

Sabbath - Has Time Been Lost

This tract has been created to introduce those who are searching for truth set forth in God's word. This tract is not based on the traditions of men and pagan religions.

As children of God, we must look for truth in what the scriptures teach. Is it possible to prove today which day of the week is the same seventh day God blessed and sanctified at creation?

Has the calendar been changed? Were not ten days dropped out of the calendar at one time? How about living on a round earth, does not one either gain a day or lose a day in traveling around the world? How about Joshua's long day did not that change the weekly cycle? How can we know that the name Saturday, the present seventh day of the week, was placed on the seventh day of the week according to the Hebrew calendar? To all these questions there are definite answers and many lines of positive proof. Let us investigate and find the facts as God's Word says.

I Thessalonians 5:21

Verse 21 Prove all things; hold fast that which is good.

The calendar now in use which is a Roman calendar has been changed; but no change has ever broken the weekly cycle. The present calendar was first called the Julian calendar because it had its origin at the time of Julius Caesar in 46 B.C. several years before the birth of Christ. Later it was changed at the order of Pope Gregory, and since then it has been called the Gregorian calendar.

The Julian calendar was imperfect, it inserted leap years too frequently. When this calendar was designed it was supposed that the year was exactly 365 1/4 days long. To take care of the extra one-fourth day each year, a day was added to the month of February every four years it was later learned that the year is 12 minutes and 14 seconds shorter than this. Consequently, by the time of Pope Gregory, the calendar had drifted ten days away from the seasons. The spring equinox therefore fell on March 11 instead of March 21. To correct this, ten days were dropped from the calendar. They were dropped only from the number of days in the month, not from the number of days in the week.

A man named Lilius proposed the method which was adopted in making the change. In the Catholic Encyclopedia (1910 edition), volume 9, page 251, under the article "Lilius, Aloisius" we read this explanation of the change: "Thus, every imaginable proposition was made; only one idea was never mentioned, viz. the abandonment of the seven-day week."

Also, in the Catholic Encyclopedia (1908 Edition), volume 3, page 740, under the article "Chronology, General" we read: "...it is to be noted that in the Christian period the order of days of the week has never been interrupted. Thus, when Gregory XIII reformed the Calendar, in 1582, Thursday, 4 October, was followed by Friday, 15 October. So in England, in 1752, Wednesday, 2 September, was followed by Thursday, 14 September."

So that the reader may clearly understand it and see how it was worked out on the calendar, we reproduce below the actual calendar. The change was made in Spain, Portugal, and Italy in 1582, here is the calendar for October 1582:

					1582	OCTOBER	1582
Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.	
	1	2	3	4	15	16	
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	
31							

You will notice how ten days were dropped out. One day was the 4th and the very next day was the 15th of October, but the 4th was Thursday and the 15th was Friday.

To make it still plainer, the 2th of September that year was a Sabbath, or Saturday; the 30th was Sunday; the 1st of October was Monday; the 2nd was Tuesday. The 3rd was Wednesday; the 4th was Thursday; and the next day was Friday. This Friday was not the 5th, it was the 15th, and the following day was Saturday, the 16th. So, Saturday the 16th, was actually just one week of seven days after the preceding Saturday, the 29th of September. There were exactly seven days, seven sunsets, from one Sabbath to the next. The change in the calendar did not in any way change the Sabbath or the succession of the days of the week.

Now the British countries refused to change the calendar when the Pope ordered it. They continued with the old Julian calendar until 1752 and while their days of the month were different, still their days of the week were just the

same as in Rome. Those who kept the Sabbath in England, kept the same Saturday that was called Saturday in Rome. Those who observed Sunday observed the same day, both in Rome where the calendar had been changed and in London where it had not been changed.

The English countries changed the calendar in 1752. By that time, it was necessary to drop out eleven days. The change was made in September as follows:

1752 SEPTEMBER 1752						
Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.
		1	2	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

In Russia, the calendar was not changed until 1918. In that year the day that we called the 14th of August was the 1st day of August to the Russians. Our calendars were thirteen days apart; yet in both countries the same day was called Wednesday. In both countries, Saturday fell on the same day of the week. The calendar has since been changed in Russia, still their Sunday is Sunday and their Saturday is Saturday. Thus, we see that the (Julian-Gregorian) calendar has been in effect since 46 B.C., prior to the birth of Christ; which proves that there has never been a change in the weekly cycle from the time of Christ until now. The Saturday of today is the same seventh day of the week that it was in Christ's time. We can therefore be sure we keep the same Sabbath day that Christ kept, setting us an example. The same day of which He said, Mark 2:28

Verse 28 Therefore the Son of man is Lord also of the sabbath.

People tell us that a certain command, proclaimed by God's own voice to all His congregation, can not really be obeyed if we embark on a trip and travel far away from home, either to the east or to the west. It is this command, Exodus 20:8, 10

Verse 8 Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy.

Verse 10 But 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:

Did God so complicate this command that it would require an astronomer to tell us how to obey it? It might seem to some, who do not stop to think, that you lose a day if you travel westward around the world, or gain a day if you travel eastward. This loss or gain is only apparent, not real. Think, what would happen if it were real? Imagine twin brothers, one traveling westward around the world, the other traveling eastward. If one has really lost a day, while the other gained a day, then after one such journey, one becomes two days older than his twin brother. If they took enough trips, one would in time be old enough to be the father of his own twin brother. This is ridiculous; but it illustrates the point.

When a person travels, his days are not of even length. For example, the man who travels from San Francisco to New York in one day finds that particular day is only 21 hours long, because the sun sets three hours earlier in New York than in San Francisco. There are three hours difference in the time between the two cities. If the man returns to San Francisco by the same means of travel, he finds his day on the return trip to be 27 hours long. In other words, if he leaves San Francisco at 5:00 a.m. and is in New York exactly twelve hours later, his watch will register 5:00 p.m., but all watches and clocks in New York will register 8:00 p.m. To compute time as others do there, he will have to set his watch up three hours. If he were to keep on traveling around the earth, he would have to keep changing his watch until he had added 24 hours by the time he returned to San Francisco, but did he really add a day to his life? Of course not, the only change would be in the way men count time.

The correct Bible definition of a "day" is not 24 hours, marked by a man-made watch, but the period of time from one sunset until the next sunset. A day ends and another begins when the sun sets.
Genesis 1:5

Verse 5 And God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And the evening and the morning were the first day.

Leviticus 23:32

Verse 32 It shall be unto you a sabbath of rest, and ye shall afflict your souls: in the ninth day of the month at even, from even unto even, shall ye celebrate your sabbath.

We live on a round earth, and a day is measured by the revolutions of the earth on its axis in relation to the sun. Since the Sabbath day begins and ends at sunset, we observe it when the sun sets here, even if it is not sunset somewhere else. The sun sets three hours earlier in New York than on the Pacific Coast; hence, the Sabbath begins three hours earlier in New York than it does on the West Coast. In London the Sabbath begins nine hours earlier

than it does on the coast of California, according to God's directions for measuring time. The answer to it all is: we keep the day when the day comes to us. Jerusalem is where Jesus kept the Sabbath, and we know He had it right.

As time is now computed, Sabbath keepers around the world keep the same Sabbath which is the day that is, and always has been the seventh day of the week in Jerusalem. The Bible tells us to begin our Sabbath at sunset, we know the sun does not set at the same time around the world. The holy hours of the Sabbath begin in China several hours before they begin in Jerusalem, and likewise, in America several hours later than in Jerusalem; but all Sabbath keepers, keep the same day as that day comes to them.

In the tenth chapter of the book of Joshua, we have the record of Joshua calling for the sun and the moon to stand still, so that the daylight would be lengthened. This was to enable Israel to finish defeating the enemy in battle. The sun was about to set behind a mountain, and the moon could be seen, as it had risen and was over a certain valley.
Joshua 10:13

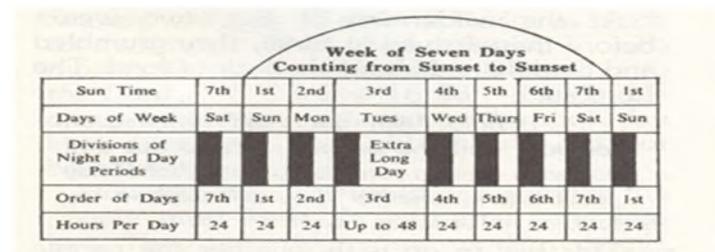
Verse 13 And the sun stood still, and the moon stayed, until the people had avenged themselves upon their enemies. Is not this written in the book of Jasher? So the sun stood still in the midst of heaven, and hasted not to go down about a whole day.

It has been taught by some people that this made two days, thus changing the weekly cycle, but this is false. When the sun stood still it made one long day, not two days. If the day was Tuesday, then it continued to be Tuesday until the sun finally set, for God's days are always from sunset to sunset.

Now if we look at the next verse.
Joshua 10:14

Verse 14 And there was no day like that before it or after it, that the LORD hearkened unto the voice of a man: for the LORD fought for Israel.

This shows us that it was just one day of the week, and it did not change the weekly cycle. The accompanying chart gives a clear illustration of this truth.



To prove the whole thing, let us remember that we need to go back no further than the time of Christ. For, if Joshua's long day did alter the weekly cycle, then Jesus might have observed the wrong day of the week and not the true seventh day. We know Jesus kept the true Sabbath, which was the right day and the calendar record proves the Saturday of today is the very same seventh day Jesus kept.

In the days of Moses, God revealed the true creation Sabbath to all the children of Israel. They had been 400 years in servitude and bondage in Egypt, and were not permitted to have any religious worship. They had no Bibles, no written record of God's commands. Perhaps they had lost time records and did not know which day was the true Sabbath. At the wilderness of sin, two weeks before they arrived at Sinai, they grumbled and complained about the lack of food.

Exodus 16:4

Verse 4 Then said the LORD unto Moses, Behold, I will rain bread from heaven for you; and the people shall go out and gather a certain rate every day, that I may prove them, whether they will walk in my law, or no.

This has to do with whether the people would keep God's law, disobedience had its consequences as we shall note shortly.

Exodus 16:6-13

Verse 6 And Moses and Aaron said unto all the children of Israel, At even, then ye shall know that the LORD hath brought you out from the land of Egypt:

Verse 7 And in the morning, then ye shall see the glory of the LORD; for that he heareth your murmurings against the LORD: and what are we, that ye murmur against us?

Verse 8 And Moses said, This shall be, when the LORD shall give you in the evening flesh to eat, and in the morning bread to the full; for that the LORD heareth your murmurings which ye murmur against him: and

what are we? your murmurings are not against us, but against the LORD.

Verse 9 And Moses spake unto Aaron, Say unto all the congregation of the children of Israel, Come near before the LORD: for he hath heard your murmurings.

Verse 10 And it came to pass, as Aaron spake unto the whole congregation of the children of Israel, that they looked toward the wilderness, and, behold, the glory of the LORD appeared in the cloud.

Verse 11 And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,

Verse 12 I have heard the murmurings of the children of Israel: speak unto them, saying, At even ye shall eat flesh, and in the morning ye shall be filled with bread; and ye shall know that I am the LORD your God.

Verse 13 And it came to pass, that at even the quails came up, and covered the camp: and in the morning the dew lay round about the host.

Each day the people gathered enough goods for their needs. No one had need for more, and no one built up a surplus. If they tried to keep any extra manna for the following day it bred worms. However, on the sixth day they all gathered twice as much manna for their needs.

Exodus 16:22, 23

Verse 22 And it came to pass, that on the sixth day they gathered twice as much bread, two omers for one man: and all the rulers of the congregation came and told Moses.

Verse 23 And he said unto them, This is that which the LORD hath said, To morrow 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.

They were told to gather six days and double on the sixth, as there would be no manna for them to gather on the seventh day. However, on the seventh day some of the people did not think that it being the seventh day mattered, so they went out to gather anyway.

Exodus 16:26, 27

Verse 26 Six days ye shall gather it; but on the seventh day, which is the sabbath, in it there shall be none.

Verse 27 And it came to pass, that there went out some of the people on the seventh day for to gather, and they found none.

We see God wanted to make sure that they could rest on the seventh day. All of the extra manna that they gathered was fine the next day; but during the week would not keep.

Exodus 16:24

Verse 24 And they laid it up till the morning, as Moses bade: and it did not stink, neither was there any worm therein.

If we are convinced that Jesus left us the proper example on observing the correct seventh day, then we have no further difficulty. Notice that the day which Jesus kept, as his custom was, the same day that all the Jews kept, for they were holding their religious service in the synagogue.

Luke 4:16, 17, 20

Verse 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.

Verse 17 And there was delivered unto him the book of the prophet Esaias. And when he had opened the book, he found the place where it was written,

Verse 20 And he closed the book, and he gave it again to the minister, and sat down. And the eyes of all them that were in the synagogue were fastened on him.

About forty-three years after this, the Jews were driven into every nation on earth. From that time until now they have been separated, scattered into all nations, today they are gathering back home.

Through the middle ages, the Jews around the world had no way of communicating with one another. We do not have the same communication issues today. If time had been lost, the Jews in one part of the world would be observing one day, and the Jews in another part would be observing a different day. We find everywhere the Jews have been keeping the day which we call the true Sabbath day, Saturday. The Jew is the miracle of all history, and the Jew is another proof that we have not lost the Sabbath.

We have presented the proof of history, of the calendar, and of the Jew, all of which through the centuries have preserved the seventh day Sabbath. That Sabbath Jesus and His apostles kept. All of these are proof that time has not been lost. Today, Christians everywhere still can identify and observe God's Holy Sabbath.

Exodus 20:8, 11

Verse 8 Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy.

Verse 11 For 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.

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