

WHY SUNDAY?

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There are many Christians who believe that Sunday has replaced the seventh day Sabbath because of the resurrection, but if that is true shouldn't we expect to find at least one verse in the New Testament that clearly states that Sunday has replaced the Sabbath? Search as you will you'll not find one verse that states that Sunday has replaced the Sabbath day. Isn't that odd, if God has replaced the Sabbath with Sunday?

One of the reasons Yeshua (Jesus of Nazareth) came was to show all of us how to live in obedience to God's will. Yeshua kept the seventh day Sabbath holy all His life (Exodus 20:8-11). Should Christians live differently than their Lord? Isn't He our Example? He lived a perfect, sinless life and even though no Christian is sinless, shouldn't we strive to be obedient to God's will, which Yeshua, as our Head, displayed for us in the Gospels? The Apostle John states, "He who says he abides in Him (Yeshua) ought himself also *to walk just as He walked*" (1st John 2:6). John knew Yeshua kept the Sabbath day holy all His life, yet the Church teaches that Jesus did away with it at His death. Yet, John wrote his letter 60 years *after* the resurrection. It's obvious that either John or the Church is wrong about Sunday.

To further support that the Lord wants all Christians to keep the Sabbath day holy the New Testament reveals that Yeshua never envisioned, nor even hinted at, His-followers keeping a different day than He did. Just the opposite is seen. Yeshua speaks of a time, 40 years *after* His death,¹ warning His followers to pray that their flight from Jerusalem would not be in the winter nor on the Sabbath day (Matthew 24:20). Even though Yeshua spoke this before His death, He was speaking of a time *after* His death, and also, the Apostle Matthew, who records it, wrote his Gospel 14 years *after* His death, yet Matthew didn't see fit to change it nor add a comment that Sunday had replaced the Sabbath day. Isn't that odd, if in fact God wanted Sunday to replace the Sabbath at the death of Christ 14 years earlier? (Cf. Mark 2:27-28 where Yeshua speaks of Himself as Lord of the *Sabbath*.)

The holiness of the Sabbath was established at Creation. Genesis 2:3 states that God *blessed* the Sabbath *and* made it *holy*. Nothing in Creation was blessed by God nor spoken of as holy, not even Adam—only the 7th day Sabbath. If Sunday has replaced the Sabbath where is Sunday spoken of as blessed or holy? Shouldn't we expect that Sunday would at least have the same value of blessedness and holiness as that which it was replacing?

The author of Hebrews says that 'Jesus Christ is the *same*, yesterday, *today* and forever' (Hebrews 13:8). That means that Jesus hasn't changed His way of thinking about the Sabbath. He is the Head of all Christians, which Scripture speaks of as His Body (Eph. 5:30; Col. 1:24). Shouldn't the Body follow the Head? If Yeshua is the *same today* as He was back then He's certainly not wanting Christians to keep a day He never kept nor spoke of keeping (nor does anyone else in the New Testament speak of keeping Sunday).

The Sabbath is a 24 hour period of holiness—a time dedicated or set apart unto God. It's not just an hour of 'worship' on Sunday. The keeping of God's Sabbath entails not working, so we can't say that 'every day is a Sabbath for us,'² which would mean that we could never work (Ex. 20:8-11), nor buy or sell (cf. Amos 8:5), so we can't say that 'every day is a Sabbath' unless we never work nor buy any food or clothes, etc.

Hebrews 4:9 is a verse that presents another strong point for the Sabbath. It speaks of a 'Sabbath rest' remaining for the people of God. The King James Version and the New King James Version only speak of a 'rest' remaining for God's people, yet the Greek word in the Textus Receptus, which is the basis for the KJV, is identical to the Greek word in the Nestle-Aland text, the basis for most all other English Bibles. The Greek word is *Sabbatismos* σαββατισμὸς and means a literal Sabbath rest; 'to keep the sabbath.'³ The author of Hebrews is speak-

¹ Forty years *after* the resurrection, in 70 AD, the Roman legions destroyed Jerusalem and the Temple.

² For an article explaining Romans 14:5-6, which speaks of one person esteeming all days alike, see *Romans 14 and the Dietary Laws* at <http://seedofabraham.net/Romans-14-and-the-Dietary-Laws.pdf>.

ing of a *present* and *future* Sabbath rest for the people of God (i.e. the Sabbath of eternity in the New Jerusalem; Rev. 21:1f.), which means that the Sabbath had not been done away with at the death of Yeshua. If the Sabbath had given way to Sunday, the author of Hebrews would not have used *a Sabbath rest* to describe the rest or peace we strive to enter into ‘in Christ.’ Hebrews was written more than 35 years *after* the resurrection.

Another biblical concern with Sunday replacing the Sabbath is that Sunday is only mentioned twice *after* the resurrection (1st Cor. 16:2), and one time it’s not Sunday at all, but actually Saturday night (Acts 20:7).⁴ Luke writes of Sunday *not* to establish Sunday as the new day for Christians, but because Paul raised Eutychus from the dead (at midnight, and would leave at dawn on Sunday morning). Peter, too, had raised Tabitha (Acts 9:40; 20:9-10). Luke was saying that Paul’s anointing was equal to Peter’s. Not once does Luke, or anyone else, say that the Church was meeting on Sunday *instead* of the Sabbath, as we would expect because at God’s express command Israel had been keeping the Sabbath for more than **1400 years**. The Sabbath is mentioned **11** times *after* the resurrection, which means it was still normative and was being kept by all Christians.⁵

Why does the Church teach that Sunday has replaced the Sabbath? Most pastors don’t realize that in 120 AD, when all the Apostles were dead, and so they couldn’t come against it, the Bishop of Rome, whose office would later become that of the Pope (Papa/Father; cf. Mt. 23:9), rejected both the Sabbath day and Mosaic Law.⁶ He brought in Sunday, the pagan day to worship the sun, to replace the Sabbath. This didn’t take God by surprise. God spoke of it in the Book of Daniel, 700 years before the Bishop of Rome was born:

“He shall speak blasphemous words against the Most High God! He shall *persecute the saints* of the Most High God and he shall intend to change times (Sabbath) and (Mosaic) Law. Then the *saints* shall be *given into his hand* for a time and times and half a time.” (Daniel 7:25)

For 1,900 years God has allowed Christians to be *given into* the hand of the Pope; to wrongly walk out their faith in Christ through Sunday (and anti-Mosaic Law teaching), but today He is wanting all Christians to reorder their lives around His eternal Word (Is. 40:8; 2nd Tim. 3:10-17). The Holy Spirit is calling every Christian to leave the corrupt ways of the Roman Catholic Church, for this is where all Protestants have gotten Sunday and anti-Mosaic Law teaching from. The Spirit wants us to stop walking in perverse Catholic doctrine lest we reap the consequences of sinning against the Most High God who says: “Come out of *her*, **My** people, lest you share in *her* sins and receive of *her* plagues” (Rev. 18:4). Sunday is the way of paganism and Catholicism—that’s why it’s not found anywhere in the New Testament replacing God’s 7th day Sabbath.⁷

³ Joseph Thayer, *Thayer’s Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament*, paragraph 8380 (Accordance Software).

Walter Bauer, augmented by William F. Arndt, F. W. Gingrich and Frederick Danker, *A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature* (third edition, 2001), p. 909 (Accordance Bible Software). “Hb 4:9 a special period of rest for God’s people modeled after the traditional sabbath.”

⁴ Sunday is seen only **once** in the entire New Testament *after* the resurrection (1st Cor. 16:2), and it wasn’t a day ‘for church,’ but for work. Paul wrote that *each individual was to set aside* some money he had made on Sunday as a gift for the poor saints in Jerusalem. He’d collect it when he came to Corinth (1st Cor. 16:1, 3; cf. 2nd Cor. 9:1f.).

⁵ Acts 1:12; 13:14, 27, 42, 44; 15:21; 16:13; 17:2; 18:4; Col. 2:16; Heb. 4:9.

⁶ To understand why Mosaic Law is still valid and the standard of God for all Christians that determines what is sin and what is right, see Romans 3:20, 31; 7:7, 12, 14, and

1. *Take the Quiz!* Five Quick Questions about the New Testament at <http://seedofabraham.net/Take-the-Quiz.pdf>;
2. *No Longer Under the Law?* at <http://seedofabraham.net/No-Longer-Under-the-Law.pdf> and
3. *Seven Ways Yeshua Fulfilled the Law* at <http://seedofabraham.net/Seven-Ways-Yeshua-Fulfilled-Law.pdf> and
4. *Law and Grace* at <http://seedofabraham.net/Law-and-Grace.pdf> and
5. *Law 102* at <http://seedofabraham.net/Law-1Q2.pdf> and
6. *The Feasts of Israel as Time Markers After the Resurrection* at <http://seedofabraham.net/The-Feasts-of-Israel-as-Time-Markers.pdf> and
7. *Hebrews and the Change of the Law* at <http://seedofabraham.net/Hebrews-and-the-Change-of-the-Law.pdf>.

⁷ See *Sunday—The Catholic Sabbath* at <http://seedofabraham.net/Sunday-The-Catholic-Sabbath.pdf> for what Catholic and Protestant authorities say about Sunday. (This article was revised on 6 September 2017)