

# THE WORD OF

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# TRUTH

Bible Study Course

Ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.

John 8:32

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## THE SABBATH

In our series of studies on eschatology, prophecies concerning last day events, we need to pause at this point to examine a subject relevant to the next step in a meaningful understanding of those events. That subject is the Sabbath and as we shall see in future lessons, is a central issue in the study of Revelation 13.

In this study we shall investigate the relevance of the Bible Sabbath for Christ's faithful followers in these final days and what Jesus considers as He judges each of us to see who is on the Lord's side.

You will recall from lesson 1 that when Adam and Eve sinned against their Creator, they lost their home in the garden of Eden. There were two things that God gave to Adam and Eve that they were able to take with them out of Eden. These were -- marriage and the Sabbath.

**1. From lesson 1, we learned that God took six days to create the heavens and the earth. But there are seven days in the week, what did God do on the seventh day?**

Genesis 2:1-3 \_\_\_\_\_

Note: What God has blessed he has blessed forever. That means it stands forever and no-one has the right to say that what God has blessed is no longer of any importance (1Chronicles 17:27; Ecclesiastes 3:14; Numbers 23:19,20).

**2. For whom did God especially make the Sabbath?**

Mark 2:27 \_\_\_\_\_

Note: In Eden man had forgotten that God was his Creator and that as a creature, he was dependent upon God for all that he had, including life itself. By giving us the *Sabbath as a memorial of creation*, God seeks to keep ever before our minds that all we have and are comes from Him. In this, He shows us not only the fact that we depend on Him for everything, but also that He loves us greatly. The Sabbath is a day of rest from secular work, as may be seen in God's example when He rested from His work. But also notice that it is man who needs the rest, not God (Isaiah 40:28; Heb.4:1-11, the rest mentioned in Hebrews is the surrender to Jesus Christ, which involves obeying Him, that is, keeping the commandments, including the Sabbath).

**3. What reason is given for Sabbath keeping?**

Exodus 20:11 \_\_\_\_\_

Note: As man is prone to forgetting the commandments of God, the Creator included the Sabbath as one of the ten commandments given at Sinai and written by HIS OWN HAND. Does this show the importance that God has placed upon His ten precepts for right living and a good life (Deut.6:24,25; Nehemiah 9:13,14)?

**4. As one of the ten commandments, what does the Sabbath commandment require?**

Exodus 20:8-10 \_\_\_\_\_

**5. What incident gives evidence to the fact that the Sabbath was a Divine requirement before the giving of the commandments at mount Sinai and therefore had its origin in Eden not at Sinai?**

Exodus 16:4,23-30 \_\_\_\_\_

**6. This incident proved to be a test for the people of Israel. What did it establish, or prove, concerning Israel's fidelity to God?**

Exodus 16:4,28,29 \_\_\_\_\_

Note: By testing the people on the Sabbath, God could rightly judge whether or not they would keep the rest of His law. If we do not keep the other nine commandments we will not keep the fourth.

**7. Of what was the Sabbath a sign?**

Exodus 31:13,14,16,17 \_\_\_\_\_

Note: The people could not of themselves keep God's law. This fact has been shown over and over again in the lives of all who have ever lived. The Sabbath is to remind us that we have to depend upon our Creator for everything, even our obedience. If we fail to keep the Sabbath holy, it is certain that we will not keep the rest of God's law, for we have refused to recognize the sign God has given to us, whereby we acknowledge our dependence on Him for obedience.

**8. By what sign did God set apart those who worship Him from those who worship false gods?**

Ezekiel 20:20 \_\_\_\_\_

Note: The people of the surrounding nations in Palestine were idolaters and they worshipped the sun. The special day set aside for sun worship was Sunday. Long before there was any sun worship, God had sanctified the Sabbath and declared it to be the day upon which His faithful and obedient people would worship Him. The sun worshippers and idolaters chose a day other than the Sabbath for their worship, for they do not worship the Creator.

**9. Did Jesus change the law in any way?**

Matthew 5:17,18 \_\_\_\_\_

**10. What did He say about those who would seek to take away from the importance of obeying any part of the law?**

Matthew 5:19 \_\_\_\_\_

**11. Is it acceptable to God if we keep nine of the ten commandments?**

James 2:10 \_\_\_\_\_

**12. What was Jesus' custom to do on the Sabbath?**

Luke 4:16 \_\_\_\_\_

**13. What did Jesus say respecting the Sabbath after His resurrection?**

Matthew 24:15-20 (note v.20) \_\_\_\_\_

Note: This counsel from Jesus was given that His followers would not be called upon to make their flight from Jerusalem on the Sabbath day. Christ was referring to the time, approximately 37 years hence, when Jerusalem would be destroyed by the Romans in 70AD. If Christ had intended to void the Sabbath, He would not have implied the commanded reverence for the Sabbath as still binding some 37 years after His resurrection. It is clear that Jesus fully expected His people to be keeping the Sabbath long after His ascension back into heaven.

**14. On what day did Paul and Barnabas go into the synagogue at Antioch?**

Acts 13:14-15 \_\_\_\_\_

Note: It has been said that the apostles did not keep Sabbath after the resurrection of Jesus, but here is evidence to the contrary.

**15. After the sermon had been preached by Paul, and the Jews had all left the synagogue, what did the Gentiles request of the Apostles?**

Acts 13:42 \_\_\_\_\_

Note: This was at least 15 years after the death and resurrection of Jesus. The Jews had all left the meeting, and as Paul was called of the Lord especially to be the minister to the Gentiles, there was nothing to keep him from announcing a meeting for them on the following day, which would have been Sunday. If Sunday were to have been the Christian Sabbath, it would have been logical to do so, but he did not do this.

**16. What happened as the result of the request by the Gentiles?**

Acts 13:44 \_\_\_\_\_

**17. On what day did Paul and the women at Philippi hold their prayer meeting?**

Acts 16:13 \_\_\_\_\_

**18. What was Paul's customary day for holding religious services?**

Acts 17:1-2; 18:4 \_\_\_\_\_

**19. These faithful followers of Christ kept the Sabbath. What day did Jesus say was the day on which His people would acknowledge Him as Lord?**

Mark 2:28 \_\_\_\_\_

Compare: Isaiah 58:13,14 \_\_\_\_\_

Note: It is only on the Sabbath that Jesus has promised a Sabbath blessing. There is no such blessing attached to any other day. Can we as Christians afford to deprive ourselves of that blessing?

**20. If we claim to worship the Creator God, calling Him Lord and attempt it in a manner that He has not appointed, how will God regard that worship?**

Matthew 7: 21-27 \_\_\_\_\_

Luke 6:46 \_\_\_\_\_

Mark 7:6-9 \_\_\_\_\_

Isaiah 29:13-16 \_\_\_\_\_

**21. When we do not know, God will accept our oblation as our best service, but when we learn of the truth, what does He expect of us?**

Acts 17:30 \_\_\_\_\_

1Peter 1:13-16 \_\_\_\_\_

Proverbs 28:9 \_\_\_\_\_

**22. What does the judgment hour message of Revelation especially call upon us to do?**

Revelation 14:6,7 \_\_\_\_\_

Note: We are called upon to worship God as our Creator. The Sabbath is the only **sign** given to men by God by which they can show Him respect, reverence and homage as the Creator. God requires us to worship Him every day of course, but the Sabbath is His special day, a sign, that set His people apart from those who do not acknowledge Him as the Creator. Most Sunday keeping Christians, if they are honest about their devotion to God and to Christ, will want to worship Him on the day that their Lord and Saviour has chosen, not some day that man has said is the day (Daniel 7:25).

**23. What sign did Jesus give as a memorial of His death?**

1Corinthians 11:23-26 \_\_\_\_\_

Note: Many claim that Sunday observance is kept in lieu of the Sabbath as a commemoration of the resurrection of Jesus. But this teaching is not from the Giver of the Sabbath (Mark 2:28; Isaiah 58:13,14), Jesus gave NO sign or token of His resurrection. The only commemoration of the crucifixion is the Lord's supper, and that was to remember His death, not His resurrection. To mislead people with man's traditions is to invite the wrath of God and to lose our part in the kingdom of God (Rev.22:18,19). Test every doctrine against the Bible (Isaiah 8:20; 1John 4:1).

#### **THE SABBATH IS NOT FOR THE JEWS ALONE**

It is sometimes claimed that the Sabbath was instituted for the Jews only. This is spiritual blindness. When we remember that the Sabbath was

instituted more than two thousand years before Abraham (the father of the Jews) was born, it could not possibly be Jewish. The Sabbath was made for all men. To say that the Sabbath is for the Jews only is tantamount to saying that the ten commandments are for the Jews alone.

So why is the Sabbath so closely associated with Judaism? The Hebrew nation were the repositories of the oracles of God, given to them to pass on to the rest of the world and thus win all peoples of the earth to the obedience of Christ. The Sabbath was and still is, intended by God to be observed as an act of willing obedience, love and worship from His intelligent creation.

**24. How does God regard the relevance of His law for the Jew and the non-Jew who wish to embrace the God of creation?**

Numbers 15:15,16,26-31 \_\_\_\_\_

**25. What is required of the Jew and the non-Jew when he prays unto God and desires that God should hear him?**

1 Kings 8:38-43, compare 2 Chronicles 7:14 \_\_\_\_\_

#### **HAVE WE LOST TRACK OF THE SEVEN DAY CYCLE?**

Again it is claimed by some, that the original seventh day which God had appointed and blessed as the Sabbath has become confused in the passage of time and it is now not possible for people of the twenty-first century to know exactly which day is that exact seventh day after all the weeks that have cycled since the creation week.

Jesus is the God of the Old Testament, the Creator (Ex.3:14; John 1:1-4,14; 8:58; Heb.1:2,3), He would know which day was the Sabbath that synchronised with the original and He kept the same Sabbath that the Jews kept. This further confirms the Sabbath that Israel had been keeping since the day God gave the commandment from Mount Sinai. Jews have been in the world since the days of Abraham and they had not lost count for the 2000 years before Christ and they have not lost count for the 2000 years since the day Jesus kept the Sabbath while among them.

Jesus was crucified on the sixth day of the week , the day we call Friday and He lay in the tomb over the Sabbath and rose from the dead on the first day of the week, Sunday (John 19:30,31; Luke 23:54-56; 24:1-35). Every Easter many Christians commemorate the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus. In this service they confirm that the day we call *Saturday* is the same day that Jesus kept as the Sabbath. It is not just coincidental that Jesus rested from His creative work on the Sabbath, He also rested from His redemptive work on the Sabbath.

### **SPIRITUAL ISRAEL HAS RECEIVED THE COMMANDMENT**

Lesson 22 described *spiritual Israel* as a term referring to Christ's faithful people collectively and every instruction given to *ancient Israel* is equally applicable to them. These are the only people that Jesus will take to heaven with Him when He returns and you and I have the opportunity to be a part of that blessed throng. All it requires is that we surrender to Him and *by His power* keep the whole of the ten commandments. If these terms seem to be impossible --- review lessons 3 - 7.

The Sabbath was given to man at creation and restated at Sinai at the giving of the ten commandments. There cannot be found any command within the Bible that even remotely suggests that the Sabbath (Saturday) has been discontinued, or, in any way changed from the seventh day of the week to some other day. The Lord of the Sabbath has given no sign to replace it as the memorial of His creative power, or as a sign of His power to sanctify us (Ex.31:13).

In the last days, many will claim to have had a relationship with Christ, but they will find they are not recognised by Him, because they, like Cain, have chosen their own way to worship Him, rather than to worship in the way He has laid out for them (Gen.4:3-7; Mark 7:6-9; Jer.3:23; Jn.4:23,24).

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