11, interpreted it to mean that the Sabbath Day, along with all the other Laws of Moses, was fulfilled and abolished in Christ's atonement. Paul speaking of Christ wrote: He **"CANCELED the WRITTEN CODE, with its regulations** [i.e. the Mosaic Law System], **that was against us and that stood opposed to us; He took it away** [i.e. ABOLISHED IT], **nailing it to the cross.... Therefore** [i.e. because of the above truth] **do NOT let anyone judge you by what you eat or drink, or with regard to a religious festival, a New Moon celebration or a SABBATH DAY. These are a SHADOW** [skia] **of the things that were to come; the REALITY** [i.e. what they represent], **however, is found in CHRIST"** (Col 2:14, 17, NIV; also see Heb 10:1-5).

Drs. Friberg defined the Greek word skia as: "prophetically, of the relation of TYPE to antitype foreshadowing (Col 2.17)" (#24566). *Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary* defined the word "type" as: "a person or thing (as in the Old Testament) believed to foreshadow another (as in the New Testament)."

Therefore, accord to the great apostle the religious festival (such as Passover, Pentecost, Day of Atonement), the New Moon celebration, the Sabbath Day, and Animal Sacrifices were all fulfilled and abolished in Christ, not only this, but all of these things were a *prophetic* TYPE or SHADOW of the ministry of the Holy Spirit. For example: God speaking of the *purpose* of the Sabbath said: **"I also gave them My Sabbaths, to be a sign between them and Me, that they might know that I am the LORD who SANCTIFIES them"** (Eze 20:12). Paul told God's Children they were **"washed," SANTIFIED,** and **"justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the SPIRIT of our God"** (1Co 6:11). Just as God *sanctified* or *set* Israel *apart* from the world through Sabbath observance, God set the Church apart from the world **"through SANCTIFICATION by the SPIRIT"** (2Th 2:13).

Just as Israel's obedience to God's Sabbath Day Law brought God's blessings and the seal of approval on their individual lives (Deu 28:1-14), God's NT People's obedience to the Gospel of Christ brought God's seal of approval on their lives, which was the infilling of the Holy Spirit. Paul said it this way: "after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation-- having also believed, you were SEALED in Him with the HOLY SPIRIT of promise" (Eph 1:13); and God "SEALED us and gave us the SPIRIT in our hearts as a pledge" (2Co 1:22).

God gave the Sabbath Day to be a REST to His OT people: "Work shall be done for six days, but the seventh day shall be a holy day for you, a Sabbath of REST" (Exo 35:2). The Sabbath Day REST was without a doubt nothing but a SHADOW or TYPE of the TRUE REST Christ would give His New Covenant Children. Did not our Lord and Savior say: "Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you REST. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find REST for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light" (Mt 11:28-29).

According to the Bible, Jesus' REST comes through His Holy Spirit. The prophet Isaiah speaking of how the Holy Spirit would come and bring REST to God's New Covenant Children said: "Whom shall He [God] teach knowledge? And whom shall He make to understand DOCTRINE...? For with stammering lips and another TONGUE He will speak to this people, To whom He said, 'This is the REST with which You may cause the weary to REST,' And, 'This is the REFRESHING'; Yet they would NOT hear" (Isa 28:9, 11-12).

The apostle Paul interpreted this prophecy and applied it to receiving the Baptism of the Holy Spirit, in which a New Covenant Child of God could SPEAK in a LANGUAGE that he or she has NEVER LEARNED, that is, through the power of the Holy Spirit!! Paul said it this way: "In the law [i.e. the Book of Isaiah] it is written: 'With men of other [i.e. UNLEARNED] TONGUES and other lips I will speak to this people; And yet, for all that, they will NOT hear Me,' says the Lord. Therefore TONGUES are for a SIGN, not to those who believe but to unbelievers [i.e. unbelievers in this DOCTRINE]; but prophesying is not for unbelievers but for those who believe" (1Co 14:21-22).

According to Isaiah and Paul, some of God's New Testament Children would NOT believe the above DOCTRINE or TEACHING. It is a real tragedy that some of God's Children will miss out on God's True Rest because some preacher taught them wrong! Isaiah's prophecy was fulfilled on the Day of Pentecost when God first poured out His Holy Spirit REST on His New Covenant Children. Dr. Luke recorded this event this way: "And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other [i.e. UNLEARNED] TONGUES, as the SPIRIT gave them utterance [i.e. the Language to speak in]" (Acts 2:4).

Jesus interpreted Isaiah's prophecy of how the REST of the Holy Spirit would be given this way: "The Spirit [Pneuma] breathes where He desires, and the voice [phone also means language] of Him you hear, but you know not where He comes, and where He goes, so is everyone having received birth from the Spirit [Pneuma]" (*Morris' Literal Translation of the Bible*; also see *The Interlinear Bible* by J. P. Green).

The apostle Paul compared the REST of the Sabbath Day to the REST of the Holy Spirit in the Third and Fourth chapters of Hebrew. From the time the Children of Israel came out of Egypt, and the whole time they were in the Wilderness, they

desired the foods, things, and idols of Egypt. They lived in a constant state of rebellion against God (Eze 20:4-25). I believe, this is why God's Old Testament Children in the Wilderness could not receive into God's Holy Spirit REST. As stated before, God perfect will was for them to receive His Holy Spirit REST and to make each one of them His Priest (Exo 19:3-6). Because God could not give them the TRUE REST of His *Holy Spirit*, He therefore gave them a *substitute*, the *Sabbath Day rest*, which was only a type or shadow of His TRUE REST.

**Paul said it this way:** "Therefore, as the Holy Spirit says: 'Today, if you will hear His voice, Do not harden your hearts AS in the REBELLION, in the day of trial in the *Wilderness*, where your fathers tested Me, tried Me, And saw My works forty years.... So I swore in MY WRATH, 'They shall NOT ENTER [i.e. RECEIVE] MY REST....' And to whom did He swear that they would NOT enter His REST, but to *those who did not obey*? So we see that they could NOT enter in because of *unbelief*' (Heb 3:7-9, 11, 18-19).

Since God gave the Children of Israel the Rest of the Sabbath Day in the Wilderness, which they had for forty years, the REST God wanted to give them *could NOT have been* the REST of the *Sabbath Day*. The apostle Paul, after he established this infallible truth, then goes on to teach God's New Testament Children about God's TRUE REST that can only come through His *Holy Spirit*, which is so much greater than any Sabbath Day Rest could ever be. In Hebrews the 4<sup>th</sup> chapter, Paul warned some Christians about failing to walk in God Spirit, whereby they would miss out on REST the Holy Spirit gives. In other words, when a believer receives the *Holy Spirit*, the *Spirit* will lead them to *cease from their own works of righteousness* and REST in *God's Spirit*. Paul said it this way:

**"Therefore, since the promise of entering HIS REST still stands, let US be careful that *none of you* [i.e. Christians] be found to have fallen short of it. For WE also have had the *gospel preached* to US, just as they [i.e. those in the Wilderness] did; but the message they heard was of no value to them, because those who heard did not combine it with *faith*. Now WE *who have believed* ENTER that REST, [if this Rest is not God's Holy Spirit, then what rest is Paul referring to,] just as God has said, 'So I declared on oath in My anger, 'They [i.e. those in the Wilderness] shall never enter MY REST.' And yet His work has been finished since the creation of the world. For somewhere [i.e. Gen 2:3] He has spoken about the seventh day in these words: 'And on the seventh day GOD RESTED from all His work.**

And again in the passage above He says, 'They shall never enter My Rest.' It still remains that some [Christians] will *enter* that Rest, and those [in the Wilderness] who formerly had the *gospel preached* to them did NOT go in, because of their *disobedience*. Therefore God again set a certain day, CALLING IT TODAY, when a long time later He spoke through David [Psa 95:7-11], as was said before: 'Today, if you hear His voice, do not harden your hearts.' For if Joshua had given them rest, God would not have spoken *later* [i.e. through David] about another day. There remains, then, a [true] Sabbath-Rest for the people of God; for anyone who enters God's Rest also rests from his OWN WORK, just as God did from His. Let US, therefore, make every effort to enter that Rest, so that no one will fall by following their example of disobedience" (Heb 4:1-11).

Paul could not have referred to the Sabbath Day Rest as the Christian's REST, for he kept the Sabbath Day as a Pharisee, and the Children of Israel kept it in the Wilderness. Therefore, without dispute, Paul must be referring to a NEW REST that he received as a Christian. Since the apostle compared Christ's REST on the Seventh Day to a believer's REST in the Holy Spirit, how did Christ REST on the

Seventh Day in creation? Christ RESTED in the Holy Spirit by ceasing from all His creative works He did through the Holy Spirit. This must mean that Christians should REST in the Holy Spirit by ceasing from all their own works of righteousness. In other words, they need to learn to live in the Spirit, be led by the Spirit, so that Christ can live His life through them, and do the work of God through them.

## The Seventh Day Was Not Keep or Celebrated as a Holy Day by the Patriarchs

Sabbath Christians, who are still living under the Jewish Old Covenant of the Mosaic Law System, defend their belief by falsely claiming that the Patriarchs, such as Adam, Enoch, Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and all other pre-flood fathers keep the Sabbath as a holy day. Therefore, they claim that the Sabbath Day is an eternal Law of God that applies to all ages of the human race. They teach that the word “remember” used in *Exodus 20:8* refers to a command or law God gave to Adam at creation, and later to the Patriarchs.

A close examination of this doctrine will reveal that it is not true, for the word “remember” in that passage of scripture, definitely refers to *Exodus 16<sup>th</sup> chapter*, where the word *Sabbath* first appears in the Bible. The *Law of the Sabbath* and the *Law of Manna* were the *first laws* God gave to the Children of Israel in the wilderness. These laws were given *before* He gave them the 10 Commandments. Let’s examine both of the above passage of Scriptures:

**Exodus 16:23-27:** “Then he [Moses] said to them, ‘This is what the LORD has said: Tomorrow is a Sabbath rest, a holy Sabbath to the LORD. Bake what you will bake today, and boil what you will boil; and lay up for yourselves all that remains, to be kept until morning....’ Then Moses said, ‘Eat that today, for today is a Sabbath to the LORD; today you will not find it in the field. Six days you shall gather it, but on the seventh day, which is the Sabbath, there will be none.’ Now it happened that some of the people went out on the seventh day to gather, but they found none.”

Evidently, this *Sabbath Law* was NEW to the Children of Israel, just like the laws of Picking Up Manna and Sticks on the Sabbath was NEW. In fact, these laws were so NEW that Moses had to ask God how to punish a man who broke the Sabbath Day Law by pick up firewood on that day (Num 15:32-36). The Lord told him to stone the man. There is nothing in the Book of Exodus that even slightly suggests that Israel knew of any Sabbath Day Law before this time.

**Exodus 16:28-31:** “And the LORD said to Moses, ‘How long do you refuse to keep My commandments and My laws? See! For the LORD has given YOU the Sabbath; therefore He gives YOU on the sixth day bread for two days. Let every man remain in his place; let no man go out of his place on the seventh day.’ So the people rested on the seventh day. And the house of Israel called its name Manna. And it was like white coriander seed, and the taste of it was like wafers made with honey.”

When the Children of Israel reached Mount Sinai God then gave them the Laws of the Ten Commandments. Exodus 20:8-11, the Fourth Commandment: “*Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath of the LORD your God; in it you shall not do any WORK, you or your son or your daughter, your male or your female servant or your cattle or your sojourner who stays with you. For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day; therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.*”

In verse 8, God reminded them to keep the Sabbath Day Law or Commandment He gave them during the *time* of the sixteenth chapter of Exodus. In verse 11, God gave them a REASON why He wanted them to cease from their works and rest on the Sabbath Day. God said it was because He ceased from His works and rested at that time.

Since the Bible teaches: “*one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day*” to the Lord (2Pe 3:8). It could be that the Seventh Day was a type of the REST God will give in the Millennial Rein of Christ through the Holy Spirit; and the six days of creation is a type of the length of time, that is 6,000 years, God has given man to rule himself on the earth.

Another possible reason why God mentioned the 6 days of creation is: God want all of His Children to KNOW that He created the entire universe in SIX literal DAYS, and NOT through billions of years of evolution as ancient pantheistic religions and modern-day paleontology religion teaches. He also wanted them to know that on the seventh day He ceased and rested from all of His creative works.

Regardless of what reason or reasons God had in mind in mentioning the Seventh Day of creation in the 4<sup>th</sup> Commandment, the fact remains, nowhere in the above passage of scripture, or in any other place in the Bible, did any of God’s prophets or apostles ever declare that the Sabbath Day Law, that God gave to the Children of Israel in the Wilderness, was a Law he gave to Adam or any of his descendants before that time. Because of this truth, the word “*remember*” used in the 4<sup>th</sup> Commandment must be referring to *Exodus the 16<sup>th</sup> chapter*.

Is it not strange that Sabbath Day Keepers, in their writings on the Sabbath Day, neglect to inform their readers that the *16<sup>th</sup> chapter of Exodus* is the FIRST PLACE where the Hebrew word “*shabbath*” or “*Sabbath*” is used in the Bible? It is also the *first Law* God gave to the nation of Israel! The following writing is an example of this neglect. In an article entitled, *An Essay Upon the Sabbath, A Seventh Day Minister* wrote:

“For the origin of the Sabbatic institution we must go to the earliest record of time, when our *first parents* came from the hand of their Maker.... An institution thus early *ordained* for the benefit of mankind, must have been *honored* by the *pious worshippers* of God from the time it was *ordained*.... The fourth commandment was *ordained* at the *creation*. It commences with the command to ‘*Remember the Sabbath to keep it holy*....’ He identifies the day he commands them to keep, with the *original Sabbath*: and thus removes all doubt as to the *regular succession* of the Sabbath from the beginning of the work of creation.”

Dr. Samuele Bacchiocchi, a Professor of Theology and Church History at Andrews University, in an internet article entitled *Current Sabbath Issues*, also attempted to prove the Sabbath Law was given at Creation to the human race. He wrote: “The first argument used to negate the universality and continuity of the Sabbath is the denial of its creation origin. The argument attempts to prove that the Sabbath is not a creation ordinance for humanity but a Mosaic command given to the Jews.

The major argument in support of this thesis is the *absence of an explicit command to observe the seventh day* in Genesis 2:2-3. It is said that there is *no command for mankind to rest* in the Genesis account. Also that there is *nothing expressly mentioned* regarding man in the *seventh-day-creation rest*. This argument ignores five important considerations. First, Genesis is not a book of commands but of origins. NONE of the TEN COMMANDMENTS are ever MENTIONED in Genesis, yet we know that *their principles were known* because we are told, for example, ‘**Abraham obeyed my voice and kept my charge, my commandments, my statutes, and my laws**’ (Gen 26:5). It is evident Abraham *knew God’s commandments and laws*, though no reference is made to them in the book of Genesis” ([www.sdanet.org/atissue/sabbath/bacchiocchi-2.htm](http://www.sdanet.org/atissue/sabbath/bacchiocchi-2.htm)).

Out of the so-called “five important considerations,” Bacchiocchi only uses scriptures to support *two* of them, and the other three are nothing but mere assumptions without any support whatsoever! Therefore, let us examine his supposedly scripture support. Mr. Bacchiocchi *admitted* that the *Ten Commandments* are NOT *mentioned* in the Book of Genesis! But after he makes this confession, he then *contradicts* himself by declaring Abraham knew them because God gave them to him and his forefathers. If Mr. Bacchiocchi really believed this lie, why did he NOT give ONE commandment or law that Abraham was supposed to have known. The Word of God definitely reveals that God did NOT give Abraham the Ten Commandments, but He did give him the following commandments and laws:

**God’s COMMANDMENTS to Abraham:** “**Get out of your country** [1<sup>st</sup> Commandment], **From your family** [2<sup>nd</sup> Commandment], **and from your father’s house** [3<sup>rd</sup> Commandment], [and go] **to a land that I will show you** [4<sup>th</sup> Commandment]” (Gen 12:1, NIV). **Later on God gave other COMMANDMENTS to Abraham:** “**Take now your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah** [another Commandment], **and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you** [another Commandment]” (Gen 22:2). **Abraham obeyed all of God’s COMMANDMENTS and did every thing God commanded him to do.**

God also gave Abraham LAWS to follow for the Covenant of Circumcision, which were: “**God said to Abraham:** “**This is My covenant which you shall keep, between Me and you and your descendants after you: Every male child among you shall be circumcised** [1<sup>st</sup> Law].... **He who is eight days old among you shall be circumcised** [2<sup>nd</sup> Law].... **And the uncircumcised male child, who is not circumcised in the flesh of his foreskin, that person shall be cut off from his people** [3<sup>rd</sup> Law]” (Gen 17:10, 12, 14). **Abraham obeyed God’s Laws of Circumcision by taking:** “**Ishmael his son, all who were born in his house, and all who were bought with his money, every male among the men of Abraham’s house, and circumcised the flesh of their foreskins that very same day, as God had said to him. Abraham was ninety-nine years old when he was circumcised in the flesh of his foreskin**” (Gen 17:23).

Dr. Bacchiocchi continued: “The clinching witness for the creation-origin of the Sabbath is the testimony of Jesus himself. In refuting the charge of Sabbath-breaking levelled against His disciple, Jesus referred to the *original purpose* of the Sabbath ‘**The Sabbath was made for man, not**

**man for the Sabbath'** (Mark 2:27). Christ's choice of words is significant. The verb 'made-ginomai' alludes to the *original 'making' of the Sabbath* [his interpretation not lexical fact] and the word 'man-anthropos' suggests its human function. Thus to establish the human and universal value of the Sabbath, Christ reverts to its very origin RIGHT AFTER the creation of man.... The consistent witness of the Scripture is that the Sabbath is a creation ordinance for the benefit of humanity."

What Bacchiocchi fails to mention is the word Sabbath is not used in God's Genesis discourse, but as I stated above, it is first used in Exodus the 16<sup>th</sup> chapter. I believed Dr. Jay P. Green, Sr. gave the best translation of this verse in his *Interlinear Greek-English New Testament*: "**The Sabbath came into to being** [i.e. existence] **because of man, not man because of the Sabbath.**"

Therefore, Jesus' primary emphasis is NOT on WHEN the Sabbath originated, but WHY it came into existence. In other words, God did not create mankind because He had a day in mind for them to keep! God brought the Sabbath Day Law into existence so man could have a day to rest his body on, which would be a type of the TRUE REST God would give His Children through the Holy Spirit.

Dr. Bacchiocchi distorted explanation of the above verse does not even consider the full context of the above verse. The Pharisees put so much emphasis on the Sabbath Day that to them man was much less important. No doubt they thought, as many Sabbath Keepers do today, that God made man because He needed someone to keep His LAWS, which included the Sabbath Day Law. These Laws would show God's power and authority over mankind.

According to this view point, God would be an egomaniac who created humans so He could rule over them. Believe it or not, some people have this distorted view of God. God is NOT an egomaniac, Lucifer is! God created man because He wanted someone to give His love to and receive their love in return (Deu 6:5; 1Jo 4:19; Jn 3:16). This is why God gave the First Commandment.

Let us not forget, the Apostle Paul taught that from Adam to Moses there was NO Laws of God in effect: "**Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned. (For until the Law** [i.e. the Law of Moses] **sin was in the world, but sin is not imputed when there is NO LAW. Nevertheless death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those who had not sinned according to the likeness of the transgression of Adam, who is a type of Him who was to come"** (Rom 5:12-14). The only precept I can find in the Bible that God gave to man was: "**Whoever sheds man's blood, by man his blood shall be shed"** (Gen 9:6).

Therefore, the Bible explicitly reveals that the Sabbath was not a Law or Command God gave Adam and Eve and their descendents to obey. There are no scriptures that teach that doctrine. The following passage of scripture also teaches that *Adam, Enoch, Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and all other godly men* before Moses did NOT *keep*, or even *knew*, about the *Fourth Commandment*:

**"Moses summoned all the Israelites and said to them: Hear, O Israel, the laws and rules that I proclaim to you this day! Study them and observe them faithfully! The LORD our God made a COVENANT with US at Horeb. It was NOT with OUR FATHERS that the LORD made this**

**COVENANT, but with US, the living, every one of US who is here today”** (1985 Jewish Publication Society Tanakh Bible).

In AD 150, Justin Martyr of Rome in a dialogue with a Jew by the name of Trypho definitely declared that Adam and his descendants did not have or kept a Sabbath Law before Moses. Justin stated: “Enoch and all the rest, who *neither* were *circumcised* after the flesh, *nor observed Sabbaths*, nor any other rites, seeing that Moses enjoined such observances [on the Jews of his day].... For if there was *no need* of circumcision *before* Abraham, or of the *observance* of *Sabbaths*, of feasts and sacrifices, *before* Moses; no more need is there of them now.... For when *Abraham* himself was in *uncircumcision*, he was JUSTIFIED and blessed by reason of the *faith* which he reposed in God, as the Scripture [i.e. the apostle Paul] tells” (Vol 1, Dialogue of Justin, Philosopher and Martyr with Trypho, A Jew, chp 23, pg 403).

Justin continued: “Those [Jews] who have persecuted and do persecute Christ, if they do not repent, shall not inherit anything on the holy mountain. But the Gentiles, who have believed on Him, and have repented of the sins which they have committed, they shall receive the inheritance along with the patriarchs and the prophets, and the *just men* who are descended from *Jacob*, even although *they neither keep the Sabbath*, nor are circumcised, nor observe the feasts. Assuredly they shall receive the holy inheritance of God” (Vol 1, Dialogue of Justin, Philosopher and Martyr with Trypho, A Jew, chp 26, pp 406, 408).

Justin in a chapter entitled *The Law Had An End In Christ* declared: “As, then, circumcision *began* with Abraham, and the *Sabbath* and sacrifices and offerings and feasts *with* *Moses*, and it has been proved they were enjoined on account of the hardness of your people’s heart [i.e. the Jewish people], so it was necessary, in accordance with the Father’s will, that *they* [i.e. the above Laws of God] *should have an END in Him* who was *born of a virgin*, of the family of Abraham and tribe of Judah, and of David; in Christ the Son of God, who was proclaimed as about to come to all the world, *to be the everlasting law and the everlasting covenant*, even as the fore mentioned prophecies show.

And *we*, who have approached God through Him, *have received* not carnal, but *spiritual circumcision*, which Enoch and those like him observed. And *we have received it through baptism*, since we were sinners, by God’s mercy; and all men may equally obtain it” (Vol 1, Dialogue of Justin, Philosopher and Martyr with Trypho, A Jew, chp 43, pg 426). **As I have already proven above, God had to abolish to Old Covenant, with its entire Mosaic Law System, so Eternal Life could come through Christ’s atonement.**

In AD 180, Bishop Irenaeus of France writing against the heresies of his day wrote: “And that man [Abraham] was *not justified* by these things [i.e. circumcision and the Sabbath], but that they were given as a sign to the people, this fact shows, that Abraham himself, without circumcision and *without observance of Sabbaths*, **‘believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness; and he was called the friend of God....’** Moreover, *all the rest of the multitude of those righteous men* who lived *before* Abraham, and of those patriarchs who preceded Moses, were *justified* independently of the things above mentioned [i.e. circumcision and the Sabbath], and *without* the law of *Moses*. As also Moses himself says to the people in Deuteronomy: **‘The LORD thy God formed a covenant in Horeb. The LORD FORMED NOT this covenant with YOUR FATHERS, but for you’** (ANF, vol 1, Irenaeus Against Heresies, bk 4, chp 16, pp 992-994, sec 2-5, AD 180).

In 200 AD Tertullian, a Bishop in Carthage, North-Africa, writing against the heresies of the Jews wrote: “Let *him* [i.e. a Jew] *who contends* that the *Sabbath* is *still* to be *observed* as a balm of *salvation*, and circumcision on the eighth day because of the threat of death, teach us.... For if circumcision purges a man, since God made *Adam uncircumcised*, why did He not

circumcise him, even after his sinning, if circumcision purges...? Therefore, since God originated *Adam uncircumcised*, and *unobservant* of the *Sabbath*, consequently his offspring also, *Abel*, offering Him sacrifices *uncircumcised*, and *unobservant* of the *Sabbath*, was by Him commended....

*Noah* also *uncircumcised* yes, and *unobservant* of the *Sabbath*, God freed from the deluge. For *Enoch*, too, most righteous man, *uncircumcised* and *in-observant* of the *Sabbath*, He translated from this world; who did not first taste death, in order that, being a candidate for eternal life, he might by this time show us that we also may, *without* the burden of the law of *Moses*, please God” (ANF, vol 3, Tertullian, Part One, VII An Answer to the Jews, chp 2, pg 287).

## God’s Church Met in Many Homes Every Day to Eat Together, Pray, Preach, and Teach God’s Word

The Church that the apostles established did not esteem one day above another. The Church in *each city* was divided into many different groups. The saints meet in DIFFERENT HOMES with one or more pastors over them. They met EVERY DAY for prayer, worship, preaching, teaching, fellowship, and eating together in their Love Feast. If I understand certain scriptures correctly, all the congregation of the Church in one city did meet together in one place *every Sunday*, that is, on the *First Day* of the week, which was Resurrection Day. This will be discussed later. Let us now examine the scriptures that reveal the early Apostolic Pentecostal Church met *every day*:

Acts 2:44-47: “Now *all who believed* were together, and had all things in common, and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need. So CONTINUING DAILY with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from HOUSE to HOUSE, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord ADDED to the [Jewish] CHURCH DAILY those who were being saved.”

Acts 16:5: “The [Gentile] CHURCHES were strengthened in the faith, and INCREASED in number DAILY.”

Hebrews 3:11-14: “Therefore, *holy brethren*, partakers of the heavenly calling, ...EXHORT ONE ANOTHER DAILY.”

Romans 16:3-5: “Greet Priscilla and Aquila, my fellow workers in Christ Jesus.... Greet the CHURCH that is in their HOUSE” (also 1Co 16:19).

Colossians 4:15: “Greet the brethren who are in Laodicea, and Nymphas and the CHURCH that is in his HOUSE.”

Philemon 1:2: “To the beloved Apphia, Archippus our fellow soldier, and to the CHURCH in your HOUSE.”

Since the assemblies of God in each city met DAILY, there was a great need for many preacher and teacher in every congregation. This no doubt was one of the reasons why the apostle Peter declared every born-again Child of God a Priest of God or the Clergy of God. Peter said it this way:

“As NEWBORN BABES, desire the pure milk of the Word that you may grow thereby.... You also, as living stones, are being built up a *spiritual house*, a HOLY PRIESTHOOD, to offer up

spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.... But you *are* a chosen generation, a ROYAL PRIESHOOD, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; who once *were* not a people but *are* now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy” (1Pe 2:2, 5, 9-10). This was the fulfillment of the promise God made to His people in Exodus 19: 3-6.

The apostle Paul speaking of the ministries of God’s Priesthood that took place DAILY in Church services wrote: “When you assemble, each one has a psalm, has a teaching, has a revelation, has a tongue, has an interpretation. Let all things be done for edification.... Let two or three prophets [propheteuo i.e. preachers] speak, and let the others pass judgment. But if a revelation is made to another who is seated, let the first keep silent. For you can ALL prophesy [propheteuo i.e. preach] one by one, so that *all* may learn and *all* may be exhorted” (1Co 14:26, 29-31).

*Louw-Nida Greek-English Lexicon* defined the Greek word “propheteuo” as: “to speak under the influence of divine inspiration, with or *without* reference to future events - 'to prophesy, to make *inspired utterances*” (#33.459). Drs. Friberg in his *Analytical Lexicon to the New Testament* defined it as: “speaking with the help of *divine inspiration*, proclaim what God wants to make known, PREACH, *expound* (AC 2.17; 1C 11.4)” (#23648).

There can no doubt that the many assemblies in each city had many preachers and teachers. Paul confirmed this great truth when he told the Corinthians Church: “For though *you* might have TEN THOUSAND INSTRUCTORS in Christ, yet you do not have many fathers; for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel” (1Co 4:15). The apostle told the Colossian Church: “Let the *Word* of Christ dwell in *you* richly in all wisdom, TEACHING and *admonishing* ONE ANOTHER in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord” (Col 3:16).

In my book entitled, *The Heresy of the Nicolaitans*, pages 12-13 and 32-34, I wrote the following about the ministerial structure of God’s early Apostolic Pentecostal Church: “Professor Philip Schaff, in his *History of the Christian Church* stated: ‘The sacred office [of a Bishop] is in its divine origin and import... was separated by no impassable chasm from the body of believers. The Jewish and later Catholic antithesis of clergy and laity has no place in the apostolic age.... In the apostolic church, PREACHING and TEACHING were NOT confined to a particular class, but EVERY CONVERT could *proclaim* the *gospel* to unbelievers, and EVERY CHRISTIAN who had the *gift* could pray and TEACH and EXHORT in the *congregation*. The New Testament knows no spiritual aristocracy or nobility, but calls all believers ‘saints,’ though many fell far short of their vocation. *Nor does it recognize a special priesthood in distinction from the people*, as mediating between God and the laity. It knows only one high priest, Jesus Christ, and clearly teaches the *universal priesthood*, as well as universal kingship, of *believers*. It does this in a far deeper and larger sense than the Old; in a sense, too, which even to this day is not yet fully realized” (vol 2, pg 124; vol 1, pp 486, 504).

“Professor Schaff speaking of the origin of the Nicolaitan Monarchical Bishop doctrine wrote: ‘*The distinction of a regular class of teachers from the laity became more fixed and prominent. This appears first in Ignatius [90 AD], who, in his high Episcopalian spirit, considers the clergy the necessary medium of access for the people to God.... He is also the first who uses the term ‘Catholic Church,’ as if episcopacy and catholicity sprung up simultaneously... From Ignatius onward [in the Catholic Churches]; the two terms [bishop and presbyter] are distinguished and designate two offices; the bishop being regarded first as the head of a congregation surrounded by a council of presbyters....’* Lightfoot well expresses it ‘The episcopate was formed, not out of the apostolic order by localization, but out of the presbyterial by elevation; and the title [bishop], which originally was common to all, came at length to be appropriated to the chief among them” (vol 2, pp 125, 145; vol 1, pg 495).

“Church historians have repeatedly confirmed the apostles’ doctrine of many bishops over a local congregation in their histories of the early Christian Church, which shared equal authority over the congregation of God. Professor Arthur C. McGiffert in his book, *A History of the Christian Church in the Apostolic Age*, declared, during the age of the apostles: ‘the churches, so far as we are acquainted with them, were ruled each by a number of bishops.... They served the local congregation primarily, not the universal church, and their official position gave them no rights in other congregations’ (pp 671, 670).

“Dr. [Adolf] Harnack speaking of Ignatius and the Nicolaitan Catholic Church stated: ‘As early as the second century the [Catholic] Church had conquered the people.... By the opening of the third century [200 AD], no layman ventured any longer to call ecclesiastics, ‘brethren.’ The layman is a layman because he has not been set apart from the people by ordination.... After the close of the second century [the Monarchical] bishops were the teachers, high priest, and judges of the church. Ignatius already had compared their position in the individual church to that of *God* in the church collective’ (The Mission and Expansion of Christianity, Harnack, pg 43).

“Worldwide revival will only be a dream and not a reality, as long as pastors and denominations deny God’s people the rights to perform their God ordain priesthood ministry! I should also add that as long as we have ‘God on a time clock,’ whereby we only have services one or two day a week for an hour or two, instead of 7 days a week, God will never demonstrate His power in our services through the Gifts of the Spirit in a *consistent manner*. As long as we follow this Catholic Nicolaitan pattern for having services, there will never be a need to have thousands of God’s ordain priests to minister in God’s Church.”

“I certainly would not want to stand before God and have Him ask me why I taught and practiced the Nicolaitan doctrine!! Why I hindered His people from becoming His oracles? I am not in any way diminishing the great duties, responsibilities, and privileges of God’s holy bishops, for I have served as a pastor and assistant pastor in several congregations, but I must place this God ordain office in a biblical and historical context. I can honestly say and my conscience bear me witness, that after 35 years of studying the Bible and history, that I did not know this truth until 1990. Believe you me when God revealed this to me, it was quite a shock! I did not want to believe it at first, but like a bloodhound with his nose to the ground, sniffing out the trail of a fox, I could not rest until I tacked down the truth!”

## **The Entire Church United Together in One Place Every Sunday**

The whole Church, or all of God’s people, seems to have gathered together in **ONE PLACE** every Sunday, which was the 1<sup>st</sup> day of the week, for a special united service:

1 Corinthians 11:18, 20, 33-34: “For first of all, when you **COME TOGETHER** as a **CHURCH**, I hear that there are divisions among you, and in part I believe it.... Therefore when you **COME TOGETHER** in **ONE PLACE**, it is not to eat the Lord’s Supper.... Therefore, my brethren, when you **COME TOGETHER** to eat, wait for one another. But if anyone is hungry, let him eat at home, lest you **COME TOGETHER** for judgment.”

Acts 20:7, 11: “Now on the **FIRST DAY** of the week, when the disciples **CAME TOGETHER** to *break bread*, Paul, ready to depart the next day, spoke to them and continued his *message* until *midnight*... and *talked a long while*, even till *daybreak*, he departed.”

**Collections for the poor was taken up every Sunday:** 1 Corinthians 16:1-3: “Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given **ORDERS** to the **CHURCHES** of Galatia, so

you must do also: On the FIRST DAY of the *week* let each one of you lay something aside, storing up as he may prosper, that there be no collections when I come. And when I come, whomever you approve by your letters I will send to bear your gift to Jerusalem.”

Hebrews 10:24-25: “Let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, *not* forsaking the ASSEMBLING of OURSELVES TOGETHER, as *is* the manner of some, but exhorting *one another*, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.”

## Sunday Is the Day Christ Rose from the Dead

I personally do NOT esteem one day above another, but the Bible definitely teaches that Jesus rose on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of the week or Sunday, that is, somewhere between 6 PM and 6 AM Nisan the 19<sup>th</sup>. According to the Bible, when Mary Magdalene and the other women got to the tomb at sunrise 6 AM, Jesus was already raised for the dead: “Now when the *Sabbath* was PAST, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, that they might come and anoint Him. Very early in the morning, on the FIRST DAY of the week, they came to the tomb when the sun had risen” (Mk 16:1-2).

Since the Jewish day begins in the evening or sunset and goes to sunset the next day, Jesus died and was buried about 3 hours before the 16<sup>th</sup> of Nisan began. In other words, Jesus died at the END of the day on Wednesday Nisan the 15<sup>th</sup>. According to Matthew it was “on the FIRST DAY of the *Feast of the Unleavened Bread* the disciples came to Jesus, saying to Him, ‘Where do You want us to prepare for You to eat the Passover...?’ So the disciples did as Jesus had directed them; and they prepared the Passover. When evening had come, He sat down with the twelve” (Mt 26:17-20). Now the first day of Unleavened Bread began at evening time on the 14<sup>th</sup> of Nisan, which was a Monday night. This means that Jesus ate the Passover on the 15<sup>th</sup> of Nisan, which was a Tuesday night.

Anatolius, a bishop of Laodicea around 270 AD, speaking of this wrote: “The Word of the Gospel which says: ‘Moreover, on the *first day of unleavened bread*, the disciples came to Jesus.’ And there is *no doubt* as to its being the FOURTEENTH DAY on which the disciples asked the Lord, in accordance with the custom established for them of old, ‘Where wilt Thou that we prepare for Thee to eat the Passover...?’ The *best-known historiographers of the Jews*, and by the *Seventy Elders*, it has been clearly determined that the *Paschal festival CANNOT be celebrated at the equinox....*”

It was *lawful to celebrate the Passover on ANY DAY* when the *fourteenth* of the moon happened AFTER the *equinox*. Following their example up to the present time all the bishops of Asia, as themselves also receiving the rule from an unimpeachable authority to wit the evangelist John.... The Paschal... *lamb was sacrificed by the Jews after the equinox was past*” (ANF, vol 6, The Paschal Canon of Anatolius of Alexandria, chps 8-10, pp 309-311). Therefore Jesus died on the 15<sup>th</sup> of Nisan at the end of that day, which was one day after the equinox of the 14<sup>th</sup>.

Jesus speaking of the length of time His body would be in the tomb said: “For as Jonah was THREE DAYS and THREE NIGHTS in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be THREE DAYS and THREE NIGHTS in the *heart of the earth*” (Mt 12:40; also see 27:39-40; Mk 14:58; 15:29; Jn 2:19-21). According to Mark, Jesus told the apostles that: “the Son of Man must suffer many things, and be rejected by the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and AFTER [meta] three days rise again” (Mk 8:31; also Mt 27:63). Therefore, Jesus had to rise after 6 PM on the 19<sup>th</sup> of Nisan when the 1<sup>st</sup> day of the week was just beginning!

On the Hebcal Interactive Jewish Calendar website (<http://www.hebcal.com/hebcal/>) the following calendar for the month of April in the year 32 AD can be found:

Gregorian Year April 0032 or Hebrew Year 3792						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
11 13th of Nisan, 3792 ןסינב ג"י ב"צשת	12 14th of Nisan, 3792 ןסינב ד"י ב"צשת Erev Pesach	13 15th of Nisan, 3792 ןסינב ו"ט ב"צשת Pesach I	14 16th of Nisan, 3792 ב"צשת ןסינב ז"ט Pesach II	15 17th of Nisan, 3792 ןסינב ז"י ב"צשת Pesach III	16 18th of Nisan, 3792 ןסינב ח"י ב"צשת Pesach IV	17 19th of Nisan, 3792 ןסינב ט"י ב"צשת Pesach

According to NASA's Lunar Eclipse Data, there was an eclipse in the: Astronomical year 0032 (AD), April 14, Universal Time 09:05 (AM), Lunar Eclipse Type T (Total), Saros 61, Gamma 0.102, Penumbral Magnitude 2.701, Umbral Magnitude 1.670, Semi-Duration Total 112 minutes, Semi-Duration Partial 51 minutes, Greenwich Sidereal Time (UT) 13.4, Moon's Geocentric Right Ascension 13.37, Moon's Geocentric Right Declination -8.7 (<http://sunearth.gsfc.nasa.gov/eclipse/LEcat/LE0001-0100.html>). Jerusalem is about 3 1/2 hours *ahead* of Universal or Greenwich Mean Time.

## The Sabbath vs the First Day of the Week in Church History

The disciples of Moses and the Jewish Law System declare that the Jewish Sabbath or the Seventh Day (Saturday) was first changed to the First Day or Sunday as the day of rest by Constantine in 321 AD, and later confirmed by the Catholic Church in 364 AD. The following facts from the Ante Nicene Father (100-325 AD) definitely prove them wrong. The real truth is that the early Church meet in homes to pray and broke bread in the morning and evening of every day, for to them everyday was a Sabbath Day. According to Church history, on Sundays the whole Church assembled in one place and celebrated the Lord's resurrection with great joy and festivities. I also should mention that the *Lord's Day*, as it is used in the Bible, is NOT Saturday or Sunday, but a 7 year period better know as the Tribulation Period (see my book *The Mysteries of Prophecy Revealed*). Here are the true facts of history:

Bishop Ignatius of Antioch Syria writing to the Magnesians in 107 AD wrote: "If, therefore, those [Jews] who were brought up in the ancient order of things have come to the possession of a new hope, NO longer observing the Sabbath, but living in the observance of the *Lord's Day*, on which also *our life* has sprung up again by Him and by His death, whom some [Jews] deny, by which mystery we have obtained faith, and therefore endure, that we may be found the disciples of Jesus Christ, our only Master.... Let every friend of Christ keep the *Lord's Day* as a festival, the resurrection-day [i.e. Sunday], the queen and chief of all the days [of the week]. Looking forward to this, the prophet declared, 'To the end, for the eighth day,' on which *our life* both sprang up again, and the victory over death was obtained in *Christ*, whom the children of perdition [the Jews], the enemies of the Savior, deny" [ANF, vol 1, The Epistle of Ignatius, To the Magnesians, chps 9-10, pp 131-133].

**Barnabas an Alexandrian Jew, who lived in the times of Trajan and Hadrian (AD 117), in his epistle wrote: “The Jewish Sacrifices Are Now Abolished: For He hath revealed to us by all the prophets that He needs neither sacrifices, nor burnt-offerings, nor oblations, saying thus, ‘What is the multitude of your sacrifices unto Me, saith the Lord? I am full of burnt-offerings and desire not.... Incense is a *vain abomination* unto Me, and your new moons and SABBATHS I cannot endure.’ He has therefore ABOLISHED these things, that the NEW LAW of our Lord Jesus Christ, which is without the yoke of necessity, might have a human oblation” (ANF, vol 1, The Epistle of Barnabas, chp 2, pg 262).**

**Barnabas continued: “THE FALSE AND THE TRUE SABBATH: The Sabbath is mentioned at the beginning of the creation [thus]: ‘And God made in six days the works of His hands, and made an end on the seventh day, and rested on it, and sanctified it.’ Attend, my children, to the meaning of this expression, ‘He finished in six days.’ This implieth that the Lord will *finish* all things in *six thousand years*, for a *day is with Him a thousand years*.... Therefore, my children, in six days, that is, in six thousand years, all things will be finished.**

**‘And He rested on the seventh day.’ This meaneth: when His Son, coming [again], shall destroy the time of the wicked man, and judge the ungodly, and change the sun, and the moon, and the stars, then shall He truly REST on the seventh day.... Further, He says to them, ‘Your new moons and your Sabbath I cannot endure.’ Ye perceive how He speaks: Your present *Sabbaths* are NOT *acceptable* to Me, but that is which I have made, [namely this.] when, giving REST to all things, I shall make a beginning of the *eighth day*, that is, a beginning of another world. Wherefore, also, we *keep* the *eighth day* [Sunday] with *joyfulness*, the *day* also on which *Jesus rose* again from the dead. And when He had manifested Himself, He ascended into the heavens” (ANF, vol 1, The Epistle of Barnabas, chp 15, pp 279-280).**

**Mathetes, written around AD 130, wrote: “Christians do NOT observe the same forms of divine worship as do the Jews.... The Jews, then, if they abstain from [certain kinds of]... meats, and their *superstition* as respects the *Sabbaths*, and their boasting about circumcision, and their fancies about fasting and the new moons, which are utterly ridiculous” (ANF, vol 1, The Epistle of Mathetes to Diognetus, chps 3-4, pp 60-61).**

**Justin Martyr in AD 150 wrote: “Weekly Worship of the Christians: And on the day called *Sunday*, all who live in cities or in the country GATHER TOGETHER to ONE PLACE, and the memoirs of the apostles or the writings of the prophets are read, as long as time permits; then, when the reader has ceased, the *president verbally instructs*, and *exhorts* to the imitation of these good things. Then we all rise together and *pray*, and, as we before said, when our prayer is ended, *bread* and *wine* and *water* are brought, and the president in like manner offers prayers and thanksgivings, according to his ability, and the people assent, saying Amen.... *Sunday* is the *day* on which we all hold our COMMON ASSEMBLY, because it is the *first day* on which God, having wrought a change in the darkness and matter, made the world; and *Jesus Christ* our Savior on the *same day* rose from the *dead*” (ANF, vol 1, The First Apology of Justin, chp 67, pp 354-355).**

**Justin Martyr in his discussion with Trypho, a Jew, declared: “Justin Concludes that the Law Had an End in Christ: As, then, circumcision *began* with Abraham, and the *Sabbath* and sacrifices and offerings and feasts with Moses, and it has been proved they were enjoined [i.e. started] on account of the *hardness of your people’s heart*, so it was necessary, in accordance with the Father’s will, that they should have an END in Him who was born of a virgin, of the family of Abraham, and tribe of Judah, and of David” (ANF, vol 1, Dialogue of Justin, Philosopher and Martyr with Trypho, A Jew, chp 43, pg 426).**

**“Is there any other matter, my friends, in which we are blamed, than this, that we live not after the law, and are not circumcised in the flesh as your forefathers were, and DO NOT observe**

*Sabbaths as you do*” (chp 10, pg 387). “The command of circumcision, again, bidding [them] always *circumcise* the children on the eighth day, was a TYPE of the *true circumcision*, by which we are circumcised from deceit and iniquity through Him who rose from the dead on the FIRST DAY *after the Sabbath*, [namely through] our Lord Jesus Christ. For the FIRST DAY *after the Sabbath*, remaining the *first of all the days*, is called, however, the *eighth*, according to the number of all the days of the cycle, and [yet] remains the first” (chp 41, pg 424).

Irenaeus, a bishop in France in AD 180, wrote: “The apostles ordained, that ‘**we should NOT JUDGE any one in respect to meat or drink, or in regard to a feast day, or the new moons, or the SABBATHS.**’ Whence then [cometh] these contentions... whence [cometh these *schisms*...? We have heard from the prophetic words that *these feasts* and fasts are *displeasing* to the Lord” (ANF, vol 1, Fragments From the Lost Writings of Irenaeus, Fragment 38, pg 1191). “The *laws of bondage*, however, were one by one promulgated to the people by Moses, suited for their instruction or for their punishment.... *These things*, therefore, which were given for *bondage*, and for a SIGN to them, He CANCELED by the *new covenant of liberty*” (ANF, vol 1, Irenaeus Against Heresies, bk 4, chp 16, pp 992-994, sec 2-5).

Tertullian in AD 190 wrote: “The *Holy Spirit upbraids* the Jews with their holy-days. ‘**Your Sabbaths, and new moons, and ceremonies,**’ says He, ‘**My soul hateth.**’ By us, to whom *Sabbaths* are *strange*, and the new moons and festivals formerly beloved by God” (ANF, vol 3, Tertullian, Part One, The Apology, chp 14, pg 134). “We make *Sunday a day of festivity*. What then? Do you [Jews] do less than this...? You who reproach us with the sun and Sunday should consider your proximity to us. We are not far off from your *Saturn* and *your days of rest*” (ANF, vol 3, Tertullian, Part One, IV, The Chaplet, or De Corona, chp 13, pg 234).

“An Answer to the Jews, Of the Observance of the Sabbath: It follows, accordingly, that, in so far as the *abolition* of carnal circumcision and of the *old law* is demonstrated as *having been CONSUMMATED* [i.e. completed] at its *specific times*, so *also* the *observance* of the *Sabbath* is demonstrated to have been TEMPORARY.... Manifest accordingly it is, that the precept was not eternal nor spiritual, but *temporary*, which would *one day cease*” (ANF, vol 3, Tertullian, Part One, VII, chp 4, pp 290-291).

“An Answer to the Jews, Of the Abolition and the Abolisher of the Old Law: Therefore, since it is manifest that a *Sabbath temporal* was shown, and a Sabbath eternal foretold; a circumcision carnal foretold, and a circumcision spiritual pre-indicated; a law temporal and a law eternal formally declared; sacrifices carnal and sacrifices spiritual foreshown; it follows that, after all these precepts had been given carnally, in time preceding, to the people Israel, there was to supervene a time whereat the precepts of the *ancient Law* and of the *old ceremonies* would CEASE, and the promise of the *new law*, and the recognition of *spiritual sacrifices*, and the *promise of the New Testament*, supervene... *predicted by the prophets*.... The old Law has CEASED, and on the other, that the *promised new law is now in operation*.

And, indeed, first we must inquire whether there be expected a *giver* of the *new law*, and an *heir* of the new testament, and a *priest* of the *new sacrifices*, and a *purger* of the new circumcision, and an observer of the *eternal Sabbath*, to SUPPRESS the *old law*, and *institute* the *new testament*, and offer the new sacrifices, and REPRESS the ancient ceremonies, and SUPPRESS the *old circumcision* together with its own *Sabbath*, and announce the new kingdom which is not corruptible. Inquire, I say, we must [know], whether this *giver* of the *new law*, *observer* of the SPIRITUAL SABBATH, priest of the eternal sacrifices, eternal ruler of the eternal kingdom, be come or no: that, if he is already come, service may have to be rendered him” (ANF, vol 3, Tertullian, Part One, bk 7, chp 6, pg 294).

“When, again, he [Paul] mentioned ‘**certain false brethren as having crept in unawares,**’ who wished to remove the Galatians into another gospel, he himself shows that their adulteration of the gospel was not meant to transfer them to the faith of another God and Christ, but rather to *perpetuate* the *teaching of the law*; because he *blames* them for *maintaining* circumcision, and observing times, and days, and months, and years, according to those Jewish ceremonies, which they

ought to have *known* were *now* ABROGATED, according to the new dispensation purposed by the Creator Himself, who of old foretold this very thing by His prophets.

Thus He says by Isaiah: Old things have passed away. ‘Behold, I will do a new thing.’ And in another passage: ‘I will make a new covenant, not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers, when I brought them out of the land of Egypt’ In like manner by Jeremiah: Make to yourselves a new covenant, ‘circumcise yourselves to the Lord, and take away the foreskins of your heart.’ It is this circumcision, therefore, and this renewal, which the apostle insisted on, when he FORBADE those *ancient ceremonies* concerning which their very founder announced that they were *one day* to CEASE; thus by Hosea: ‘I will also cause all her *mirth* to CEASE, her feast-days, her new moons, and her SABBATHS, and all her solemn feasts.’ So likewise by Isaiah: ‘The new moons, and SABBATHS, the calling of assemblies, I cannot [stand], AWAY WITH your holy days, and fasts, and feast-days, my soul HATETH.’

Now, if even the Creator had so long before discarded all these things, and the apostle was now proclaiming them to be worthy of *renunciation* [rejection or abandonment]... branding as false both apostles and brethren, for the express reason that they were pushing back the gospel of Christ the Creator from the *new condition* which the Creator had foretold, to the *old one* which He had DISCARDED” (ANF, vol 3, Tertullian, The Five Books Against Marcion, bk 1, chp 20, pp 537-538).

“Have returned ‘to weak and beggarly elements....’ He [Paul] tells us himself clearly enough what he means by ‘elements,’ even the *rudiments* of the law: ‘Ye observe days, and months, and times, and years,’ the *Sabbaths*, I suppose, and ‘the preparations,’ and the fasts, and the ‘high days.’ For the CESSATION of even these, no less than of circumcision, was appointed by the Creator’s decrees, who had said by Isaiah, ‘Your new moons, and your *Sabbaths*, and your high days I CANNOT bear; your fasting, and feasts, and ceremonies my soul *hateth*,’ also by Amos, ‘I hate, I despise your *feast-days*, and I will not smell in your solemn assemblies;’ and again by Hosea, ‘I will cause to CEASE all her mirth, and her feast-days, and her *Sabbaths*, and her new moons, and all her solemn assemblies.’ The *institutions* which He set up Himself, you ask, *did He then destroy?* Yes... but this is not the place to discuss the question *why* the Creator ABOLISHED *His own laws*” (ANF, vol 3, Tertullian, The Five Books Against Marcion, bk 5, chp 4, pg 808).

Origen writing in AD 200 declared: “It was only a few persons at that time, viz., the prophets themselves, and scarcely another individual out of the whole nation, who were able to look beyond the mere corporeal meaning and discover something greater, i.e., *something spiritual*, in the law or in the *prophets*; but now there are *countless multitudes* of believers who, although unable to unfold methodically and clearly the results of their *spiritual understanding*, are nevertheless *most firmly persuaded* that NEITHER ought circumcision to be understood literally, nor the *rest* of the *Sabbath*, nor the pouring out of the blood of an animal, nor that answers were given by God to Moses on these points. And this method of apprehension is undoubtedly suggested to the minds of all by the power of the Holy Spirit.” (ANF, vol 4, Works of Origen, Prologue of Rufinus, bk 2, The De Principiis, chp 7, pg 592, sec 2).

“For it is there related that Jesus said: ‘I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now. Howbeit when He, the Spirit of truth, is come, He will guide you into all the truth....’ And when we inquire what were the ‘many things’ referred to in the passage which Jesus had to say to His disciples, but which they were not then able to bear, I have to observe that, probably because the *apostles* were *Jews*, and had been *trained up* according to the *letter* of the *Mosaic law*, He was unable to tell them what was the *true law*, and how the *Jewish worship* CONSISTED in the PATTERN and SHADOW of certain *heavenly things*, and how future blessings were *foreshadowed* by the injunctions regarding meats and drinks, and festivals, and new moons, and *Sabbaths*.... He postponed such a task to a future season to that, namely, which followed His passion and resurrection” (ANF, vol 4, Works of Origen, Origen, Origen Against Celsus, bk 2, chp 2, pp 877-878).

“Thus was he [John the Baptist] born to make ready for the Lord a people fit for Him, at the END of the [Mosaic] *Covenant* now grown old, which is the END of the *Sabbatic period*. Hence it is NOT possible that the *rest* after the *Sabbath* should have come into existence from the Seventh [Day] of our God; on the contrary, it is our Savior who, after the *pattern* of *His own rest*, caused us to be made in the likeness of His death, and hence also of His resurrection” (ANF, vol 10, Origen’s Commentary on the Gospel of John, bk 2, chp 27, pg 588).

“Our Passover is sacrificed for us, namely Christ. Another feature of the Jewish festival is unleavened bread; all leaven is made to disappear out of their houses; but ‘we keep the feast not with the old leaven, nor with the leaven of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth....’ Since these serve for a *pattern* and a *shadow* of the *heavenly ones* we spoke of, and NOT *only* such things as food and drink and new moons and *Sabbaths*, but the *festivals* also, are a shadow of the things to come” (ANF, vol 10, Origen’s Commentary on the Gospel of John, bk 10, chp 13, pg 683).

Hippolytus writing in AD 225 wrote: “And 6,000 years must needs be accomplished, in order that the Sabbath may come, the *rest*, the holy day ‘on which God rested from all His works.’ For the *Sabbath* is the *type* and *emblem* of the FUTURE KINGDOM of the saints, when they ‘shall reign with Christ,’ when He comes from heaven, as John says in his Apocalypse: for ‘a day with the Lord is as a thousand years.’ Since, then, in six days God made all things, it follows that 6,000 years must be fulfilled” (ANF, vol 5, The Extant Works and Fragments of Hippolytus, Part 1, Exegetical Fragments from Commentaries on Various Books of Scripture on the Hexaemeron, or Six Days’ Work On Daniel, chp 2, pp 370-371, sec 4.).

Cyprian AD 250 wrote: “For in respect of the *observance* of the *eighth day* in the Jewish circumcision of the flesh, a sacrament was given *beforehand* in *shadow* and in *usage*; but when Christ came, it was fulfilled in truth. For because the *eighth day*, that is, the *first day* after the *Sabbath*, was to be that on which the Lord should rise again, and should quicken us, and give us *circumcision* of the SPIRIT, the *eighth day*, that is, the *first day* after the *Sabbath*, and the Lord’s day, went before in the *figure*; which *figure* CEASED when by and by the truth came, and spiritual circumcision was given to us” (ANF, vol 5, The Epistles of Cyprian, Epistle 58, pg 765, sec 4).

Victorinus AD declared: “Christ Himself, the Lord of the Sabbath, says by His prophets that ‘His soul hateth;’ which *Sabbath* He in His body ABOLISHED.... Wherefore, as I have narrated, that true Sabbath will be in the *seventh millenary* of years, when Christ with His elect shall reign” (ANF, vol 7, Victorinus, On the Creation of the World, pg 710-711).

Eusebius writing in AD 325 wrote: “Some excellent men lived before the flood, others of the sons and descendants of Noah lived after it, among them Abraham, whom the Hebrews celebrate as their own founder and forefather.... They did NOT care about circumcision of the body, *neither* do we. They did NOT care about *observing Sabbaths*, NOR do we. They did NOT avoid certain kinds of food, *neither* did they regard the other distinctions which Moses first delivered to their posterity to be *observed* as *symbols*; NOR do Christians of the present day do such things” (The Nicene and Post-Nicene Fathers, Second Series, vol 1, The Church History of Eusebus, bk 9, chp 4, pp 163-164).

Emperor Constantine’s decree on Sunday Worship: “He [Emperor Constantine] ordained, too, that *one day* should be regarded as a special occasion for prayer: I mean that which is truly the *first* and *chief* of all.... Accordingly he *enjoined* on all the subjects of the Roman empire to *observe* the *Lord’s day*, as a *day of rest*.... And since his desire was to teach his whole army zealously to honor the Savior’s day (which *derives* its name from *light*, and from the SUN), he freely granted to those among them who were partakers of the divine faith, leisure for *attendance* on the *services* of the *Church* of God, in order that they might be able, without impediment, to perform their *religious worship*” (The Nicene and Post-Nicene Fathers, Second Series, vol 1, The Church History of Eusebus, bk 4, chp 18, pg 1002). Constantine’s Edit did not start Sunday worship, it merely put into Law what was what was started by the apostles and practiced by the Church for centuries!

The Catholic historian Socrates Scholasticus (AD 412) wrote: Some Christians “have not taken into consideration the fact that when Judaism was changed into Christianity, the obligation to observe the Mosaic law and the ceremonial types ceased. And the proof of the matter is plain; for no law of Christ permits Christians to imitate the Jews. On the contrary the apostle expressly forbids it; not only rejecting circumcision, but also deprecating contention about festival days. In his epistle to the Galatians he writes, ‘**Tell me ye that desire to be under the law, do ye not hear the law?**’ And continuing his train of argument, he demonstrates that the Jews were in bondage as servants, but that those who have come to Christ are ‘**called into the liberty of sons.**’ Moreover he exhorts them in *no way* to regard ‘**days, and months, and years.**’

Again in his epistle to the Colossians he distinctly declares, that such *observances* are *merely shadows*: wherefore he says, ‘**Let no man judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of any holy-day, or of the new moon, or of the Sabbath-days; which are a shadow of things to come.**’ The same truths are also confirmed by him in the epistle to the Hebrews in these words: ‘**For the priesthood being changed, there is made of necessity a change also of the law.**’ Neither the apostles, therefore, nor the Gospels, have anywhere imposed the ‘**yoke of servitude**’ on those who have embraced the truth....

The Savior and his apostles have enjoined us by no law to keep this feast: *nor do the Gospels and apostles threaten us with any penalty, punishment, or curse for the neglect of it, as the Mosaic law does the Jews.* It is merely for the sake of historical accuracy, and for the reproach of the Jews, because they polluted themselves with blood on their very feasts, that it is recorded in the Gospels that our Savior suffered in the days of ‘**unleavened bread.**’ The aim of the apostles was not to appoint festival days, but to teach a righteous life and piety” (The Nicene and Post-Nicene Fathers, Second Series, vol 2, The Ecclesiastical History of Socrates Scholasticus, bk 5, chp 22, pp 312-313, AD 412).

## **Will Jewish Sabbaths, New Moons, and the Feast of Tabernacles Be Observed in the Millennial Reign of Christ as a Memorial**

The Word of God definitely teaches that in the Millennial Reign of Christ all flesh, probably living in Jerusalem and surrounding areas, will come to Jerusalem every Sabbath Day and New Moon to worship Christ. It also teaches that once a year, during the time of the Feast of Tabernacles, the entire world will come to Jerusalem to worship the Savior. God speaking through the prophet Isaiah stated this truth this way:

“For as the NEW HEAVEN and the NEW EARTH Which I will make shall remain before Me,’ says the LORD, ‘So shall your descendants and your name remain. And it shall come to pass that from ONE NEW MOON to ANOTHER, and from ONE SABBATH to ANOTHER, *All flesh shall come to worship before Me,*’ says the LORD. ‘And they shall go forth and look Upon the corpses of the men Who have transgressed against Me. For their worm does not die, And their fire is not quenched. They shall be an abhorrence to all flesh” (Isa 66:22-24).

God speaking through the prophet Zechariah stated this truth this way: “And it shall come to pass *that everyone who is left of all the nations* which came against Jerusalem shall go up from YEAR to YEAR to *worship* the King, the LORD of hosts, and to *keep* the FEAST of TABERNACLES. And it shall be *that* whichever of the *families* of the earth do *not* come up to Jerusalem to *worship* the King, the LORD of hosts, on them there will be NO RAIN. If the family of Egypt will not come up and enter in, they shall have NO RAIN; they shall receive the *plague* with which the LORD strikes the *nations* who do *not* come up to *keep* the FEAST of TABERNACLES.

This shall be the *punishment* of Egypt and the *punishment* of *all the nations* that do *not* come up to *keep* the FEAST of TABERNACLES. In that day "HOLINESS to the LORD" shall be engraved on the bells of the horses. The pots in the LORD's HOUSE shall be like the bowls before the *altar*" (Zec 14:16-20).

When our Lord returns to the earth with His Saints to set up His Millennial Reign, He and His saints will rule the earth with a rod of iron, that is, open sin will not be tolerated anywhere. Evidently, during this time when Lucifer is chain up, man's real enemy will be his own flesh, his old nature; for when righteousness reigns, some men or nations will rebel against our Savior and not want to come to Jerusalem ONCE A YEAR and worship Him at the Feast of Tabernacles: "He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and *His name* is called *The Word of God*. And the *armies* in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses. Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will RULE them with a ROD of IRON" (Rev 19:13-15); also "And HE who OVERCOMES, and keeps My works until the end, to him I will give power over the nations – HE shall RULE them with a ROD of IRON; They shall be dashed to pieces like the potter's vessels' -- as I also have received from My Father" (Rev 2:26-27).

The Bible reveals that God will create a New Heaven and Earth when He returns to the earth, as Christ, at the end of the Tribulation Period. Christ's Millennial Reign will begin immediately after: "For behold, I create NEW HEAVENS and a NEW EARTH; And the former shall not be remembered or come to mind. But be glad and rejoice forever in what I create; For behold, I create Jerusalem *as* a rejoicing, And her people a joy. I will rejoice in Jerusalem, And joy in My people; The voice of weeping shall no longer be heard in her, Nor the voice of crying. No more shall an infant from there live but a few days, Nor an old man who has not fulfilled his days; For the child shall die one hundred years old, But the sinner being one hundred years old shall be accursed.... The wolf and the lamb shall feed together, The lion shall eat straw like the ox, And dust *shall be* the serpent's food. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain,' Says the LORD" (Isa 65:17-20, 25).

Therefore, what conclusion can we reach from the above passages of Scripture? Why will Christ reinstate Sabbath Days, New Moons, and Tabernacle feast days that He ABOLISHED in the Church Age, which were nothing but SYMBOLIC expressions of the ministry of Christ (Col 2:14-18; Heb 10:1)? Could it be that these types or symbols of Christ will be used as a memorial to the Lord, in which all mankind would remember His LOVE for them by what He did through His sinless life, atonement at Calvary, and the pouring out of the REST of His Holy Spirit? Let us not forget that the Lord's Supper, we all celebrate today, is such a memorial; do we not remember His LOVE for us every time we partake of the bread and unfermented wine (grape juice), which represented His broken body and shed blood.

It appears to me that the Sabbath Day keeps in the Church Age have made the same mistake as the Old Covenant Jews, that is, they failed to recognize the end of one age and the beginning of another. In other words, they, like the Jews, failed to recognize that the Old Covenant, with its entire Law System, has been abolished, and the New Testament Laws of Christ is what we observe and live by today. As I stated at the beginning of this book, I have no problem with anyone keeping the Sabbath Day, or any other day, as their holy day or day of rest, but I do have a problem with those who want to make it sin. To me, and to many one God Jesus'

name Pentecostals, every day is a Sabbath in which to be holy, draw near to God through prayer, worship, studying the Bible, and doing the will of God. Amend!

**Books Written by the Author and Given Away on His Website:**

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