

## The Forgotten Commandment

Late one particular night, as I was driving home, I was lost in thought about a life threatening crisis my thirteen-year old son was in at the time. As I drove into a small town I began looking for speed limit signs, but not quite fast enough. In the oncoming lane, I saw a police officer just as he made a U-turn, turned on his lights, and pulled in behind me. I realized immediately that I probably was going to get a ticket for speeding. He came to the window and said, "Ma'am you were going 15 miles per hour over the speed limit." I said something about missing the sign and proceeded to pull my driver's license out to hand to him. "Are you sleepy?" he asked. It was near midnight, but actually I was not falling asleep. I was just distressed about what was going on with my son. I mumbled something to him about my son and his crisis situation, and he asked how old my son was. Then he took my license to scan it. I knew I deserved a ticket, but I still didn't want it. I had enough to worry about right now. Coming back to the window, he stated simply, "This looks good, but slow down so you can take care of your son. You have a good night, ma'am."

Grace, I was experiencing grace.

### **Experiencing Grace**

I knew what I had done was wrong, the law hadn't changed, but I had been forgiven. Now, every time I drive through that small town, I am a very law abiding citizen. I always go the speed limit. I will never forget the kindness of that police officer to a mother in distress. We too are under grace. Christ died to make up for the fact that we have all broken the law; we were a planet in distress. The law could not be changed, but he died in our place to satisfy the claims of the law. We should never forget that sacrifice for us, and when we encounter the law of the heavenly kingdom, we, with thanksgiving in our hearts, should be good commandment keeping citizens.

James 2:10 says, *For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all.* It seems that most upstanding citizens agree that the last 6 commandments found in Exodus 20 should be kept. Most agree on the first three in the list, although some struggle with idolatry, but ironically, everyone seems to forget the one that says- Remember.

Exodus 20:8-11 *Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work: 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: 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.*

**The fourth commandment is like God's seal, it reminds us that he is the Creator and the rightful owner of this world.**



This commandment states that the seventh day is the Sabbath. The Sabbath had its origin in Eden, being made on the seventh day of Creation week. God rested on that day, blessed it, and sanctified it—setting it apart for holy and sacred use. (Gen. 2:1-3, Ex. 31:17)

The keeping of God's law, and particularly the Sabbath, is a special sign between God and His people.

(Ezekiel 20:11, 12) Ezekiel 20:19,20 *I am the LORD your God; walk in my statutes, and keep*

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

Christ Himself, who made the Sabbath, gave us an example of Sabbath keeping. 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.*

In the time he was here on earth, Jesus taught us about the Sabbath. Mark 2:27, 29 *And he said unto them, The sabbath was made for man, and not man for the sabbath: Therefore the Son of man is Lord also of the sabbath.* He also anticipated that the Sabbath would continue to be observed following his ascension. He warned the disciples of a time of trouble saying, *But pray ye that your flight be not in the winter, neither on the sabbath day:* Matt. 24:20

**The Bible lets us know without a shadow of a doubt that the commandments of God and the Sabbath will forever be kept by God's people.**

Until the end of time here on earth-- Revelation 14:12 *Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.*

And even in the new earth-- Isaiah 66:22, 23 *For as the new heavens and the new earth, which I will make, shall remain before me, saith the LORD, so shall your seed and your name remain. And it shall come to pass, that from one new moon to another, and from one sabbath to another, shall all flesh come to worship before me, saith the LORD.*

### **So, why do many Christians worship on Sunday?**

Daniel 7:25 tells us of a kingdom represented by the little horn of the fourth beast, who defies God and tries to change times and laws. *And he shall speak great words against the most High, and shall wear out the saints of the most High, and think to change times and laws...*



In an effort to unite paganism and Christianity, Constantine did just this in the early part of the fourth century. *“Unquestionably, the first law, either ecclesiastical or civil, by which the Sabbatical observance of that day [Sunday] is known to have been ordained, is the edict of Constantine, AD 321.”* –Chamber’s Encyclopedia, article “Sabbath”

The Catholic Church carried on this blending of paganism and Christianity and recognizes the unbiblical nature of Sunday worship.

*“Sunday is a Catholic institution, and its claim to observance can be defended only by Catholic principles... From beginning to end of Scripture there is not a single passage that warrants the transfer of weekly public worship from the last day of the week to the first.”* Catholic Press, Sydney, Australia, August 1900

They claim to have the authority to change God’s law. *“Of course, the Catholic Church claims that the change was her act;... And the act is a MARK of her ecclesiastical power and authority in religious matters.”* Cardinal Gibbons, letter dated July 7, 1895.

*With not a shred of biblical evidence for the observance of Sunday, and multiple Bible texts supporting the Seventh day Sabbath--Saturday, we then have a choice to make. Do we obey God’s law or follow the traditions of man. Colossians 2:8 Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.*

### Keeping the Sabbath Holy

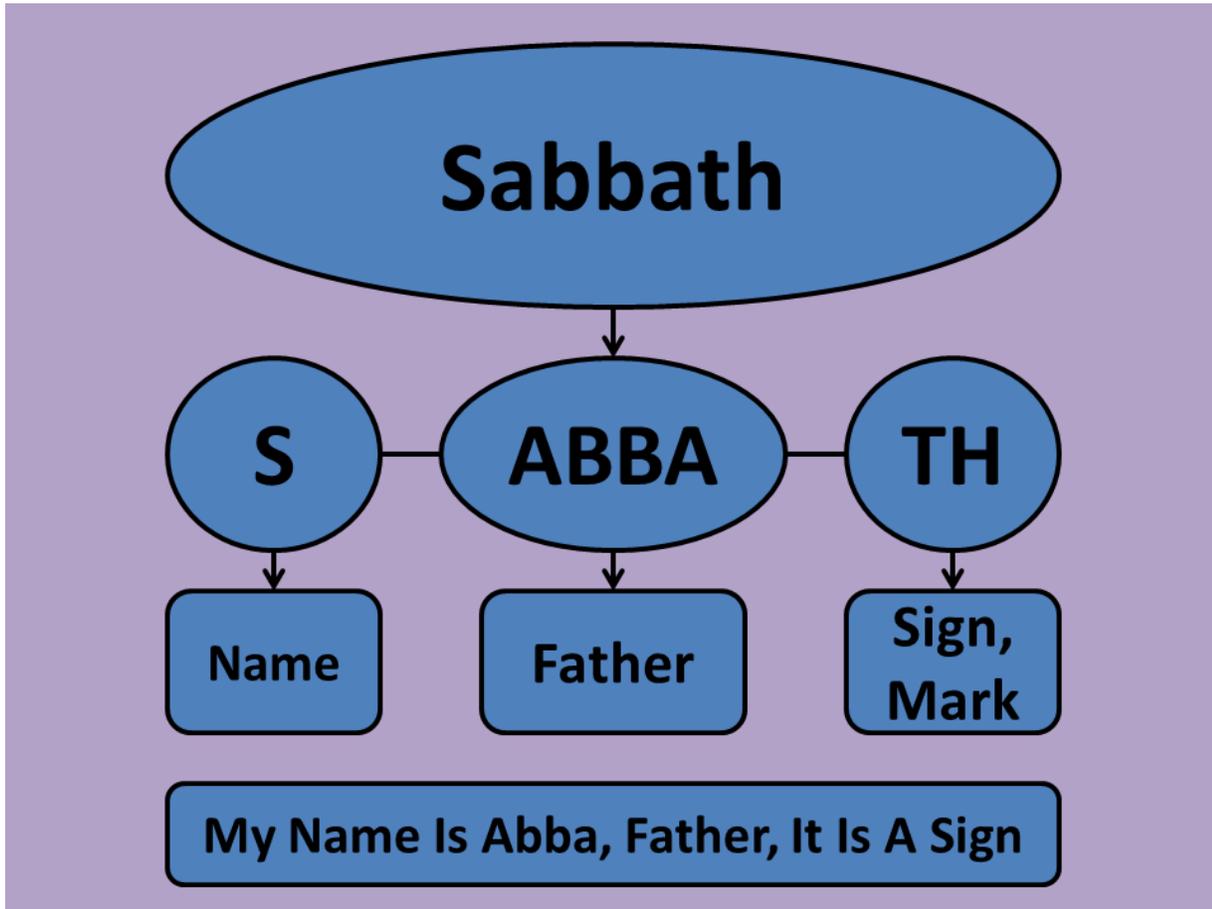
The Sabbath begins at sundown Friday night and continues until sundown Sabbath. (Lev. 23:32) On the preparation day (Friday) we should complete all our work as biblically directed. (Ex. 16:23) On Sabbath we should refrain from buying and selling and all other common labor. (Neh. 13:15-21, Deut. 5:12-14) God promises a blessing on His special day if we refrain from secular pursuits. *If thou turn away thy foot from the sabbath, from doing thy pleasure on my holy day; and call the sabbath a delight, the holy of the LORD, honourable; and shalt honour him, not doing thine own ways, nor finding thine own pleasure, nor speaking thine own words: Then shalt thou delight thyself in the LORD; and I will cause thee to ride upon the high places of the earth, and feed thee with the heritage of Jacob thy father: for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken it. Isaiah 58:13,14*

*There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God.* Hebrews 4:9 A gift from his own hand. Let us strive to enter into that rest, remembering the price of the grace exercised toward us, the death of God’s dear son, our Savior, who died to satisfy the claims of the law.

He asks but one thing in return. *If ye love me, keep my commandments.* John 14:15

\*\*\*\*\*

## It's all in the Hebrew Name!



Most people understand the Abba, Father part of the word S-abba-th.  
Mark 14:36 "And he said, Abba, Father, all things are possible unto thee; take away this cup from me: nevertheless not what I will, but what thou wilt."  
Romans 8:15 "For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father."  
Galatians 4:6 "And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father."

In the Hebrew alphabet the different letters have literal meanings.

The English "T" or "TH" is called "Tav" in Hebrew and it looks like this "ת". It's literal meaning is "Mark, Sign"

In Hebrew, the English "S" is called "Shin" or "Shem" and it looks like this "ש". (Although there seems to be some disagreement among sources as to whether it is "shin" or "shem".)

If you look up this name "Shem" in Strong's concordance, it lists it as number H8034 and its meaning is "an appellation, as a mark or memorial of individuality; by implication honor, authority, character...name"

I choose to go with the word "Shem" because that meaning for the word "Sabbath" agrees with the scriptures.

*Ezekiel 20:12 "Moreover 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."*

*Exodus 31:13 "Speak 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."*

*We also see that the seventh-day Sabbath was instituted and set aside as holy at Creation as a sign or memorial of God's work and His creative power.*

*Genesis 2:2-3 "And on the seventh day God ended his work which he had made; and he **rested [shâbath]** on the seventh day from all his work which he had made. And God **blessed** the seventh day, and **sanctified it**: because that in it he had **rested [shâbath]** from all his work which God created and made.*

*Exodus 31:17 It 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.*

We also see that as the spiritual "children of Israel" we still keep this day as a sign of our allegiance to the Creator!

*Hebrews 4:4-9 "For he spake in a certain place of the seventh day on this wise, And God did rest the seventh day from all his works. And in this place again, If they shall enter into my rest. Seeing therefore it remaineth that some must enter therein, and they to whom it was first preached entered not in because of unbelief: Again, he limiteth a certain day, saying in David, To day, after so long a time; as it is said, To day if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts. For if Jesus had given them rest, then would he not afterward have spoken of another day. **There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God.**"*

We will even be keeping it in heaven!

*Isaiah 66:22-23 For as the new heavens and the new earth, which I will make, shall remain before me, saith the LORD, so shall your seed and your name remain. And it shall come to pass, that from one new moon to another, and from **one sabbath to another**, shall all flesh come to worship before me, saith the LORD.*

\*\*\*\*\*

## The Four Gold Rings

In the Hebrew sanctuary there were 4 gold rings on the Table of Shewbread, 4 gold rings on the Ark of the Covenant, and 4 gold rings on the breastplate.

The ephod was made like the veil in the sanctuary (see Ex. 26:31 & 28:6)

The ephod represented Christ just like the veil represented Christ (Heb. 10:20)

The breastplate contained stones with the names of each of the twelve tribes engraved on them (Ex. 28:21). So the breastplate represents God's church.

The 2 gold rings on the top of the breastplate were connected to the 2 shoulderpieces on the ephod by gold wreathen chains. The 2 gold rings on the bottom of the breastplate were connected to the 2 gold rings of the ephod by a blue lace. Blue represents the Law of God (Num. 15:38, 39). The breastplate was never to be

removed from the ephod (Ex. 28:28)

Shown in this symbolism - The church is never to be disconnected from Christ.

Also there are 4 rings symbolizing the 4th commandment.

The connection is His seal, the Sabbath, in the heart of the Law of God!

*"The Sabbath is a golden clasp that unites God and His people." Testimonies for the Church vol. 6 p.351*

Rings were used by kings as a seal of their government. When official documents were drawn up, the king would put melted wax or clay on them and then press his ring into it to make an impression. This was considered the king's seal. The Sabbath is God's official seal of His authority. *And hallow my Sabbaths; and they shall be a sign between me and you, that ye may know that I am the Lord your God. Ezekial 20:20*

\*\*\*\*\*

## The Seal of God

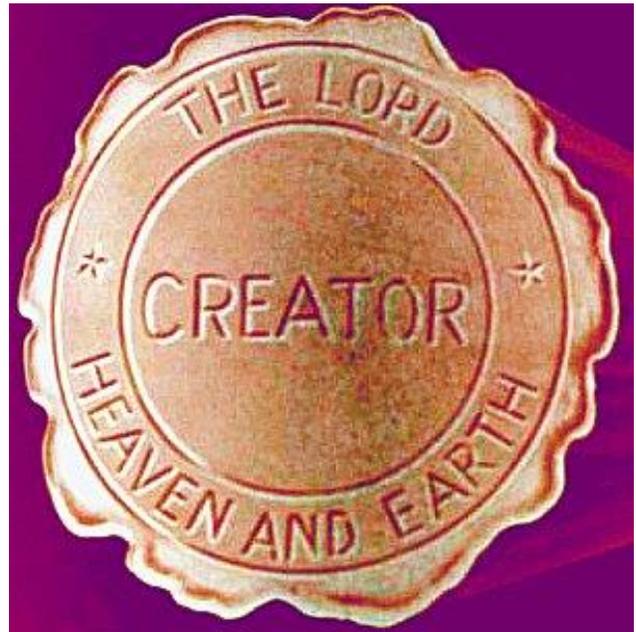
All official seals contain three parts - Name, Title, Territory. Example: The seal of the president contains all three.

George Bush - President - United States of America

Barrack Obama - President - United States of America

Just as man made seals contain these three parts, so the Seal of God contains them. It is placed in the very center - the heart - of the Law.

*Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work: 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: 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. Exodus 20:8-11*



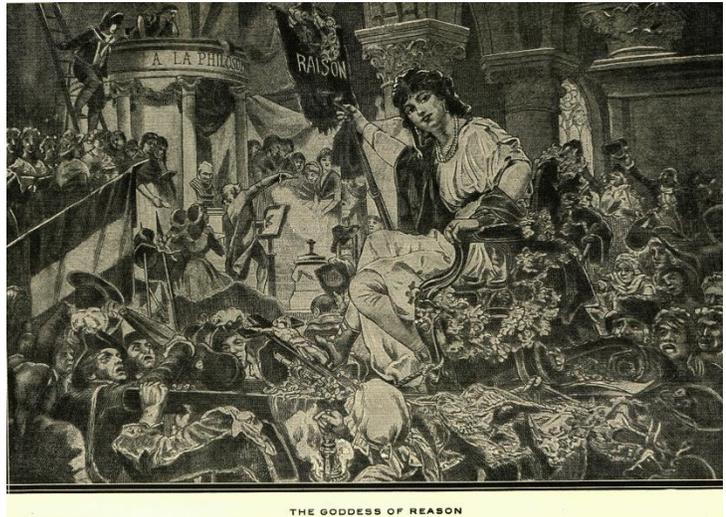
\*\*\*\*\*

## Science Confirms the Sabbath

*And 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. And God blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it: because that in it he had rested from all his work which God created and made. Genesis 2:2,3*

Our bodies have designed on the seven day cycle since Creation. Just as the body has a natural daily clock (circadian rhythm) it also has a weekly clock (circaseptan rhythm). Circaseptan rhythms are just that: body rhythms that run about 7 days in length. Medically, some that have been identified include, heart rate, swelling after surgery (more on the 7th & 14th day), and rejection of transplanted organs.

In France during the French Revolution, they experimented with a ten-day (metric) week. It had disasterous results. Their mental institutions filled rather quickly to capacity and then some. At various other times in history different weekly cycles have been tried, but all have reverted back to the 7 day week.



Author, Kevin Trudeau says resting Friday sundown to Saturday sundown is the best time to rest.

*"Resting during this time promotes the optimal rejuvenation of cells."*

This is interesting because God says, "*...from even unto even, shall ye celebrate your sabbath.*" *Leviticus 23:32*

Truely, ... *The sabbath was made for man, and not man for the sabbath:* *Mark 2:27*

\*\*\*\*\*

## **A Brief History of the Sabbath (Biblical and Historical)**



There are 4 different measurements of time that we have on earth today that are controlled by different things – for example – we get our measurement of the “year” by measuring how long it takes for the earth to complete its rotation around the sun. We get our measurement of the “month” by how long it takes the moon to complete its rotation around the earth. We get our measurement of the “day” by how long it takes the earth to complete its rotation on its axis.

Where do we get our measurement of the time period of our “week”? There is only one source for that measurement – God established it when He created the world, and finished it with the creation of the Sabbath. The 7<sup>th</sup> day Sabbath is to remind us that God is the Creator.

The very first mention of the 7<sup>th</sup> day Sabbath is at the end of Creation.

*Genesis 2:1-3 Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. And 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. And God blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it: because that in it he had rested from all his work which God created and made.*

We can assume that since God made this 7<sup>th</sup> day after He made Adam and Eve (on the 6<sup>th</sup> day) that they kept the Sabbath with their Creator. It may be well to note the Sabbath is one of two special institutions created before sin entered our world. It was given to all people.

*"The importance of the Sabbath as the memorial of creation is that it keeps ever present the true reason why worship is due to God"--because He is the Creator, and we are His creatures. "The Sabbath therefore lies at the very foundation of divine worship, for it teaches this great truth in the most impressive manner, and no other institution does this. The true ground of divine worship, not of that on the seventh day merely, but of all worship, is found in the distinction between the Creator and His creatures. This great fact can never become obsolete, and must never be forgotten."--J. N. Andrews, History of the Sabbath, chapter 27*

We can assume that Abraham was a keeper of the 7<sup>th</sup> day Sabbath because the Bible says in *Genesis 26:5 "... Abraham obeyed my voice, and kept my charge, my commandments, my statutes, and my laws."*

But the second specific reference to the 7<sup>th</sup> day Sabbath is when the Israelites were tested on it over the issue of gathering the manna. Here we see that God worked a miracle to preserve manna for the 7<sup>th</sup> day Sabbath.

*Exodus 16:22-30 "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. 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. And they laid it up till the morning, as Moses bade: and it did not stink, neither was there any worm therein. And 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. Six days ye shall gather it; but on the seventh day, which is the sabbath, in it there shall be none. And it came to pass, that there went out some of the people on the seventh day for to gather, and they found none. And the LORD said unto Moses, How long refuse ye to keep my commandments and my laws? See, 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. So the people rested on the seventh day."*

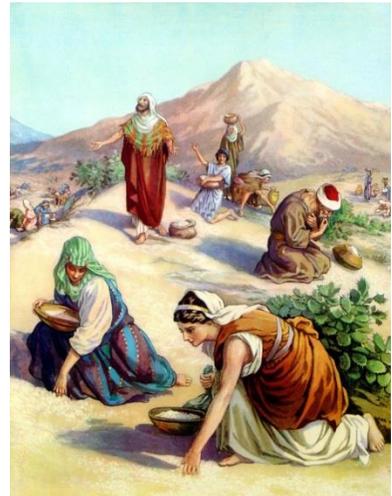
We see that the Israelites were tested on the issue of the 7th day Sabbath and the Law of God in Exodus 16:23-30. This is even before the 10 commandments were given in written form and repeated at Mt. Sinai. It is an interesting fact that for the first 2500 years of this earth's history, there was no need of a written Bible. Man's brains were designed by God originally to last forever – but of course, with the entrance of sin into the world bringing the "death sentence", mankind's minds started degenerating. But for the first 2500 years, the Words of God, the Laws of God, etc. were all passed on by "word of mouth" – in other words, men taught their children the laws of God and then the children taught their children and so forth.

It wasn't until after man's brain had so far deteriorated that they began to forget God's requirements; And after the Israelites had spent 400 years as slaves in pagan Egypt, God had to refresh their memory about His commandments and laws. That is why a written record of the Law of God was not given until Mount Sinai. (The first books of the Bible were written by Moses).

The next reference to the 7th day Sabbath is where God "reminds" the Israelites of His Law.

*Exodus 20:8-11 "Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work: 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: 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."*

This record is repeated in Deuteronomy 5:12-15. Notice that we are to allow others rest on Sabbath as well. "Keep the sabbath day to sanctify it, as the LORD thy God hath commanded thee. Six days thou shalt labour, and do all thy work: 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, nor thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thine ox, nor thine ass, nor any of thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates; that thy manservant and thy maidservant may rest as well as thou. And 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 to keep the sabbath day."



The record in Deuteronomy also signifies that the Sabbath is a special sign between God and his people that he has brought out of the bondage of Egypt. *Exodus 20:2 "I am the LORD thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage."* This is a representation of those

who have been brought out of the bondage of the world and sin. *“But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life.” Romans 6:22*

As we come down to the time of Nehemiah, we find again that the Sabbath is reinstated among those who come out of Babylon, those who were rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem.

*Nehemiah 13:15-22 In 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. There 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.*

*Then I contended with the nobles of Judah, and said unto them, What evil thing is this that ye do, and profane the sabbath day? Did 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.*

*And 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.*

*So the merchants and sellers of all kind of ware lodged without Jerusalem once or twice.*

*Then 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.*



*And I commanded the Levites that they should cleanse themselves, and that they should come and keep the gates, to sanctify the sabbath day. Remember me, O my God, concerning this also, and spare me according to the greatness of thy mercy.*

This story gives us a hint for exactly when the Sabbath begins and ends. It begins at sunset. This is the way God has reckoned time since creation. *And God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And the evening and the morning were the first day. Genesis 1:5*

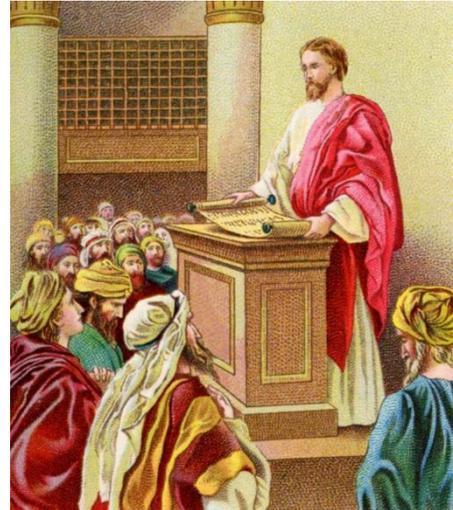
Isaiah prophesied a similar situation with those in the last days reinstating Sabbath observance. *Isa 58:12-14 And they that shall be of thee shall build the old waste places: thou shalt raise up the foundations of many generations;*

*and thou shalt be called, The repairer of the breach, The restorer of paths to dwell in. If thou turn away thy foot from the sabbath, from doing thy pleasure on my holy day; and call the sabbath a delight, the holy of the LORD, honourable; and shalt honour him, not doing thine own ways, nor finding thine own pleasure, nor speaking thine own words: Then shalt thou delight thyself in the LORD; and I will cause thee to ride upon the high places of the earth, and feed thee with the heritage of Jacob thy father: for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken it.*

You can follow the history of the Sabbath down through time in the Bible like this and see how God's Law has stayed the same since Creation and the devil has worked to try to bring in counterfeits and cause people to forget God's Law.

The New Testament testimony also confirms the Sabbath of the 4<sup>th</sup> commandment.

Jesus custom was to keep the Sabbath. *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."



Also, if you study the story of Jesus crucifixion you can establish that he died on Friday, the preparation day, rested in the grave on Sabbath (keeping the Sabbath even in His death) and rose again on Sunday. During Bible times, the Israelites referred to every day – in its relationship to the Sabbath. In other words, the day which we now refer to as "Sunday" they called "First day toward the Sabbath", our "Monday" was "Second day toward the Sabbath" and so forth until they came to our "Friday" which to them was the "sixth day toward the Sabbath" but they would also call it the "Preparation Day". Then of course, they called the 7<sup>th</sup> day the "Sabbath".

*Luke 23:52-56; 24:1-3* "This man went unto Pilate, and begged the body of Jesus. And he took it down, and wrapped it in linen, and laid it in a sepulchre that was hewn in stone, wherein never man before was laid. And that day was the preparation, and the sabbath drew on. And the women also, which came with him from Galilee, followed after, and beheld the sepulchre, and how his body was laid. And they returned, and prepared spices and ointments; and rested the sabbath day according to the commandment. Now upon the first day of the week, very early in the morning, they came unto the sepulchre, bringing the spices which they had prepared, and certain others with them. And they found the stone rolled away from the sepulchre. And they entered in, and found not the body of the Lord Jesus."

Most Christians recognize that he rose on the first day of the week—what is now called Sunday. But even after Christ's resurrection his followers, both Jews and Greeks (Gentiles) continued to keep the 7<sup>th</sup> day Sabbath.

*Acts 17:1-4* "Now when they had passed through Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to Thessalonica, where was a synagogue of the Jews: And Paul, as his manner was, went in unto them, and three sabbath days reasoned with them out of the scriptures, Opening 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. And some of them believed, and consorted with Paul and Silas; and of the devout Greeks a great multitude, and of the chief women not a few."



*Acts 18:4 "And he [Paul] reasoned in the synagogue every sabbath, and persuaded the Jews and the Greeks."*

The word "Sunday" is not used in the Bible, it is simply referred to as "the first day of the week". There are only 8 verses that use the phrase the "first day of the week" (Matt. 28:1; Mark 16:2, 9; Luke 24:1; John 20:1,19; Acts 20:7; 1 Cor. 16:2) and none of these verses say anything about a divine command to change the day of worship from the 7th day originally set aside by God in His Moral Law to the 1st day of the week.

Paul confirms this in his letter to the Hebrews. He states that if God had changed the day of worship he would have told us, but since he hasn't "There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God."

*Hebrews 4:4-11 "For he spake in a certain place of the seventh day on this wise, And God did rest the seventh day from all his works. And in this place again, If they shall enter into my rest. Seeing therefore it remaineth that some must enter therein, and they to whom it was first preached **entered not in because of unbelief**: Again, he limiteth a certain day, saying in David, To day, after so long a time; as it is said, To day if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts. For if Jesus had given them rest, then would he not afterward have spoken of another day. There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God. For he that is entered into his rest, he also hath ceased from his own works, as God did from his. Let us labour therefore to enter into that rest, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief."*

Actually, when we go back in the historical records, we find that for centuries after Christ's crucifixion, the apostles and early Christians kept the 7<sup>th</sup> day Sabbath.

Joseph Bingham, M. A, states:

*"The ancient Christians were very careful in the observation of Saturday, or the seventh day, which was the ancient Jewish Sabbath. Some observed it as a fast, others as a festival; but all unanimously agreed in keeping it as a more solemn day of religious worship and adoration . . . From hence it is plain, that all the Oriental churches, and the greatest part of the world, observed the Sabbath as a festival. . . . Athanasius likewise tells us, that they held religious assemblies on the Sabbath, not because they were infected with Judaism, but to worship Jesus, the Lord of the Sabbath, Epiphanius says the same." -"Antiquities of the Christian Church," Vol. II, Book XX, chap. 3, See. 1, pp. 1137, 1138.*

London: 1852.

Dr. Zahn says in regard to the early Christians:

*"They observed the Sabbath in the most conscientious manner: otherwise, they would have been stoned. Instead of this, we learn from the book of the Acts that at times they were highly respected even by that part of their own nation that remained in unbelief. . . . That the observance of Sunday commenced among them would be a supposition which would have no*

*seeming ground for it, and all probability against it. . . . The Sabbath was a strong tie which united them with the life of the whole people, and in keeping the Sabbath holy, they followed not only the example, but also the command of Jesus."* "Geschichte des Sonntags," pp. 13, 14.

As late as 791 A. D. Christians kept the Sabbath in Italy. Canon 13 of the council at Friaul states: "Further, when speaking of that Sabbath which the Jews observe, the last day of the week, *and which also our peasants observe*, He said only Sabbath, and never added unto it, 'delight,' or 'my.'" - Mansi, 13, 851; Quoted in "History of the Sabbath," J. N. Andrews, p. 539. 1912.

There isn't anywhere in the Bible that uses the word "Saturday" or "Sunday" because these names for the days of the week are more modern names that in actuality come originally from paganism themselves. The pagans called the days of the week after their gods – "Sun" day, "Moon" day, "Saturn" day, etc. Unfortunately over the years and little by little this paganism crept into the mainstream church, and with it Sunday worship (the worship of the sun). *"Sunday, over which the Sun presided, was especially holy. . . ."[The worshipers of Mithra] held Sunday sacred, and celebrated the birth of the Sun on the twenty-fifth of December."* - "The Mysteries of Mithra," pp. 167, 191. Chicago: Open Court Pub. Co., 1911.

Professor Gilbert Murray, M.A., D. Litt., LL.D., F.B.A., Professor of Greek in Oxford University, states: *"Now, since Mithras was 'The Sun, the Unconquered,' and the Sun was 'The royal Star,' the religion looked for a King whom it could serve as the representative of Mithras upon earth: . . . The Roman Emperor seemed to be clearly indicated as the true King. In sharp contrast to Christianity, Mithraism recognized Caesar as the bearer of the divine Grace, and its votaries filled the legions and the civil service. . . .*

*"It had so much acceptance that it was able to impose on the Christian world its own Sun-Day in place of the Sabbath, its Sun's birthday, twenty-fifth December, as the birthday of Jesus."* - "History of Christianity in the Light of Modern Knowledge," Chap. III; cited in "Religion and Philosophy," pp. 73, 74. New York: 1929.

It is a sad fact that this practice came into the church under the guise of missionary efforts. Mr. Cumont explains: *"The ecclesiastical authorities purified in some degree the customs which they could not abolish!"*

*"The pre-eminence assigned to the dies Solis [Sunday] by Mithraism [a form of paganism] also certainly contributed to the general recognition of Sunday as a holiday [among Christians]."* - "Astrology and Religion Among the Greeks and Romans," pp. 171, 162, 16.3. New York: 1912.

Thomas H. Morer makes a similar acknowledgement. He says:

*"Sunday being the day on which the Gentiles solemnly adored that planet, and called it Sunday. . . . the Christians thought fit to keep the same day and the same name of it, that they might not appear causelessly peevish, and by that means hinder the conversion of the Gentiles, and bring*



*a greater prejudice than might be otherwise taken against the gospel."* - "Dialogues on the Lord's Day," p. 23. London: 1701.

Rev. William Frederick likewise states: *"The Gentiles were an idolatrous people who worshipped the sun, and Sunday was their most sacred day. Now, in order to reach the people in this new field, it seems but natural, as well as necessary, to make Sunday the rest day of the church. At this time it was necessary for the church to either adopt the Gentiles' day or else have the Gentiles change their day. To change the Gentiles' day would have been an offence and stumbling block to them. The church could naturally reach them better by keeping their day. There was no need in causing an unnecessary offence by dishonouring their day."* - "Sunday and the Christian Sabbath," pp. 169, 170; quoted in *Signs of the Times*, Sept. 6, 1927.

Bishop A. Grimelund, of Norway, says:

*"Now, summing up what history teaches regarding the origin of Sunday and the development of the doctrine about Sunday, then this is the sum: It is not the apostles, not the early Christians, not the councils of the ancient church which have imprinted the name and stamp of the Sabbath upon the Sunday, but it is the Church of the Middle Ages and its scholastic teachers."* - "Sondagens Historie" (*The History of Sunday*), p. 87. Christiania: 1886.

It is hardly fair to accuse the Roman Catholic Church of exchanging God's holy Sabbath for a heathen festival without giving her the opportunity to deny or acknowledge this accusation; so we will now let her state the fact in her own words, frankly. She says: *"The Church took the pagan philosophy and made it the buckler of faith against the heathen. . . . She took the pagan Sunday and made it the Christian Sunday. . . . There is, in truth, something royal, kingly about the sun, making it a fit emblem of Jesus, the Sun of Justice. Hence the Church in these countries would seem to have said, 'Keep that old, pagan name. It shall remain consecrated, sanctified.' And thus the pagan Sunday, dedicated to Balder, became the Christian Sunday, sacred to Jesus."* - "Catholic World," March, 1894, P. 809.

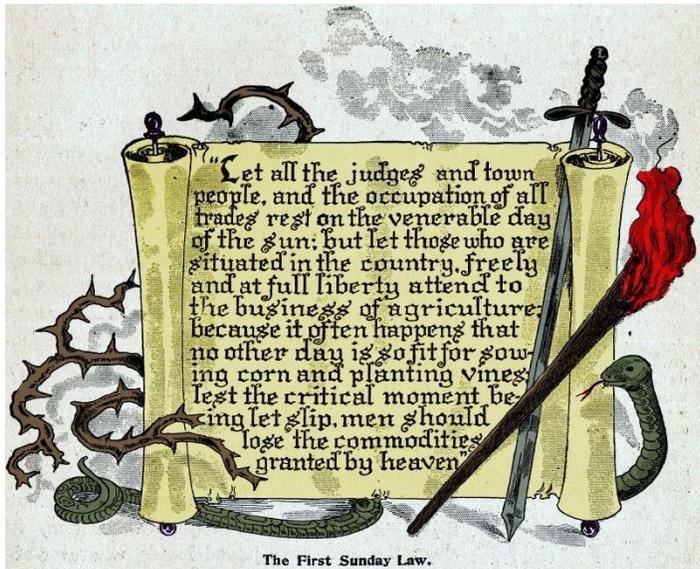
*"The church after changing the day of rest from the Jewish Sabbath or seventh-day of the week to the first, made the third commandment refer to Sunday as the day to be kept holy as the Lord's day."* *Catholic Encyclopedia*, Vol. 4, p. 153

The change was not an abrupt one, but rather one that crept in a little at a time with more and more compromise. The day for worship wasn't officially "changed" until the early part of the 2<sup>nd</sup> century after Christ, when Constantine, the Roman emperor, a former sun-worshiper, professed conversion to Christianity (though by all appearances it was more for political power than a real conversion). Constantine named



himself Bishop of the Catholic Church and enacted the first civil law regarding Sunday observance in A.D. 321.

Encyclopedia Britannica states, *"The emperor Constantine, a convert to Christianity, introduced the first civil legislation concerning Sunday in 321, when he decreed that all work should cease on Sunday, except that farmers could work if necessary."*



His law stated in part, *"On the venerable day of the sun let the magistrate and people residing in cities rest, and let all workshops be closed. In the country however, persons engaged in agricultural work may freely and lawfully continue their pursuits; because it often happens that another day is not so suitable for grain growing or for vine planting; lest by neglecting the proper moment for such operations the bounty of heaven should be lost."* Schaff's History of the Christian Church, vol. III, chap. 75

Dr. A. Chr. Bang (Lutheran bishop, Norway), says: *"This Sunday law constituted no real favouritism towards Christianity. . . . It is evident from all his statutory provisions, that the Emperor during the time 313-323 with full consciousness has sought the realization of his religious aim: the amalgamation of heathenism and Christianity."* - "Kirken og Romerstaten" ("The Church and the Roman State"), p. 256. Christiania: 1879.

But the Bible had predicted that this abomination (worshipping the Sun) would enter God's church and would be wrongly practiced among people claiming to follow God.

*Ezekiel 8:15, 16 Then said he[God] unto me[Ezekiel], Hast thou seen this, O son of man? turn thee yet again, and thou shalt see greater abominations than these. And he brought me into the inner court of the LORD'S house, and, behold, at the door of the temple of the LORD, between the porch and the altar, were about five and twenty men, with their backs toward the temple of the LORD, and their faces toward the east; and they worshipped the sun toward the east.*

It is comforting to remember that God knew ahead of time that there would be apostasy from the truth, and throughout the centuries He raised up people to protect the truth of the 7th day Sabbath. Not everyone everywhere would acknowledge this counterfeit day of worship.

*"WHILE Constantine's purchased converts, and the superficial-minded multitude followed the popular church, there were many honest, God-fearing Christians, who resented this sinful compromise with paganism; and, when they saw that all their protests were useless, they withdrew to places where they could more freely follow their conscience and bring up their children away from the contamination of the fallen church, which they looked upon as the*

*"Babylon" of Revelation 17. Several hundred Sabbath-keeping Christian churches were established in southern India, and some were found even in China. Likewise, the original Celtic Church in England, Scotland, and Ireland kept the seventh-day Sabbath... The majority of these original Christians settled, however, in the Alps, a place naturally suited for their protection, being situated where Switzerland, France, and Italy join."* Facts of Faith pg. 75

Among those who held onto the true Sabbath was the Celtic church led by Patrick and his many converts in Scotland. Patrick, a son of a Christian family in southern Scotland, was carried off to Ireland by pirates about 376 A. D. Here, in slavery, he gave his heart to God and, after six years of servitude, escaped, returning to his home in Scotland. But he could not forget the spiritual need of these poor heathen, and after ten years he returned to Ireland as a missionary of the Celtic church. *"He had now reached his thirtieth year [390 A. D]."* - "The Ancient British and Irish Churches," William Cathcart, D. D., p. 70.

*"Patrick rejected the union of church and state. More than one hundred years had passed since the first world council at Nicaea had united the church with the empire. Patrick rejected this model. He followed the lesson taught in John's Gospel when Christ refused to be made a king. Jesus said, 'My kingdom is not of this world' (John 18:36). Not only the Irish apostle but his famous successors, Columba in Scotland, and Columbanus on the Continent, ignored the supremacy of the papal pontiff. They never would have agreed to making the pope a king."* Truth Triumphant, pg. 85-86



During a period of almost universal apostasy, Patrick and others in Scotland kept the truth of the 7<sup>th</sup> day Sabbath alive, *"It seems to have been customary in the Celtic churches of early times, in Ireland as well as Scotland, to keep Saturday, the Jewish Sabbath, as a day of rest from labor. They obeyed the fourth commandment literally upon the seventh day of the week."* The Church of Scotland, pg. 140

This early Celtic church sent its missionaries not only among the heathen Piets of their own country, but also into the Netherlands, France, Switzerland, Germany, and Italy. This Sabbathkeeping church (as did their Waldensian brethren) kept the torch of truth burning during the long, dark night of papal supremacy, till finally they were conquered by Rome in the twelfth century. Professor Andrew Lang says of them: *"They worked on Sunday, but kept Saturday in a Sabbatical manner."* - "A History of Scotland from the Roman Occupation," Vol. I, p. 96. New York: Dodd, Mead, and Co., 1900.

History tells us that the Waldensians of the Alps continued to keep the 7<sup>th</sup> day Sabbath alive. *"Pope Sylvester co-operated with Constantine to bring paganism into the Christian church (especially Sunday-keeping). This caused the true Christians to have repugnance for him. The Waldenses believed he was the Antichrist. Dr. Peter Allix quotes the following from a prominent*

*Roman Catholic author regarding the Waldenses: "They say that the blessed Pope Sylvester was the Antichrist, of whom mention is made in the Epistles of St. Paul, as being the son of perdition, who extols himself above every thing that is called God; for, from that time, they say, the Church perished. . . ."*

*"He lays it down also as one of their opinions, 'That the Law of Moses is to be kept according to the letter, and that the keeping of the Sabbath . . . and other legal observances, ought to take place.'" – "Ecclesiastical History of the Ancient Churches of Piedmont," p. 169. Oxford: 1821. Page 154 in the edition of 1690." Facts of Faith pg. 72*

Mr. Benedict states: "... because they[the Waldensians] observed the seventh day they were called, by way of derision, Jews, as the Sabbatarians are frequently at this day..." - *"General History of the Baptist Denomination," Vol. II, p. 414, edition of 1813.*



*"The Waldenses took the Bible as their only rule of faith, abhorred the idolatry of the papacy, and the main body rejected its traditions and holidays, but kept the seventh-day Sabbath, and used the apostolic mode of baptism. (See "Ancient Churches of Piedmont," by P. Allix, pp. 152-260) Their old catechism shows that they believed in justification by faith in the grace of Christ alone, and that obedience to the Ten Commandments was the sure fruit of living faith." Facts of Faith pg. 78*

The Armenians of India and Persia had evidently received their faith from the same source as some of the other Christians of India. Claudius Buchanan, D. D., says of them: *"The Armenians in Hindostan are our own subjects. . . . They have preserved the Bible in its purity; and their doctrines are, as far as the Author knows, the doctrines of the Bible. Besides, they maintain the solemn observance of Christian worship, throughout our Empire, on the seventh day; and they have as many spires pointing to heaven among the Hindoos, as we ourselves."* - *"Christian Researches in Asia," p. 143. Philadelphia: 1813.*

About the year 1520 some Sabbath-keepers found shelter on the estate of Lord Leonhard, of Lichtenstein, *"as the princes of Lichtenstein held to the observance of the true Sabbath."* - *"History of the Sabbath," J. N. Andrews, p. 649, ed. 1912.*

The church records of the Bethlehem Moravian Church (now in the Moravian Seminary archives, and dated June 13 O. S., or June 24 N. S., 1742) has this paragraph: *"The Sabbath is to be observed in quietness and in fervent communion with the Saviour. It is a day that was given*

*to all nations according to the law for rest, for the Jews observed it not so much as Jews as human being."*

But in the Modern age, unfortunately a Sunday law again looms on the horizon.

S. V. Leech, a Protestant Sunday advocate, said in an address at Denver, Colorado: *"Give us good Sunday laws, well enforced by men in local authority, and our churches will be full of worshipers. . . . A mighty combination of the churches of the United States could win from Congress, the state legislatures, and municipal councils, all legislation essential to this splendid result."* - "Homiletic Review," November, 1892; quoted in "American State Papers," William A. Blakely, p. 732. Washington, D. C.: 1911.

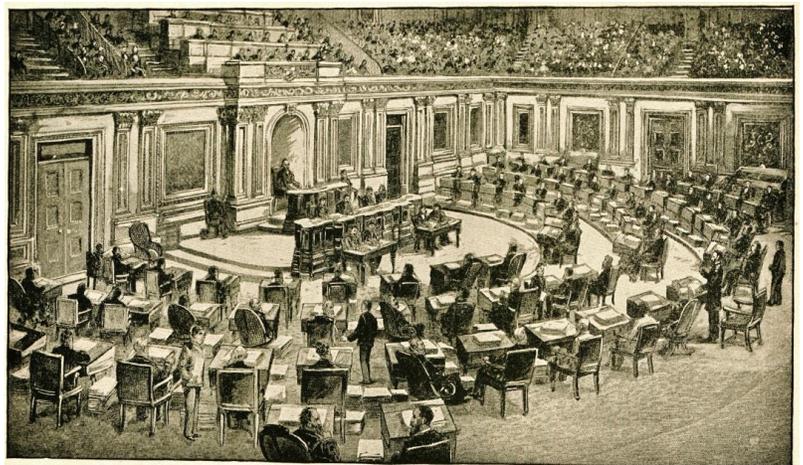
*"This day [Sunday] is set apart for divine worship and preparation for another life. It is the test of all religion."* -Dr. W. W. Everts, in Elgin (Ill.) "Sunday Convention," November, 1887.

*In 1888 a Sunday rest petition called the Blair Bill was introduced to Congress. We print here the Senate Sunday bill as it was originally introduced in the Fiftieth Congress.*

#### *THE BLAIR BILL—50th CONGRESS.*

*"A bill to secure to the people the enjoyment of the first day of the week, commonly known as the Lord's day, as a day of rest, AND TO PROMOTE ITS OBSERVANCE AS A DAY OF RELIGIOUS WORSHIP.*

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That no person, or corporation, or the agent, servant, or employe of any person or corporation, shall perform, or authorize to be performed, any secular work, labor, or business to the disturbance of others, works of necessity, mercy, and humanity excepted; nor shall any parson engage in any play, game, or amusement, or recreation, to the disturbance of others, on the first day*



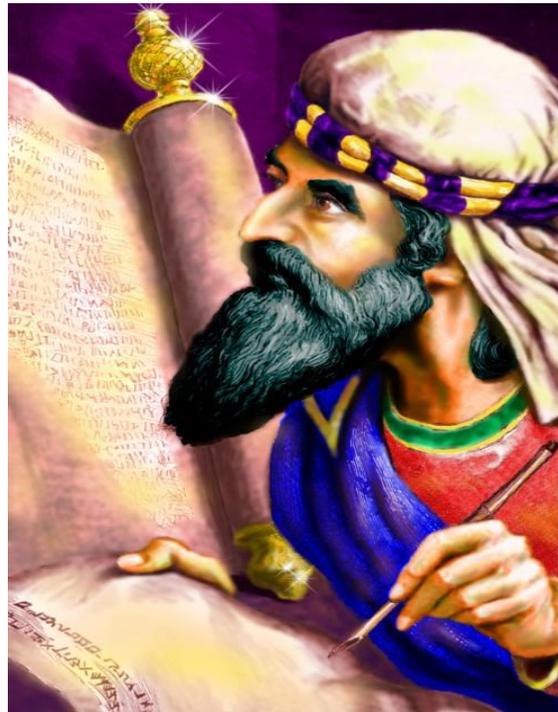
*of the week, commonly known as the Lord's day, or during any part thereof, in any Territory, District, vessel, or place subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of the United States; nor shall it be lawful for any person or corporation to receive pay for Labor or service performed or rendered in violation of this section." {April, 1890 ATJ, ABSB 66.2,3}*

*This history will repeat itself. A Sunday-law is coming. Are you ready?*

## "It's Jewish"

When we present God's Holy Law  
And arguments from Scripture draw  
Objectors say, to pick a flaw:  
    It's Jewish  
Though at first Jehovah blessed  
And sanctified His day of rest  
The same belief is still expressed:  
    It's Jewish  
Though with Creation this rest began  
And thence through all the Scriptures  
    ran  
And Jesus said 'twas made for man -  
    It's Jewish  
Though not with Jewish rites which  
    passed  
But with the moral law 'twas classed  
Which must exist while time shall last -  
    It's Jewish

If from the Bible we present  
The Sabbath's meaning and intent  
This answers every argument:  
    It's Jewish  
Though the disciples Luke and Paul  
Continued still this rest to call  
The Sabbath day, this answers all:  
    It's Jewish  
The Gospel Teacher's plain  
    expression  
That sin is of the Law transgression  
Seems not to make the least  
    impression -  
    It's Jewish  
They love the day of man's  
    invention  
But if Jehovah's rest we mention  
This puts an end of all contention:  
    It's Jewish  
Oh ye who thus God's day abuse



Simply because 'twas kept by Jews  
The Saviour, too, you must refuse -  
    He's Jewish  
The Scriptures, then, we may expect  
For the same reason you'll reject  
For if you stop to recollect -  
    They're Jewish  
Thus the apostles, too, must fall  
For Andrew, Peter, James,  
    and Paul,  
Thomas, Matthew. John, and all,  
    Were Jewish  
So to your hapless state resign  
Yourself in wretchedness to pine;  
Salvation surely you'll decline -  
    It's Jewish

By Uriah Smith