The 4th Commandment Enigma

Which Day to Keep?

You Must Decide!

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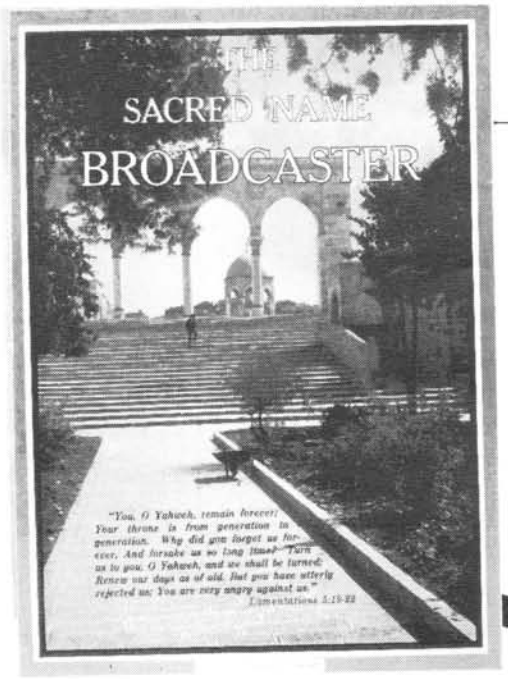

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The Fourth Commandment Enigma

Chapter 1

Which Day to Keep?

by
Jacob O. Meyer

Eventually most people arrive at the point in their lives where they approach the Bible with a sincere and earnest desire to learn what is required for them to receive salvation. Thereupon, one of the initial in-depth studies which they are forced to make relates to the day our Heavenly Father wishes them to keep for the weekly day of rest.

Although in recent years various ministers have been recommending that worship of our Heavenly Father can be offered on any day of the week which we ourselves may conveniently choose, the question primarily involves the merits of keeping either Sunday or the scriptural seventh-day Sabbath as the weekly holy day.

Most people have been raised in a Sunday-keeping environment; consequently, observing the first day of the week is to a great extent habitual. Reading the Bible over the years, however, they have found that it commands the people of the Most High to set aside a weekly Sabbath as a day of worship by keeping it holy to Him. After having observed Sunday for the holy day all their lives and having heard its merits being expounded from the pulpit, it is only natural to transpose the scripturally commanded Holy Day in their mind from the seventh day to the first day of the week with no second thought or question.

Nevertheless, when we do approach the Bible for serious study to learn what it really teaches, with no reservations or prejudices in our minds, seeking to learn the will of the Heavenly Father, we soon learn that some of the doctrines which we had believed from our youth (sometimes quite passionately) are just not scriptural. We must then determine if we desire salvation enough to change our practices or if we will tenaciously cling to error. Let us do a comprehensive study of this subject and pinpoint the day which our Heavenly Father wishes us to keep, if a specific day is in fact commanded in the Bible. If our Heavenly Father Yahweh wishes us to observe a special Holy Day each week, He would certainly be expected to emphasize it strongly throughout the Bible.

The Basic Commandment

When Israel emerged from their oppressive enslavement in Egypt, our Heavenly Father brought them to Mt. Sinai. From the mountain Almighty Yahweh presented His covenant to the nation for them to ratify or reject. Yahweh intended this covenant to be a way of life for the foundation of the new nation.

Israel was told to live as a model for the remainder of the world. They were to become a kingdom of priests and a holy nation, Exodus 19:6. This covenant was to be the constitution for governing the fledgling nation.

Among the commandments or laws which were contained in this constitution was legislation regarding a specific day to be observed as a day of rest. Exodus 20:8-11: ***"Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days shall you labor, and do all your work; but the seventh day is a sabbath of Yahweh your Elohim: in it you shall not do any work, you, or your son, or your daughter, your manservant, or your maidservant, or your cattle, or the stranger that is within your gates: for in six days Yahweh made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day: Therefore Yahweh blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it."***

No legal terminology that could be confusing appears in this passage, leaving it quite uncluttered and

most candid.

What Does It Mean?

Let us scrutinize this commandment thoroughly so that we may absorb the complete thought and message which it contains. First of all, we are told to remember (call to mind) the Sabbath day. The word **sabbath** in the Hebrew is ***shabbath*** and the **Strong's Concordance** lexicon defines it as, *"an intermission, specifically the* **Sabbath.**" This word finds its root in the word ***shāvath,*** which is defined, *"to repose, to desist from exertion."*

Now we can proceed into channels of broadened knowledge. On the Sabbath day we are to desist from exertion and labor. This day is to be an intermission, which means a pause after a six-day week of diligent labor. It should break up time into segments of seven-day weeks.

The day we keep for a holy day must be kept inviolable: the Hebrew word used here is ***kadesh.*** This word means to *"make, pronounce or observe as clean, to be sacred or to sanctify."* How truly enlightening! The day on which we worship our Heavenly Father, which is to break up time into weekly segments, shall be kept *sacred and pure.*

Notice also the grammatical definite article before the word Sabbath in the commandment. This word "the" pinpoints *a specific day* on which the people of Yahweh must observe as sacred and holy.

The next phrase should be enlightening to those people who are hesitant in making a decision about which day to keep. In the past the author has known a number of people who professed their inability to decide which specific day the Bible commands them to keep holy, so they took the indecisive route and observed both the scriptural Sabbath and the first day of the week.

However, the Bible leaves you no "gray area" of indecision where the weekly holy day is concerned. It demands that you make a choice concerning which day our Father in Heaven commands you to keep holy. Our Heavenly Father commands us to WORK for six days, to determine on which day to work and on which special day to rest. This is a crucial decision of vital importance which confronts the Bible student. By resting on the correct day we recognize the authority of the Creator and humbly submit to Him.

The Seventh Day

"...But the seventh day is the sabbath..." How totally crystal clear! There should not be any doubt remaining in the mind of any sincere person regarding which exact day is specified as the scriptural Sabbath, the day of rest, the intermission, the day to be kept sacred and holy. It is THE SEVENTH DAY.

All that any sincere person really has to do to pinpoint this specific day, therefore, is to look on any calendar. There it is right before your eyes! All the churches that keep Sunday freely acknowledge that they indeed keep the first day of the week. Your Bible, the very Word of Yahweh, declares that His people are obligated to keep THE SEVENTH DAY holy.

The seventh day of the week is proven from the Word to be observed for the Sabbath. **No other day of the week can ever be the Sabbath.** No other day of the week has ever been called the Sabbath by our Almighty Heavenly Father Yahweh or by anyone else in the Bible. If any other day of the week is called the Sabbath it is without doubt the precept of man.

Whose Sabbath?

"...Is the sabbath of YAHWEH YOUR ELOHIM:..." In order to avoid a direct confrontation with the keeping of one particular day, especially the seventh day of the week, some people will insist that the seventh day is the "Jewish Sabbath." Friends, ***such a term is nowhere used in the Bible.*** The Bible in your hand as you study this passage is most candid on this point.

The seventh day is **the Sabbath of Yahweh our Mighty One.** It is NOT the Jewish Sabbath, although the Jews as a group have kept it through the ages. It is a day on which we are to honor the Heavenly Father. No word like "Jew" appears anywhere in the commandment. If we are to honor Him, the true Almighty, the Creator and Sustainer of the universe, we must honor Him on the exact day which He alone has chosen for this purpose. Could He accept worship on any other day which we might designate the Sabbath? It is similar, for example, to keeping an appointment. When someone sets an appointment (the date and time) with the dentist, it is imperative that you be there at exactly the time which he has scheduled. If we are punctual with appointments which have been arranged with human beings, and never get them confused, why should we attempt to impose our will upon the Almighty by worshiping on a day which He has never designated for this purpose?

The Memorial of Creation

Notice further that this day is the sabbath of Yahweh, the day on which He Himself rested.

When we turn to Genesis 2:1, we find that the creation of this earth was now completed. In six literal days, Almighty Yahweh created this earth, the heavens and the heavenly bodies which we see in the sky. The word "day" in the Hebrew is ***yôm*** and means *"a 24-hour period of time"* to which we refer as a literal day. (When speaking prophetically, this Hebrew word has been used abstractly [viz. the day of Yahweh, Zech. 14:1]. But, when used in the usual [mundane] sense, as it is in the first chapter of Genesis, there can be no question in the mind of anyone that it means anything but a 24-hour period of time.)

Can you comprehend the awe-

some, dynamic power of Yahweh? ***"For he spoke, and it was done; He commanded, and it stood fast."*** His word is so powerful that when He speaks, things happen immediately! Will you accept the fact that Yahweh does not need our worship, but that **we need to obey Him** and **acknowledge Him as our Mighty One,** to receive His spiritual strength through keeping His commandments? Will you allow this creative power to direct you and make you into a new creature? Will we obey as soon as He makes His wishes known when He speaks, as does even the matter of which the earth consists?

Genesis 2:1-3 introduces us to the basic reality of the origin of the Sabbath. ***"And the heavens and earth were finished, and all the host of them. And on the seventh day*** [which day?] ***Elohim finished his work which he had made; and he rested on the seventh day*** [which day?]***, and hallowed it; because that in it*** [the seventh day] ***he rested from all his work which Elohim had created and made."***

Again we have a most enlightening passage for our instruction. The Almighty did not need to rest at any time. He does not become physically weary as do mortal men! He is spirit, not flesh, as we read in Isaiah 40:28, ***"Have you not known? Have you not heard? The everlasting Elohim, Yahweh, the Creator of the ends of the earth, faints not, neither is weary; there is no searching of his understanding."*** And so naturally mankind always tries to "second guess" or explain away His wisdom! Almighty Yahweh created by resting. He created a day of rest with the needs of man in mind, because He knew that the human body needed one day of rest out of seven.

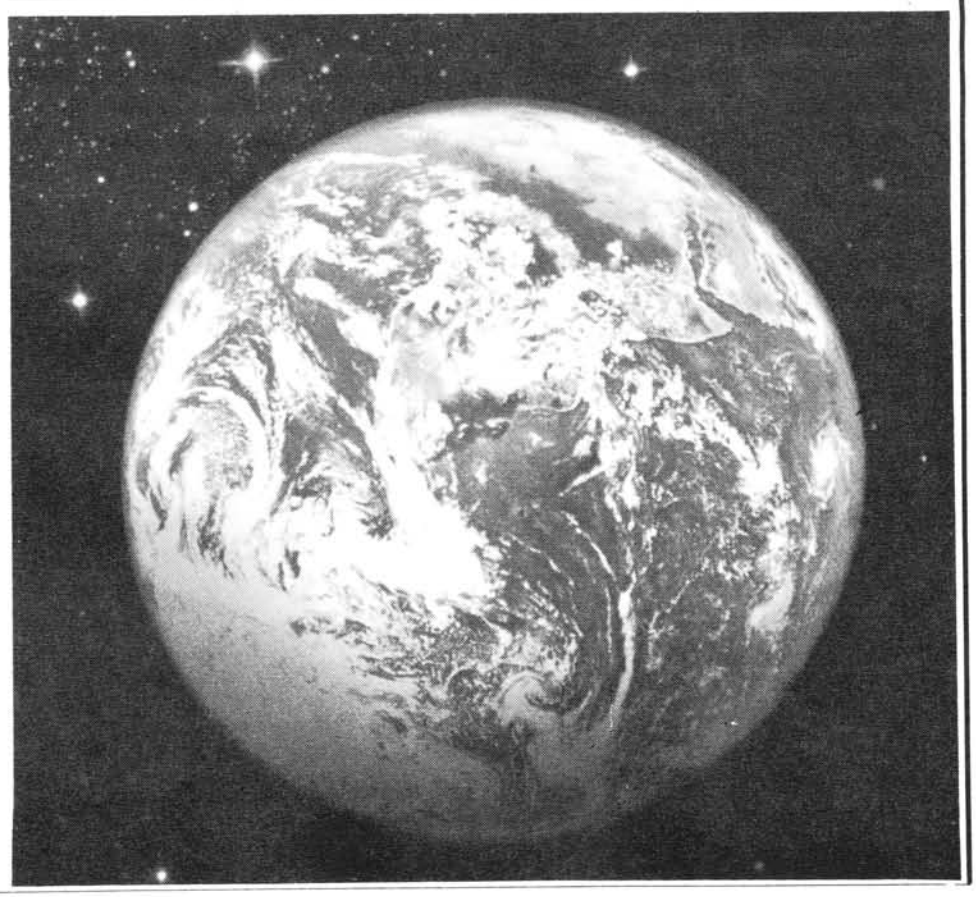
The human race could select any one day out of the week and designate it as a day of rest; however, the Scriptures prohibit this option on the part of man. It is not his prerogative to choose, but to obey the instructions which have been laid down for him. Yahweh sanctified (meaning to set apart for a sacred purpose) this special day as a memorial of creation; therefore, He blessed this seventh day. If the day is blessed by the Heavenly Father, then the man who observes it will receive a blessing for keeping it. No other day has been designated as so special by our Heavenly Father. It would be presumptuous of man to place himself on a par with the Most High by legislating a different day which does not have the approval of Yahweh.

Work and the Seventh Day

Let us now return for a moment to Exodus 20:9. Notice that the word "labor" appears here. The Hebrew words ***'avod*** and ***mela'kah*** mean *"physical work."* All physical work is to be completed throughout the six days of the week when Yahweh commands that work must be done. Ezekiel 46:1: ***"In this manner says the Sovereign Yahweh: The gate of the inner court that looks toward the east shall be shut the six working days; but on the sabbath day it shall be opened, and on the day of the new moon it shall be opened."***

But the seventh day is different from all the rest of the days of the week. ***"... In it you shall not do any work, you, or your son, or your daughter, your manservant, or your maidservant, or your cattle, or the stranger that is within your gates."*** We cannot really enjoy a day of rest unless we labor for six days. The day of rest was instituted to refresh our minds and bodies so that a new week of labor could be joyfully anticipated.

We must note at this point that although Yahweh, the Creator, works and would not need the rest of the Sabbath day, He created it and He first observed it. See John 5:17. Yahweh, therefore, will attach the meaning and significance to it



that He wills. No labor or work of any kind shall be done on this Sabbath day. This applies to all secular duties which are normally dispatched on a working day.

Actually this instruction means that we are not to earn any of our livelihood or do any business on this sacred day, since it is truly meant to be a day of rest for all people, our families, and our employees (whether of our native people or foreigners who might be living among us). The prohibition against work even includes our draft animals (today this is usually a tractor), so that in all of our land no business shall be done nor shall anyone engage in manual labor of any kind. It would not be acceptable to Yahweh to have His people abstain from work and then hire someone not in the faith to do their prohibited work for them, as is common among the Jews who customarily hire "sabbath goys."

The First Commandment For Israel

When Israel was suffering their crushing enslavement in Egypt, they were at the total mercy of their taskmasters. They were forced to labor and perform their duties at the convenience and command of their masters. Abraham, Isaac and Jacob had known and kept the law of Yahweh, Genesis 18:19 and 26:5. Their descendants, the Israelites in slavery, had virtually forgotten the law of Yahweh and had to learn it once more.

As Yahweh brought Israel out of Egypt, it was His intention to bring them along in successive stages. First, He declared His Name to them, Exodus 3:14-15. Then when they had made their journey into the wilderness and had been separated from the people of the land, Yahweh presented His Sabbath to them. This account is found in Exodus chapter 16.

Israel had no food to eat at this time. They were famished and could not find nourishing edibles in the barren desert. When Moses presented the problem to Yahweh, the Almighty informed His people that He would feed them supernaturally with bread from heaven. They were to gather it by a certain rate each day, *that He would be able to prove them to determine if they would walk obediently in His law or not.*

As we study further into the Scriptures, we come to a realization that unless the people of Yahweh observe a strict Sabbath, rejoicing when they find ways to keep it more holy, they will not be ready for the harder lessons in keeping the ***whole law***, which were given in the Sinaitic covenant later. The Sabbath day is designed to serve as a visible proof that the Almighty Heavenly Father will provide for the physical needs of His people if they keep His law. He promises literally to open the heavens and provide for their livelihood when they keep His Sabbath.

Actually by taking a sheet of paper and drawing a diagram of the days which had elapsed since Israel departed Egypt, we can prove that the day on which Israel presented their food shortage problem to Yahweh was a weekly Sabbath. In fact, the days when the glory of Yahweh appeared to Israel, when He communed with Moses and Aaron in

The wilderness of Sinai. *The scene depicted here portrays the barren wasteland of the region. Yahweh blessed Israel by giving them daily manna from heaven to sustain the wandering nation for forty years. During that generation the people each week were directly shown Yahweh's seventh day Sabbath because no manna fell on that day. The Sabbath of Yahweh has never been lost. You can personally prove on which specific day it occurs each week.*

the wilderness, usually appear to be weekly Sabbaths and the annual holy days!

Food From Heaven

With no visible means of support, with no opportunity to live off the land in a barren and arid region in which they were traveling, Yahweh opened the heavens. That very evening (after sundown at the beginning of the scriptural day), on the first day of the week, a cloud of quail covered the camp and Israel ate a satisfying meal of meat. The following morning when the dew went up there appeared a small round object on the ground which resembled hoarfrost in size. The Israelites called it "manna." (The Hebrew word means, "What is it?") This supernatural food supply continued to be sent to them each day for the next 40 years, until Israel entered the Holy Land.

During that time there was no question at all regarding the specific true seventh-day Sabbath of Yahweh, since no manna fell on the Sabbath day. Additionally, a double portion was provided on the sixth day. Let us notice Exodus 16:5. ***"And it shall come to pass on the sixth day, that they shall prepare that which they bring in, and it shall be twice as much as they gather daily."***

Did the People Obey?

As we read to the end of this 16th chapter of Exodus, we can see that the people gathered this heaven-sent food each day as they had been directed. Some quickly became greedy and decided immediately to save a little of the manna which they had gathered so industriously the day before. This superfluous portion bred worms and stank. Those who were unable to gather very much manna found that they were blessed in making it reach farther and they had no deficiency.

This was a great lesson to learn! They had to depend upon Yahweh to supply all of their needs from day to day. "Give us this day our daily bread" (not the bread for next week, today), the Messiah instructs us to pray in Matthew 6:11. In this way the Israelites came to understand their dependency upon Yahweh and not to rely on their own abilities. Except by going out each day as He had ordered and gathering the food which had been provided supernaturally, they would have no food. Incidentally, this manna was provided, but the Israelites were required to *work* to gather it. If you know what hoarfrost looks like, it appears as small flakes almost like snow. Those sometimes form on a cold, damp night. To gather flakes like this would almost certainly require getting down on your knees! It required diligence to gather this food. But Yahweh provided it daily. Additionally, it was nourishing food, a complete diet to nourish the body of man, although the Scriptures call it the bread of heaven and food of angels (Psalm 78:23-29).

The Sabbath day is designed to serve as a visible proof that the Almighty Heavenly Father will provide for the physical needs of His people if they keep His Law.

Finally, the sixth day of the week arrived. Upon the land was an extra heavy covering of manna, making collecting it easier than usual. The people gathered twice as much as they did daily under Moses' guidance. They prepared their food for that day and the following day. The seventh day was distinctly marked for Israel by the lack of an appearance of manna. On the seventh day Israel ate that which had been prepared on the sixth day and it remained palatable over night. It did not breed worms and stink.

When some of the people did not obey Moses, and went out on the Sabbath to gather food, they were disappointed when none was available. Yahweh, through Moses His chosen prophet, chastised them severely by saying, ***"How long will you refuse to keep my commandments and my laws? See, because Yahweh has given you the Sabbath, therefore he gives you on the sixth day the bread of two days; remain you every man in his place, let no man go out of his place on the seventh day."***

Now, the lesson to be learned from such flagrant disobedience on the part of Israel is that Almighty Yahweh has commanded that we rest on the scriptural Sabbath. He will provide for all of our physical needs when we obey.

Our Heavenly Father never changes, Malachi 3:6. Even in this modern era He hears the cries of the needy. When someone has begun to serve the living Mighty One Yahweh, they will be supplied with the opportunity to earn their living. But occasionally this will be on a day-to-day basis to teach us faith.

Do you trust your Heavenly Father enough to obey Him? He will see the need and provide for it if we are obedient, because one of the titles which is attached to His Name is "Yireh" (to see the need and provide), Genesis 22:14. He is anxious to give us the blessing for obedience, but we must make the first move by taking our firm stand for Yahweh's Law.

Chapter 2

The Sabbath — A Sign

As Israel encamped at Mt. Sinai, Moses went up into the mount and received the design to build the Tabernacle (a structure of pure worship). Finally, at the end of those lengthy construction details, Yahweh gave Moses an extra word of caution concerning the keeping of the Sabbath.

This passage is so loaded with elucidated significance for keeping the scriptural Sabbath that after reading it, one cannot possibly err on which day to keep—if he is a sincere believer in the Bible.

Exodus 31:13 says, ***"Speak also to the children of Israel, saying, You must keep my sabbaths: for it is a sign between me and you throughout your generations; that you may know that I am Yahweh who sanctifies you."***

Have you ever contemplated that keeping a day, one specific day, could mean the difference between knowing if you were worshiping the True Mighty One or a pagan idol? Conversely, would Almighty Yahweh recognize you as His child if you did not obey Him? This is exactly what the sign of the Sabbath really means. It is a sign of recognition between Yahweh and His people! The Hebrew word for "sign" means "that which appears, a monument or evidence."

We have seen previously in Genesis 2:1-3, that Almighty Yahweh claims to be the Creator of this earth and universe. Do we believe Him? If we do, then we will heed the command which He has given in His Word to keep holy the day which He has set aside for this purpose.

Additionally, we need not only vociferously denounce the theory of evolution as some nominal Christians have been known to do. All that is necessary to stand firmly at a diametrical opposite to this false doctrine perpetrated by the world is to keep the scriptural Sabbath! When we keep it we will plainly acknowledge creation by Almighty Yahweh rather than evolution as the process of earth development. But, conversely, if you wish to be a staunch proponent of evolution, then by all means keep any day of the week as your day of rest.

The unmistakable sign of the Sabbath will soon become obvious to your neighbors and friends, demonstrating to the world that you are indeed different. When you rest on the seventh day it will provide a silent, mute, but visible testimony which proclaims ever so strongly to the world that you are worshiping the true Mighty One of the Bible, the Great First Cause, the Creator. It will identify you with the Mighty One of the Hebrews, the Mighty One who led Israel out of Egypt, the Mighty One who created this universe.

Yahweh Mekadishkem

The second aspect of the scriptural Sabbath as a sign focuses upon the title **Mekadishkem,** which is attached to the Heavenly Father's Name, Yahweh. This word means *"to be set apart for a holy purpose."* When we keep the Sabbath we come to know Almighty Yahweh in a broader scope of reality. We learn how He thinks, and why His commandments are so perfect. By our keeping of the Sabbath we will truly be set apart from the remainder of the world. We will begin to think differently and our daily conduct should then reflect a noticeable change.

Israel in the wilderness was *called out* of Egypt by Almighty Yahweh. He separated them from other people so that they could learn the spiritual life directly from His Word, the life which would be lived in the Kingdom.

When Almighty Yahweh calls His people today, He likewise separates them from their former surroundings, friends and relatives just as surely as He did ancient Israel. The keeping of the scriptural Sabbath and the proper observance of it will be one of the prime

separating factors in calling us out of modern Babylon, Revelation 18:4.

A Perpetual Covenant

Verses 14 and 15 of this 31st chapter of Exodus instruct us regarding the amount of work which may be done on the Sabbath day. ***We are sternly warned against doing work of any kind*** (earning our livelihood) ***on this sacred day.***

Then we read in verse 16, "Therefore the children of Israel shall keep the sabbath, to observe the sabbath throughout their generations, for a perpetual covenant."

One of the frequent objections we hear opposing the keeping of the Sabbath is that it was to be observed only by the children of Israel. I will agree with such an assertion, since today in this Messianic era on this earth there is a greater Israel, the spiritual Israel of Yahweh, Galatians 6:16. If you are not a flesh and blood Israelite, you must be spiritually grafted into the family tree of Israel in order to be saved, Romans 11:24. Salvation is available to *all people*, but salvation is available *only on the terms which have been expressed in the covenant of Yahweh*. Man cannot invent his own terms. He will receive rejection by setting up a false worship.

Do you know what the word "perpetual" means? The dictionary defines it as *"lasting forever, continuing indefinitely without interruption, constant."* The Sabbath covenant or agreement will be in perpetuity, lasting forever! This is also the definition of the Hebrew word used here, ***olahm.***

How truly enlightening! Then, the Sabbath was never annulled when the Savior died. If it is to last forever, the Sabbath is still very much in force. The agreement between the Heavenly Father Yahweh and His people, the sign of recognition between Yahweh and His assembly, will remain in force without interruption, continuing forever. It will be self-renewing from generation to generation. I certainly desire to be accepted as a co-maker in the covenant, one who desires to be recognized as one of Yahweh's people, don't you? If that makes me an Israelite, then I'll gladly be an Israelite. All who wish to be saved of necessity will have to be observing the scriptural seventh-day Sabbath!

The Sabbath covenant or agreement will be in perpetuity, lasting forever!

Duration of the Sabbath Re-Emphasized

Exodus 31:17 makes the keeping of the Sabbath even more binding by concretely establishing the duration of the commandment's effectiveness. ***"It is a sign between me and the children of Israel*** **FOREVER:** ***for in six days Yahweh made heaven and earth, and on the seventh day he rested, and was refreshed."*** The word **forever** is translated again from the Hebrew word, ***olahm.*** The word means, *"to the vanishing point, to time out of mind, to eternity or always."* Here is another astonishing revelation from the Word of Yahweh! This leaves us with little doubt concerning the steadfast endurance of the Sabbath day.

If you desire to be one of the people of Yahweh, the true Israel of Yahweh, you will of necessity have to keep the scriptural seventh-day Sabbath. The sign of acknowledgment and recognition between the Almighty Heavenly Father Yahweh and His people will always be, to the ages of eternity, the recognition of Him as the powerful Creator of the heavens and the earth. By recognizing Him as the supreme Creator of the heavens and the earth, you will keep His seventh-day Sabbath faithfully. By recognizing His creative power, we humbly submit our human lives to His will, and Yahweh then looks upon us as people who voluntarily accept His rulership.

Israel Only?

Again we wish to return to the thought held by many sincere Christians that the Sabbath was only for the Jews or for Israel. Undoubtedly through their having been taught erroneous religious doctrines from their childhood, they have continued to believe things which are unscriptural.

Let us determine from the sacred Scriptures if the Sabbath was made only for the flesh and blood descendants of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Turn to Isaiah 56. Read this chapter prayerfully, noting especially the last three verses. Yahweh sternly commands the watchmen of Israel and of the nations (the ministers who are teaching the Word of Yahweh) to herald His Word fearlessly. They are not to preach for gain (lucrative compensation).

Notice exactly what will be the message to be preached by the watchmen whom Yahweh has called. They will be proclaiming judgment and justice. They will be preaching the strict obedience to the Laws and commandments of Yahweh. They will be preaching the "narrow way" to salvation, the way of righteousness, which means the keeping of the commandments of Yahweh, Deuteronomy 6:25.

Now notice who will be included in this plan of salvation in addition

to Israel. Begin reading at verse 2, ***"Blessed is the man*** (not the Jew or Israelite] ***that does this, and the son of man*** [the word in the Hebrew is "Adam," the generic term for man in Hebrew, meaning the people of all races and nationalities] ***that holds it fast; that keeps the sabbath*** [does this mean that the Sabbath is still binding on all races? Obviously!] ***from doing any evil*** [which means the breaking of any of the commandments of Yahweh]." See also Jeremiah 13:10.

Again we will need to emphasize strongly, that the Sabbath is the first test regarding how people will react to keeping the whole law of Yahweh. If someone "flunks" the test of the Sabbath (as did some of the Israelites in Exodus 16), they will not receive an opportunity to enter into a closer relationship with our Heavenly Father Yahweh. The Sabbath is an obligation for all mankind to keep, since it is a blessing (Genesis 2:3) and not a curse, as most people erroneously assume. You will be blessed if you keep it, whether you are an Israelite or a member of any earthly ethnic group.

Notice carefully Isaiah 56:4-8. Remember friends, this is a passage of Scripture which is applicable for all ages. ***"For thus says Yahweh of the eunuchs that keep my sabbaths, and choose the things that please me, and hold fast my covenant: To them will I give in my house and within my walls a memorial and a name better than of sons and of daughters; I will give them an everlasting name, that shall not be cut off.***

"Also the foreigners [one who is not an Israelite] ***that join themselves to Yahweh, to minister to him, and to love the name of Yahweh, to be his servants, every one that keeps the sabbath*** [the seventh day] ***from profaning it, and holds fast*** [ratifies it by faithful obedience] ***my covenant; even them will I bring to my holy mountain, and make them joyful in my house of prayer: their burnt-offerings and the sacrifices shall be accepted upon my altar; for my house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples. The Sovereign Yahweh, who gathers the outcasts of Israel, says, Yet will I gather others to him, besides his own that are gathered."***

It is Israel that will be regathered by Yahweh and the foreigners shall be joined to them, not the diametrically converse which is taught by most denominations of churchianity. The Holy House of Yahweh, the Temple in Jerusalem, will be keeping the Sabbath ***during the Millennium.*** Gathering there for worship from all parts of the globe will be the people of the earth and they will observe the Sabbaths of Yahweh. Almighty Yahweh informs us in a voice of majestic thunder that His worship will be conducted again from Jerusalem and that all people will be keeping the Sabbath at that time.

Millennial Sabbath Keeping Confirmed

It is a well established fact that chapters 65 and 66 of Isaiah contain prophecy for our time, at the end of the age. Actually the last 26 chapters of Isaiah deal directly with the dispersion of Israel, how Yahweh would watch over them and again regather them from all parts of the earth.

Notice the thought of Isaiah 66:2, ***"...But to this man will I look, even to him that is poor and of a contrite spirit, and that trembles at my word."*** The people whose conduct will be pleasing to Yahweh will tremble in reverence before the proclaimed Word of Yahweh. We trust that you are one of those people. Our Heavenly Father can only work with a group of people who indeed desire to be taught by the Word and will tremble in fear and reverence before its majesty by obeying it. When we refuse to allow ourselves to be taught the Bible message, we shall no longer be led by the Spirit of Yahweh.

Turn then to verses 18-24. This gathering of nations is identical to the one described in chapter 56. Notice carefully verse 22, which predicts the new heavens and earth to appear at the end of the age. Will the people be living righteously in this time? Verse 23, ***"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, says Yahweh."*** Here is a prophecy directed to the future, when the new heavens and earth will appear. We read of this age in 2 Peter 3 and Revelation 21:1.

This prophecy actually underscores the fact that the Sabbath (the scriptural seventh day) will be observed forever, as we read in Exodus 31:17! Verse 24 reveals that those people who refuse to keep it will be destroyed in the lake of fire! If the desecration of the Sabbath will be such a terrible, capital crime against the Most High in the future ages, why is it not just as obnoxious to Yahweh today? The obvious answer must be that the Sabbath is still very much in force today, as it will be forever. We should no longer be baffled about which day to keep since there is no alteration of the commandment possible between its origin at creation and the Kingdom age.

Let us never forget that the correct Sabbath day of Yahweh is positively proven. The Jews have not ceased to keep it at its correct time. Yahshua kept the Sabbath day with the Jews without objecting to the day, Luke 4:16. ***"And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up: and he entered, as his custom was, into the synagogue on the sabbath day, and stood up to read."*** The Christians to this day claim to be keeping the first day of the week in honor of Messiah's resurrection. The Moslems claim to be keeping the sixth day of the week. The True Worshipers keep the day Messiah kept.

Chapter 3

Restoring the Sabbath

Why was Israel rejected as Yahweh's representative nation? The nation of Israel had a checkered history. Before the days of King Saul, the 12 tribes were not united. Then King Saul united all of the tribes into a nation. Succeeding him was the persistent King David. The Kingdom reached its apex of splendor under Solomon. From that reign the twelve tribes once more became fragmented, separating into two nations. Yahweh ultimately withdrew His blessing from these nations because of their sin until both went into a corrective captivity. The 10 northern tribes were conquered by Assyria, and the two southern tribes were conquered by the Babylonian Empire about 140 years later.

Astonishingly, the neglect of the Sabbath was a prime cause in the rejection of a people by the Most High. He had once called Israel His own children (Deuteronomy 14:1). The nation known as the House of Israel (the 10 northern tribes) was indicted severely by Almighty Yahweh and shown their transgressions for which they were suffering punishment by being enslaved in Assyria. Read carefully Ezekiel chapter 20.

Notice how Almighty Yahweh pinpoints the keeping of the Sabbath as an initial symptom of rebellion. Ezekiel 20:11-12 reads, ***"And I gave them my statutes, and showed them my ordinances, which if a man does, he shall live in them. Moreover also I gave them my sabbaths, to be a sign between me and them, that they may know that I am Yahweh that sanctifies them."*** Pointedly, Almighty Yahweh informs Israel that rejection of His laws would reduce their chances of living a prolonged life. Rejection of His sabbaths had cut the identifying bond of recognition between Yahweh and His people. The people of Israel forgot the True Mighty One whom they were to worship. They even forgot their own identity, because they had cast off the sign of Sabbath keeping that proved that Israelite heritage.

Notice especially as you read this chapter, that the word "sabbaths" is used in five additional instances. Each time a specified commandment was broken Israel was called to account. Later they were evicted from their homeland for sin.

Judah was also rejected because of their failure to keep a strict sabbath. Jeremiah the prophet was told by Almighty Yahweh to preach the keeping of a strict sabbath in his exhortation to Judah to institute an immediate reformation. You may read of this message in Jeremiah 17:19-27. These words which Jeremiah spoke in the Name of Yahweh were recorded and read later by Daniel and also Nehemiah.

It was Nehemiah who exhorted Judah to correct their sinful lives by repenting after they had returned from Babylonian captivity. He commanded the priests to close the gates of Jerusalem just before sundown, which inaugurates the Sabbath, so that they would be certain not to desecrate it. Please read the account of Nehemiah's instructions relative to the Sabbath in chapter 13:15-22.

Repairing the Breach

In Isaiah chapter 58 we find another enlightening passage which should encourage us to take a stand firmly for Yahweh's truth by becoming a staunch proponent of the scriptural seventh-day Sabbath.

Verse 12 describes a program of reconstruction which will be the commission of each True Worshiper. ***"And they that shall be of you shall build the old waste places; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; and you shall be called The repairer of the breach, The restorer of paths to dwell in."*** Isn't that what the True Worshipers should be doing in these last days? Upon the appearance of EliYah the prophet, he shall restore all things (turning back the hearts of the fathers to the children and the hearts of the children to the fathers), Malachi 4:5-6. Today the Assemblies of Yahweh is restoring the pure Israelite religion of our forefathers which is described in the Old Testament Scriptures. We are reconstituting the worship of the Apostolic Assembly, taking a firm stand against the abject moral decay which permeates nominal Christianity. We are mending the break in True Worship which has existed for many generations, in fact for centuries.

The prophet shows what Yahweh's True Worshipers will be doing to restore pure worship.

Verses 13 and 14 read, ***"If you turn away your foot from the sabbath, from doing your pleasure on my holy day; and call the sabbath a delight, and the holy of Yahweh honorable; and shall honor it, not doing your own ways, nor finding your own pleasure, nor speaking your own words: then shall you delight yourself in Yahweh; and I will make you to ride upon the high places of the earth; and I will feed you with the heritage of Jacob your father: for the mouth of Yahweh has spoken it."***

Today the Assemblies of Yahweh is restoring the pure Israelite religion of our forefathers which is described in the Old Testament Scriptures.

What blessings will yet be realized for keeping a strict Sabbath! Those who are learning the keeping of the Sabbath now, will be recognized as His children and will be given the opportunity to serve Him in restoring righteous government to this earth when the Messiah returns, Acts 3:21. This Kingdom restoration has already begun as the True Worshipers seek to learn the way of Yahweh which will be utilized by them in governing this earth in the millennium. The keeping of the scriptural Sabbath will then produce the rich blessings which our Heavenly Father has reserved for His people, the blessings offered for obedience in the inspired Scriptures to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. These men saw Yahweh's promises afar off, down the annals of time. They believed them and ordered their lives accordingly in anticipation of receiving them, but died before the blessings could be conferred upon them. Hebrews 11 relates that the Heavenly Father wished to include their descendants and those who would be joined to them as recipients of these promises, Hebrews 11:39:40.

What kind of Sabbath keeping does Isaiah instruct for Israel? The true Israelite will take his foot off the Sabbath, from trampling the sanctity of the day into the dirt. He will keep the day hóly as Yahweh has instructed. The criterion for determining what is holy to Yahweh revolves around doing our own pleasure. This means that we must not speak our own words or do our own pleasure, but refresh ourselves spiritually with the Word of Yahweh, and physically with rest.

The Example of the Messiah

In our search for the true day which must be observed for the scriptural Sabbath, we arrive now at the portals of the New Testament. Essentially, the True Worshipers, we who believe in the doctrine of the Messiah (2 John 9), must allow our lives to be guided by the example of the Messiah. The life He lived while here on this very earth was meant to give us graphic direction on how to fulfill the terms of Yahweh's covenant law. The account of the Word made flesh would definitely dictate how we should mold our earthly lives, 1 Peter 2:21-22.

The initial point where we should begin our investigation of the day which our Savior observed would be to ask the question, "Which day did Yahshua recognize as the day of worship when He was here on this earth?"

This question can be answered briefly when we read Luke 4:16. ***"And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up: and he entered, as his custom was, into the synagogue on the sabbath day, and stood up to read."*** Friends, there is absolutely no scriptural record that remotely can be construed to indicate that our Savior observed any other day for the day of worship than the seventh-day scriptural Sabbath.

This fact is truly enlightening, because it reveals that no other day could be acceptable for worship in His assembly! The custom of the Messiah was to go on the Sabbath to the local house of worship, for prayer and study of the Scriptures. Do you follow His steps and do likewise?

His true Assembly on this earth today will be doing exactly as He did. Yahshua commanded His disciples to do so, and keep the Sabbath day which was commanded by the Heavenly Father. Had there been any deviation on the part of the Messiah, He would have had no light, since He would not have been an obedient son. Had He set aside the Sabbath day, which was His Father's commandment, could the Messiah have been sin-free? Read John 7:16-18, 1 John 3:4, and 1 Peter 2:21-22.

Furthermore, recall that the Messiah kept the Sabbath day on the same day of the week which the Jews observed. We must follow the Messiah's example.

How About Paul?

Paul informed the Corinthian brethren that they were obligated to follow him just as far as he followed the Messiah and His teachings, 1 Corinthians 11:1. There is no scriptural record to indicate that the Apostle Paul ever observed any other day for the scriptural day of rest than the scriptural Sabbath which had been observed by the True Worshipers throughout history down from Creation.

Possibly the most obvious scriptural passage to support this conclusion is found in Acts 17:2. Luke, the writer of this book, uses essentially the identical composite phrasing which he used in describing Yahshua's observance of the Sabbath, Luke 4:16. ***"And Paul, as was his custom, went in to them, and for three sabbath days reasoned with them from the scriptures."*** It would hardly have been consistent of Paul to advocate the keeping of another day than the one which had been observed by his leader, the Messiah, whom he was preaching to the nations! Paul kept the authentic scriptural Sabbath. He taught its faithful observance to his converts.

The obvious fact that Paul preached the seventh-day Sabbath may also be learned from Acts 13. In this passage Paul has arrived at the city of Antioch in Pisidia. He and his party directed their mission first to their ethnic fellows, the Jewish people. They made it a point to attend the local synagogue service on the Sabbath day.

After the opening devotions and the reading of the sacred Scriptures (remember, the New Testament had not as yet been written, so these Scriptures were the Old Testament), Paul was called to the pulpit to address the assembled crowd of Jews and proselytes. The Jewish people were cool to this doctrine apparently, but the proselytes and Gentiles who feared the Almighty requested that Paul **preach this identical message to them again the following Sabbath.**

A penetrating thought instantly comes to mind upon reading this verse (verse 42). It raises the question concerning why Paul did not inform these Gentiles that the Sabbath was no longer binding since the Messiah had now died and annulled the law. He did not propose to alter any of the scriptural commandments. Rather, the clear fact emerges that he attended the synagogue the following Sabbath and repeated his proclamation of the Messianic message to the crowd.

How wonderful to learn that the Apostles were consistent with their leader, Yahshua the Messiah, and taught the very same message which He had taught. If we wish to receive His proffered Holy Spirit we will be required to obey Him also, Acts 5:32. Today's true ministers of the Messiah are following in these Apostolic footsteps today. They are working diligently to reconstitute the Apostolic Assembly.

Paul's letter to the Galatians has been used for centuries to justify the popular "no-law" doctrine taught in nominal religion today.

But did the Apostle Paul ***really*** *teach that Yahshua* **did away** *with Yahweh's royal law? Read the startling truth in* ***"Commentary on Galatians."***

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Chapter 4

The Scriptural Sabbath Passes the Test

The Reason Sunday Keeping Exists

The usual reason advanced by ministers explaining why they are observing Sunday as the weekly day of rest is that the Savior rose from the grave on the first day of the week. Understandably it is difficult for someone who has been taught error for many years to allow his mind to grasp the full importance of various passages in the New Testament which dispel the superstitions that have accumulated over the years.

Nowhere in your Bible does it say that the Savior rose on the first day of the week! I would challenge anyone to prove such a doctrine directly from the Bible, with the basis in the original texts as closely as we can return to them. The candid facts which emerge from deep research into this subject reveal that when the women and the disciples arrived at the tomb on the first day of the week, Yahshua had already been resurrected. The angels tell them—"He is not here. He is risen from the dead. Come see the place where He lay."

When was the moment of His resurrection then? You cannot begin to compress a time period of three days and three nights into the short space of time from Friday night to Sunday morning. This difference between what the Word of Yahweh reveals and what nominal Christianity teaches is shockingly obvious!

Actually this sign of three full days and three nights was given by Yahshua as the only sign that He was indeed the true Messiah. The answer appears in Matthew 28:1. Having been placed in the grave at the end of the preparation day, just as the first High Day of Unleavened Bread was arriving, Yahshua would have been resurrected three full days later—as the seventh-day Sabbath was ending.

Yahshua was placed in the tomb on a Wednesday, late in the afternoon, just before sunset. The Sabbath was drawing on and this particular Sabbath was a high day, an annual Sabbath. Please read Luke 23:54. After the impalement, the women who were watching the execution followed the burial procession to note the place where He was buried in the garden tomb, Luke 23:55. Since the following day was an annual Sabbath (the first holy day of Unleavened Bread), no work could be done and no embalming spices could be purchased, Leviticus 23:6-7. Hence, the women had to keep the High Sabbath.

Note verse 56, ***"And they returned, and prepared spices and ointments. And on the Sabbath they rested according to the commandment."*** The day following the annual Sabbath was the day we commonly call Friday, when business was normally conducted. This was when they prepared the embalming spices. The following day was another Sabbath, the weekly seventh day. Observe carefully what the women did. ***"...And on the Sabbath they rested according to the commandment."*** (They had been taught to do this by the Messiah Himself in His three and one-half year ministry.) At this time, just a few days after the impalement of our Savior, no one was aware that the Sabbath Day had been changed to the first day of the week! Incidentally, the reason Yahshua's body could not be embalmed before the weekly Sabbath was that the Jewish authorities had requested that a Roman guard be posted. This request was granted by Pilate.

Matthew 28:1

The most powerful bombshell to blast through the Easter resurrection myth is Matthew 28:1. ***"Now late on the sabbath day, as***

it began to dawn toward the first day of the week [when does a scriptural day begin? Read Genesis chapter 1], ***came Miriam Magdalene and the other Miriam to see the sepulchre."*** The reason for the trip late on the Sabbath was to identify the burial site by daylight and to determine when the Roman guard would be withdrawn so they could embalm the Messiah's body.

Then these subsequent events took place by the very end of the Sabbath. This was exactly three full days and three full nights that the Messiah spent in the tomb! How marvelous are these facts, as we see so many new truths from the Bible come bursting to life before us. There are no discrepancies in the Bible and the Savior did not rise on the first day of the week. (For further information on the resurrection of the Messiah, write to Assemblies of Yahweh, P.O. Box C, Bethel, PA 19507, and request our free article, entitled, "Easter or Passover.")

Now the last vestiges of Sunday credibility have at last vanished into thin air! There is absolutely no valid reason for keeping Sunday holy in honor of the resurrection of the Savior ***because He did not rise on the first day of the week! He rose on His day, in the end of the Sabbath.*** This fact lends even more forceful incentive to all of the seekers after Truth to keep the scriptural Sabbath, the seventh day of the week.

When is the Master's Day?

Most theologians declare that the first day of the week is the Master's Day (Lord's Day). Do you know when that day is, which day He Himself indicated was His day? Turn with me to Mark 2. Yahshua and His disciples were walking along one Sabbath (perhaps on their way home from the synagogue), and some of the disciples began to eat some of the grain which was planted in fields along their route. Yahshua's entourage was at that time being scrutinized rather closely by the religious leaders of the day. The Pharisees intended to use against the Messiah and His disciples any seeming infractions which they might commit in their conduct.

Today we experience no exception from the established religions. When someone comes along with a different doctrine, his personal conduct is closely scrutinized to detect any lapse which could be used against him. Yahshua was no exception. The Pharisees insisted that disciples of Yahshua were harvesting on the Sabbath, thereby breaking the Torah commandment. Yahshua the Messiah defended the position that His men were merely providing for a natural necessity so that the Sabbath could be delightful for them. In fact, neither the Messiah nor His disciples had harvested—meaning to cut, thresh, and store grain. When the controversy was debated, Yahshua summarized the discussion and ended the controversy by stating that He was the Master of the Sabbath also, verses 27-28.

This is quite an eye opener to most people. How could the Messiah be the Master of the Sabbath? The answer lies in the creation story in Genesis 1. It was "elohim" who created the heavens and the earth. Elohim is the Hebrew word which has been translated "g-d" in the King James. It should have been translated Mighty One or Mighty Ones (since Elohim is a masculine plural word). It is a word which is a compound unity, meaning a group or fraternity of Mighty Beings working in harmony and accord toward one purpose, thereby it takes a singular verb, although it is plural. John 1:1-2 indicates that it was the Word, the Logos or Spokesman who did the creating. Then it was the Word (Logos) who rested on the Sabbath day and created a day of rest by refraining from labor. Because he has created it, He could then be called the Master or owner of the Sabbath.

The Lord's Day

A passage of Scripture that has confused the casual reader of the Bible is found in Revelation 1:10. ***"I was in the Spirit on Yahweh's day, and I heard behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet."*** People read this verse and assume that John engaged in some kind of spiritual worship on Sunday, since nominal churchianity calls the first day of the week the "Lord's Day." But, when the sincere Bible student learns the Sacred Name, he discovers that pagan terms have been used as surrogates for the Tetragrammaton in the New Testament. Restore the Sacred Name back to the text and **the meaning immediately becomes clear!**

John saw a vision of Yahweh's Day, the Day of Yahweh, the Kingdom age and His judgment preceding it. Additionally, we have already seen that the L-rd's or Master's day is the Sabbath (Mark 2:28), removing any validity for interpreting this day in Revelation 1:10 as "Sunday."

Is the Sabbath Jewish?

In this same second chapter of Mark we find that Yahshua the Messiah reveals for whom the Sabbath day was created. Most people assume that the Sabbath is a Jewish holiday. Surprisingly, the Bible says that the Sabbath was not made for the Jew, **neither were the Jews the first to keep it holy.** The Jews have been faithful in observing it over the centuries, and have perpetuated it down to our day, but this does not make it Jewish. Just because a German happens to observe the Fourth of July does not make it a German holiday. Neither is the Sabbath Jewish just because the Jews have observed it faithfully, while other races have neglected it.

Yahweh says that the Sabbath is ***His Sabbath,*** Leviticus 23:3. Yahshua the Messiah asserts that the Sabbath of Yahweh was made for man (not the Jew alone) in Mark

2:27, as we have already observed. Yahweh did not need rest to restore His vitality after six days of work. Consequently, Almighty Yahweh inaugurated the scriptural seventh-day Sabbath with man in mind as well. The Sabbath was indeed made for all men, not for the Jews exclusively. Nevertheless, the lessons which we learn from Sabbath keeping will be used in the Millennium and eternity as new reasons for its observance are applied.

The Sabbath a Day of Worship

Looking back again to the Law of Yahweh for a second reason for keeping the scriptural Sabbath, we find contained in Leviticus chapter 23 a special purpose given when the holy days were enumerated.

Leviticus 23:2-3: ***"Speak to the children of Israel, and say to them, The set feasts of Yahweh, which you shall proclaim to be HOLY CONVOCATIONS, even THESE ARE MY SET FEASTS. Six days shall work be done: but on the seventh day is a sabbath of solemn rest, a holy convocation; you shall do no manner of work: it is a sabbath to Yahweh in all your dwellings."***

The Hebrew word for "convocation" (***miqra***) means *"to call together the people for a public meeting."*

The Sabbath was a day when special sacrifices were offered in ancient Israel, Numbers 28:9-10. While the Sabbath was made for rest, it was also designated as a day for worship of the Heavenly Father and for the study of His Word.

It was on the Sabbath day that the priests of ancient Israel changed the shew bread, Leviticus 24:8. This is significant because this table of 12 loaves of shew bread was analogous to the nourishing spiritual food found in Yahweh's Tabernacle and Temple. Each week when the members of the Assemblies of Yahweh meet for worship on the Sabbath day, they hear a sermon by one of Yahweh's ministers who sets forth the "bread of life." This spiritual food sustains and nourishes the people of Yahweh. During worship, the members of the Assemblies of Yahweh bring the sacrifices of the praises of our lips which are the acceptable sacrifice in this Messianic era, Hebrews 13:15-16, Psalm 54:6, and Hosea 14:2.

The First of the Feasts

By virtue of the fact that the seventh-day Sabbath is named first in the list of Holy Days found in Leviticus chapter 23 (it is called a *moed*—set feast), it becomes the first feast of Yahweh. The scriptural Sabbath heads the list of all the Feast days (festivals) and bears a special connotation in the plan of salvation. It cannot be separated from any of the Feast Days.

The Sabbath After the Resurrection

There are people who assume that the Sabbath was only changed to the first day of the week after the resurrection. It is surprising, however, that Yahshua the Messiah would not inform His disciples of this realignment of the days of the week when He gave His prophecy in Matthew chapter 24. The disciples of Messiah are urged to pray that their flight should not be on the Sabbath day when it would become necessary for them to flee, verse 20. It should be obvious to the True Worshiper that the weekly Sabbath day, the seventh day, was never changed after the Savior died, or He Himself would have manifested this alteration to His disciples. He urged His disciples to pray that they would not have to flee on the Sabbath and thereby break it. Remember, we are His disciples today.

Sunday Innovation Exposed

A history of Sunday keeping is most intriguing and revealing. It seems that a man named Marcion (about two centuries after the Messiah) began a concerted effort to eliminate the Old Testament from use in the Messianic Assembly.

Then during the following century, the council of Nicea was convened by Emperor Constantine. Through his direction, legislation was handed down prohibiting the keeping of the scriptural Sabbath under pain of death. People were forbidden to "Judaize," and were **commanded to rest from their labors on the first day of the week.** Your encyclopedia will reveal that Constantine was an unconverted, pagan sun worshiper when he presided over the Nicean Conference!

Rather audaciously, the Roman Catholic Church admits to making the change of her own volition, even declaring haughtily that she had the legal right to do so as the true body representing the Messiah on this earth.

Nevertheless, breaking the Law of Yahweh is defined as sin (1 John 3:4), and this law contains copious legislation relative to the Sabbath commandment.

Furthermore, we have seen that the Sabbath is to be kept *forever*, **precluding the possibility that man would ever have the legal right to alter the words which were given by the Heavenly Father.** The Sabbath is still very much binding on the True Worshiper today, just as it was all the way down through history since the creation; and it will continue to be binding through the millennium. See Isaiah 66:23. Roman Catholicism has no biblical justification or approval for changing the day of worship in this Messianic era.

A New Testament Command to Keep the Sabbath

Many people in nominal Christianity insist that if I can show them a commandment to keep the Sabbath in the New Testament, they will begin to keep it immediately. The absence of the Sabbath commandment in the New Testament, they feel, proves to them that the Savior

changed the day of rest.

Do you know that such a commandment can indeed be found in the New Testament? Turn with me to Hebrews chapter 4. We find the writer showing in type how the Millennium would be kept in the Kingdom of Yahweh established on this very earth. The Millennium is depicted by the day which we keep for the Sabbath.

The commandment is found in verse 9, ***"There remains therefore a sabbath rest for the people of Yahweh."*** The actual commandment is hidden under a faulty translation. The Greek text reads here, "There remains a keeping of a Sabbath for the people of Yahweh."

How enlightening! Did you grasp the significance of what you read? The keeping of the seventh-day Sabbath each week depicts the forthcoming millennium, the Kingdom of Yahweh as it takes over the rule of this earth.

Could it follow then that those who do not keep the scriptural Sabbath will not have a part in this delightful era of peace, prosperity, reconstruction and rehabilitation? Those indications are certainly set forth most strongly in this passage proving that the people of Yahweh will always be keeping the Sabbath of Yahweh.

How Can You Recognize the True Worshiper?

Many people in nominal Christianity appear to be in a quandary when confronted with the subject of the Sabbath. Could the majority of people who believe that they are supposed to be molding their lives to the pattern of the Scriptures have been somehow misled? Certainly the majority cannot be wrong, they believe!

They do not remember Matthew 7:13-14, where it is revealed that ***the few people*** will find the Narrow Way, while the many, the numerous, will be traversing the broad way. Surely the Savior has not left His people in the dark where the description of the True Worshipers is concerned. He has certainly shown us a graphic picture of them in some way.

The Bible is simply saturated with descriptions of the True Worshipers, including the explicit accounts of the life of the Son of Yahweh, the Word made flesh. However, allow me to call to your mind Scriptures which will portray the conduct of the True Worshipers.

First let us go to Matthew 4:4. Incidentally, this is a quote from Deuteronomy 8:3, if you would like to refer back to it. ***"But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but BY EVERY WORD that proceeds out of the mouth of Yahweh."*** If you are one of the people of Yahweh, one of His own Spirit begotten children, you will indeed keep the scriptural seventh-day Sabbath ***since it is contained in the Word of Yahweh, the Old Testament Scriptures.***

The second and third Scriptures which describe the True Worshipers may be found in Revelation 12:17 and 14:12. For brevity I shall quote only the first passage. ***"And the dragon became exceedingly angry with the woman, and went away to make war with the rest of her seed, that keep the commandments of Yahweh, and hold the testimony of Yahshua."*** These remnant people will not be difficult to recognize since they will be bearing the indelible identity through keeping the scriptural Sabbath. Not only will they be keeping the Sabbath, but they will be keeping all of the remainder of the commandments of Yahweh, from the Sacred Name to the least of the commandments. Please read Matthew 5:7-20 and you will be able to perceive what I mean. Now notice carefully Revelation 14:12. Read the context of this passage. Here the mark of the beast is being enforced!

The people of Yahweh, conversely, **are obeying His commandments.** They will be set apart from the people of the world. This will invite persecution as verse 13 reveals (the dragon makes war with the remnant of the woman's seed). But, True Worshipers need not be troubled about this religious persecution since we will receive protection. Furthermore, we are assured of a resurrection should some be martyred because our works (our obedience) will never be overlooked by the Heavenly Father.

The final Scripture which I wish to set forth in making the case for New Testament commandment keeping and especially for the keeping of the seventh-day Sabbath, is found in Revelation 22:14. ***"Blessed are they that wash their robes, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in by the gates into the city."*** If you desire to live in the Holy City, New Jerusalem, you will need to begin to keep the scriptural Sabbath and to keep all of the commandments of Yahweh. (Please note that the term—wash their robes—has been translated "keep the commandments" in some versions on the basis of such passages as Revelation 19:8). Not only will the scriptural Sabbath be observed in the Millennium, but afterwards also in the Holy City, New Jerusalem, which will rule during the ages of eternity.

Two Difficult Scriptures Explained

Occasionally someone will point out two Scriptures which seem to invalidate the Sabbath commandment. One of these Scriptures is Galatians 4:10-11. ***"You observe days, and months, and seasons, and years. I am afraid of you, lest by any means I have bestowed labor upon you in vain."***

We have already seen that the Apostle Paul did not renounce the scriptural Sabbath nor teach men to do so in his lifetime. As a consequence, Paul must have meant something totally different than what most people assume that he said.

The context of this chapter will clarify the situation. Verse 7 shows that we are no longer servants, but sons. Verses 8-9 emphasize, ***"However AT THAT TIME, NOT KNOWING YAHWEH, you were IN BONDAGE to them that by nature are NO ELOHIM: but now that YOU HAVE COME TO KNOW YAHWEH, or rather to be KNOWN BY YAHWEH, how TURN YOU BACK AGAIN*** [backsliding] ***to the weak and beggarly rudiments, to which you desire to be in bondage over again*** [in slavery to idolatry again]***?"***

Do you really grasp the meaning of this passage? The people to whom Paul was writing had been worshiping the idols of the nations in which they were born. Then when scriptural light appeared and the Sacred Name came to their attention, they accepted it and began to worship the true Mighty One of the universe. However, in conjuction with the Sacred Names used in True Worship, they found that an entirely new array of Holy Days presented itself. So the Galatians began to keep the Holy Days of Yahweh which are commanded to be kept in Leviticus chapter 23.

However, as happens occasionally, someone does not have the strength of character to obey Yahweh wholeheartedly. They begin to compromise with the world and ultimately return to keeping the pagan holidays which the world keeps. Paul is exhorting such people to remain faithful to Yahweh and keep His holy days. This can be substantiated when we cross reference Leviticus 19:26 and Deuteronomy 18:10-14, since these Scriptures prohibit worshiping on the days which are observed by pagan people.

The second passage which always seems to give newly interested people quite a barrier to hurdle is Colossians 2:16-17. ***"Let no man judge you therefore in meat, or in drink, or in respect of a feast day, or a new moon, or a sabbath: which are a shadow of things to come; but the body of the Messiah."***

First, this passage directs us to allow *no man* to judge us in the obedience to these various things. *Yahweh judges us* according to His commandments! Too often the outward appearance in the world will conflict with someone's duty to Yahweh. Sensitive people will allow men to judge and influence them and ultimately they will receive a curse. Instead of looking to Yahweh, serving Him in obedience and receiving His blessings, they capitulate to peer pressure and the pleasures of the world. We are commanded by Yahweh to keep the Sabbath and not to let man interfere with our keeping it. Please note that the verb in verse 16 is generally put in the past tense, while it should be in the present. These observances ARE still in force.

Notice also the italicized word "is," in verse 17. It is the body of the Messiah which will judge the True Worshiper according to Yahweh's Inspired Scriptures. We should mold our lives in accordance with the example which the brethren in the Assemblies of Yahweh try to live.

These things are still today shadows of things to come. The true meaning of keeping them is *still in the future*. A shadow is a protection which is cast by a larger object and the Sabbaths in the Kingdom ages will be fulfilled in a much greater way than the reason for their current observance.

How About the First Day of the Week?

Another old standby text for an intransigent opponent of the scriptural Sabbath may be found in 1 Corinthians 16:2. However, this passage does not say that Paul altered the day of worship, does it? Read it over again. ***"Upon the first day of the week let each one of you lay by him in store, as he may prosper, that no collections be made when I come."***

Verse one indicated that this was to be a collection for the poor saints in Jerusalem who were suffering from a famine and needed material assistance. The gathering of this assistance was to precede the arrival of Paul.

This collection was not the customary Sunday morning offering of our contemporary era. It was a collection of material things, of which some of these offerings and donations might have to be turned into cash more readily transportable for the trip back to Jerusalem (such as a contribution of cattle which would have been difficult to transport).

So Paul was not commanding (nor suggesting) that a day of rest be established on the first day of the week, but that **a day of work** on the first day of the week, Sunday, be set aside during which business could be transacted! Again, this is a truthful, yet SHOCKING interpretation when we see the importance of keeping the Sabbath day holy as commanded in the Word of Yahweh.

Choose You This Day!

Although we have concluded a rather lengthy study dealing with the question of which weekly holy day we are to keep in the New Testament age, it is by no means exhaustive. However, we have covered the main points which clearly prove conclusively and demonstrate that the scriptural seventh-day Sabbath remains very much in force today. We have seen that the Sabbath is a sign between the people of the Most High and their Mighty One, Yahweh.

Now, the choice is up to you! Will you heed this clear commandment of Yahweh or will you continue to diminish from His majestic power and authority? It will mean the difference between receiving salvation or being rejected by the Heavenly Father.

May you always base your reliant faith upon the Word of Yahweh. SNB

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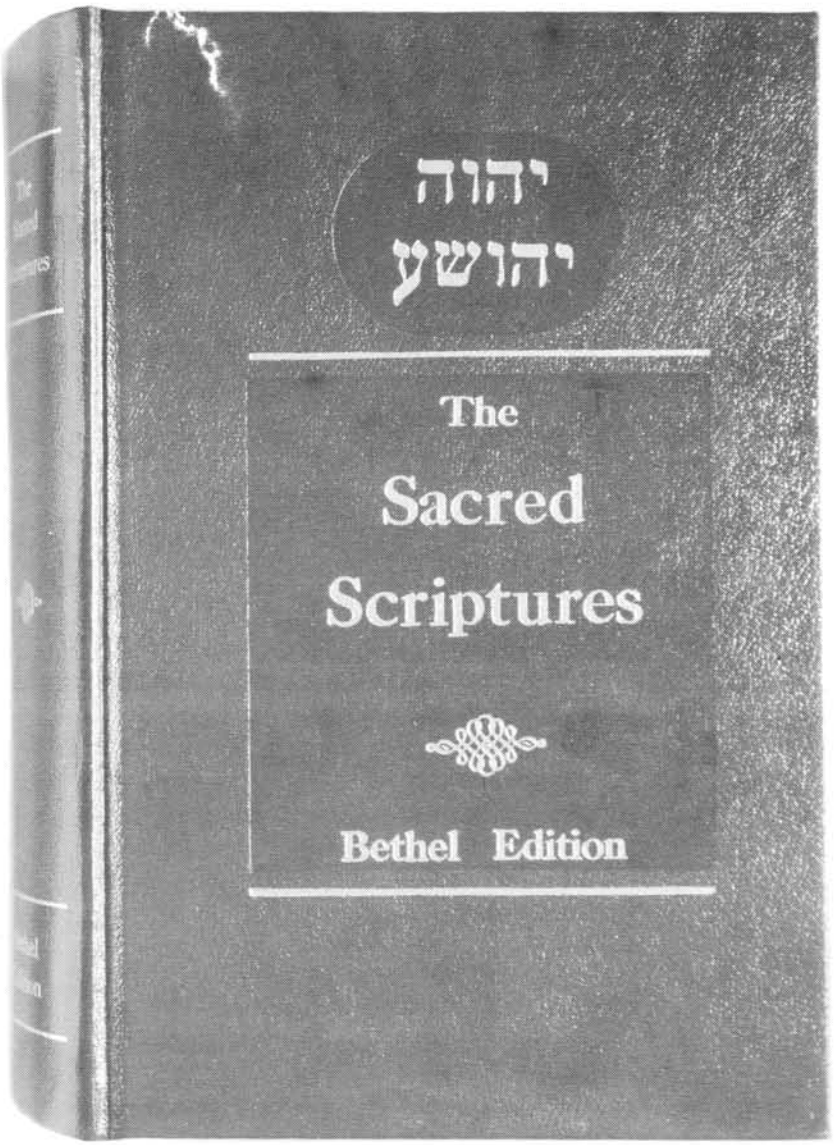

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