

THE COUNTERFEIT CHANGE OF SABBATH

IS THE SABBATH SATURDAY OR SUNDAY?



Many Christians worship on Sunday in spite of the fourth commandment, **Exodus 20:8-11**, clearly stating “the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord thy God . . .” So, why do so many worship on a different day? When is the Sabbath, then? Could it be that the Christian Church has allowed man’s tradition to overshadow God’s way?

Is Sunday a counterfeit sabbath designed to deceive Christians into undermining the absolute and eternal authority of God?

SUNDAY IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

The “first day,” meaning Sunday, is not even mentioned in Revelation, and only eight times in other New Testament books. So, if there is a command to keep Sunday holy, we should find it in one of these Bible passages, right?

These verses describe how the women return to the tomb on Sunday to finish preparing the body of Christ: **Mark 16:1-2, Mark 16:9, Matthew 28:1, Luke 24:1, John 20:1.** Jesus was crucified on Friday, called the “preparation day” because they were to prepare for God’s holy Sabbath day, Saturday. Jesus then rested in the tomb on Sabbath, the “seventh day” of the week, and rose on Sunday, the “first day” of the week, resurrection day. Does this tell us that the first day of the week is now holy? No.

John 20:19 describes Jesus’ appearance to the disciples that same day. Many believe this is when Sunday was inaugurated as a holy day.

But the disciples could not have done this in honor of the resurrection, because until Jesus appeared, they refused to believe He was raised. **Mark 16:14** proves this, “Later He appeared . . . He rebuked their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they did not believe those who had seen Him after He had risen.”

1 Corinthians 16:1-2 finds Paul instructing believers to set aside their Sabbath offering at the beginning of the week. He was gathering funds for the Jerusalem Christians who were suffering from famine. Paul wrote ahead to the churches he would visit, so the money would be ready when he arrived.

Finally, **Acts 20:7** tells of “when the disciples came together to break bread . . .” The fact that they broke bread does not indicate the day was holy because the Bible says they broke bread every day. **(See Acts 2:46)** These verses reveal no hint of change.

Many honest Christians read in **Luke 4:16** that Jesus, “as His custom was”, went to church on the Sabbath. Christ said in **Matthew 24:20** that **His disciples would be keeping the seventh-day Sabbath 40 years after the cross.** So, Jesus didn’t change the Sabbath! The Bible promises in Hebrews 13:8, “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.” God didn’t change it because the Bible says in Malachi 3:6, “For I *am* the Lord, I do not change.”

God did not change the Sabbath. Jesus would not change the Sabbath and the disciples could not change the Sabbath! (Acts 5:29)

So, who changed it?

THE BEAST'S DECEPTION

In Revelation 13:1 a beast rises up out of the sea, "Then I stood on the sand of the sea. And I saw a beast rising up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and on his horns ten crowns, and on his heads a blasphemous name."

To understand this beast, we go back to Daniel 7 which gives us the key to unlock Revelation 13.

In **Daniel 7:2-3**, "Daniel spoke, saying, 'I saw in my vision by night, and behold, the four winds of heaven were stirring up the Great Sea. And four great beasts came up from the sea, each different from the other.'" Daniel goes on to describe the beasts as a lion, bear, leopard, and a beast with ten horns and iron teeth. **Verse 17** states that the beasts represent four kings, or kingdoms.

Most Bible scholars agree that the fourth beast represents the Roman Empire. **Daniel 7:8**, "I was considering the horns, and there was another horn, a little one, coming up among them . . . And there, in this horn, were eyes like the eyes of a man, and a mouth speaking pompous words." This little horn comes up among the first ten horns, after the fall of Rome.

Daniel 7:25 predicts, "He shall speak pompous words against the Most High, shall persecute the saints of the Most High, and shall intend to change times and laws . . ."

So, coming out of the Roman Empire, a religious power would rise and claim authority to change the law of God. That power is the Papacy.

In the **Catholic World, March 1994, page 809** acknowledges the pagan origins of Sunday worship, "The Sun was a foremost god with heathendom . . . And thus, the pagan Sunday, dedicated to Balder (the mythic sun god), became the Christian Sunday . . ."

Additionally, Christians, to escape persecution, had for several hundred years been seeking to distinguish themselves from the Jews. Sunday gradually became emphasized because of Christ's resurrection, and church leaders, to make the pagan sun worshippers more comfortable, began to observe Sunday in place of the Bible Sabbath.

Constantine wanted to unite his empire and Roman church leaders wanted to convert the pagans. Sunday became the vehicle to accomplish both; so the Biblical Sabbath was changed by the Roman church and state.

The Catholic Church **Council of Laodicea (A.D. 325)** records the first prohibition of keeping the Bible Sabbath, "Christians shall not Judaize . . . If, however they are found Judaizing, they shall be shut out from Christ."

So here is a church council that unites with the Roman government under Constantine and says 'let's shift the Christian Sabbath from Saturday to Sunday. This will unite the empire and distance us from the Jews.' In so doing they were fulfilling the prophecy in **Daniel 7:25**, "And shall think to change times and laws . . ."

It is clearer in **The Convert's Catechism**, a Roman Catholic instructional guide:



"Q. Which is the Sabbath day?
A. Saturday is the Sabbath Day."
"Q. Why do we observe Sunday
instead of Sabbath? A. . . . because
the Catholic Church transferred the
solemnity from Saturday to Sunday."

**In spite of this evidence,
Protestantism has "wondered
after the beast ." (Revelation 13:3)
Sunday sacredness came from the
tradition and commandments of
men. The issue is much more than a
matter of one day versus another.
One day was sanctified by God, and
set aside. And God rested on only
the seventh day—"the Sabbath."**

Our Choice is:
The Bible or Tradition,
Jesus or Religious Leaders,
God's Law or Man's Dogmas.

"CHOOSE THIS DAY WHOM YOU WILL SERVE"

In Matthew 15:3-9, "[Jesus]
answered and said to them,
'Why do you also transgress the
commandment of God because of
your tradition? . . . Thus you have
made the commandment of God of
none effect by your tradition . . .
in vain they worship Me, teaching as
doctrines the commandments of men."

God says the Sabbath is a great
sign. (Ezekiel 20:12; Exodus 31:16)
It's a sign of our loyalty to Christ,
that we believe He created our
world. It is a sign that we can rest
in the completed work of salvation
through Christ. The Bible Sabbath
matters to God. He wrote it in stone!

Revelation 14:12 says,
"Here is the patience of the saints;
here are those who keep the
commandments of God and the
faith of Jesus."

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR YOU?

Are you willing to follow wherever Jesus leads?
The narrow road may be difficult, but it leads to the tree of life.

NEED PRAYER?

HAVE
QUESTIONS?

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