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THE SABBATH DAY

Can it be any day?

Text: "Six days you shall labour and do all your work: but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord your God..." (Exodus 20:9-10).

Introduction:

Let us examine the scripture to make certain if any day can be the Sabbath day? A lot of people spoken to on this topic, hold the view that any day can be the Sabbath day. Thank God that our opinions are only but human, and in situations such as this, one should submit to the opinion of heaven which are divine and recorded in the scriptures. The truth is that any day can not be the Sabbath day and the following reasons will prove that fact. There are three main ways to approach this subject.

1. The biblical approach:

God did not institute any other day as the rest day but the seventh day. This is evident in the scriptures, where God Himself said, "**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.**" (See Gen. 2:1-3).

There is something for us to learn here. God did not mention the word "**Sabbath**" rather He talked about the "**day**" "**the seventh day**". Why was this? The bible is abundant in evidence that "**our God knows the end from the beginning**". He already knew that a time will come and the debate would not be about the Sabbath, but the "**day**" it ought to be celebrated and observed. Therefore, our Omniscience God began to put things in order, since the creation of the world.

Later, in the pages of the Law (the Ten Commandments) He inserts "**But the**

seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord your God." (See Exodus 20:10). So, the argument is over! It is clear that God legislated and designated the seventh day to be the Sabbath day. It is also noteworthy that it has not changed since then because **"Whatsoever our God does is forever."** (Eccl. 3:14) and **"He does not alter His words"** (Psalm 89:34). If the Sabbath changed from the day of the Lord the Seventh day - to any other day, one should be clever enough to know that **"the enemy has done this"** just as Jesus prophesied. (See Matthew 13:28). Which enemy? The same that does not want the elects of God to see the Kingdom. Jesus then advised, **"Take heed that no man deceives you."** (see Matthew 24:4).

2. **The definite article approach:**

Definite article could be described as a clear, sure, certain item or clause that can not be doubted in an agreement or contract (the Law). An example of a definite article is a word that starts with **"the"** e.g, "the house", "the dog", "the cup". With this hindsight, one can easily understand that the clause **"the"**; added to any word, makes it a definite article, which makes it separate and specific.

Look at the entire bible, particularly in Law, the word Sabbath begins with **"the"**, which makes it a definite article. Here are some examples in the scriptures:

Exodus 20:8, "Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy."

Deuteronomy 5:12, "Keep the Sabbath day to sanctify it, as the Lord your God hath commanded you."

Note that the above passages are taken from where the Law was given in the scriptures, that is, The Ten Commandments. By the word, remember **"the"** Sabbath day, the Almighty God refers to a particular day, as the Sabbath day and not any day as the Sabbath day. The particular Sabbath day, which the Almighty referred to, is recorded in Genesis 2:3, **"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."**

Now, if this verse is compared with Exodus 20:10, **"But the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord your God."** One would arrive at the conclusion that **"the seventh day is the Sabbath day"**.

Let us take one more example of the definite article. Imagine a mother comes home and says to her daughter, **"Go into the bedroom and get me a bag."** The daughter would walk into the room, knowing fully well that her mother has so many bags, and pick up any bag. In this context, **"a bag"** equals **"any bag"**.

Now let us imagine another scenario where a mother walks into the house and says to her daughter, "**Get me the bag.**" The daughter would definitely observe the definite article by walking into the room, scanning through the various bags, and bring "**the bag**" as specified by her mother. You can make out other examples of definite articles by yourself and still find out that the rules and principles are the same. Notice that a definite article is definite and specific. It can not be altered and it is not transferable.

The Almighty Father, according to the book of Nehemiah 9:14; "**Made known unto them the holy Sabbath.....**" He had already made known to His people, Israel, which day is the Sabbath. The scripture states, "**He shows His word unto Jacob, His statutes and His judgment unto Israel. He has not dealt so with any nation: and as for His judgments, they have not known them. Praise you the Lord.**" (Psalm 147:19-20).

This is why in the Law, Exodus 20:8 and Deuteronomy 5:12, the Almighty used the word "**Remember the Sabbath**". You will agree that when asked to 'remember', you must have previously been 'informed'. So, if the entire world is confused on which day is "**the Sabbath**," the people of God are not, for He had made it known to them. In Psalm 103:7, it is written, "**He made known His ways unto Moses, His acts unto the children of Israel,**" which He had not revealed to any other nation. If you want to know the revelation of God, go to the people He gave it to. Apostle Paul said, "**They are the custodians of the oracle of God.**" (see Romans 3:1-2).

3. **The dictionary approach:**

When we come across a word we do not understand or seek to know more about, it is only appropriate that we consult the dictionary of that language. English language dictionary will shed some light on the English bible translation. Let us begin with the verse which says, "**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 2:3). Again, the entire chapter 1 of Genesis, makes it clear that the Almighty did not use such words as **Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday** to name the days of the week, rather He used the "**1st day, 2nd day, 3rd day, 4th day, 5th day, 6th day, and 7th day** to name the days of the week.

Things have changed since the world was created, particularly, with reference to language, etc. Therefore, since we are dealing with English language, it will be necessary to refer to the authority of the English language, which is, the English dictionary, hence the title, "**The dictionary approach.**"

Any standard dictionary would define "**Saturday**" as "**the seventh day of the**

week or the end of the week". Therefore, it is obvious that the English man knew the actual day he translated as Saturday. Also, a further look into any Standard English dictionary on the word "**Sunday**," will reveal that "**Sunday is the first day of the week or the beginning of the week.**"

The amazing thing happens when one checks the word "**Sabbath**" in the same English dictionary. One runs into an orchestrated confusion. The English dictionary has this to say about Sabbath, "**Saturday for the Jews, and Sunday for the Christians.**" What confusion?

We however, ought not to be confused, for, as the children of God, "**We are in the world, but not of the world.**" (John 15:19). The bible leaves us in no doubt or any confusion whatsoever, if we will diligently study. Apostle Paul advised likewise, "**Study to show yourself approved unto God, a workman that needs not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.**" (2 Timothy 2:15).

If Saturday is for the Jews, they are obviously keeping it according to the Law which the Lord God instituted on Mount Sinai. The scripture tells us that on the day the Almighty came down upon Mount Sinai, He spoke with the Jewish people. Nehemiah was inspired to write, "**You came down also upon Mount Sinai, and spoke with them from heaven, and gave them right judgments, and true laws, good statutes and commandments: And made known unto them Your holy Sabbath, and commanded them precepts, statutes and laws, by the hand of Moses Your servant.**" (Nehemiah 9:13-14).

Which authority or god instituted "**Sunday**" as "**the Sabbath**" for the Christians? Recall that "**All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.**" (2 Timothy 3:16). Which part of the scripture confirms Sunday as the Sabbath? The answer is no part of the scripture confirms Sunday as the Sabbath. Those who obey the observance of Sunday Sabbath do so out of ignorance.

The dictionary defines Sabbath as "**Saturday for the Jews and Sunday for the Christians.**" This put in focus two Sabbath days. And prompts another question; "**Which people did God address, when He spoke on Mount Sinai regarding the Sabbath? Was it the Christians or the Jews?**" The truth is that He spoke to the Jews, the Hebrew nation who are the Israelites.

How did Sunday come into being?

Sunday worship was born out of confusion and it is hinged upon anti-Semitism the hatred for the Jews. The confusion began when the Roman Empire ruled the world in the reign of Emperor Constantine in 321 A.D. He was the one who decreed the change of the seventh day Sabbath (Saturday) into the first day

Sabbath (Sunday). It is noteworthy to mention that this is a man made law, because, no where did the Almighty approve Sunday as a Sabbath of worship. The bible teaches that, "**The seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord your God.**" (Exodus 20:10). Therefore, Sunday worship was established upon two "**solid lies**" told by the Roman Empire.

(i) **They falsely teach that Sunday is the day of resurrection:**

The bible tells us when Jesus actually died and how long he was buried in the sepulcher. Jesus died during the beginning of the biblical feast of Passover (see John 18:28) and before he died, he told us that he will be in the belly of the earth for **three days and three nights** a period of 72 hours (see Matthew 12:40). The revelation about the death and resurrection of Jesus comes alive when one actually studies the celebration of the Feast of Passover.

The Passover lamb is killed in the afternoon of the fourteenth day, so that it could be roasted by fire and ready to be eaten after sunset, which officially began the fifteenth day the day of unleavened bread. The fifteenth day of the first month (Abib or Nisan) is the first holy convocation day of the Feast of Unleavened bread, which is a high day Sabbath. This **high day Sabbath**, unlike the weekly seventh day Sabbath or the regular Sabbath, can and does fall on any day of the week. During the time of Jesus' death, the **fourteenth day** of the **month of Abib** was on a Wednesday which began on Tuesday night (recall that a day in Jewish counting begins from the evening of the previous day see Genesis 1:5). That very day was the day which the Passover lamb and Jesus were killed. (See John 18:28, 19:31). The **fifteenth day** the High day Sabbath fell on a Wednesday night that week. Therefore, there were two Sabbaths in that week: the **high day Sabbath**, which began on Wednesday night and the **weekly Sabbath**, which began on Friday night.

Do other scriptures show that there was more than one Sabbath in that week? Yes, there are! We find in Mark 16:1, "**And when the (High day) Sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James and Salome, bought sweet spices, that they might go to and anoint him.**" Notice that the Sabbath was past when they bought the spices. This Sabbath was not the weekly day Sabbath. These ladies could not prepare the spices until after they had bought them, and they did not buy them until after the Sabbath had passed. After preparing the spices, these ladies rested on the weekly seventh day Sabbath as we find in Luke 23:56, "**Then they returned. Then they prepared spices and ointments. Then they rested the Sabbath day according to the commandment.**"

After the first high day Sabbath of the Feast of Unleavened bread had

passed, these women bought the spices. These two Sabbaths had one day in between them on which they prepared the spices. The high day Sabbath was on Thursday which began from Wednesday night. They rested and observed God's high day Sabbath. The very next day was Friday, the day on which these women bought and prepared the spices. Friday day, knowing the customs of the observant Jews, we also know that these women prepared for the weekly Seventh day Sabbath on that same day Friday. Then, these women rested on the Sabbath day according to God's commandment they rested on Saturday.

When the sun had set on Saturday afternoon, which marks the beginning of the first day of the week, these women went to the grave and were informed that Jesus had already risen, just as he had said. Jesus had already risen late Saturday afternoon at the end of the Sabbath, so naturally, when these women came to the sepulcher as it began to dawn toward the first day of the week Sunday, he had already left the arena. (see Matthew 28:1) [For more on this topic, please request for our publications on "**The Day of Resurrection**" and **The Absolute Proof**.]

(ii) **They falsely teach that Apostle Paul observed Sunday:**

Another portion of the bible falsely interpreted in evidence and support for the Sunday Sabbath observance is found in Acts 20:7. The deceived churches and assemblies will tell you that because Paul preached on Sunday, we are to keep Sunday holy! That is not true.

The error being multiplied here is that man has failed to recognize that days, according to God's timetable, begin at sunset and end the following sunset. Just as Prophet Isaiah was inspired to write, "**Your ways are not My ways, saith the Lord.**" (Isaiah 55:8-9).

God counts His days from evening to evening. And so do the Jews. The scripture says, "**And God called the light, day, and the darkness He called night. And the evening and then the morning were the first day.**" (Genesis 1:5).

The **midnight** mentioned in Acts 20:7 was therefore only a few hours after the sunset that had begun at the end of the seventh day (Saturday) Sabbath, or in other words, it was only a few hours after the Sabbath day, as they were celebrating the Sabbath closing ceremony known in Hebrew as the **havdolah service**, which involves the breaking of bread by the brethren.

Paul as his manner was, kept the seventh day (Saturday) Sabbath holy, not Sunday (see Acts 17:1). He adopted this manner after the custom of

Jesus (see Luke 4:16). When the sun had set, at the end of this seventh day (Saturday) Sabbath day, which marks the dawn of the first day of the week Sunday, the disciples got together for the havdolah service and urged Paul to preach, since he will be leaving in the morning. Paul preached until midnight night. Paul departed then on Sunday morning, which is the morrow (the following day) mentioned in Acts 20:7.

Paul never taught or set any example that the Sabbath should or any of God's appointed festivals, be changed! Paul still kept the Passover (Acts 20:6) and the day of Pentecost (Feast of Weeks) (Acts 20:16). Paul observed Sunday as a day to work and travel. In Paul's letter to the Corinthians, Paul wrote, "**Upon the first of every week, let each of you put aside something in saving, in proportion to what he is given, so that no collections will have to be made when I come.**" (1 Corinthians 16:2). [For more on this topic, please request our publication "**Did Apostle Paul do Away with the Law of God.**"]

Conclusion:

Those who teach about Sunday, using any part of the scriptures, do so in heresy. Heresy is the use of one truth to suppress another truth. The heresy that is used to foster disobedience to God and non-compliance to His Laws is, "**For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten son, that whosoever believes in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.**" (John 3:16). No doubt that God gave us His Son, but for what purpose? Is it for us to abound in sin (which is the transgression of the Law of God - 1 John 3:4) or for righteousness (which is the keeping of God's Laws Deuteronomy 6:25) to abound? The purpose of the coming of Jesus is that he might destroy the works of the devil which is sin. 1 John 3:8 states, "**.... For this purpose the son of man was made manifest, that he might destroy the works of the devil.**"

Jesus said of himself, "**Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfill. 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.**" (Matthew 5:17-18). He also said in Luke 16:17, "**And it is easier for heaven and earth to pass, than one tittle of the law to fail.**" Therefore, the "**giving**" of the only begotten son by the Father is that we may have everlasting life which can only come through obedience and not disobedience to all the laws of God. For the scripture says, "**The soul that sins transgresses God's Law, - shall surely die**" (Ezekiel 18:20). Apostle Paul affirms this when he said, "**The wages of sin is death but the gift of God (Jesus) is eternal life.**" (Romans 6:23).

Again, if this scripture says only to believe, why do we need to keep any of the Laws of God? By the way, believe in what? Do not be deceived. The Holy Scriptures says: "**Faith without works is dead!**" (See James 2:17, 26). You cannot believe without keeping the Laws, statutes, and judgments of God, and you most certainly cannot receive eternal life.

Hearing God's Laws, statutes, and judgment is very important. Only believing will not gain you everlasting life. You must have good works.

Revelation 2:4 states, "...and they shall see His face; and His name shall be in their foreheads." The Hebrew word for 'sign,' as shown in Strong's Hebrew Exhaustive Concordance, word #226 means 'mark'. The mark of God is gained through the keeping of the weekly seventh day Sabbath and the Appointed Feast days. (Exodus 31:13, 17; Ezekiel 20:12; Exodus 13:9). This mark of God will be in the "hand" and in the "forehead," otherwise known as "between the eyes". Why? It is so because until the Law of God controls what you do (that is, representative of your hand) and how you think (that is, representative of your forehead), you will have no share in God's Kingdom.

Sabbath is a sign between God and His people. Its observance and thought matters in the race to the Kingdom. If you are His own, acquire His sign today. Begin to observe the seventh day Sabbath because it is God's own signature of creation. The bible tells us so in Exodus 20:11, "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. Therefore when we keep the seventh day Sabbath, we acknowledge God as the Author and Creator of the universe. Amen.

Special Invitation:

Dear

**You are cordially invited
to celebrate and experience with us the
Seventh Day Sabbath worship @
The Community of Yahweh Worldwide**

.....
.....
Date: Time:

Phone:

Come and be richly blessed!

Finally, "Take heed unto yourself, and unto the sound doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this you shall both save yourself, and them that hear you. If you put the brethren in remembrance of these things, you shall be a good minister of Jesus Christ, nourished up in the words of faith and of the sound doctrine, where unto you have attained. These things command and teach." (1 Timothy 4:16, 6,11). *Shalom!*

Please note: This publication contains sacred writings; please do not desecrate it.

