

The Israel of God Bible Study Class

2515 E. 75th Street

Chicago, IL 60649

(773) 374-6413 or (800) 96-BIBLE

Sabbath: The Lord's Day

"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 God blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it: because, that in it, He had rested from all his work which God created and made." (*Gen 2:1-3*). The bible reveals that God **blessed** and **set apart** (sanctified) **the seventh day**. This day is holy unto God, and it is the **only** day of the week that we are **commanded to honor**. "Six days shall work be done: but the seventh day is the Sabbath of rest, an holy convocation: ye shall do no work therein: it is the Sabbath of the Lord in all your dwellings." (*Lev 23:3*). A holy convocation is an assembly of the people of God, who come together to worship him.

There are two calendars that exist. God's calendar and man's calendar; both consist of seven day weeks. The difference in the two calendars is that God has named the days with numbers, and man has given the days names. God's calendar begins with day 1 and ends with day 7, his weekly Sabbath. Man's calendar names day 1 as, Sunday, and ends with Saturday, day 7, God's weekly Sabbath. Although man's calendar is universal (the same all over the world) the majority of professed Christians worship the Lord on Sunday which is clearly the 1st day of the week not the 7th day that the Lord has hallowed, sanctified and commanded that we keep.

Professed Christians believe that Jesus rose from the grave on Sunday, thus, justifying themselves to change the Sabbath (the day of worship) to Sunday. However, the bible does not support their belief: **"In the end of the Sabbath, as it began to dawn toward the first day of the week,** came Mary Magdalene and the other Mary to see the sepulcher. And the angel answered and said unto the women, Fear not ye: for low, I know that ye seek Jesus, which was crucified. "He is not here: for he is risen," as he said. "Come; see the place where the lord lay." And go quickly, and tell his disciples that he is risen from the dead; and behold, he goeth before you into Galilee; there shall ye see him: lo, I have told you." (*Matthew 28:1, 5-7*). Contrary to popular beliefs, Jesus, who is God the Son, did not come in the flesh and change the day of "The Sabbath". In fact, the bible will show that Jesus is God of the "Holy Bible", who created the heaven and the earth, and blessed and made holy the seventh day.

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"In the beginning was the word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not anything made that was made." (*John 1:1-3*). Now, Revelation 19 verses 11-16 confirm to us that Jesus Christ is the word. Therefore John chapter 1 verses 1-3 is speaking on this manner; verse 1: In the beginning was Jesus Christ, and Jesus Christ was with God. And Jesus Christ was God. Verse 2: Jesus Christ was in the beginning with God. Verse 3: All things were made by Jesus Christ and without Jesus Christ was not anything that was made. Let us establish this with another witness as God commands. "And to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ:" (*Eph 3:9*). Men and Women of Israel and all that fear God, this mystery has been revealed! According to the Bible there are two in the Godhead. Yet the traditions of men teach us about a trinity; one God manifested into three beings (Father, Son and Holy Ghost). The truth of the matter is in the bible, which tells us that there are only two members in the God family. One member is the God of the old testament, who went by the name of Jehovah, I am, and, God Almighty. He is the same God that took on the seed of Abraham, became known as the son of man, and who was crucified and resurrected (risen) from the grave in the flesh. He became the first and only man (species) to be born again, see *1Cor. 15:20-23*. The other member of the Godhead is the God who later became the Father and is the invisible God. "No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, He hath declared Him." (*John 1:18*). So, the bible is the uncompromised word of God and God cannot lie. Therefore, Jesus is the God that created all things, including the Sabbath (day of rest). Hebrews 13 verse 8 informs us that Jesus Christ is "the same yesterday, and today, and forever". This means Jesus is constant and does not change. Therefore, the God of yesterday is the same God of today, who has commanded us to keep the Seventh day holy.

The seventh day is a sign between Jesus and His people (Israel) forever. "Wherefore the children of Israel shall keep the Sabbath, to observe the Sabbath throughout their generations, for a perpetual covenant, it is a sign between me and the children of Israel for ever: For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, and on the seventh day he rested, and was refreshed."

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(Ex.31:16-17). If you're a **stranger** (Non-Israelite), you must also **keep the Lord's Sabbath day**. "Also the sons of the stranger, that join themselves to the Lord, to serve him, and to love him, to be his servants, every one of them that keepeth the Sabbath from polluting it, and taketh hold of my covenant; Even them will I bring to my Holy mountain, and make them joyful in my house of prayer: their burnt offerings and their sacrifices shall be accepted upon mine altar: **for mine house shall be called an house of prayer for all people.**" (Isaiah 56:6-7). Listen, people, read your bibles, hear the word of God, take hold of His covenant and follow the example that he has set for us.

"And Jesus returned in the power of the spirit into Galilee: and there went out a fame of him through all the region round about. And he taught in their synagogues, being glorified of all. And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up: and, as his custom was, he went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and stood up for to read." (Luke 4:14-16). Notice that Jesus did not go to the house of worship on **Sunday**. Also, notice that, when he went to worship, he did not listen to a pastor's interpretation of what he (the pastor) thought God was saying. But, Jesus sanctified the Sabbath day (7th day) and he **read the "Holy Scriptures"**. Apostle Paul is an example of a true Christian giving respect unto the Lord's Day. Christian means Christ like, and Paul is a great imitator of Christ. "And Paul, as his manner was, went in unto them, and three Sabbath days reasoned with them out of the scriptures," (Acts 17:2). Brothers and sisters our forefathers customs, manners or tradition was honoring all the laws of God. Our forefathers were believers in the "Holy Scriptures" and those of our forefathers, who dishonored the law by polluting the Sabbath, were stoned to death. Even in this day, any Christian not honoring the customs of the Lord is to be cut off from among "The Church" (Israel). "Now we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ that ye withdraw yourselves from every brother that walketh disorderly, and not after the tradition which he received of us." (2Thes 3:6). People, keeping the Sabbath day is apart of that tradition.

We all know that the Sabbath day consist of 24 hours, as all days do. However it is important that we understand that the Lord begins the day with the evening, "And God called the

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light day, and the darkness was called Night. And the evening and the morning were the first day." (*Gen 1:5*). Man begins the day at 12:01 am, so, there is about a six hour difference from sundown (beginning of the day) to midnight. In other words, **the seventh day begins Friday at evening**, instead of, midnight Friday; thus, **the seventh day is sundown Friday to sundown Saturday**. As we tend to keeping the whole law of God, we must, also remember to observe the whole day of rest.

Prophecy declared that we would **forget to keep the Sabbath holy**. "Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy", is what the Lord commands us in the "Ten Commandments", see *Ex.20:8-11*. **Yes, the world has forgotten to sanctify the Sabbath and that is the reason why we (the world) are in such a terrible state today**. "The earth also is defiled under the inhabitants thereof; because they have **transgressed the laws, change the ordinance, broken the everlasting covenant**. Therefore hath the cursed devoured the earth, and they that dwell therein are desolate: therefore the inhabitants of the earth are burned, and few men left." (*Isaiah 24:5-6*). Let this scripture encourage us not to be **"Covenant breakers"** and learn how we are to **honor the Sabbath** by keeping it **holy** and a **sacred** day. Men and women of Israel and all that fear God, if we want eternal life in Jesus' Kingdom, and favor with God and man here on earth, we must be real Christians; not so-called Christians, and rejoice in his Sabbath on the Sabbath (7th day).

"Hear ye this, O' house of Jacob, which are called by the name of Israel, and are come forth out of the waters of Judah, which swear by the name of the Lord and make mention of the God of Israel, but not in truth, nor in righteousness. For they call themselves of the holy city, and stay themselves upon the God of Israel; the Lord of hosts is his name." (*Isaiah 48:1-2*). "Not as though the word of God hath taken none effect. For they are not all Israel, which are of Israel:" (*Rom 9:6*). People, just coming to church week after week is not enough. We must not forget to keep the Sabbath day holy. Remember, if you smoke, don't light up on the Sabbath. "Ye shall kindle no fire throughout your habitations upon the Sabbath day." (*Ex 35:3*). Don't cook on the Sabbath day, but prepare your meals before sundown Friday. "And he said unto

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them, this is that which the Lord hath said, tomorrow is the rest of the Holy Sabbath unto the Lord: bake that which ye will bake today, and seethe (boil) that ye will seethe; and that which remainth over lay up for to be kept until the morning." (*Ex 16:23*). Also, it is wise to prepare salads and eat fruit, vegetables and snacks. The Lord commands us not to do any work on the Sabbath. This includes household chores as well as, labor for hire. "Six days shall work be done, but the seventh is the Sabbath of rest, holy to the Lord: whosoever doeth any work in the Sabbath day, he shall surely be put to death." (*Ex 31:15*). People, if we are caught polluting the Sabbath, when Jesus returns, we will have a greater punishment than in the days of stoning, see *Hebrews 10:28-31*.

So take heed, to do any type of business transaction, pollutes and profanes God's Sabbath. There must be no buying and selling on the Sabbath, read *Nehemiah 13:15-22*. Understand the Sabbath is not a joke. Get smart and honor it! Surely, things will come up, and sometimes we must do things on the Sabbath we ordinarily wouldn't. Sometimes we must even work (for pay)(on the Sabbath), That's why Jesus told us that the Sabbath was made for man and not man for the Sabbath, *Mark 2:27*. We are allowed to do well on the Sabbath. It is good to visit one another and speak thus said the Lord. It is also good to save a life of visit the afflicted on the Sabbath.

By all means, do what you must and **work out your own salvation with fear and trembling**, see *Philippians 2:12*. However, know that God searches the heart (mind) and he knows whether or not we are sincere. "Be not deceived; God is not mocked; for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to his flesh, shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the spirit shall of the spirit reap life everlasting." (*Gal. 6:7-8*). Finally, people remember to keep the Sabbath Day holy and sow the seed of eternal life. Until the next time...