**"THE OBSERVANCE OF THE SABBATICAL DAY,IT’S LAWS AND STATUS"**

**FOREWORD**

1. After God created the world in six days...

 a. He rested on the seventh day

[***Gen 2:1-2***](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Gen%202.1-2)***Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them.2And on the seventh day God ended his work which he had made; and he rested on the seventh day from all his work which he had made.***

 b. Then (at some point, see below) He blessed and sanctified the

 seventh day –

[***Gen 2:3***](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Gen%202.3)***3And God blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it: because that in it he had rested from all his work which God created and made.***

2. The seventh day later became known as **"The Sabbath Day"...**

 a. From the Hebrew word **shabbath**, meaning "to rest from labor"

 b. The Greek word is **sabbaton**, and like English, a transliteration

 of the Hebrew.

 c. Thus it came to mean **"the day of rest"**

3. Questions often arise concerning **"The Sabbath Day"**...

 a. What day of the week was the Sabbath day (Saturday or Sunday)?

 b. Are Christians to keep the Sabbath?

 c. Is Sunday now the "Christian" Sabbath?

4. The first question is the simplest one to answer...

 a. The Sabbath was a day of rest after six days of work as read in

 the above scripture…Gen 2:1-2.

Then over in book of Exodus….

[**Exo 20:8-11**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Exo%2020.8-11)**…*8Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy.9Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work:10But the seventh day is the sabbath of the Lord thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates:******11For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the Lord blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it.***

 b. According to Jewish understanding, the seventh day began at sunset on Friday and ended at sunset on Saturday - [**Judaism 101**](http://www.jewfaq.org/shabbat.htm)

 c. Thus in the Bible the Sabbath generally refers to Saturday

[As for the other two questions, let's first consider what is revealed

about the Sabbath...]

**I. IN THE OLD TESTAMENT….The Sabbath**

1. **WAS NOT COMMANDED OF THE PATRIARCHS...**

 1. From Adam to Moses (**Gen 3-Exo 15**), there is no mention of the

 Sabbath.

 a. "Moreover, all those righteous men already mentioned [after

 mentioning Adam. Abel, Enoch, Lot, Noah, Melchizedek, and

 Abraham], though they kept no Sabbaths, were pleasing to

 God; and after them Abraham with all his descendants until

 Moses..." –

**150-165 AD, Ante-Nicene Fathers , vol. 1, page 204**

 b. "...God originated Adam uncircumcised, and inobservant of

 the Sabbath, consequently his offspring also, Abel,

 offering Him sacrifices, uncircumcised and inobservant of

 the Sabbath, was by Him commended. Noah also, uncircumcised

 yes, and inobservant of the Sabbath - God freed from the

 deluge. For Enoch, too, most righteous man, uncircumcised

 and inobservant of the Sabbath, He translated from this

 world...Melchizedek also, the priest of most high God,

 uncircumcised and inobservant of the Sabbath, was chosen to

 the priesthood of God." –

 c. "these words may be read in a parenthesis, as containing an

 account of a fact that was done,not at the beginning of the

 world, and on the first seventh day of it; but of what had

 been done in the times of Moses, who wrote this, after the

 giving of the law of the sabbath; and this being given

 through his hands to the people of Israel, he takes this

 opportunity here to insert it, and very pertinently, seeing

 the reason why God then, in the times of Moses, blessed the

 sabbath day, and hallowed it, was, because he had rested on

 that day from all his works, (though He needed no rest)

 **Exo\_20:11** ***11For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea,***

 ***and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the Lord***

 ***blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it.***and the same reason

 is given here, taken plainly out of that law which he had

 delivered to them".

 3. "Although God did not command man to keep the Sabbath at this

 time, He taught the principle of one day of rest in seven."

 - **Believer's Bible Commentary**

 **(important)**

  **While God rested on the seventh day of Creation, He did not**

 **command anyone to rest on that day until thousands of years**

 **later**

 **B. COMMANDED OF THE ISRAELITES...**

 1. The Sabbath is first mentioned in regards to Israel collecting

 Manna –

[***Exo 16:23-30***](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Exo%2016.23-30)***23And he said unto them, This is that which the Lord hath said,***

***tomorrow is the rest of the holy sabbath unto the Lord: bake that which ye will bake to day, and seethe that ye will seethe; and that which remaineth over lay up for you to be kept until the morning.4And they laid it up till the morning, as Moses bade: and it did not stink, neither was there any worm therein.25And Moses said, Eat that to day; for to day is a sabbath unto the Lord: to day ye shall not find it in the field.26Six days ye shall gather it; but on the seventh day, which is the sabbath, in it there shall be none.27And it came to pass, that there went out some of the people on the seventh day for to gather, and they found none.28And the Lord said unto Moses, How long refuse ye to keep my commandments and my laws?29See, for that the Lord hath given you the sabbath, therefore he giveth you on the sixth day the bread of two days; abide ye every man in his place, let no man go out of his place on the seventh day.30So the people rested on the seventh day.***

 2. Shortly after the exodus of Israel from Egypt –

[***Exo 16:1***](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Exo%2016.1)***16 And they took their journey from Elim, and all the congregation of the children of Israel came unto the wilderness of Sin, which is between Elim and Sinai, on the fifteenth day of the second month after their departing out of the land of Egypt.***

 3. When God actually blessed and sanctified the seventh day as a

 day of rest –

[**Exo 16:23**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Exo%2016.23)**,**[***29***](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Exo%2016.29)***23And he said unto them, This is that which the Lord hath said,***

***Tomorrow is the rest of the holy sabbath unto the Lord: bake that which ye will bake today, and seethe that ye will seethe; and that which remaineth over lay up for you to be kept until the morning.***

***29See, for that the Lord hath given you the sabbath, therefore he giveth you on the sixth day the bread of two days; abide ye every man in his place, let no man go out of his place on the seventh day.***

 4. For previously it had been unknown to them.

[***Neh 9:14***](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Neh%209.14)***14And madest known unto them thy holy sabbath, and commandedst them precepts, statutes, and laws, by the hand of Moses thy servant:***

  **The Sabbath was made known, blessed, and sanctified in the**

 **time of Moses, with God's rest on the seventh day of Creation**

 **as its basis**

 **C. INSERTED IN THE LAW OF MOSES...**

 1. With the Ten Commandments, the Sabbath became part of the Law

 -

[***Exo 20:8-10***](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Exo%2020.8-10)***8Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy.9Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work:10But the seventh day is the sabbath of the Lord thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates:***

 2. The basis for the Sabbath is explained in

[**Exo 20:11**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Exo%2020.11) ***11For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the Lord blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it.***

(and inserted in

[***Gen 2:3***](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Gen%202.3)***3And God blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it: because that in it he had rested from all his work which God created and made.***

 3. The Sabbath became a sign between **God and Israel** as His

 Special people –

[***Exo 31:13-17***](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Exo%2031.13-17)***13Speak thou also unto the children of Israel, saying, Verily my sabbaths ye shall keep: for it is a sign between me and you throughout your generations; that ye may know that I am the Lord that doth sanctify you.14Ye shall keep the sabbath therefore; for it is holy unto you: every one that defileth it shall surely be put to death: for whosoever doeth any work therein, that soul shall be cut off from among his people.15Six days may work be done; but in the seventh is the sabbath of rest, holy to the Lord: whosoever doeth any work in the sabbath day, he shall surely be put to death.16Wherefore the children of Israel shall keep the sabbath, to observe the sabbath throughout their generations, for a perpetual covenant.17It is a sign between me and the children of Israel for ever: for in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, and on the seventh day he rested, and was refreshed.***

 4. Commanded of Israel because they had been delivered from

 Slavery!!!! **Important to Understand!!**

[***Deut 5:15***](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Deut%205.15)***15And remember that thou wast a servant in the land of Egypt, and that the Lord thy God brought thee out thence through a mighty hand and by a stretched out arm: therefore the Lord thy God commanded thee (the Israelites) to keep the sabbath day.***

  **Thus the Sabbath became a weekly reminder of Israel's**

 **deliverance from Egypt**

**HOWEVER……,**

 **D. THE SABBATH WAS** **NEVER COMMANDED OF THE GENTILES...**

 1. All the commands regarding the Sabbath were directed toward

 Israel, **no other nation.**

 2. The exception was "the stranger who is within your gates" –

 As it can be read in…

 [***Exo 20:10***](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Exo%2020.10)***10But the seventh day is the sabbath of the Lord thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates***:

 3. The exception was to prevent being influenced to disobey.

[***Neh 13:15-21***](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Neh%2013.15-21)***15In those days saw I in Judah some treading wine presses on the sabbath, and bringing in sheaves, and lading asses; as also wine, grapes, and figs, and all manner of burdens, which they brought into Jerusalem on the sabbath day: and I testified against them in the day wherein they sold victuals.16There dwelt men of Tyre also therein, which brought fish, and all manner of ware, and sold on the sabbath unto the children of Judah, and in Jerusalem.17Then I contended with the nobles of Judah, and said unto them, What evil thing is this that ye do, and profane the sabbath day?18Did not your fathers thus, and did not our God bring all this evil upon us, and upon this city? yet ye bring more wrath upon Israel by profaning the sabbath.19And it came to pass, that when the gates of Jerusalem began to be dark before the sabbath, I commanded that the gates should be shut, and charged that they should not be opened till after the sabbath: and some of my servants set I at the gates, that there should no burden be brought in on the sabbath day.20So the merchants and sellers of all kind of ware lodged without Jerusalem once or twice.21Then I testified against them, and said unto them, Why lodge ye about the wall? if ye do so again, I will lay hands on you. From that time forth came they no more on the sabbath.***

 4. It was to be a sign between God and His people Israel –

[***Exo 31:13***](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Exo%2031.13)***13Speak thou also unto the children of Israel, saying, Verily my sabbaths ye shall keep: for it is a sign between me and you throughout your generations; that ye may know that I am the Lord that doth sanctify you.***

***Exo 31:***[***16-17***](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Exo%2031.16-17)***; 16Wherefore the children of Israel shall keep the sabbath, to observe the sabbath throughout their generations, for a perpetual covenant.***

***17It is a sign between me and the children of Israel for ever: for in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, and on the seventh day he rested, and was refreshed.***

[***Eze 20:12***](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Eze%2020.12)***,***[***20***](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Eze%2020.20)***12Moreover also I gave them my sabbaths, to be a sign between me and them, that they might know that I am the Lord that sanctify them.***

***20And hallow my sabbaths; and they shall be a sign between me and you, that ye may know that I am the Lord your God.***

  **Like circumcision, the Sabbath served as a sign between God**

 **And Israel.**

**[Thus, there is no indication that the Sabbath was intended for all of**

**mankind. But let's now see what we can learn about the Sabbath...]**

**The Council of Jerusalem**

When Gentiles (non-Jews) began to convert to Christianity, disputes arose about whether the Gentile Christians had to observe the Jewish laws about circumcision, dietary restrictions, Sabbath observance, etc. In about 49 A.D., Paul, Peter, James and other Church leaders met at the "Council of Jerusalem" and decided, with the guidance of the Holy Spirit, that it was not necessary for Christians to observe the Sabbath rules and other aspects of Jewish law.

***(******Acts 15:28-29******, 28For it seemed good to the Holy Ghost, and to us, to lay upon you no greater burden than these necessary things;29That ye abstain from meats offered to idols, and from blood, and from things strangled, and from fornication: from which if ye keep yourselves, ye shall do well. Fare ye well.***

***Romans 14:5-6******, 5One man esteemeth one day above another: another esteemeth every day alike. Let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind.6He that regardeth the day, regardeth it unto the Lord; and he that regardeth not the day, to the Lord he doth not regard it. He that eateth, eateth to the Lord, for he giveth God thanks; and he that eateth not, to the Lord he eateth not, and giveth God thanks.***

***Colossians 2:16******).******16Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holyday, or of the new moon, or of the sabbath days:***

***Though it was a very special day it also had a contingency of laws attached to it. Laws that bound those who kept the Sabbath in strict adherence to its Laws… for example there were 39 strict laws that were referenced to in the bible… here for the sake of this study is a list….***

As based on the Mishnah Tractate Shabbat 7:2, the 39 activities are:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| SowingPlowingReapingBinding sheavesThreshingWinnowingSelectingGrindingSiftingKneadingBakingShearing woolWashing wool | Beating woolDyeing woolSpinningWeavingMaking two loopsWeaving two threadsSeparating two threadsTyingUntyingSewing stitchesTearingTrappingSlaughtering | FlayingTanningScraping hideMarking hidesCutting hide to shapeWriting two or more lettersErasing two or more lettersBuildingDemolishingExtinguishing a fireKindling a firePutting the finishing touch on an objectTransporting an object between a private domain and the public domain, or for a distance of 4 cubits . |

Now let’s look at Jesus and The Sabbath…..**CAUTION !!!!**

Just a word of instruction….if you declare yourself and profess to be in observance of the Sabbath then you are obligated to be in strict keeping with the whole law of the Sabbath.

**II. IN THE NEW TESTAMENT**

1. Jesus taught in the synagogues on the Sabbath –

[***Mk 1:21***](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Mk%201.21)***; 21And they went into Capernaum; and straightway on the sabbath day he entered into the synagogue, and taught.***

***Mk*** [***6:2***](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Mk%206.2)***; 2And when the sabbath day was come, he began to teach in the synagogue: and many hearing him were astonished, saying, From whence hath this man these things? and what wisdom is this which is given unto him, that even such mighty works are wrought by his hands?***

[***Lk 4:16***](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Lk%204.16)***,***[***31***](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Lk%204.31)***; 16And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up: and, as his custom was, he went into the synagogue on the sabbath day, and stood up for to read.***

***31And came down to Capernaum, a city of Galilee, and taught them on the sabbath days.***

***LK*** [***13:10***](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Lk%2013.10) ***10And he was teaching in one of the synagogues on the sabbath.***

1. His actions on the Sabbath sparked controversy by….
2. Allowing His disciples to pluck grain in order to eat –

[***Mk 2:23-24***](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Mk%202.23-24)***23And it came to pass, that he went through the corn fields on the sabbath day; and his disciples began, as they went, to pluck the ears of corn.***

***24And the Pharisees said unto him, Behold, why do they on the sabbath day that which is not lawful?***

1. Healing on the Sabbath –

[**Mk 3:1-6**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Mk%203.1-6)**; *And he entered again into the synagogue; and there was a man there which had a withered hand.2And they watched him, whether he would heal him on the sabbath day; that they might accuse him.3And he saith unto the man which had the withered hand, Stand forth.4And he saith unto them, Is it lawful to do good on the sabbath days, or to do evil? to save life, or to kill? But they held their peace.5And when he had looked round about on them with anger, being grieved for the hardness of their hearts, he saith unto the man, Stretch forth thine hand. And he stretched it out: and his hand was restored whole as the other.6And the Pharisees went forth, and straightway took counsel with the Herodians against him, how they might destroy him.***

[**Lk 13:10-14**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Lk%2013.10-14)***; 10And he was teaching in one of the synagogues on the sabbath.11And, behold, there was a woman which had a spirit of infirmity eighteen years, and was bowed together, and could in no wise lift up herself.12And when Jesus saw her, he called her to him, and said unto her, Woman, thou art loosed from thine infirmity.13And he laid his hands on her: and immediately she was made straight, and glorified God.14And the ruler of the synagogue answered with indignation, because that Jesus had healed on the sabbath day, and said unto the people, There are six days in which men ought to work: in them therefore come and be healed, and not on the sabbath day.***

[***Jn 5:9***](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Jn%205.9)***,***[***16***](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Jn%205.16)***9And immediately the man was made whole, and took up his bed, and walked: and on the same day was the sabbath.***

***16And therefore did the Jews persecute Jesus, and sought to slay him, because he had done these things on the sabbath day.***

 3. Jesus countered their objections

 a. By showing their ignorance of the Law –

[**Mk 3:25-27**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Mk%203.25-27)**; *25And if a house be divided against itself, that house cannot stand.26And if Satan rise up against himself, and be divided, he cannot stand, but hath an end.27No man can enter into a strong man's house, and spoil his goods, except he will first bind the strong man; and then he will spoil his house.***

[***Mt 12:3-7***](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Mt%2012.3-7)***But he said unto them, Have ye not read what David did, when he was an hungred, and they that were with him;4How he entered into the house of God, and did eat the shewbread, which was not lawful for him to eat, neither for them which were with him, but only for the priests?\5Or have ye not read in the law, how that on the sabbath days the priests in the temple profane the sabbath, and are blameless?6But I say unto you, That in this place is one greater than the temple.7But if ye had known what this meaneth, I will have mercy, and not sacrifice, ye would not have condemned the guiltless.***

1. By professing to be Lord even of the Sabbath –

[**Mk 3:28**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Mk%203.28)**; *28Verily I say unto you, All sins shall be forgiven unto the sons of men, and blasphemies wherewith soever they shall blaspheme:***

[***Mt 12:8***](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Mt%2012.8)***8For the Son of man is Lord even of the sabbath day.***

1. By pointing out their inconsistencies –

[***Lk 6:6-9***](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Lk%206.6-9)***; 6And it came to pass also on another sabbath, that he entered into the synagogue and taught: and there was a man whose right hand was withered.7And the scribes and Pharisees watched him, whether he would heal on the sabbath day; that they might find an accusation against him.8But he knew their thoughts, and said to the man which had the withered hand, Rise up, and stand forth in the midst. And he arose and stood forth.9Then said Jesus unto them, I will ask you one thing; Is it lawful on the sabbath days to do good, or to do evil? to save life, or to destroy it?***

***LK*** [***13:14-16***](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Lk%2013.14-16)***; 14And the ruler of the synagogue answered with indignation, because that Jesus had healed on the sabbath day, and said unto the people, There are six days in which men ought to work: in them therefore come and be healed, and not on the sabbath day.15The Lord then answered him, and said, Thou hypocrite, doth not each one of you on the sabbath loose his ox or his ass from the stall, and lead him away to watering?16And ought not this woman, being a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan hath bound, lo, these eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the sabbath day?***

***LK*** [***14:3-5***](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Lk%2014.3-5)***; 3And Jesus answering spake unto the lawyers and Pharisees, saying, Is it lawful to heal on the sabbath day?4And they held their peace. And he took him, and healed him, and let him go;5And answered them, saying, Which of you shall have an ass or an ox fallen into a pit, and will not straightway pull him out on the sabbath day?***

[***Jn 7:22-23***](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Jn%207.22-23)***22Moses therefore gave unto you circumcision; (not because it is of Moses, but of the fathers;) and ye on the sabbath day circumcise a man.***

***23If a man on the sabbath day receive circumcision, that the law of Moses should not be broken; are ye angry at me, because I have made a man every whit whole on the sabbath day?***

1. Notice the following observations:

 a. The Law of Moses was still in effect prior to the death of

 Christ

 b. As an Israelite, Jesus kept the Law (along with the

 Sabbath)

 c. He displayed authority to forgive sin and interpret the Law

[**Mt 9:6**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Mt%209.6)**; *6But that ye may know that the Son of man hath power on earth to forgive sins, (then saith he to the sick of the palsy,) Arise, take up thy bed, and go unto thine house.***

**Mt** [**12:8**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Mt%2012.8)***8For the Son of man is Lord even of the sabbath day.***

 **-- There is nothing to indicate that Jesus extended the Sabbath**

 **To all nations.**

1. **THE APOSTLES AND THE SABBATH...**

 1. The apostles were to pray that their flight from tribulation

 not be on the Sabbath –

[***Mt 24:20***](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Mt%2024.20)***20But pray ye that your flight be not in the winter, neither on the sabbath day:***

1. A reference to the destruction of Jerusalem in A.D. 70

 b. For in Judea the Jews would still be observing the Sabbath,

 closing the gates and thereby hindering flight.

[***Mt 24:15-19***](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Mt%2024.15-19)***15When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:)16Then let them which be in Judaea flee into the mountains:17Let him which is on the housetop not come down to take any thing out of his house:18Neither let him which is in the field return back to take his clothes.19And woe unto them that are with child, and to them that give suck in those days!***

 c. This does not indicate whether or not the Sabbath was still

 bound by God.

 2. Paul also utilized the Sabbath during his evangelistic efforts –

[***Ac 13:14***](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Ac%2013.14)***,***[***42***](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Ac%2013.42)***,***[***44***](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Ac%2013.44)***;******14But when they departed from Perga, they came to Antioch in Pisidia, and went into the synagogue on the sabbath day, and sat down.***

***42And when the Jews were gone out of the synagogue, the Gentiles besought that these words might be preached to them the next sabbath.***

***44And the next sabbath day came almost the whole city together to hear the word of God***

***Ac*** [***16:13***](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Ac%2016.13)***; 13And on the sabbath we went out of the city by a river side, where prayer was wont to be made; and we sat down, and spake unto the women which resorted thither.***

**Ac** [**18:4**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Ac%2018.4)***4And he reasoned in the synagogue every sabbath, and persuaded the Jews and the Greeks.***

1. It was his custom whenever he came to a new city –

[***Ac 17:1-3***](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Ac%2017.1-3)***17 Now when they had passed through Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to Thessalonica, where was a synagogue of the Jews:2And Paul, as his manner was, went in unto them, and three sabbath days reasoned with them out of the scriptures,3Opening and alleging, that Christ must needs have suffered, and risen again from the dead; and that this Jesus, whom I preach unto you, is Christ.***

1. He knew the Jews would be there, and he sought to teach

them about Jesus.

1. Just like he went to the market place to reach others –

[***Ac 17:17***](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Ac%2017.17)***17Therefore disputed he in the synagogue with the Jews, and with the devout persons, and in the market daily with them that met with him.***

 3. Paul taught that the Law of Moses, including the Sabbath, had

 come to an end.

 a. That Jews died to the Law when they became Christians.

 -

[***Ro 7:4-7***](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Ro%207.4-7)***4Wherefore, my brethren, ye also are become dead to the law by the body of Christ; that ye should be married to another, even to him who is raised from the dead, that we should bring forth fruit unto God.5For when we were in the flesh, the motions of sins, which were by the law, did work in our members to bring forth fruit unto death.6But now we are delivered from the law, that being dead wherein we were held; that we should serve in newness of spirit, and not in the oldness of the letter.7What shall we say then? Is the law sin? God forbid. Nay, I had not known sin, but by the law: for I had not known lust, except the law had said, Thou shalt not covet.***

 b. That Jesus ended the Law with its ordinances through His

 death –

[***Ep 2:13-16***](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Ep%202.13-16)***; 13But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ.14For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us;15Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, so making peace;16And that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby:***

[***Col 2:14***](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Col%202.14)***14Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross;***

 c. That the Law and ordinances like the Sabbath and

 circumcision **should not be bound on others,** especially

 Gentiles

[***Col 2:16-17***](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Col%202.16-17)***; 16Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holyday, or of the new moon, or of the sabbath days:***

***17Which are a shadow of things to come; but the body is of Christ.***

[***Ga 5:1-4***](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Ga%205.1-4)***Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage.2Behold, I Paul say unto you, that if ye be circumcised, Christ shall profit you nothing.3For I testify again to every man that is circumcised, that he is a debtor to do the whole law.4Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace.***

1. That a new, superior covenant had replaced the old.

[**2Co 3:6-11**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/2Co%203.6-11) ***6Who also hath made us able ministers of the new testament; not of the letter, but of the spirit: for the letter killeth, but the spirit giveth life.7But if the ministration of death, written and engraven in stones, was glorious, so that the children of Israel could not stedfastly behold the face of Moses for the glory of his countenance; which glory was to be done away:8How shall not the ministration of the spirit be rather glorious?9For if the ministration of condemnation be glory, much more doth the ministration of righteousness exceed in glory.10For even that which was made glorious had no glory in this respect, by reason of the glory that excelleth.11For if that which is done away was glorious, much more that which remaineth is glorious.***

[**He 8:6-13**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/He%208.6-13)**; *6But now hath he obtained a more excellent ministry, by how much also he is the mediator of a better covenant, which was established upon better promises.7For if that first covenant had been faultless, then should no place have been sought for the second.8For finding fault with them, he saith, Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah:9Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day when I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt; because they continued not in my covenant, and I regarded them not, saith the Lord.10For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people:11And they shall not teach every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the Lord: for all shall know me, from the least to the greatest.12For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more.13In that he saith, A new covenant, he hath made the first old. Now that which decayeth and waxeth old is ready to vanish away.***

***He*** [***9:15***](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/He%209.15) ***15And for this cause he is the mediator of the new testament, that by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions that were under the first testament, they which are called might receive the promise of eternal inheritance.***

1. They taught observing the Sabbath was no longer necessary.!!

 a. Jewish Christians continued to observe elements of the Law.

[***Ac 21:18-20***](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Ac%2021.18-20)***18And the day following Paul went in with us unto James; and all the elders were present.19And when he had saluted them, he declared particularly what things God had wrought among the Gentiles by his ministry.20And when they heard it, they glorified the Lord, and said unto him, Thou seest, brother, how many thousands of Jews there are which believe; and they are all zealous of the law:***

1. Paul himself did so on occasion .

[***Ac 18:18***](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Ac%2018.18)***,***[***21***](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Ac%2018.21) ***18And Paul after this tarried there yet a good while, and then took his leave of the brethren, and sailed thence into Syria, and with him Priscilla and Aquila; having shorn his head in Cenchrea: for he had a vow.***

***21But bade them farewell, saying, I must by all means keep this feast that cometh in Jerusalem: but I will return again unto you, if God will. And he sailed from Ephesus.***

***Ac*** [***21:21-26***](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Ac%2021.21-26) ***21And they are informed of thee, that thou teachest all the Jews which are among the Gentiles to forsake Moses, saying that they ought not to circumcise their children, neither to walk after the customs.22What is it therefore? the multitude must needs come together: for they will hear that thou art come.23Do therefore this that we say to thee: We have four men which have a vow on them;24Them take, and purify thyself with them, and be at charges with them, that they may shave their heads: and all may know that those things, whereof they were informed concerning thee, are nothing; but that thou thyself also walkest orderly, and keepest the law.25As touching the Gentiles which believe, we have written and concluded that they observe no such thing, save only that they keep themselves from things offered to idols, and from blood, and from strangled, and from fornication.26Then Paul took the men, and the next day purifying himself with them entered into the temple, to signify the accomplishment of the days of purification, until that an offering should be offered for every one of them.***

 c. But Paul (and the rest of the apostles) drew a clear line:

 1) The Law could not be bound on the Gentiles –

[**Ac 15:1-2**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Ac%2015.1-2)**,** ***And certain men which came down from Judaea taught the brethren, and said, Except ye be circumcised after the manner of Moses, ye cannot be saved.2When therefore Paul and Barnabas had no small dissension and disputation with them, they determined that Paul and Barnabas, and certain other of them, should go up to Jerusalem unto the apostles and elders about this question.***

[***Ga 2:3-5***](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Ga%202.3-5)***; 3But neither Titus, who was with me, being a Greek, was compelled to be circumcised:4And that because of false brethren unawares brought in, who came in privily to spy out our liberty which we have in Christ Jesus, that they might bring us into bondage:5To whom we gave place by subjection, no, not for an hour; that the truth of the gospel might continue with you.***

***Ga*** [***5:1***](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Ga%205.1) ***Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage***.

 2) The Law could not serve as a basis for their salvation

**Ga 5:4** ***4Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace.***

[***Ro 3:28***](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Ro%203.28)***28Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law.***

 d. But if an individual desired to keep one day above another

 (e.g., the Sabbath), that was between the individual and

 his Lord -but not to be forced unto another individual.

[***Ro 14:5-6***](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Ro%2014.5-6)***5One man esteemeth one day above another: another esteemeth every day alike. Let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind.6He that regardeth the day, regardeth it unto the Lord; and he that regardeth not the day, to the Lord he doth not regard it. He that eateth, eateth to the Lord, for he giveth God thanks; and he that eateth not, to the Lord he eateth not, and giveth God thanks.***

 **There is nothing in the apostolic practice and or writings to**

 **suggest that the Sabbath was made a part of the New Covenant**

 **of Jesus Christ**

[If our reading of the New Testament regarding the Sabbath is correct,

then we should not be surprised by what we learn...]

**III. IN CHURCH HISTORY**

1. **CHRISTIANS ASSEMBLED ON THE FIRST DAY...**
2. Expressed both explicitly and implicitly in the NT –

[***Ac 20:7***](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Ac%2020.7)***; 7And upon the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul preached unto them, ready to depart on the morrow; and continued his speech until midnight.***

[***1Co 16:1-2***](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/1Co%2016.1-2) ***Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given order to the churches of Galatia, even so do ye.2Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come.***

1. **As per early "church fathers"**….

 a. "We keep the eighth day [Sunday] with joyfulness, the day

 also on which Jesus rose again from the dead" –

 b. "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...

 c. "But 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 Saviour on the same day rose

 from the dead."

 3. **Here’s what various encyclopedias have written in them**;

**Encyclopedia Britannica**

1. "Sunday, is the first day of the week; in Christianity, the

 Lord's Day, the weekly memorial of Jesus Christ's

 resurrection from the dead. The practice of Christians

 gathering together for worship on Sunday dates back to

 apostolic times..."

**Encyclopedia Americana**

 b. "From the apostolic era to the present it has been customary

 for Christians to assemble for communal Sunday services..."

**History Of The Christian Church, Philip Schaff, vol. 1,pg. 201-202**

 c. "The celebration of the Lord's Day in memory of the

 resurrection of Christ dates undoubtedly from the apostolic

 age. Nothing short of apostolic precedent can account for

 the universal religious observance in the churches of the

 second century. There is no dissenting voice. This custom

 is confirmed by the testimonies of the earliest post-

 apostolic writers, as Barnabas, Ignatius.

 d. "...it appears, therefore, from the New Testament itself,

 that Sunday was observed as a day of worship, and in

 special commemoration of the Resurrection, whereby the work

 of redemption was finished. The universal and

 uncontradicted Sunday observance in the second century can

 only be explained by the fact that it has its roots in

 apostolic practice."

**Both internal and external evidence from the Bible indicates**

**that Christians met together on the first day of the week,**

**“ Sunday”**

1. **THE RISE OF THE "CHRISTIAN" SABBATH...**

 1. As we've seen, most early Christians did not observe the

 Sabbath!

 2. Some Jewish Christians continued to observe the Sabbath,

 including heretical groups such as the Ebionites!

 3. Gradually, though, many began to view the Lord's Day as the

 "Christian" Sabbath

 a. During the fourth, fifth, and sixth centuries A.D., there

 was much controversy over whether Christians should keep

 the Sabbath (on Saturday)!!

1. Some sought to enjoin( unite) both the Sabbath and the Lord's Day On Christians (Perhaps due to insecurity) or should one say “CAN’T BE WRONG WITH BEING ON BOTH SIDES OF THE FENCE TYPE OF ATTITUDE OR THINKING!!!

 c. Others, especially the Puritans, began to call the Lord's

 Day (Sunday) the "Christian" Sabbath!!!

**Today, many Catholics and some Protestants routinely refer to**

**Sunday as the Sabbath!!**

**FINAL THOUGHTS…..**

1. Basically, then, there are three views of the Sabbath...

 a. **The Sabbatarian view** - that Saturday is the Sabbath and should be

 kept by Christians

 1) This is the view held by Seventh Day Adventists and other

 groups

 2) They are **correct** in saying that the Sabbath is Saturday, but

 **wrong** to say that Christians should keep the Sabbath

 b. **The Sunday Sabbath view** - that Sunday is the Sabbath and should

 be kept by Christians….

 1) This is the view held by most Catholic, Orthodox, and some

 Protestant churches.

 2) They are **wrong** to call Sunday the Christian Sabbath, but

 **correct** to teach that Christians should assemble on the first

 day of the week (Sunday)

1. **The Biblical view** - that Saturday is the Sabbath, but Christians are not obligated to keep it…..

 1) This view is held by all those who respect the Biblical record

 as found in the Old and New Testaments

 2) "The Sabbath is the seventh day of the week, from sundown on

 Friday to sundown on Saturday. Nowhere in the NT are

 Christians commanded to keep the Sabbath." –

 **Believer's Bible Commentary**

1. There is, however, a "rest" (**sabbatismos**) that remains for the

People of God... - [**He 4:1-11**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/He%204.1-11)

 a. Not the **Sabbath** rest, the weekly rest instituted for Israel

 through Moses

 b. Not the **Canaan** rest, provided for Israel by Joshua

 c. But the **heavenly** rest, provided by Christ which requires

 diligence, faith and trust to enter.

 **"There remains therefore a rest for the people of God. For he who**

 **has entered His rest has himself also ceased from his works as God**

 **did from His. Let us therefore be diligent to enter that rest, lest**

 **anyone fall according to the same example of disobedience."**

 **-** [**He 4:9-11**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/He%204.9-11)

If we are serious about entering that rest, then let us not forsake our

assembling together, such as that done on the first day of the week.

 **"And 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." -** [**He 10:24-25**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/He%2010.24-25)

**Summary**

The Biblical Sabbath day is Saturday, the seventh day of the week. The Ten Commandments prohibit doing any work on the Sabbath. The first Christians were Jews who continued to worship as Jews, but they also worshipped on Sunday, the day Jesus rose from the dead. When Gentiles began to convert to Christianity, disputes arose about whether the Gentile Christians had to observe the Jewish laws. The Church "Council of Jerusalem" decided, with the guidance of the Holy Spirit, that it was not necessary for Christians to observe rules about circumcision, dietary restrictions, Sabbath observance and other aspects of Jewish law. Today, most Christians follow the tradition of Sunday worship.

I pray this study is a help meet to you and or your ministry as commended by The Holy Spirit as we strive to continue to serve our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ in Truth of His Word.

Minister Carlos Sepulveda.