



Sabbath, but this time his discourse was prolonged due to having to leave at dawn. If he would have kept Sunday, he wouldn't have gone on such a long trip that day. In 1 Corinthians 16:2 it is advised to set aside an offering for the poor in Jerusalem. Is a meeting mentioned or were they just to set it aside? It was not a meeting, but they were to set the funds aside in their home. None of these texts mention a change in the day of rest.

There are sincere Christians who believe that they keep Sunday as a tribute to the resurrection of Jesus. Others might say they keep Friday as a tribute to Christ dying on that day. Neither this nor the other were ordained by God. There is no biblical text to substantiate it. God instituted the Sabbath, the seventh day, as the day of rest consecrated to Him. The rest are human commandments. The Scriptures state, **"But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men."** Matthew 15:9.

WHAT THE SCRIPTURES SHOW ABOUT THE SABBATH REST:

1. Was instituted by God Himself when He created man. God rested, blessed, and sanctified the seventh day. Genesis 2:1-3.
2. The fourth commandment of that holy law, written on tables of stone, commands we keep the Sabbath. Exodus 20:8-11.
3. God Himself indicated what His holy day was with the miracle of manna. On the sixth day, the Israelites received a double portion and on Sabbath they didn't receive anything. Exodus 16:15-30.
4. The Sabbath is a sign between God and His people. Ezekiel 20:20.
5. Non-Jews were to keep it holy. Exodus 20:10; Isaiah 56:6, 7; Mark 2:27.
6. God calls it **"my holy day... a delight... honourable..."** Isaiah 58:13.
7. Prophecy speaks of a people that are **"repairer[s] of the breach"**, meaning they will repair the breach made in the law of God. Isaiah 58:12.
8. Jesus' custom was to keep the Sabbath. Luke 4:16, 31.

9. He taught how to keep the Sabbath and that it was lawful to do good. Matthew 12:12.
10. Mary and the women taught by Jesus kept it holy. Luke 23:56.
11. The apostles kept it and dedicated themselves to preaching. Acts 18:3, 4; 17:2; 13:42-44; 16:13.
12. It will be kept in the new earth. Isaiah 66:22, 23.

We should not confuse the seventh-day Sabbath with the 7 Jewish ceremonial feasts that were also called Sabbaths. These feasts foreshadowed Christ and ended with His death. Colossians 2:14, 16, 17.

GOD'S PROMISES

It is true that in order to keep Sabbath you will have struggles, as the world is heading in a different direction. But God promises the faithful that they will never lack bread (Psalms 37:25), and that they will prosper: **"O that there were such an heart in them, that they would fear me, and keep all my commandments always, that it might be well with them, and with their children for ever!"** Deuteronomy 5:29.

Sunday was not instituted by God as a day of rest but the Sabbath is the day that reminds of the work of creation, salvation, and peace we have in Jesus; it is the weekly indicator of happy repose in eternal life.

Show God your loyalty and love (John 14:15) by dedicating the Sabbath to Jesus. Make your decision now. Tell Him in prayer, *"Thank you Lord for teaching me your holy law. Forgive me if I have not kept your holy day as you wish. I accept you as my Savior and Lord. I plead that You help me to obey You out of love every day of my life. Thank you for loving me. In the name of Jesus. Amen."*

Please share your decision with us that we may pray and help you in the way of God. You will be very happy.



THIRD MILLENNIUM BIBLE COURSE

7

International Missionary Society, Seventh-day Adventist Church, Reform Movement

CONNECTION WITH SUN WORSHIP

In January 26, 1964, a group of mountain climbers reached the summit of El Toro, a massive mountain with an elevation of 20,200 feet located on the border between Argentina and Chile. There they say a ceremonial platform made of stones measuring 39ft x 22ft on the major north-south axis, next to it a circle made with 9 large stones, and in its center the body of a mummified 25-year-old man that had been offered by the Incas to the sun god. Preserved intact under the eternal snows was a testimony of that ancient worship to the king of the sky, practiced by many people and surreptitiously introduced into Christianity. Such is the case of the Incan Empire, as its emperor, the Inca, was thought to be the son of the sun.

We can see these scenes repeated in Egypt, where the pharaoh was considered a direct descendant of Ra, the sun god. This worship was practiced in the Babylonian Empire and in the kingdoms that rose to power up to the Roman Empire, which in its wealth and promiscuity adopted the gods of the countries it conquered. When Christianity spread within its borders in the early centuries, Christians were harshly persecuted by various Emperors.

That persecution led many to long for peace, regardless of concessions or the infiltration of false beliefs into the Christian faith.

A CHANGE FOR POLITICAL CONVENIENCE

Constantine (280 A.D. – 337 A.D.), the emperor, noticed that Rome's political power was weakening due to the existing division between pagan sun worshipers and Christians; he proposed to unite both popular ideological currents. He decreed the Edict of Milan in 313 A.D., thus giving complete freedom to Christians. This made them admire the emperor.

Constantine tried to combine creeds and he **"converted"** pagan gods to Christianity, giving them Christian names. That syncretism reached all corners, to the point that we see some Christians celebrate



carnivals, when it is a pagan festival honoring the god Momus. We can see Christians celebrating the day of the dead and taking part in animist cults; within every culture's liturgies were introduced pagan creeds and gods.

In his book, Cardinal John Henry Newman wrote, *"We are told in various ways by Eusebius, that Constantine, in order to recommend the new religion to the heathen, transferred into it the outward ornaments to which they had been accustomed in their own. It is not necessary to go into a subject which the diligence of Protestant writers has made familiar to most of us. The use of temples, and these dedicated to particular saints, and ornamented on occasions with branches of trees, incense, lamps, and candles; votive offerings on recovery from illness; holy water; asylums; holydays and seasons, use of calendars, processions, blessings on the fields; sacerdotal vestments, the tonsure, the ring in marriage, turning to the East, images at a later date, perhaps the ecclesiastical chant, and the Kyrie Eleison, are all of pagan origin, and sanctified by their adoption into the Church."* –*The Development of Christian Doctrine*, p. 374.

EL CULTO AL SOL ENMASCARADO

The heathen worshipped different gods, such as Mitra, the sun god being the main one. The day dedicated to that god was Sunday. In English *Sunday* and in German *Sonntag*, both meaning *day of the sun*. To fulfill his political plan, Constantine became an apparent Christian and instituted Sunday, the day of the sun as the day of rest, enabling freedom of work obligations so everyone could participate in the worship services and celebrate the pagan sun deity in which he still believed. At that time, many became Christians and brought with them endless pagan customs adopted into Christianity.

Unfortunately, in the course of time, the majority of Christianity adopted Sunday worship. Despite Luther's Reformation and that of Calvin and other reformers in the sixteenth century, Sunday observance remained, although not one Bible text indicated a change in the day of rest. Even when the Catholic Church's power declined, Sunday observance remained constant.

With the spread of consumerism starting at the end of the twentieth century, workers must work at regular hours and every day, so Pope John Paul II wrote an encyclical in which Sunday was relaunched as a family day. Strong efforts are being made to bring this back into place, as there are countries where it is already mandatory to cease activities on Sunday.

Maybe you were acquainted with the history but I'd like to ask: do you know why Sunday is observed? This question is intended for honest Christians that love God wholeheartedly, to those who have felt the joy of knowing they are children of God, as well as to those who are only reading this article because it fell in their hands but have no religious inclination. What interference does Sunday pose in your life? Will there be any obstacle for you or your family in keeping the Sabbath or Sunday? Do you think it is all the same?

Since we may not be able to discuss the matter I will hand the first question over to Rev. Pedro Geierman who asks, *"Why do we observe Sun-*

day instead of Saturday?" The answer, *"We observe Sunday instead of Saturday because the Catholic Church, in the Council of Laodicea, (A.D. 336) transferred the solemnity from Saturday to Sunday..."* –*The Convert's Catechism of Catholic Doctrine*, p. 50, third edition, 1913.

In the first subject titled *"Horizons of Hope"*, we spoke about intellectual honesty. Therefore, the question is: Did God change His law (the same law He wrote with His own finger on the two tables of stone) or was it changed by man?

DID GOD CHANGE HIS OWN LAW?

"For I am the Lord, I change not..." Malachi 3:6.

"God is not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent..." Numbers 23:19.

"I know that, whatsoever God doeth, it shall be for ever: nothing can be put to it, nor anything taken from it..." Ecclesiastes 3:14.

DID CHRIST CHANGE THE LAW?

"Think not that I am come to destroy the law... but to fulfil. For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law..." Matthew 5:17, 18.

"And it is easier for heaven and earth to pass, than one tittle of the law to fail." Luke 16:17.

"Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever." Hebrews 13:8.

DID THE APOSTLES CHANGE THE LAW OF GOD AND THE SABBATH?

"He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him." 1 John 2:4.

"And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life..." Revelation 22:19.

As we see, it was not God the Father, nor Christ His Son, nor the apostles who changed the law of God, since God did not write His law on the tables of stone by mistake, but rather...

WHAT IS FORETOLD IN THE BIBLE ABOUT THE CHANGE?

The Bible prophesies that a human power, whose work is clearly described, would try to change law of God. **"... And it cast down the truth to the ground; and it practised, and prospered."** Daniel 8:12. **"And he shall speak great words against the most High, and shall wear out the saints of the most High, and think to change times and laws..."** Daniel 7:25.

That power would overthrow the truth and change the law by leaving aside the day God established and changing it to one related to the worship of the sun, instead of God. The same power would: perform the inquisition, that is, the persecution against the saints, institute holidays, and alter the law

of God. The prophecy is very hard on those who effected that change (Daniel 7:26). Identifying the responsible power is not difficult.

WHAT DO RELIGIOUS LEADERS SAY ABOUT THE CHANGE?

The Catholic Church admits having changed this commandment of the law of God. Cardinal Gibbons wrote, *"But you may read the Bible from Genesis to Revelation, AND YOU WILL NOT FIND A SINGLE LINE AUTHORIZING THE SANCTIFICATION OF SUNDAY. The Scriptures enforce the religious observance of Saturday, a day which we never sanctify."* *The Faith of Our Fathers*, 1892 edition, p. 111.

Important protestant leaders recognize:

"The notion of a formal substitution by apostolic authority of the Lord's day for the Jewish Sabbath, and the transference to it, perhaps in a spiritualized form of the Sabbatical obligation established by the promulgation of the fourth commandment, HAS NO BASIS WHATSOEVER, EITHER IN HOLY SCRIPTURE OR IN CHRISTIAN ANTIQUITY..." –*A Dictionary of Christian Antiquities*, Smith and Cheetham, art. "Sabbath," p. 1823. London: John Murray, 1880.

Dr. Edward T. Hiscox, author of *The Baptist Manual* said, *"There was and is a commandment to keep holy the Sabbath day, but that Sabbath day was not Sunday... It will be said, however, and with some show of triumph, that the Sabbath was transferred from the seventh to the first day of the week... Where can the record of such a transaction (from seventh day to the first day) be found? Not in the new testament, absolutely not. There is no scriptural evidence of the change of the sabbath institution from the seventh to the first day of the week."* Quotation taken from a paper read before New York Ministers' Conference held November 13, 1893.

Revelation speaks of modern Babylon, the religious confusion of the time of the end saying, **"... Babylon is fallen... [and] she made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication."** Revelation 14:8.

This means that its doctrine is the result of unfaithfulness, human teaching that derails from the clear commandments of God.

THE BIBLE AND THE FIRST DAY OF THE WEEK

There are only eight Bible texts that mention the first day of the week. But none of them insinuate a change in the day of rest.

Five texts mention the resurrection, which occurred the first day of the week (Matthew 28:1; Mark 16:1, 2, 9; Luke 24:1; John 20:1).

John 20:19 says that the disciples were together not to keep Sunday, as they didn't even believe He'd resurrected (Mark 16:12-14).

In regard to Acts 20:7, 11 we must consider that in those days the beginning of a new day wasn't at midnight but at sunset (Leviticus 23:32). We can then conclude that the verses refer to an event that occurred after Sabbath. Many verses show that Paul's custom was to worship on

