

THE REST DAY

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"We ought to obey God rather than men." Acts 5:29.

"Once to every man and nation
Comes the moment to decide,
In the strife of truth with falsehood,
For the good or evil side;
Some great cause, God's new Messiah,
Offering each the bloom or blight,
Casts the goats upon the left hand,
And the sheep upon the right,
And the choice goes by forever,
'Twixt that darkness, and that light.

Careless seems the great Avenger,
History's pages but record
One death grapple in the darkness,
'Twixt old systems and the word.
Truth forever on the scaffold,
Wrong forever on the throne,
Yet that scaffold sways the future,
And behind the dim unknown,
Stands God within the shadow,
Keeping watch above his own."

J. Russell Lowell

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INTRODUCTION

THE SEVENTH DAY SABBATH

A medical friend asked me my reasons for keeping the Seventh Day Sabbath, these are some I gave him.

FROM THE PAST

Once years ago, when I was studying the question of what is really God's Sabbath Day, I came upon a pamphlet on 'The Rest Day,' with the poem of James Russell Lowell in it. I have reproduced the poem as I remember it.

It was the ultimate factor, which made me decide to take up truth as I saw it, the cost be what it would.

"And the choice went by forever
"Twixt that darkness and that light."

AND I HAVE NEVER REGRETTED THE DECISION

Prophets speak of this decision bringing blessing Isaiah 56:1, 2. "Thus said the Lord, Keep ye judgment and do justice; for my salvation is near to come, and my righteousness to be revealed." This has a local application, but is symbolic of the end of things.

"Blessed is the man that doeth this, and the son of man that lays hold on it: that keeps the Sabbath from polluting it." Isaiah 58:12-14. "And they that shall be of thee shall build the old waste places: thou shall

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raise up the foundations of many generations: and thou shalt be called, The repairer of the breach, The restorer of paths to dwell in. If thou turn away thy foot from the Sabbath, from doing thy pleasure on my holy day."

This is the same as the Apostle John wrote in Revelation 14:6-12, giving the three angels last messages to the world. "Fear God, and give glory to him: for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made heaven and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters!" That is, worship God as the Creator. This is the exact wording of the 4th or Sabbath Commandment "Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day." Exodus 20:8-11.

John wrote about 60 years after Christ's resurrection. Thus the last chapters of the Sacred Scriptures show that there is no change in the Sabbath to be observed-and Revelation 14:6-14 is a prophecy pointing to the time just before the Second Advent of Jesus Christ.

In fulfillment of this prophecy God has raised up a people who keep the Sabbath of the 4th Commandment. These people are described in Revelation 14:12 "Here is the patience of the saints; here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus."

Jesus is Savior (Messiah or Christ) of Matthew 1: 21. That is "The Commandments of God, and the Faith of the Messiah", is "The Eternal Message of the Eternal Unchanging God.", from the days of Eden.

No Bible Text for Sunday Rest Day, or Sabbath.

It is amazing to find by careful study, that there is no text in the Bible suggesting that Sunday, or the first day of the week was made a Sabbath Day.

I remember a few years ago discussing this question with a group of people, who belonged to a very ardent Sunday keeping Church - they studied all the texts of this article with me, and were very convinced, but the wife of the leader, who was a lay preacher, said, "There is one text which stops me deciding against Sunday. Acts 28:7 "And upon the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul preached unto them, ready to depart on the morrow, and continued his speech until midnight." I cannot get away from the "Upon the first day of the week when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul preached" "This showed they kept the Sunday Sabbath." I explained to them that the Sabbath ended when the sun set, and the first day of the week commenced, and Paul preached his farewell sermon unto midnight, before leaving on Sunday morning. But they could not see it.

Now this one text is removed, for the New English Bible translates this "On Saturday night, in our assembly for the breaking of bread, Paul, who was to leave next day, addressed them, and went on speaking until midnight." Acts 20:7.

Where is there a Sunday Sabbath in this? It is not here nor elsewhere.

THE GREAT CREATION WEEK

"In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth!" Genesis 1:1.

And the first day He created light. In the Hebrew it runs so dramatically and tersely, ye hi or va ye hi or, "Light exist, and light exists." "And the evening and the morning were the first day." THE first day was a working day. And so through the "six working days" of Ezekiel 46:1 God worked.

All the wealth of the world, and the glory of it was created, and beautifully finished. "And God saw everything that He 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." Genesis 2: 1.

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The First Sabbath

"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 2:2, 3.

The Great Creator

"I am the Lord that makes all things: that stretches forth the heavens alone; that spreads abroad the earth by myself." Isaiah 44:24.

"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 40:26. This is the mighty God, with whom we deal.

Compared to the Universe of God man is nothing.

"Behold the nations are as a drop in a bucket, and are counted as the small dust of the balance: behold he takes up the isles as a very little thing. All nations before him are as nothing, and they are counted to him less than nothing, and vanity." Isaiah 40:15-17.

God made a Day of Rest or Sabbath; will man dare to change it? The prophet said that man would presume to change God's Sabbath Day, and history records the fulfillment of this prophecy of Daniel 7:25.

God blessed the seventh day.

"God blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it." Genesis 2: 3 Exodus 20:11.

"The Lord blessed the Sabbath day, and hallowed it." Genesis 2: 3 Exodus 20:11.

What God has blessed is blessed forever. 1 Chronicles 17:27 "For thou blesses O Lord, and it shall be blessed for ever."

God does not change.

"For I am the Lord, I change not:" Malachi 3:6.

The same is written of Christ. "Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to-day, and for ever." Hebrews 13: 8.

The Seventh Day Sabbath was a memorial of Creation.

Your birthday date cannot be changed and still be truth. Your birthday is a memorial of your birth. So the seventh day Sabbath could not be changed by the unchangeable God of truth. It is a memorial of God's creation of the earth. That the Seventh Day Sabbath is a Memorial is shown by the fourth Commandment, the first word of which is "Remember". Exodus 20:8-11. "Remember the Sabbath Day to keep it holy. Six days shall thou labor, and do all thy work: but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord thy God." Why? "For in six days the Lord made Heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day:"

Because of this. "Wherefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it." For how long? It is a memorial of creation, as long as the earth lasts. "The earth abides for ever." Ecclesiastes 1:4. "The word of our God, shall stand for ever." Isaiah 40:8. "It (the Sabbath) is a sign between me and the children of Israel for ever:" Exodus 31:17. Psalm 111:4; 135:13.

"Written with the finger of God!"

"And he gave unto Moses, when he had made an end of communing with him upon Mount Sinai, two tables of testimony, tables of stone, written with the finger of God." Exodus 31: 18; 34:1. Deuteronomy 9:10.

Do not say the Seventh Day Sabbath was made for the Jews alone. For Christ said, "The Sabbath was made for man." Mark 2:27. The seventh day Sabbath was made at creation, when there was only one man - the

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human race had not yet been divided. And even when the Commandments were given at Sinai, there were no Jews as such; and all promises of salvation are made through Abraham and Israel. There is no salvation to the Gentiles as such.

"If ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise." Galatians 3:29. And Paul in Romans 11, shows how the Gentiles have to be grafted into the stock of Israel. Romans 9:8. "The children of the promise are counted for the seed." "And so all Israel shall be saved." Romans 11:26. God proclaimed His law at Sinai, which was not the land of Israel, to intimate that it was for the whole of mankind.

Hopeless state of Gentiles.

"Without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of a promise, having no hope, and without God in the world." Ephesians 2:11-13.

Was the Sabbath kept between Creation and Sinai?

There is not much said about it, but after the rise of Nimrod, and the rebellion against God's control at Babel, when the languages were changed, the people were scattered abroad in all directions, but all carried this hostility to God's control. In fact the tradition of this is found widespread. In Tahiti, they tell the story current amongst the Polynesians, "The heavens were originally so close to the earth, that a man could not walk, but was compelled to crawl under them. This was found to be a very serious evil, but at length an individual conceived the sublime idea of pushing heaven away. This great hero made an effort, and pushed it up as high as the Teve, a tender plant about 4 ft. high. He rested and made another effort, and pushed it as high as the Kavariki, a tree the size of a sycamore. He rested and was refreshed and lifted it as high as the mountains. He again rested, and made an extreme effort and lifted it up to where it is today!" And all people rejoiced when they got free from heaven's controls. They could all do as they liked.

All nations of the world deliberately threw over God and His Commandments. Paul says in Romans 1:28. "And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind." A great student of ancient languages has shown to me 91 of the most ancient languages, carrying the weekly cycle and the Seventh day as some variant of Shabbath or Sabbath, though not one of them observed it as their rest day. Before Abraham was called out even the Shemites were not observing it.

Joshua 24:2. "And Joshua said unto all the people Thus said the Lord God of Israel. Your fathers dwelt on the other side of the flood (Euphrates) in old time, even Terah the father of Abraham, and the father of Nahor: and they served other gods!"

Paul also explains why the nations did this. Romans 8: 7. "Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be!" 1 Corinthians 2: 14. "But the natural man receives not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned!"

Abraham was called out, and God said of him, in Genesis 26:5. "Abraham obeyed my voice, and kept my charge, my commandments, my statutes, and my laws!"

There were righteous men in the past. Enoch walked with God, and was translated. "Noah was a just man and perfect in his generations, and Noah walked with God!"

"Thus did Noah; according to all that God commanded him, so did he." Genesis 6:9, 22. "And Noah did according unto all that the Lord commanded him." Genesis 7:5.

From the time of Abraham, "The father of the Faithful" onwards the earth has never been without a witness for God, and His Commandments. The line has never been broken, and never will be of Abraham's natural and spiritual children.

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Abraham kept God's Commandments, statutes and laws.

The Sabbath rest, was one of God's commandments. It might have been neglected, if not forgotten, before the time of Moses, when the Israelites were slaves in Egypt. The Sabbath rest was brought under notice again, for Pharaoh charges Moses and Aaron for hindering the people working. "Behold, the people of the land now are many, and ye made them rest from their burdens!" Exodus 5:5.

The Sabbath was kept before reaching Sinai.

Some weeks before reaching Sinai, the seventh day Sabbath was again brought under their attention, by the falling of manna. A certain quantity each day, twice as much on the sixth day, and none on the seventh. Some people went out to gather it on Sabbath and God said, "How long refuse ye to keep my commandments and my laws?" Exodus 16:28. So the Sabbath rest was in force before the law was given at Sinai in Exodus Chapter 20.

"Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days shall thou labor, and do all thy work: But the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord thy God; in it thou shall not do any work, thou 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.

This, with the rest of God's commandments, was written on tables of stone, by the finger of God, (Exodus 31: 18; 34:1) and put inside the ark. Exodus 40: 20.

The time of keeping Sabbath.

In Bible times, the day ended when the sun set. The evening was the first part of the next day. "The evening and the morning were the first day!" Genesis 1:5. So "from even unto even, shall ye celebrate your Sabbath." Leviticus 23:32.

Other Sabbaths, besides the weekly Sabbath of the Lord.

Besides the weekly Sabbath, there were seven days observed as Sabbaths. These were typical of other events, e.g. the day of atonement Sabbath, represented the Investigative judgment etc. Leviticus 23:3 "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." Leviticus 23:37, 38 tells them "These are the feasts of the Lord, which ye shall proclaim." "Besides the Sabbaths of the Lord." These are the Sabbath days referred to by Paul in Colossians 2 :16,17. They "are a shadow of things to come."

They had nothing to do with the Sabbath of the Lord, as you can see. They were written, (not cut into stone, and put inside the ark), and put along with the other drink offerings, and meat offerings, and put with the other ceremonies alongside the ark. They could be fulfilled by Christ, and blotted out. You could hardly speak of stone inscriptions being blotted out. The Lord's Sabbath was a memorial of creation; not typical of something to come.

In the Jewish Calendar these ceremonial Sabbaths occur.

1. The first connected with the Passover feast fell on the 15th day of the first month. (Abib or Nissan) (Exodus 12:16, Leviticus 23:7.)
2. The second came on the last day of this feast, on the 21st of Nissan. (Leviticus 23:8.)
3. The third fell fifty days later at Pentecost. (Sivan 6) (Leviticus 23:15, 16, 21.)
4. The fourth came on the civil new year's day - first of the 7th month Tishri. (Leviticus 23:23-25.)
5. The fifth fell on the tenth day of the seventh month, the day of Atonement (yom kippur) - the most sacred of the yearly Sabbaths. (Leviticus 23:27, 32.)
6. The sixth fell on the first day of the Feast of Tabernacles - the fifteenth day of the seventh month. (Leviticus 23:39)
7. The seventh and last of the ceremonial Sabbaths fell on the last day of this feast, the twenty second day of the seventh month. (Leviticus 23:36, 37.)

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From Sinai to Christ.

After the commandments were given at Sinai, the keeping of the Sabbath is often stressed as necessary in the covenant relationship of the people with God, and described as essential. It is beautifully described in Isaiah.

Lord's Day in the Old Testament

"The seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord thy God!" Exodus 20:10. The sanctity of the seventh day Sabbath is repeatedly spoken of in later times e.g. Isaiah 58:13, 14. "If thou turn away thy foot from the Sabbath, from doing thy pleasure on my holy day; and call the Sabbath a delight, the holy of the Lord, honorable and shall honor him, not doing your own ways, nor finding your own pleasure, nor speaking your own words: Then shall thou delight thyself in the Lord, and I will cause thee to ride upon the high places of the earth, and feed thee with the heritage of Jacob thy father: for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it!"

Here, we see again the Sabbath is the Lord's day "my Holy day", "The holy of the Lord", as He says. In honoring the Sabbath, we honor God. Now we choose and honor, later God chooses and honors.

Suggestion of a great Sabbath Revival, before the end.

The Sabbath is despised, call it honorable. It is used as the great pleasure day, the play day, restore it to its place of sanctity, in three ways.

- A. Not doing your own ways,
- B. Not finding your own pleasure.
- C. Not speaking your own words.

That would be, do not do your ordinary work, or spend the Sabbath in sport, and pleasure, but rest both physical and mental, worship God, and think of His words, and wonderful works. So true Sabbath keeping is practically impossible to a natural man.

What will be the result of true Sabbath keeping?

The commandments of God, which are a wall around us have been breached, by one commandment being removed, it is repaired by true Sabbath keeping. The true paths are restored to us, for our protection. For James tells us, "For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all." James 2:10. James gives an illustration of what he means:

"For he that said, Do not commit adultery, said also Do not kill. Now if thou commit no adultery, yet if thou kill, thou art become a transgressor of the law!" James 2:11. (Would it not be right to say then, if God means what He says about the Seventh day Sabbath, that if you keep the nine commandments, and offend in this one, you are guilty of being a transgressor of the law.)

Isaiah 42:21 says "The Lord is well pleased for his righteousness' sake; He will magnify the law, and make it honorable!" So Christ announced Matthew 5:17 "Think not that I am come to destroy the law and the prophets; I am not come to destroy, but to fulfill." 5:19 "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!"

LOVE

It is love that makes possible the keeping of the commandments, for not only the act, but the thought behind the act is sin, so Christ said in Matthew 5. "Thou shall not kill", "but whosoever is angry with his brother without a cause" is guilty.

"Thou shall not commit adultery!" "But I say unto you, That whosoever looks on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart."

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Christ came to "magnify the law and make it honorable." Outward observance may mean nothing. Christ said "If ye love me keep my commandments." John 14:15 "God is love." 1 John 4:16. "He that said, I know him, and keeps not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him." 1 John 2:4.

"For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous." 1 John 5:1

"For by grace are ye saved through faith: and that not of yourselves it is the gift of God." Ephesians 2:8. Because we are saved and love God we keep his laws. As Paul writes in Romans 3:31. "Do we then make void the law through faith? God forbid: yea, we establish the law!"

Just as we can keep God's commandments because we love Him. So if we love our neighbor as our self, we cannot harm him, This is exactly what Paul says in Romans 13:10. "Love works no ill to his neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law!"

Sabbath rest has been a great blessing to man.

Both physically and mentally this weekly Sabbath rest, when properly carried out has been of great benefit to mankind, as it breaks the strain and obsession of work, and its spiritual benefit has been incalculable. "A shade of clustered palm-trees mid weary wastes of sand" as the poet sings. It will be carried over into the New Earth. Isaiah 66:22, 23.

"For as the new heavens and the new earth, which I will make shall remain before me, said the Lord, so shall your seed and your name remain. 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, said the Lord!"

Christ and the seventh day Sabbath. Ezekiel 46:1.

Christ, like all the rest of the people, worked on the six working days, and rested and worshipped on the Sabbath. "And Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit into Galilee." "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 4:16.

He removed many of the petty restrictions from the Sabbath, he did any necessary works of healing and mercy on the Sabbath. He defended his disciples when they picked ears of corn, and rubbed out the grains, to satisfy their hunger on the Sabbath. Mark 2:23.

"And he said unto them' the Sabbath was made for man, and not man for the Sabbath: Therefore the Son of man is Lord also of the Sabbath!" In Matthew 12:8. He said to them "For the Son of man is Lord even of the Sabbath day!"

The Son of man is Lord of the Sabbath.

If "the Son of man is Lord also of the Sabbath!", and "Is Lord even of the Sabbath day!" It appears that even in New Testament any weekly Lord's day, would be the Sabbath.

There is no suggestion of Christ abolishing the Sabbath, or changing it. He came not to destroy, but fulfill all the prophets had said of him. Matthew 5:17-19.

When we were studying this question, the people all said to us. The seventh day used to be the Sabbath, but Jesus changed the day. Some even thought they could show us the passage but they could not find the scripture, though they knew it was there. My mother would not change until one day she read the above words of Christ, and also Hebrews 4:8, 9. "For if Jesus had given them rest, then would he not afterwards spoken of another day."

"There remains therefore a rest for the people of God." The margin says "(rest)" keeping of Sabbath" to the people of God, which is exactly what the Greek says, and no authority differs. My mother said "Why did

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you not show me this. Jesus did not change the Sabbath." Many read this text as applying to the spiritual rest of Christ not the earthly Sabbath. But that. Jesus did not change the day is made more certain to us by reading Luke 23:52-56, Luke 24:1.

"This man (Joseph of Arimathaea) went unto Pilate, and begged the body of Jesus. And he took it down, and wrapped it in linen, and laid it in a sepulcher that was hewn in stone, wherein never man before was laid. And that day was the preparation, and the Sabbath drew on. And the women also, which came with him from Galilee, followed after, and beheld the sepulcher, and how his body was laid. And they returned, and prepared spices and ointments: and rested the Sabbath day according to the commandment. Now upon the first day of the week, very early in the morning, they came unto the sepulcher, bringing the spices they had prepared, and certain others with them."

The implication of this is tremendous, and this statement is clear and definite. Jesus' body was removed from the cross and put into Joseph's tomb, before sunset on Friday, the sixth day, just before the Sabbath began. The women rested the Sabbath day, according to the commandment. These women were Mary His mother, and Mary Magdalene and all most dear and intimate with Jesus, and they knew of no change. They came unto the sepulcher, very early on the first day of the week, Sunday morning. So the Sabbath was still the day between Friday and Sunday.

The New Covenant was sealed by Christ's blood on Friday afternoon. Jeremiah 31:31-34. Mark 14:24. Can a testament be changed, after the death of the testator? Once it is dedicated it cannot be changed. Hebrews 9: 17. Paul says "For a testament is of force after men are dead. Read Hebrews 9:11-28. Jeremiah 31:33 "I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts!" How could the covenant, and law possibly be changed after it was sealed with blood? On Friday evening after the death of Christ, the Sabbath commandment had not been changed for they "Rested the Sabbath day according to the commandment!" Luke 23:56.

This is so clear, that no lover of truth can gainsay it. Of some it is written "because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie." 2 Thessalonians 2:10. But these are not God's children, sealed for salvation.

Christ knew the Sabbath would still be kept, 40 years after His crucifixion for he told His disciples, Matthew 24:20 "But pray ye that your flight be not in the winter, neither on the Sabbath day!"

No evidence that the Apostles changed the Sabbath.

There is not the slightest evidence that the Sabbath was changed anywhere in the Bible. I have seen lists of Church fathers, which some claim support the early change of the Sabbath to Sunday but what I have seen is open to destructive criticism.

Roman Catholics claim that their church changed the day, they are largely correct in this, and they mock Protestants who try to prove it was done any other way. I have seen challenges offering large sums of money to any Protestant, any who can produce one text of scripture for this. There is none. The first day of the week is mentioned 9 times in the Bible, it was an ordinary working day. There is never a suggestion that it was a hallowed day. It is sometimes claimed to be a memorial of Christ's rising from the dead. But there is a much more sensible memorial already given. In the Bible, there is never more than one memorial for any event.

Memorial of Christ's Burial and Resurrection.

The Holy Spirit through Paul gave a memorial. Romans 6:4, 5 "Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life."

"For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection." Baptism is a perfect type of the resurrection. The real baptism of the New Testament, not the

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sprinkling of infants derived from paganism. When they both went into the water, and one was buried in the watery grave, and rose to walk in the newness of life-a perfect type or symbol of resurrection.

The Real Baptism Greek Baptizo-dip, plunge, immerse.

The Bible Type is definitely better than the type built up to make a unity between sun-worshipping pagans and the Christian Church. That was the stated purpose of the Emperor Constantine when he made his first Sunday Law in 321 AD. There was no flattering of Christianity in this, he did not say on the Lord's day, he said 'On the venerable day of the sun' all should rest. He wanted unity in his empire. Most of the Romans had adopted Mithraism, a refined form of sun worship, they observed Sunday, and the Christians could observe it for Christ rose from the dead on that day, Sunday gradually replaced the Sabbath in the Roman Church along with many other pagan rites.

They clashed with the other more simple apostolic churches for centuries later on this question, the Celtic Church of the British Isles, or the St. Thomas Churches of India, but gradually overcame them.

Most unbiased writers agree with this. I notice my encyclopedia here says, "Sabbath, originally the 7th. day, observed by Jews, and by Christians for the first three centuries. Now largely the 1st day among Christians." The Scotch and Irish Christians were still keeping the Seventh Day Sabbath for many long centuries after this.

The Sabbath in the British Isles.

After 321 AD when the Emperor Constantine made his law for resting on the Venerable Day of the Sun, and pagans in large numbers were pouring into the church at Rome, Sunday gradually became the Rest Day, and after a time the 7th Day Sabbath was no longer kept at Rome.

All historians show that the Scotch and pagan Saxons of England were converted by the Celtic Church from Ireland. Augustine, with his (40) monks, did not convert England He converted only Kent, and founded the See of Canterbury there. Outside Kent progress was at first very slow. His claim to supremacy was rejected by the Welsh Clergy.

The Celtic Church was different from Rome.

They permitted their priests to marry, the Romans forbade it. The Celts used a different form of baptism from the Romans. The Calendar for all movable feasts was not the same. They did not use the Vulgate Bible, and they kept Saturday as a day of rest with special religious services on Sunday.

St. Columba converted Scotland, and started the work in England. Butler's "Lives of the Saints" says, of Columba, "Having continued his labors in Scotland for thirty-four years, he clearly and openly foretold his death, and on Saturday the 9th of June, 597, he said to his disciple Diermit, "This day is called the Sabbath, that is the Rest Day, and such will it be to me, for it will put an end to my, labors." He died that day. So the 9th June is St. Columba's day. Bellesheim, the Roman Catholic Historian, quotes this as "an allusion to the custom observed in the early monastic Church of Ireland, of keeping the day of rest on Saturday - on the Sabbath."

Rome did not get control of England till 67 years after Augustine landed in 597 AD. In 664 AD King Oswui called the two parties to the Council of Whitby. Influenced by the false claims of Rome King Oswui handed England over to the control of the Roman Church, which gradually enforced Sunday rest.

So in the 7th Century, the majority of the Christians of the British Isles still kept the original 7th Day Sabbath. Scotland did not come under Roman Church control for centuries afterwards. At the time of the Norman Conquest, in 1069, Princess Margaret sister of Edgar Aetheling, fled with her brother to Scotland.

When Canute and his Danes conquered England, the children of the Saxon King fled to Hungary. Hungary had recently become Roman Catholic, and they were brought up very ardent Roman Catholics. Margaret

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wanted to become a nun. The Scottish king, Malcolm Canmore promised her if she would marry him he would give her control of the Scotch Church. She brought five charges against the Scotch Church, (1) "They would hold their mass in a barbaric tongue," (Scotch not Latin.) (3) "They would Sabbatize, they would not keep the Lord's Day holy."

That is they kept the Seventh day Sabbath as their day of rest not Sunday. After a struggle, The Roman Church got control. Ireland was not brought under control of Rome till after the conquest of Ireland under Henry 11, the Synod of Cashel. (1172) was held. For a long time there remained in the Irish Church, a Celtic and a Anglo-Norman party. Gradually the Roman Church got entire control, and Sunday became the only rest day.

"There is much evidence that the Sabbath prevailed in Wales universally until AD 1195 when the first Roman bishop was seated at St. David's." Many fled into hiding places, where the ordinances of the gospel were administered in their primitive mode.

There have been stray groups, and individuals ever since who have believed in the Sabbath as God's day of rest, and worshipped in the apostolic way. During the nineteenth, and twentieth centuries, their numbers have continually and rapidly grown, especially since the rise of Seventh Day Baptists; and Seventh day Adventists, who have risen because of the last angels messages in Revelation 14:12 "Here is the patience of the saints here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus."

It is amazing how the Roman church spread outwards, absorbing the earlier churches e.g. The Celtic Church of the British Isles; substituting the pagan Sunday for the original Seventh Day Sabbath, kept by the churches as "The Rest Day!"

This can be understood by studying the prophecies, e.g. Daniel 7:25 and Revelation 17:17. A power would arise who would "think to change times and laws" (Authorized) or "he shall think himself able to change times and laws (Douay) "And they shall be given into his hand" for a certain period. Many students of prophecy have clearly shown that this is Rome and can be no one else.

The Prophetical Symbols are straightforward and clear, and have been defined by the prophets "moved by the Holy Spirit" as the Apostle Peter wrote. Woman is a church. Beast is a great Kingdom or power Daniel 7:23. (we use the same in common speech. The British lion. The Russian bear, etc.). The ten horns are the 10 kingdoms into which Western Rome was divided (351 AD – 476 AD.)

The period of time, permitted by God, during which this power would have full control, is mentioned 9 times in the Bible. It is now finished. The two texts quoted are: Daniel 7:25 "And he shall speak great words against the most High, and shall wear out the saints of the most High, and think to change times and laws: and they shall be given into his hand until a time, times and the dividing of time." Revelation 17:17 "For God hath put in their hearts to fulfill his will, and to agree, and give their kingdom unto the beast, until the words of God shall be fulfilled!"

So in the history of Western Europe we have watched the churches and kingdoms, one by one, surrender to Rome's claims. These claims were accepted in an age of ignorance, but now can be shown as incorrect and false.

Lord's Day.

We have already shown that in the Old Testament the Lord called the Sabbath my holy day. And in the New Testament Christ says "The Son of man is Lord even of the Sabbath day."

The day of the Lord, or of Jesus Christ, or the equivalent is mentioned nine times in the New Testament. In eight of the texts it can be shown to be the day of judgment, (after man's day, the Lord takes charge.) I shall give you one example Acts. 2:20. "The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before that great and notable day of the Lord come." How absurd to say this is Sunday. The same with all eight texts. There is only one text of the same words, that does not carry its clear meaning. Men who cannot find any text at all in the Bible to show that God, or Christ, or the Apostles changed the Sabbath day, grasp this

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text as a drowning man a straw and build up a mythical support for their claim. No wonder Roman Catholic writers, mock them for their lack of sincerity, and poor reasoning. Revelation 1:10 "I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day." does not make a Sabbath out of Sunday. They say John meant Sunday, but what makes this claim absurd is the fact that later in his gospel he twice calls Sunday, not the Lord's day, but the first day of the week.

"The first day of the week cometh Mary Magdalene". "Then the same day at evening, being the first day of the week?" John 20:1, 19.

This disposes forever of the claim made that "on the Lord's day" means on Sunday. I have written out all texts and discussions on them, but have abbreviated it here, to give the bare gist of the proofs available. Truth is easy to write, and one with God is a majority.

Prophecy.

The Sabbath has been changed in Christian circles from the seventh day to the First day of the week. Roman Catholic writers claim that their church by its Divine power, made the change. In the Book of the prophet Daniel, Daniel 7:25 there is a power that is to arise who will "think to change times and laws" and they shall be given into his hand for a time. (The Douay Bible translates this "and he shall think himself able to change times and laws."). Using prophetic symbolism and the notes of the Douay (R.C.) Bible, it is easy to show this power is Rome, no other power in the world fulfills, or could fulfill the specifications.

Could not the old original Seventh Day be Lost?

Some years ago at the League of Nations, there was strong move to reform the calendar. It would make a change in the weekly cycle. This was strongly objected to especially by the Jews and the Seventh-day Adventists. The question was asked could there not be a change since the Seventh Day Sabbath was made at Creation? The delegates of the whole 42 nations there, investigated the question, and unanimously agreed there could have been no time lost.

The Bible statements show: The Sabbath was given at Creation, then confirmed by the falling of Manna, and the Commandments of Sinai. Sabbaths were watched carefully by the Jews, later by the Samaritans as well. The Sabbath was confirmed by Christ when He was on earth. Over 40 years before that in 46 B.C. Julius Caesar made the Julian Calendar, which was modified by the Gregorian Calendar but the weekly cycle has never been interrupted. The French accepted the Gregorian Calendar, but the English kept to the Julian Calendar for 150 years, but their days were the same. The Russians did not accept it till 1917, the Eastern Churches in 1923. So the Seventh Day Sabbath, is still the same Sabbath, blessed and sanctified by God.

Can you keep Sabbath on a global earth?

Yes, if you leave the day line, where we found it, in the vast wastes of water in the Pacific. No one knew anything about a day-line, until it was found by ships going to the west around the world, when they arrived back they had lost a day. When they went around going east, they had gained a day. But it does not affect the regular cycle of any area on the earth, it still has its weekly cycle. At the speed we can now travel, we could make high jinks of our days. Or if through injury or sickness, we could be unconscious for a day or longer, and upset our daily or weekly cycle, that would not change the weekly cycle, or Sabbath.

If it upsets the cycle for the Sabbath, it would upset the cycle for Sunday the same.

Sunday Sacredness.

The only proofs given: There is not one text of Scripture which shows any transference of the Sabbath sacredness to Sunday; anyone to prove this must turn to the so-called Apostolic or Church fathers. The Bible claims that everything necessary for belief in Christ, and salvation has been written e.g. John 20:31 "But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye

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might have life through his name." And the Bible also condemns those who preach another Gospel: e.g. Galatians 1:9. "And as we said before, so say I now again, If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed."

As there is no proof in the Bible they have to use the Church Fathers.

The old Protestant position "The Bible and the Bible only is the religion of Protestants" has to be departed from, when, they turn to the church fathers.

Not good proof.

The church historian Neander says of them. "The writings of the so-called Apostolic Fathers, have unhappily, for the most part come down to us in a condition very little worthy of confidence, partly because under the name of these men, so highly venerated in the Church, writings were early forged for the purpose of giving authority to particular opinions and principles; and partly because their own writings that were extant, were interpolated." Church History Volume 2 Page 438.

Of all the church fathers Archdeacon Farrar says: "There are but few of them whose pages are not rife with errors -errors of method, errors of fact, errors of history, of grammar and even of doctrine."

Dr. Adam Clark says: "We may safely state that there is not a dogma in the most orthodox creed that cannot be proven by their authority; nor a heresy that has disgraced the Romish Church that may not challenge them as its abbetors. In point of doctrine this authority is with me nothing. The Word of God alone contains my creed."

Summing up.

There is NOT ONE TEXT for Sunday Observance. In our brief study, we have seen that there is not one text for Sunday observance. If you can find one, hand it on to me, and I'll gladly study it with you. The question before you is-DO YOU OBEY GOD OR MEN? DOES THIS NOT CONDEMN GOOD PEOPLE? past Sunday Keepers. No! Definitely not. For the Apostle Paul says: "The times of this ignorance God winked at: but now commands all men everywhere to repent." Acts 17:30. In the Judgment, God will remember our lack of opportunity. "The Lord shall count, when he writes up the people, that this man was born there." Psalm 87:6.

By the same action. ONE INNOCENT AND ONE GUILTY.

If your father had sold cloth, measured by the yardstick, one inch short, he might have done it in all ignorance, and would be innocent of intent to defraud.

After it is pointed out to you, that the measure he has used, is not correct, and you continue to use it you are guilty. You are, and would be labeled in man's sight, as well as in God's sight, a cheat. For Christ said, in John 3:19 "And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil!" Joshua 24:15.

"CHOOSE YOU THIS DAY WHOM YE WILL SERVE"

"His servants ye are to whom ye obey." Romans 6:16. Acts 5:29. "We ought to obey God rather than men!" "If ye love me keep my commandments." John 14:15.