

Commandments.” - May 28, 1921, p. 1.

Let us be assured that all these statements of men and church creeds do not of themselves prove that the Ten Commandments are eternal. But they do prove that these men and church organizations agree with the Bible, the Word of God; and “thy word is truth.” John 17:17.

In fact, the law of God is the simplest of all tests in dividing the false from the true. “To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them.” Isaiah 8:20. Shall any man judge the law that is the judge of truth, and by which law he himself must be judged?

How shocking will be the disappointment of those who exalt themselves to think they may exercise a power to dispense with or change God’s ten eternal words, when He Himself will not for all eternity entertain one such thought. As long as God lives, His law lives. There is no way to abolish the Ten Commandments.

When a minister visited a prison quarry, one of the prisoners preached him a sermon on this wise: “Parson, do you see these stones? They’re just like the Ten Commandments; you can keep on breaking ‘em, but you can’t get rid of ‘em.” That is an old story, but it isn’t as old as the Ten Commandments.

There is another story that is older than the human race. Before the tree of life ever bore its precious fruit in the Garden eastward in Eden, there was a counsel of salvation in heaven. There, redemption by the precious blood of Christ was -foreordained before the foundation of the world.” 1 Peter 1:20. This insurance policy was written then, and when the fire of sin broke out, the premium was paid by God Himself, in Christ, who signed the document with His own blood on the cross. This is the old, old story.

“Thou shall have no more gods but Me, Before no idol bow the knee, Take not the name of God in vain, Nor dare the Sabbath to profane. Give both thy parents honor due, Take heed that you no murder do. Abstain from words and deeds unclean; Nor steal, though you be poor and mean; Nor make a willful lie, nor love it, What is thy neighbor’s dare not covet.” - From Now Magazine.

“Surely the people is grass. The grass withers, the flower fades: but the word of our God shall stand for ever.” Isaiah 40:7, 8. “For ever, O Lord, thy word is settled in heaven.” Psalm 119:89.

Countless laws have been enacted by men, but there is only one perfect law-God’s law.

Countless crosses have carried their victims into the dim shadows of death, but only one cross bore the perfect sacrifice.

The justice of perfect law was met with God’s own perfect sacrifice – “a lamb without blemish and without spot.”

“Nor silver nor gold bath obtained my redemption,
No riches of earth could have saved my poor soul;
The blood of the cross is my only foundation,
The death of my Savior now makes me whole.”

JAMES MCGRAY

36. Heaven’s Trademark for This World

SOMEONE has said that “craftsmen are men who cannot help doing whatever is given them to do better than others think worth while.”

Ask any informed carpenter about a good handsaw, and he may say, “A Henry Disston & Sons D-95 saw is top quality.” On that saw you will see a trademark with the name of the manufacturer, the date 1840, and the place Philadelphia. That trademark stands for the skill and integrity of the manufacturer.

Ask a hardware man for a high-grade carpenter’s hammer, and it might carry the name Maydole stamped in the steel. Back of that name stands a stirring story of perseverance, talent, precision, and character.

Years ago George Graham, a London watchmaker, said to his customer who had just purchased a watch, “Sir, it is a watch that I have made and regulated myself. Take it with you wherever you please. If after seven years you come back to see me, and can tell me that there has been a difference of five minutes, I will return your money.

Seven years later the man came back and said, “The watch has varied five minutes.” “Here is your money,” responded Mr. Graham. The man replied, “No, I would not sell it for ten times the price.” But Mr. Graham said, I gave you my word, here is your money.” He then took this remarkable watch and used it for

a regulator.

THE ARCHITECT AND CRAFTSMAN OF THE UNIVERSE

God is the great architect and super craftsman of the universe. ‘To whom then will you liken me, or shall I be equal? said the Holy One. Lift up your eyes on high, and behold who hath created these things, that brings out their host by number: he calls them all by names by the greatness of his might, for that he is strong in power; not one fails.’ Isaiah 40:25, 26.

The starry wheels of God’s huge and intricate clock never fail. At the United States Naval Observatory at Washington, D.C., men check the stars of God to ascertain the correct time for men. From their observations they set the nation’s standard clock. At noon every day a time signal is telegraphed to the Western Union Telegraph Company. Their regulator clock is set. Then this time information is distributed to the public. In England the Royal Observatory at Greenwich maintains a similar service.

The source of time accuracy is the Creator’s clock of the universe. “Has you not known? Has you not heard, that the everlasting God, the Lord, the Creator of the ends of the earth, faints not, neither is weary?” Isaiah 40:28. His clock never runs down, because He keeps it running.

Everyone honors a man who puts skill and effort and conscience into the creation of superior products. Let all men honor the Craftsman of all craftsmen, the Creator of the vast, intricate, mysterious universe.

THE CREATION OF THE WORLD

What does the Bible teach concerning the creation of our world and its forms of life?

In the first verse of the Bible we read: “In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.” Genesis 1:1. Following immediately is the story of how God brought order and life out of chaos: the first day, light; the second day, atmosphere. The third day, dry land and vegetation; the fourth day, the light of the sun, moon, and stars; the fifth day, fish and fowl; the sixth day, animals and man.

Many have difficulty in believing that God has existed forever. Our minds can understand how future existence could be eternal but it is not so easy to see how a being could have always existed. This problem is not solved by the fool who simply says, “There is no God.” Psalm 14:1. Nor is it solved by simply forgetting the whole matter. It is a vital question. “Without faith it is impossible to please him [God]: for he that comes to God must believe that he is.” Hebrews 11:6.

One of four things it would seem we must believe about the past. (1) Either God the Creator must have existed forever. (2) Or the earth and life in its approximate present forms must have always been. (3) Or mere matter must have existed from eternity; (4) or sometime in the hoary ages of the past, all of a sudden something must have come into existence from nothing, with no one to make it happen.

The farther we get from the Bible account of Creation as the definite act of a creator, the less reasonable do our theories become, and the more do faith and reason conflict. The order, system, and intelligence that we ourselves observe make the theory of a self-existent God appear as the most rational explanation of all things. Without God men have never yet been able to solve the riddle of which came first—the hen or the egg.

“Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear.” Hebrews 11:1 “For he spoke, and it was done; he commanded, and it stood fast.” Psalm 33:9.

“The heavens declare the glory of God.” Psalm 19:1. “For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse.” Romans 1:20. The everlasting God is the Creator (Isaiah 40:28). “From everlasting to everlasting, you art God.” Psalm 90:2.

Long before the modern scientist declared that the earth has no visible means of support, Job said, “He . . . hangs the earth upon nothing.” Job 26:7. Having made the world of nothing, He hung it upon nothing. This world and all worlds are upheld “by the word of his power.” Hebrews 1:1

This is the God who declared, “Thus shall you say unto them, the gods that have not made the heavens and the earth, even they shall perish from the earth.” Jeremiah 10:11. The Creator God “is not like them.” Verse 16. Thus does God make the act of creation to distinguish Himself from false gods.

GOD'S TRADEMARK FOR His WORKS

As men choose a particular trademark for their products, so has the Creator chosen a trademark, or sign, for His works. Men may print, stamp, etch, or chisel their trademarks upon their goods. God chiseled His mark out of that intangible something we call time.

Let us read: "God saw every thing that lie had made, and, behold, it was very good. And the evening and the morning were the sixth 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 he rested on the seventh day from all his work which he had made. And God blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it: because that in it he had rested from all his work which God created and made." Genesis 1:31; 2:13.

What a beautiful story. Not a legend! Not a tradition! But the simple glorious truth about God's trademark. On the seventh day of Creation week He made His trademark. He made it on the seventh day, out of the seventh day, by resting on that day, blessing that day. This is the plain, unmistakable record of this Book.

Edgar J. Goodspeed, prominent Bible scholar and translator, says, "Taken together, the story of the seven days is, of course, the story of the Institution of the Sabbath, which is thus made to appear wrought into the very fabric of the universe." – "In the Beginning," Religion in Life, winter number, 1947-48, Page 18. (Italics supplied.)

Only God could make His own trademark. Only God could make a particular day holy, by blessing it with His own hallowed presence. Only God would have the right to "sanctify" a day, which means to "set it apart for a holy use." So it is that we read, "The Sabbath was made for man." Mark 2:27. It was a sign to man that God was his Creator.

"In Eden, God set up the memorial of His work of creation, in placing His blessing upon the seventh day. The Sabbath was committed to Adam, the father and representative of the whole human family. Its observance was to be an act of grateful acknowledgment, on the part of all who should dwell upon the earth, that God was their creator and their rightful sovereign; that they were the work of His hands, and the subjects of His authority.... God saw that a Sabbath was essential for man, even in Paradise. - Patriarchs and Prophets, page 48.

Thus God created the world, placed man in dominion (Genesis 1:26), and gave to him the holy sign that He had made. This was before our first parents had sinned. The Sabbath and marriage are the two holy institutions that came from Eden to bless the world.

ENGRAVING THE TRADEMARK

There came a thrilling time when the divine law of God was to be written for man. God wrote it. With His finger He traced it upon two tablets of stone (Exodus 31:18).

And behold, there in the very heart of the Ten Commandments, He engraved the eternal trademark of His creative craftsmanship. This Sabbath sign He set as the fourth of the Ten Commandments in the following words:

"Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days shall you labor and do all thy work: but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord thy God. In it you shall not do any work, you, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that [is] within thy gates. For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day, and hallowed it." Exodus 20:8-11.

Many sincere Christians are disturbed with the popular belief that the earth is millions or billions of years old. They would like to believe that the days of Creation week as recorded in Genesis were long periods of time, with the possible exception of the period for the creation of man in the image of God. In so doing they are troubled about the weekly twenty-four-hour seventh-day Sabbath, questioning its proper place in such a plan of creation. Still, they hesitate to throw their Bible faith overboard.

For such persons, and all who hold similar views, we would make the following observations:

1. Irrespective of any and all theories about God's method of creation, the fact remains that according to the Bible God commanded Moses and Israel to observe a weekly twenty-four-hour seventh-day Sabbath in honor of His creative work (Exodus 20: 8-11). And we know of no one who believes that Moses and Israel kept a Sabbath millions of years long. Moses died at the age of 120 years.

2. Furthermore, if the millions-of-years' theory of creation is true, it would have to be true in Moses' day. Moreover, if the Sabbath were thereby made a shaky institution, it must be considered as

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shaky in Moses' day.

3. We then would be in position to accuse God of giving Moses and Israel a shaky weekly Sabbath, or hold Moses accountable for inventing it.

Bible Christians would desire to do neither, but should choose to believe and obey the commandment of God. It is better to trust and obey than to distrust and disobey.

No matter what any creature of God may believe about God's creation, he cannot destroy or abrogate the commandment of his Creator He may only accept it or reject it.

"Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice." 1 Samuel 15:22. And it is better than human conclusions that God's Sabbath is without solid or sensible foundation.

Man never has all the answers, and he never understands all of God's doings, but he can understand a commandment.

Theories may come and theories may go, but "all his commandments are sure. They stand fast for ever and ever." Psalm 111:7, 8.

Men may come and men certainly will go, "but the word of our God shall stand for ever." Isaiah 40:8. And "he that does the will of God abides for ever." 1 John 2:17.

Said Jesus, "Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven: but whosoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven." Matthew 5:19.

On a basis of the principles that obtain in the kingdom of God, nothing is more regrettable than to reject a command of God and lead others to reject it. And the greatest thing one can do is to love God, keep His commandments, and try to lead others to do the same.

"This is the love of God, that we keep his commandments." 1 John 5:3.

"Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city." Revelation 22:14.

Six days God created. On the seventh day He rested. "Wherefore, the Lord blessed the Sabbath day, and hallowed it." The Sabbath may not be disconnected from God, the Creator.

Again we read: "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." Exodus 31:17. The Sabbath is thus the sign of God's creator ship.

This is clearly stated. The Sabbath is not God's sign because Jews are Jews, but because God is God and He is the Creator. And He created in six days and rested on the seventh day 2,500 years before the Jewish nation existed. This is God's own stated reason for making the Sabbath a sign. All the inhabitants of all God's worlds combined could not erase these facts.

James G. Murphy, in *A Critical and Exegetical Commentary on the Book of Exodus*, says, "The act of creation is the origin of all title to the creature and to the obedience of the intelligent creation. The creation of man is commemorated in the fourth commandment. Hence it contains the fountainhead of all authority in God and all duty in man." - Page 144.

The Sabbath is not merely a day of physical rest. We need that, but any day would do for that. It is not a day merely for spiritual refreshment, sorely and surely as we need that. It is both these and more. It is the sign of God as Creator.

On His part it is the sign of His creator ship, with all the obligations to us ward that devolve upon Him because of the act and fact of creation. It is the sign of His right to rule over us, the symbol of His sovereignty.

On our part it is the sign that we gratefully acknowledge Him as our Creator and accept His right of title to and ruler ship over us and all things. It is a sign that as His creatures we assume the obligations that naturally come to us in this relationship.

It is God's flag, the symbol of His sovereignty, woven in the loom of heaven out of that intangible and precious something men call time, and raised over His fair earthly dominion in the freshness of Creation's morning. The Sabbath is a matter of holy duty and a thing of infinite beauty.

"My Maker and my King, to Thee my all I owe;
Thy sovereign bounty is the spring whence all my blessings flow.
The creature of Thy hand, on Thee alone I live;
My God, Thy benefits demand more praise than I can give.
Lord, what can I impart when all is Your before?"

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Thy love demands a thankful heart; the gift, alas! how poor. O! let
Thy grace inspire my soul with strength divine;
Let every word and each desire and all my days be Your."

THE SEAL OF HIS LAW

This Sabbath sign God made the seal of His holy law. The seal of a law gives the name of the lawgiver, his official title, and the extent of his dominion. For instance, "George VI [name], King [title] of England [extent of dominion]."

The fourth, or Sabbath, commandment is the only one of the Ten Commandments that qualifies as a seal. Read it carefully (Exodus 20:8-11), and there you will discover God's seal: "The Lord thy God [name], Creator [title] of heaven and earth [dominion]." Thus when God wrote His law upon tables of stone He wrote His seal in the law itself. His name is "The Lord thy God." His title is "Creator." His dominion includes "heaven and earth."

Since God created all things from nothing (Hebrews 11:3), and hung the earth upon nothing (Job 26:7), and upholds all things (Hebrews 1:3), and sustains life (Acts 17:28), He therefore has undisputed, final, and absolute right to ownership and ruler ship. The Sabbath is the Creator's sign of His right to rule. It therefore became the seal of His law.

THE SIGN OF REDEMPTION

Consider for a moment two things we have learned: (1) The Sabbath is the sign of God's creative power and of His right to rule; (2) it is the seal of His holy law. Where, now, does that place the sinner?

Consider the sinner. All have sinned. We have all transgressed the law of the Creator. The wages of sin is eternal death.

The sinner needs redemption. And the Sabbath, though made before sin entered, becomes a sign of redemption. "Verily my Sabbaths you shall keep: for it is a sign between me and you . . . that you may know that I am the Lord that does sanctify you." Exodus 31:13.

Redemption from sin to sanctification requires creative power. Paul so states it in 2 Corinthians 5:17: "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature." Nothing less than the power of God can bring about this new creation in us. The Sabbath is the sign of that creative power.

THE SABBATH AND THE CROSS

The glorious cross of Christ has become, as it were, a symbol of the love of God, the sacrifice of Christ, and the crucifixion of the old man of sin.

The Sabbath is the sign of God's power to raise us up to a new life in Christ Jesus, to a new fellowship of love and holiness, to an experience of rest and peace. As God rested from His works, so the believer rests from his works and enters into the rest of God. The Sabbath is the sign of this rest (Hebrews 4:4-10).

The Sabbath is the sign of creator ship, ruler ship, and fellowship; the sign of peace and rest and power. It is inextricably and forever bound up in all that involves fellowship between the Creator and His creatures. It is the golden clasp that binds God's children to Himself. He who would abolish the Sabbath must challenge God the Creator and Redeemer, for whom the Sabbath stands.

GOD'S REMARKABLE PROMISE

Did you ever consider what this world would be like if all churches were gone? Not one spire or steeple pointing heavenward? Seven days of work and no Sabbath of rest and worship?

So important did God consider the Sabbath that He made a most remarkable promise to the Jewish people. On condition that they properly honor His holy day, He gave them the bold assurance that the throne of David and the city of Jerusalem should stand forever (Jeremiah 17:21-25).

Had the Jews sincerely joined in the spirit of that song Sabbath by Sabbath, and accepted the Savior of the world, they would today be, the chosen church of God. The Jews failed. They chose the path

of disobedience. They substituted the wisdom of man for the wisdom of God. When their beautiful city was destroyed, they remembered the words of warning:

“If you will not hearken unto me to hallow the Sabbath day, and not to bear a burden, even entering in at the gates of Jerusalem on the Sabbath day; then will I kindle a fire in the gates thereof, and it shall devour the palaces of Jerusalem, and it shall not be quenched.” Jeremiah 17:27.

Gazing upon the broken and smoldering ruins, they sorrowed at the sight of sin’s wages. Some who were carried away to Babylon hung their harps upon the willows by the river Euphrates and wept when they remembered Zion (Psalm 137:1, 2).

They saw that their love of money and their affection for this world had caused them to forget the God for whom the Sabbath stands. How they wished that they had been faithful, honoring the Creator in spirit and in deed.

From the Jews and their failure we turn to a consideration of Christ and the Lord’s day.

37. Christ and God’s Sign

NATIONS of earth send ambassadors to represent them at the capitals of other nations. Christ came to this world as Heaven’s ambassador to declare God (John 1:18), that is, to make God really known to men.

‘The earth was dark through misapprehension of God. . . . To know God is to love Him; His character must be manifested in contrast to the character of Satan. This work only one Being in all the universe could do. Only He who knew the height and depth of the love of God, could make it known.’ - The Desire of Ages, p. 22.

CHRIST HAS A DAY

The truth that Christ, who came to reveal God, has a special day, is clearly taught in Holy Scripture. Consider three statements.

First, let us read Revelation 1:10: “I was in the Spirit on the Lord’s day.” This makes it plain that the Lord has a particular day set apart as His day.

We wish next to discover who this Lord is and what day is His day. Jesus gives us the answer in Mark 2:28: “Therefore the Son of man is Lord also of the Sabbath.” Thus we see that Jesus is Lord and that the Sabbath is His day.

Our third scripture will instruct us as to which day of the week is the Sabbath. The fourth commandment gives us the specific answer: “But the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord thy God.” Exodus 20:10.

Let us now put these three facts together and reach a conclusion.

1. The Lord has a day-the Lord’s day.
 2. Jesus is Lord of the Sabbath day.
 3. The Sabbath day is the seventh day.
- Therefore the seventh day is the Lord’s day.

HOW CHRIST BECAME LORD OF THE SABBATH

It immediately becomes of great interest for us to find out why Christ claimed that He is Lord of the seventh-day Sabbath. There are two most valid reasons for this.

The first is found in Ephesians 3:9: “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.” In other words, the Christ who came to this earth to redeem man was Himself the active agent of God in creating all things in the beginning. This truth of Christ the Creator is taught again and again in the Bible. (See Colossians 1:15, 16; Hebrews 1:1, 2; John 1:1-3, 10, 14) Christ’s position as co-Creator with God makes Him Lord of creation. It was right and proper for Him to say, “Therefore the Son of man is Lord.”

The second reason why Christ claims that He is “Lord also of the Sabbath” is that He made the Sabbath. Since the Son performed the work of creation in six days it must be that it was He who rested on the seventh day, blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it (Genesis 2:2). That made it His rest day, His