

THE SEVENTH-DAY SABBATH IS; A DIVINE GIFT TO MAN

INTRODUCTION: Though the Bible and the Quran have it clear about the Sabbath yet still great preachers are hypnotizing the minds of God's children with false teaching against the Seventh day Sabbath observation. Do God's divine blessings cease to exist or have a time frame?

If the Sabbath was only giving to restore man into salvation then it has a time frame, because all that shadowed the salvic work of Christ has been terminated when Christ says; it is finish.

But the Sabbath was pronounced before man's fall (Gen 2:1-3). It was giving to keep the perfect man perfect, by showering us God's divine blessings that keep us alive and prosperous (Isaiah 58:13-14).

The purpose of this article is to bring a clear understanding in the matter of the seventh day Sabbath so that God's children will not be misled.

THE SABBATH IN THE QURAN

SURA: AL – BAGARA (The Cow) 2:65

002.065 وَلَقَدْ عَلَّمْتُمُ الَّذِينَ اعْتَدُوا مِنْكُمْ فِي السَّبْتِ فَقُلْنَا لَهُمْ كُونُوا قِرَدَةً خَاسِئِينَ

“And well ye knew those amongst you who transgressed in the matter of the Sabbath: We said to them: "Be ye apes, despised and rejected.”

According to the above sura whosoever transgressed in the matter of the Sabbath is qualified to be rejected, and despised. This shows that God is not a God who compromises in the matter of His Sabbath.

Al-Qur'an, 004.047 (An-Nisa [Women])

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ أُوتُوا الْكِتَابَ آمِنُوا بِمَا نَزَّلْنَا مُصَدِّقًا

لِمَا مَعَكُمْ مِنْ قَبْلِ أَنْ نَطْمِسَ وُجُوهًا فَنَرُدَّهَا عَلَىٰ أَدْبَارِهَا أَوْ نَلْعَنَهُمْ كَمَا لَعَنَّا أَصْحَابَ السَّبْتِ وَكَانَ أَمْرُ اللَّهِ مَفْعُولًا

“ ye People of the Book! believe in what We have (now) revealed, confirming what was (already) with you, before We change the face and fame of some (of you) beyond all recognition, and turn them hindwards, or curse them as We cursed the Sabbath-breakers, for the decision of Allah Must be carried out.”

Al-Qur'an, 004.154 (An-Nisa [Women])

004.154 وَرَفَعْنَا فَوْقَهُمُ الطُّورَ بِمِيثَاقِهِمْ وَقُلْنَا لَهُمْ ادْخُلُوا الْبَابَ سُجَّدًا وَقُلْنَا لَهُمْ لَا تَعْدُوا فِي السَّبْتِ وَأَخَذْنَا مِنْهُمْ مِيثَاقًا غَلِيظًا

And for their covenant we raised over them (the towering height) of Mount (Sinai); and (on another occasion) we said: "Enter the gate with humility"; and (once again) we commanded them: "Transgress not in the matter of the sabbath." And we took from them a solemn covenant.

Al-Qur'an, 007.163 (Al-Araf [The Heights])

- وَأَسْأَلُهُمْ عَنِ الْقَرْيَةِ الَّتِي كَانَتْ حَاضِرَةَ الْبَحْرِ إِذْ يَعْدُونَ فِي السَّبْتِ إِذْ تَأْتِيهِمْ جِثَانُهُمْ يَوْمَ سَبْتِهِمْ شُرَّعًا وَيَوْمَ لَا يَسْبِتُونَ لَا تَأْتِيهِمْ كَذَلِكَ نَبْلُوهُمْ بِمَا كَانُوا يَفْسُقُونَ

Ask them concerning the town standing close by the sea. Behold! they transgressed in the matter of the Sabbath. For on the day of their Sabbath their fish did come to them, openly holding up their heads, but on the day they had no Sabbath, they came not: thus did We make a trial of them, for they were given to transgression.

THE THREE COMPONENTS OF THE SABBATH

Ge 1:31 **God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. And there was evening, and there was morning—the sixth day.**

Ge 2:1 **Thus the heavens and the earth were completed in all their vast array.**

Ge 2:2 **By the seventh day God had finished the work he had been doing; so on the seventh day he rested from all his work.**

Ge 2:3 **And God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it he rested from all the work of creating that he had done.**

THE SABBATH ORIGINATED FROM HEAVEN AND WAS 1ST PROCLAIMED IN THE GARDEN OF EDEN.

This day was, is and remains to be so special, because in it there are these three qualities; REST, SANCTIFY AND BLESSED

REST: "God **rested** (Heb. *sabat*, from which we derive the word "Sabbath"). It represents a day of celebration that comes from achievement and models for us a Sabbath or rest that comes from a satisfying conclusion to a job well done and the recognition that all of life is God's gift" (Asbury Bible commentary on the origin of the universe). One main reason of observing the Sabbath is showing recognition that God owns the earth and all in it.

SANCTIFY: to give something Holy status- Holy: to set aside for a divine purpose. This divine purpose is to observe it; give reference to God, praise Him for a work perfectly done, adore Him for He created something out of nothing, cease from our labour, and dedicate our entire of life to God. When we observe this special day, it makes us peculiar (1st Peter 2:9).

BLESSED: the Sabbath is blessed, so that by observing it makes us benefiting from these divine blessings It is clear when the Lord says; “The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath” (Mark 2:27).

WHY THE SABBATH?

Because He had rested upon the Sabbath, "God blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it,"--set it apart to a holy use. He gave it to Adam as a day of rest. It was a memorial of the work of creation, and thus a sign of God's power and His love (White, E. G. 1898; 2002. *The Desire of Ages*);

PSALM 111:4 - “He hath made His wonderful works to be remembered.”

Ex 31:17 **It will be a sign between me and the Israelites forever, for in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, and on the seventh day he abstained from work and rested.’**

- 1- IT REMINDS US ABOUT OUR SANCTIFICATION –Exodus 31:12-18**
- 2- TO BENEFIT MANKIND- MARK 2:27**
- 3- THE SABBATH CALLS OUR THOUGHTS TO NATURE, AND BRINGS US INTO COMMUNION WITH THE CREATOR. ^{2Co 4:6} God said, “Let light shine out of darkness.” (Genesis 1:3) He made his light shines in our hearts. It shows us the light of God's glory in the face of Christ.**
- 4- IT IS A TOKEN OF THE LOVE, AND POWER OF CHRIST (^{Lk 6:5} Then Jesus said to them, “The Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath.” **Luke 6:5**)**
- 5- REMINDS US ABOUT OUR REDEMPTION (Dt 5:15): the redemption of the Israelites from Egypt is a rehearsal of Christ redemption of the world (1st Peter 2:9-10)**
- 6- IT HELPS US TO APPRICIATE THE PERFECT OWRK OF GOD, AND RECOGNIZING HIM AS THE PROPRIETOR OF OUR LIVES. (Exo 31:13-17)**

THE LORD'S DAY; WHICH IS WHICH?

Sincerely speaking, the Greek writers do not have apostrophe s, so the actual interpretation is “**the day of the lord.**” **there is a bone of contention on the interpretation of rev. 1:10**

Rev 1:10 **on the Lord's Day I was in the Spirit and I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet.**

The writer of the above text was banished in Patmos for his faith in the lord Jesus Christ by: Titus Flavius Domitianus who claimed the title: *dominus et deus* ("master and god" – "Domitian." Microsoft® Student 2009 [DVD]. Redmond, WA: Microsoft Corporation, 2008). He claimed Sunday as his day to collect money for him. How John would call a day which a man has made for himself as his lord's day?

The Bible is a commentary for itself. Now which day this Bible describe as the Lord's Day?

Isa 58:13 "If you keep your feet from breaking the Sabbath and from doing as you please on my holy day, if you call the Sabbath a delight and the LORD'S holy day honourable, and if you honour it by not going your own way and not doing as you please or speaking idle words,

THE CONCEPT OF IT IS FINISHED: WHAT DOES IT MEANS?

Jn 19:28 Later Jesus said, "I am thirsty." He knew that everything was now finished. He knew that what Scripture said must come true.

Jn 19:29 A jar of wine vinegar was there. So they soaked a sponge in it. They put the sponge on a stem of the hyssop plant. Then they lifted it up to Jesus' lips.

Jn 19:30 After Jesus drank he said, "It is finished." Then he bowed his head and died.

TODAY MANY RELIGIOUS LEADERS USE THIS TEXT TO TELL THAT THE SABBATH HAS BEEN NAILED IN THE CROSS:

THERE ARE TEN COMMANDMENTS GIVEN, BUT WHY ONLY THE SABBATH HAS BEEN NAILED ON THE CROSS. WHAT DOES THE FOLLOWING TEXTS SAY ABOUT GOD'S WORD?

Mt 24:35 Heaven and earth will pass away. But my words will never pass away.

Matthew 5:17 Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil.

Matthew 5:18 For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.

Q-1, WHY DO YOU THINK THAT JESUS WILL TAKE AWAY A CELEBRATION THAT COMMEMORATE THE CREATIONAL ACTIVITIES?

Q-2, WHY DO YOU THINK THAT JESUS WILL TAKE AWAY SOMETHING WRITTEN BY THE FINGER OF HIS FATHER?

Q-3, DO YOU KNOW THAT THERE IS UNITY AMONG THE COMMANDMENTS?

James 2:10 For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one *point*, *he is guilty of all*.

If we are honest with the Bible that we say we believe, we will surely understand “it is finished” as Christ concluding earthly work to reveal and implement the plan of salvation, so everything/ritual that shadowed the plan of salvation was finished in the cross.

THE SABBATH REMINDS US GOD’S WORK OF CREATION, SO HOW CAN OUR REMEMBRANCE TO CREATION BE NAILED IN THE COSS?

Ex 20:11 For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but he rested on the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.

Ex 31:14 “ ‘Observe the Sabbath, because it is holy to you. Anyone who desecrates it must be put to death; whoever does any work on that day must be cut off from his people.

Ex 31:15 For six days, work is to be done, but the seventh day is a Sabbath of rest, holy to the LORD. Whoever does any work on the Sabbath day must be put to death.

Ex 31:16 The Israelites are to observe the Sabbath, celebrating it for the generations to come as a lasting covenant.

Ex 35:2 For six days, work is to be done, but the seventh day shall be your holy day, a Sabbath of rest to the LORD. Whoever does any work on it must be put to death.

- Many men of God (as they are called) argue that the above texts were meant for the Israelites, meaning those redeemed from Egypt, they failed to understand that every follower of Christ is God’s Israel;

Gal 6:16 Peace and mercy to all who follow this rule, even to the Israel of God.

Eph 2:12 remember that at that time you were separate from Christ, excluded from citizenship in Israel and foreigners to the covenants of the promise, without hope and without God in the world.

Eph 3:6 This mystery is that through the gospel the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel, members together of one body, and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus.

THE SABBATH ALWAYS REMINDS US OUR REDEMPTION FROM SLAVERY, SO WHY SOMETHING THAT REMINDS US OUR REDEMPTION IS NEGLETED/

Dt 5:14 but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, neither you, nor your son or daughter, nor your manservant or maidservant, nor your ox, your donkey or any of your animals, nor the alien within your gates, so that your manservant and maidservant may rest, as you do.

Dt 5:15 Remember that you were slaves in Egypt and that the LORD your God brought you out of there with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm. Therefore the LORD your God has commanded you to observe the Sabbath day.

Today, slavery in Egypt is symbolic to slavery to sin of which the Lord Jesus Christ has redeemed us and made us God’s people taken from darkness.

1 Peter 2:9 But ye *are* a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:
Peter 2:10 Which in time past *were* not a people, but *are* now the people of God: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy.

There have been lots of misconceptions in interpreting some Bible texts;

A- Col 2:16 “Therefore 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.”

We should first understand this has Freedom from Human Regulations through Life with Christ. Though the Sabbath is not a shadow to the plan of salvation, there were ceremonial practices carried in it which point to work of salvation. The difference is the article used in the ceremonial Sabbaths as Paul wrote it in the above text, which contain different offerings (a), and the Sabbath of the Lord (the) which has a definite article.

Read Leviticus chapters; 23, 24 and 25 for a clear understanding of ceremonial Sabbaths

Paul’s concern was the day with a program or series of performances or other cultural events, usually held at regular intervals, often in one place. The Israelites converted all the regulations and ceremonial practices given to them as cultural events which they continue to tie in salvation. This made to think that salvation is by their efforts to satisfy God by their works only. This made it difficult for them to accept Christ as the saviour by then, and the Gentiles as the heirs of God.

In interpreting Bible texts, the background and context should be taken into consideration. If Paul was talking against the observation of the Sabbath of the Lord why must it be a custom to him? ^{Ac 17:2} **“As his custom was, Paul went into the synagogue, and on three Sabbath days he reasoned with them from the Scriptures”**

^{Ac 18:1} **after this, Paul left Athens and went to Corinth.**

^{Ac 18:2} **There he met a Jew named Aquila, a native of Pontus, who had recently come from Italy with his wife Priscilla, because Claudius had ordered all the Jews to leave Rome. Paul went to see them,**

^{Ac 18:3} **and because he was a tentmaker as they were, he stayed and worked with them.**

^{Ac 18:4} **Every Sabbath he reasoned in the synagogue, trying to persuade Jews and Greeks .**

Moreover, the best way to understand Colossians 2:16 is reading through verse 17- chapter 3:1-4.

Paul was a true follower of Christ, because Christ custom of observing the Sabbath became his custom: Luke 4:14 And Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit into Galilee: and there went out a fame of him through all the region round about. **Luke 4:15** And he taught in their synagogues, being glorified of all. **Luke 4:16** And 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.

If you are a follower of Christ why neglecting His custom, and teach people that it has been nailed in the cross?

- B-** Another misconception is; ^{1Co 16:1} **Now about the collection for God's people: Do what I told the Galatians churches to do.** ^{1Co 16:2} **On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with his income, saving it up, so that when I come no collections will have to be made.** ^{1Co 16:3} **Then, when I arrive, I will give letters of introduction to the men you approve and send them with your gift to Jerusalem.** ^{1Co 16:4} **If it seems advisable for me to go also, they will accompany me.**

This is all about financial donation to the dying Jerusalems, it is not an evidence of the seventh day Sabbath observation been changed to the first day observation.

- C-** ^{Ac 20:7} **On the first day of the week we came together to break bread. Paul spoke to the people and, because he intended to leave the next day, kept on talking until midnight.** ^{Ac 20:8} **There were many lamps in the upstairs room where we were meeting. "BREAKING BREAD IS A COMMON TERMINOLOGY FOR OFFERING FOOD."** ^{NAS} **Jeremiah 16:7** "Neither will men break *bread* in mourning for them, to comfort anyone for the dead, nor give them a cup of consolation to drink for anyone's father or mother." ^{NIV} **Jeremiah 16:7** No one will offer food to comfort those who mourn for the dead-- not even for a father or a mother-- nor will anyone give them a drink to console them. Let us don't understand it as observing the Sabbath on the first day of the week. How can someone observe the Sabbath till mid night?

CONFESSION ON SABBATH CHANGING

" The Sunday, as a day of the week set apart for the obligatory public worship of Almighty God, to be sanctified by suspension of all servile labor, trade, and worldly avocations, and by exercises of devotion, is purely a creation of the Catholic Church."

"Nothing in the New Testament forbids work, travel, trade, amusement, on the first day of the week. There is nothing which implies such a prohibition. The day, as one especially set apart, had no authority but that of the Catholic Church; the laws requiring its observance were passed to enforce decrees of councils of the Catholic Church." "For ages all Christian nations looked to the Catholic Church, and, as we have seen, the various states enforce by law her ordinances as to worship and cessation of labor on Sunday. Protestantism, in discarding the authority of the church, had no good reason for its Sunday theory, and ought, logically, to keep Saturday as the Sabbath, with the Jews and Seventh Day Baptists. For their present practice, Protestants in general have no authority but

that of a church which they disown." – (The American Catholic Quarterly Review, Jan., 1883)

N. Summerbell, a noted minister and author in the Christian Church, and once president of Antioch (Ohio) College, says in his "History of the Christians," P. 418:

"It [the Roman Catholic Church] has reversed the fourth commandment, doing away with the Sabbath of God's word, and instituting Sunday as a holy day!"

Alexander Campbell, in a lecture in Bethany College, 1848, said:

"Was the first day set apart by public authority in the apostolic age? No. By whom was it set apart, and when? By Constantine, who lived about the beginning of the fourth century."

The seventh day Sabbath is not Jewish, because it originated more than two thousand years before there was a Jew. The word Jew is derived from the name Judah, one of the sons of Jacob.

Daniel 7:25 He will speak against the Most High and oppress his saints and try to change the set times and the laws. The saints will be handed over to him for a time, times and half a time.

The seventh day is Saturday.

THE NAMES OF THE DAYS OF THE WEEK

NAMES GOD GAVE	LATIN NAMES
FIRST DAY GEN. 1:5	DIES SOLIS
SECOND DAY GEN. 1:8	DIES LUNAE
THIRD DAY GEN. 1:13	DIES MARTIS
FOURTH DAY GEN. 1:19	DIES MERCURII
FIFTH DAY GEN. 1:23	DIES JOVIS
SIXTH DAY GEN. 1:31	DIES VENERIS
SEVENTH DAY OR SABBATH WHICH MEANS REST GEN. 2:1-3	DIES SATURNI

SAXON NAMES	ENGLISH
SUN'S DAY	SUNDAY
MOON'S DAY	MONDAY
TIW'S DAY	TUESDAY
WODEN'S DAY	WEDNESDAY
THOR'S DAY	THURSDAY
FRIGG'S DAY	FRIDAY
SETURN'S DAY	SATURDAY

“Week (from Latin *vicis*, “change”), period of seven days now in universal use as a division of time. It is of Hebrew or Chaldean origin and is mentioned as a unit of time in the Bible (see Genesis 29:27). The division of the lunar month into seven-day periods probably began as a celebration of the creation of the world in six days with the seventh day for rest. The Roman week was an eight-day period until 303 AD, when official recognition of the Christian religion made it necessary to celebrate the Sabbath every seventh day. The English names for the days of the week—Sunday (Sol), Monday (Moon), Tuesday (Tui, the Saxon Mars), Wednesday (Woden, or Mercury), Thursday (Thor, or Jupiter), Friday (Frygga, or Venus), and Saturday (Saturn)—come from Roman or Norse names for the planets.” (“**Microsoft ® Encarta ® 2009. © 1993-2008 Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved.**”)

“ The week is a period of seven days, having no reference to the celestial motions, a circumstance to which it owes its unalterable uniformity....The English names of the days of the week are derived from the Saxons. The ancient Saxons had borrowed the week from some Eastern nation, and substituted the names of their own divinities for the gods of Greece. In legislative and judiciary acts, the Latin names are still retained” (“Calendar”, Encyclopaedia Britannica).

Let no one fools you. The preparation day is Friday the fifth day, Jesus resurrected on the Sunday the first day of the week, so a day between the preparation day and the resurrection day is Saturday the Sabbath of the Lord. ^{Mk 15:42} It was Preparation Day (that is, the day before the Sabbath). So as evening approached. ^{IV} **Luke 24:1** On the first day of the week, very early in the morning, the women took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb. **Luke 24:2** They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, **Luke 24:3** but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus.

Mt 5:18 **I tell you the truth, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished.**

Isa 56:2 **Blessed is the man who does this, the man who holds it fast, who keeps the Sabbath without desecrating it, and keeps his hand from doing any evil**

JN 4:23 “But an hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for such people the Father seeks to be His worshipers.

JN 3:21 “But he who practices the truth comes to the Light, so that his deeds may be manifested as having been wrought in God.”

JN 17:17 “ Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth

JN 8:32 and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.”

Revelation 22:18 I warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds anything to them, God will add to him the plagues described in this book.

Revelation 22:19 And if anyone takes words away from this book of prophecy, God will take away from him his share in the tree of life and in the holy city, which are described in this book.

Al-Qur'an, 016.116 (An-Nahi [The Bee])

- 016.116 وَلَا تَقُولُوا لِمَا تَصِفُ أَلْسِنَتُكُمُ الْكَذِبَ هَذَا حَلَالٌ وَهَذَا حَرَامٌ لِتَفْتَرُوا عَلَى اللَّهِ الْكَذِبَ إِنَّ الَّذِينَ يَفْتَرُونَ عَلَى اللَّهِ الْكَذِبَ لَا يُفْلِحُونَ

But say not - for any false thing that your tongues may put forth,- "This is lawful, and this is forbidden," so as to ascribe false things to Allah. For those who ascribe false things to Allah, will never prosper.

To keep God's commandments is not legalistic, but;

^{KJV} **John 14:15** If ye love me, keep my commandments. (reciprocate to God's love for us)

^{KJV} **1 John 2:3** And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments.

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

TO GOD BE THE GLORY

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