



God's

Test

for

Mankind

Rev. Charles E. Darnell, PhD

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Scripture quotations

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The Publication Manual presents explicit style requirements but acknowledges that alternatives are sometimes necessary; authors should balance the rules of the Publication Manual with good judgment. Preface: p. xx.

Gone Fishing

How did Yeshua begin gathering His Apostles? Wasn't He walking beside the Sea of Galilee when He spoke to men that were fishing. He told them to follow Him and He would make them fishers of men. Isn't that correct? Now, jump forward about 2,000 years to today and allow me to make a statement.

I gave my life to Yeshua in July 1957 at the age of 12. My church affiliation was with the largest Protestant denomination in the United States. At that point of time I believed in the doctrine of "Once saved, always saved." Now, sixty-five years later, I feel compelled to take a different stand in an attempt to have as many readers, friends and family members as possible to view the words of God's Holy Bible in a bright new light. This is a new revelation to me personally, and I feel I must share these discoveries I have made to as many people as I can as quickly as I can.

We have an awesome God who loves all of His creation and He has taken the necessary time and plans to show all mankind that powerful, wonderful love. God's Word tells us that God formed the end from the beginning. His master plan knew where, at what exact time, things would have to happen and He put all the pieces in their proper place and time so they would happen as they were supposed to. Your life has been laid out long before you were even dreamed about in the thoughts of your earthly mother and father. God knows exactly the choices that you are going to make today, even though you have free will choice. Yes! God knows the choices you and I will make before we make them!

God knew that mankind would rebel against Him. He knew that many people would believe in false statements and bold faced lies made by Satan and his demons. Even so, God left instructions in His Word for mankind to be able to follow. He did this so mankind would have warnings about what would happen to societies over the course of time if they rebelled and turned away from Him. God forewarns mankind that there will be a punishment for disobedience.

Now, after years of studying God's Word, I feel like I am a fisher, or perhaps a hunter, in an attempt to show others the truth hidden within God's Word. Here is an Old Testament statement that shows God's mighty hand in the affairs of mankind and leads to my attempt to get this message to others. Jeremiah 16:14-18, ¹⁴ *"Therefore behold, the days are coming," says the Lord, "that it shall no more be said, 'The Lord lives who brought up the children of Israel from the land of Egypt,' ¹⁵ but, 'The Lord lives who brought up the children of Israel from the land of the north and from all the lands where He had driven them.' For I will bring them back into their land which I gave to their fathers.*

¹⁶ *"Behold, I will send for many fishermen," says the Lord, "and they shall fish them; and afterward I will send for many hunters, and they shall hunt them from every mountain and every hill, and out of the holes of the rocks. ¹⁷ For My eyes are on all their ways; they are not hidden from My face, nor is their iniquity hidden from My eyes. ¹⁸ And first I will repay double for their iniquity and their sin, because they have defiled My land; they have filled My inheritance with the carcasses of their detestable and abominable idols."* (NKJV) So, in my own way, I have "gone fishing." My question to myself is: Should I use a rod and reel to do my fishing or a dip net to cast out for greater coverage? Either way, I must continue to use what God has led me through in the many years that God has taught me the things He has had me to write. There is now over 2,300 letter size pages that have been penned to express what God has shown me in my journey of life. Now, many of those pieces are coming together to make a clear picture of what is in store for mankind. There is a choice that must be made, and every person must make that choice for themselves!

As in all my other written books and booklets, I insert the words of the Bible in blue supporting my position on all subjects that God has allowed me to write about. I will continue to follow this same

pattern in this work with one extra ingredient added. In this work, I will also make all scriptures in **BOLD** for the sake of clarity and impact. Just as the Apostles took the Gospel of Yeshua and showed those whom they were leading in order to teach them the truth. I now take up the newly revealed, to me, truth of the Gospel to show you the truth!

One final statement. Notice above that I used the term Yeshua instead of Jesus. Here is my question: Why do we use the term Jesus as the name for the Son of God? Christ was Jewish so why don't we use a Jewish name for our Lord and Savior? Calling Yeshua by the name Jesus is not even close to a true Aramaic to English translation, that would be Joshua. So where did this name Jesus come from? There are several other statements that Yeshua made that I think are very important to add to this discussion. Please review John 14:12-14 first, ¹² ***“Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father. ¹³ And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴ If you ask anything in My name, I will do it.”*** (NKJV) Do you ever feel your prayers are not answered? Is it because you asked using the wrong name? Now, turn to Matthew 18:19-20, ¹⁹ ***Again I say to you that if two of you agree on earth concerning anything that they ask, it will be done for them by My Father in heaven. ²⁰ For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them.”*** (NKJV) One more positive side statement, turn to John 5:43, ⁴³ ***I have come in My Father's name, and you do not receive Me; if another comes in his own name, him you will receive.*** (NKJV) If we changed the name of Christ, why is it that we didn't also change the name of God? Is it because Yeshua is the living Christ who was on Earth, and God, the Father, is not normally walking about as He was in the Garden. Of course there is normally a negative side and there is one here also. Read Matthew 24:5, ⁵ ***For many will come in My name, saying, ‘I am the Christ,’ and will deceive many.*** (NKJV)

So how did the name Jesus get into our Bible as the name of the Messiah? Let's look at history! In 321 CE (Christian Era) the “Catholic Church” had pushed Emperor Constantine to establish Sunday as the day of rest and for worship. Surely, by that date this so called “Church” had established Jesus as the vernacular for the name of Christ. Now, roughly 1,700 years later, how do I, as one man, prove to the Christian portion of the world so they understand how the term “Jesus” came about? And, more importantly, how do I get you to change your way of thinking so that you choose to use the proper Jewish name of Yeshua as the real, true name of the Messiah?

In my normal usage of Scripture, after my written statements, I bring in the verses in blue italicized text. I have not, nor will not, change the wording of Scripture and change the term Jesus to Yeshua. My Bible tells me I am not to change any of God's Word by adding one word nor removing one jot or tittle from text. Therefore, I leave that up to the copyright holders of the various translations of the Bible to make that correction. I pray they make that change soon, prior to the return of Christ.

The Simple Gospel Truth

Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, are the recorders of the Gospel message! Notice something, there is no place in the New Testament that Yeshua recorded any of His teachings. He left that task up to these four Gospel writers. But, at the same time, we must remember that God could write, He wrote the Ten Commandments on the tablets of stone for Moses to take to the Israelites at Mt. Sinai. We find this in Exodus 34:1, ¹ *And the Lord said to Moses, “Cut two tablets of stone like the first ones, and I will write on these tablets the words that were on the first tablets which you broke.* (NKJV) We also know that Yeshua could write. We find this in John 8:6-8, ⁶ *This they said, testing Him, that they might have something of which to accuse Him. But Jesus stooped down and wrote on the ground with His finger, as though He did not hear.* ⁷ *So when they continued asking Him, He raised Himself up and said to them, “He who is without sin among you, let him throw a stone at her first.”* ⁸ *And again He stooped down and wrote on the ground.* (NKJV) Those two passages of Scripture show us that both God and Yeshua could write.

But, what is the Gospel message that Yeshua says the Father sent Him to proclaim? The plain answer is that Yeshua came to proclaim the Kingdom of God. This is proclaimed in many passages of Scripture in the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. We can find this in Matthew 4:17; 23, ¹⁷ *From that time Jesus began to preach and to say, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”* Matthew 4:23, ²³ *And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease among the people.* (NKJV) We also find that Yeshua came to fulfill the Law, the Ten Commandments, and not to destroy the Law. We find this in Matthew 5:17-20, ¹⁷ *“Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill.* ¹⁸ *For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled.* ¹⁹ *Whoever therefore breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches men so, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does and teaches them, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.* ²⁰ *For I say to you, that unless your righteousness exceeds the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven.* (NKJV)

In the Gospel of Mark, we find similar passages to those that we identified in Matthew. Mark 1:14-15, ¹⁴ *Now after John was put in prison, Jesus came to Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God,* ¹⁵ *and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel.”* (NKJV) We also find the following in Mark 10:15; 23, ¹⁵ *Assuredly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will by no means enter it.”* Mark 10:23, ²³ *Then Jesus looked around and said to His disciples, “How hard it is for those who have riches to enter the kingdom of God!”* (NKJV) From the Gospel of Luke, we find Luke 4:43, ⁴³ *but He said to them, “I must preach the kingdom of God to the other cities also, because for this purpose I have been sent.”* (NKJV) Luke 10:9, ⁹ *And heal the sick there, and say to them, ‘The kingdom of God has come near to you.’* (NKJV)

That should be enough to convince you that the simple Gospel is the telling of the coming Kingdom of God, and that, through Christ that kingdom was present at that time when He walked on Earth. Yeshua illustrated the way and the truth of reaching God and the Father’s Kingdom of eternal life.

But there are other questions that must be addressed to even begin to understand the Kingdom of God. Let’s ask this one first: What day are we to worship God and to honor His Holy Day? If religion is a living thing and changes with growth, aren’t we to adjust that day to the period of time that we are living in now? **Does it make any difference?**

Does it Matter What Day We Worship God?

Most of today's professing Christians accept Sunday as the New Testament Lord's Day. Muslims observe Friday. Some religions observe no specific day for honoring their deity, but there are those who insist the seventh-day Sabbath, both Jewish and Christian, is still binding.

They claim that failure to keep the Sabbath is sin and the punishment for disobedience is death for eternity!

Now that is a pretty serious claim!

Few take this question seriously, but that does not disprove or dismiss the facts of the statement. Have you ever seriously looked into this question? What is the God appointed Holy Day of worship? I learned long ago, while serving in the military, that it can be very dangerous to carelessly assume, or just take for granted some decisions. It is a much wiser and safer action to gather all the facts and then make a decision.

It would seem that one's life for eternity should be considered a pretty serious subject. We are responsible to know all the facts. Few realize, in today's society, that the Sabbath vs. Sunday controversy raged during the first three centuries of the Christian era. Violence and bloodshed mounted. Millions were tortured and put to death over this question.

Who has the right answer? And, after all, does it really make a difference?

Just a few years ago, I had to face this question. Friends made the statement that they had found, in the Bible, that Christians are bound to keep the Sabbath, Friday sunset to Saturday sunset. I was shocked, even angered. To me this was nothing more than fanaticism. I had arguments, plenty of them!

"You can't tell me that all the various denominations and all of their affiliated churches were wrong!" I said in confident indignation.

I was challenged to look into this question more deeply, to get all the facts! I was angered into serious research. I could not ignore the question. I had this question to live with! It had invaded my being! Immediately when this question is raised, numerous other questions flash to mind. Don't we have to adjust our religion to the changing times? After all, wasn't the Bible completely written some 1,900 years ago? We live in a different world today! That's one argument. Yet, are we free to reason out our own religion? Are we going to render the decisions concerning our own fate in the final judgment? Perhaps we'd better get the honest to goodness truth!

Some will ask, "How can this world, as it is now organized, keep the seventh-day Sabbath? The world is geared toward Sunday." Or, "Suppose you're traveling on an ocean liner. Would you expect them to stop the engines and cease steaming forward at sunset Friday?" "What about public utilities in the big cities? What about electricity, water, and gas, must the police departments shut down and let criminals have a holiday every week?"

Amazing, today is May 9th, 2023 and the lead article in the All Israel News from May 8 was the following headline: "Kosher Electricity" plan and canceled El Al flights on Sabbath renew concerns about implementation of religious law in Israel. All Israel News Staff | May 8, 2023. The Israeli government on Sunday approved the construction of an energy storage facility that will enable the supply of kosher electricity to ultra-Orthodox customers on Saturdays. Secular population apprehensive about potential growing influence of ultra-Orthodox parties in the government.

Didn't Yeshua face this same situation with His Apostles in Matthew 12:1-14, ¹ *At that time Jesus went through the grainfields on the Sabbath. And His disciples were hungry, and began to pluck heads of grain and to eat.* ² *And when the Pharisees saw it, they said to Him, "Look, Your disciples are doing what is not lawful to do on the Sabbath!"* ³ *But He said to them, "Have you not read what David did when he was hungry, he and those who were with him: ⁴ how he entered the house of God and ate the showbread which was not lawful for him to eat, nor for those who were*

with him, but only for the priests? ⁵ Or have you not read in the law that on the Sabbath the priests in the temple profane the Sabbath, and are blameless? ⁶ Yet I say to you that in this place there is One greater than the temple. ⁷ But if you had known what this means, 'I desire mercy and not sacrifice,' you would not have condemned the guiltless. ⁸ For the Son of Man is Lord even of the Sabbath." (Here is your AUTHORITY!)

⁹ Now when He had departed from there, He went into their synagogue. ¹⁰ And behold, there was a man who had a withered hand. And they asked Him, saying, "Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath?"—that they might accuse Him. ¹¹ Then He said to them, "What man is there among you who has one sheep, and if it falls into a pit on the Sabbath, will not lay hold of it and lift it out? ¹² Of how much more value then is a man than a sheep? Therefore it is lawful to do good on the Sabbath." ¹³ Then He said to the man, "Stretch out your hand." And he stretched it out, and it was restored as whole as the other. ¹⁴ Then the Pharisees went out and plotted against Him, how they might destroy (kill) Him. (NKJV)

Suppose our nation was at war, should our forces stop fighting at sunset on Friday? The enemy might not see it that way! However, hasn't time been lost? How can we know whether the Saturday of today is the same day of the week as it was at creation, or at the time of Moses? Hasn't the weekly cycle gotten mixed up since creation? That question will be answered with the proof in this book.

Even so, one may reason in conclusion, what possible difference can it make which day, or even whether we observe it at all? These questions and more must be answered! And they will be in this book. First of all, in a world where established, organized Christianity observes Sunday, where perhaps most people do not seriously observe any day as really sacred, how can we know? Is there any Supreme Authority, with the power of life and death over our eternity, with power to declare and enforce the right answer?

By what AUTHORITY do Christians observe Sunday; Muslims, Friday; Sabbatarians, Saturday; and others, observe no day at all? Is there any *authority* for observing Friday, or Sunday or Saturday? It certainly is apparent that all Christian denominations, religious congregations, sects or groups do not recognize the *same* authority.

Allow me to say this: *If there is no God*, if I were to leave God completely out of the picture, then I could not see how it could possibly make any difference! There is no way I can imagine how a man could reason out in his own mind, apart from any Supreme Authority, *WHY* it could make any difference *which* day, or *whether* or not we observe that day as being holy. However, the Almighty Creator God does exist! His existence is easily proven. God is emphatically **IN** the picture, whether people recognize that fact or not! That great God has set, in living, inexorable motion, invisible laws respecting this very question. If you believe that the Bible is the Word of God, then you already have an active part of God's invisible laws. The simple truth is that **God left Ten Commandments for mankind to follow** and God and those laws *EXIST*, they *LIVE*, they are *ACTIVE!* Their existence and their action do not depend on one man, or all mankind, realizing their existence. Almighty God holds the keys of life and death and by Him *your fate* is being determined for all eternity! **That is the reason why it does make all the difference** for your well-being now, today and for eternity! So first of all, we must settle once and for all, what or who is the Supreme Authority before whom we shall stand in judgment. Does such authority explain why it makes a difference, and include what the consequences are for disobedience or neglect? In some small manner, we opened the door to this discussion through our previous discussion on what Yeshua taught as the Gospel message He brought to the earth! There are a couple of passages to which I'd like to call your attention. First, permit me to insert Yeshua's statement concerning God's laws. His statement is found in Matthew 5:17-20, ¹⁷ **"Don't misunderstand why I have come. I did not come to abolish the law of Moses or the writings of the prophets. No, I came to accomplish their purpose. ¹⁸ I tell you the truth, until heaven and earth disappear, not even the smallest detail of God's**

*law will disappear until its purpose is achieved.*¹⁹ *So if you ignore the least commandment and teach others to do the same, you will be called the least in the Kingdom of Heaven. But anyone who obeys God's laws and teaches them will be called great in the Kingdom of Heaven.*²⁰ *“But I warn you—unless your righteousness is better than the righteousness of the teachers of religious law and the Pharisees, you will never enter the Kingdom of Heaven!”* (NLT) Can you now begin to see the authority that is presented in the Law and the power of eternity that rests within these words of Yeshua?

Do you realize that there is one religious denomination that lays claim to being the sole unerring authority when it comes to Christian observances? It claims the Bible “is not a sufficient guide to heaven.” It claims, through its own church leaders, that it, by its own authority, substituted Sunday for the Sabbath. This denomination forced Emperor Constantine to rule for Sunday as the day of rest in 321 CE. This religious body offers the very fact that all Sunday keeping people, which includes the Western world as a whole, have bowed down to its dictates on Sunday observance as proof of its absolute authority. Some time ago, one ecclesiastical authority (Cardinal Gibbons’ book *Faith of Our Fathers*) stated that you may search the Bible from Genesis to Revelation, and you cannot find one line or verse authorizing Sunday observance—that the Bible enforces the keeping holy of the seventh-day Sabbath—and that the sole authority for Sunday observance is **based on edicts of men**. The claim is that a succession of human ecclesiastical leaders has *replaced* the authority of Christ. This may surprise many religious people. It is claimed that Christ turned headship of the Church over to Peter and his successors. In plain language, that Christ “bowed out,” as it were—that men rule *in place* of Christ, as head of the Church. Even so, many churchgoing people do not accept this idea of unerring decisions by men. What, then, is the truth? Have you ever stopped to really prove whether God exists? Can you actually prove, by irrefutable and positive proof, that God is Creator, that He rules as the supreme and infallible authority over all His creation, over all the universe? Yes, *you can prove that* unless you are unwilling to accept truth! Allow me to insert another passage of Scripture at this junction: Matthew 7:13-14,¹³ *“Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it.”*¹⁴ *Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.* (NKJV) These two short verses hold such powerful words. There are many people in almost every denomination who believe they know where the narrow gate is and have found it. Yeshua Himself makes it perfectly clear that there are few who find the narrow gate and the difficult way that leads to life. In fact, Yeshua tells us that there are two gates and that most people enter in by the broad gate that leads to destruction. Can you prove, also, that the Holy Bible is the very authoritative Word of God, His inspired message and instruction book to mankind, the sole infallible authority, by which humanity shall be judged?

I must make a clear statement at this point. Yeshua, the Messiah, is the FOUNDER of the true New Testament Church. I must also emphatically state that Yeshua did not turn over the authority of the true church to any one man or group of religious leaders.

But, *when* did Christ actually found, or *start*, God’s Church. Was it while still a mortal human, or after His resurrection and ascension to heaven? He merely taught His message, His gospel to His disciples during His mortal human lifetime! But the Church was founded or was started on the day of Pentecost, 31 CE, *AFTER* Christ had been resurrected, glorified, and ascended to the throne of God in heaven. Now when is Christ supposed to have “bowed out” as Head of the Church and turned the leadership of the Church over to men? Not after the Church was founded and in being, *nor before there was any Church to turn over!* Why then do church leaders reject the authority of the Scriptures? They attempt to establish their authority *on the authority they reject and deny* by quoting Matthew 16:13-18,¹³ *When Jesus came into the region of Caesarea Philippi, He asked His disciples, saying, “Who do men say that I, the Son of Man, am?”*¹⁴ *So they said, “Some say John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.”*¹⁵ *He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?”*¹⁶

Simon Peter answered and said, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." ¹⁷ Jesus answered and said to him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven. ¹⁸ And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it. (NKJV)

Now, since it is claimed that the rock on which the Church was founded refers to Peter and not Christ notice the true meaning, as originally written by Matthew. Matthew wrote in the Greek language. There was no English language then. The English versions of today are *translations* from the original Greek language.

Peter was also called Cephas (Greek *Képhas*, from the Aramaic *Kêpha*). John 1:40-42 relates how Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, found Peter and brought him to Yeshua. ⁴² *And he brought him to Jesus. Now when Jesus looked at him, He said, "You are Simon the son of Jonah. You shall be called Cephas" (which is translated, A Stone).* (NKJV) The English word *stone* is translated from the Greek word *petros*, meaning a single stone or loose stone. Also the Greek word *Kephas* means such a stone, referring definitely to a human man. But when Yeshua said *"upon this rock I will build my church"* (Matthew 16:18), the Greek word, as written originally by Matthew, was *not* either *Kephas* or *petros*, but *petra*, which means a *large massive* rock.

Notice a few other passages where this same Greek word *petra* is used. In *Matthew 7:24*, Yeshua spoke of the man who built his house on a rock. The Greek word is *petra*. Could a man build a house, so firmly it could not be blown away, on a pebble or stone? Of course not! In the next verse, Yeshua said the house fell not, even though the rain came in torrents, the floods came, the winds beat upon the house in fury, because that house was founded on a rock. Thus the word *petra* denotes bigness, solidity and strength! It is defined also as a *mass of rock*. In *Matthew 27:60*, it is stated that the tomb in which Yeshua was buried, after the crucifixion, was hewn out *in the ROCK*, in the *petra*! This is a *mass* of rock, not a single stone. It was big enough to have a family tomb hewn out of it. It is a very large rock, not a tiny stone.

The Greek *petra* cannot mean the human Peter, but the glorified Christ! Speaking of the Israelites under Moses in the wilderness, Paul writes the following in 1 Corinthians 10:4, ⁴ *and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them, and that Rock was Christ.* (NKJV) According to the Liddell-Scott *Greek-English Lexicon*, "There is no example, in well-respected authors, of [petra] in the sense of [petros]." On the contrary, *petros* is "distinguished from" *petra*. In plain language, then, that *petra* was Christ, but the smaller stone, *petros*, or *Kephas*, was Simon Peter. That settles the question once and for all!

Was *Peter* the *head* of the Church? What did *PETER* himself say? Peter, speaking of Christ and the Church, wrote as follows in 1 Peter 2:6-10, ⁶ *For it stands in Scripture: "Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious, and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame."* ⁷ *So the honor is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe, "The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone,"* ⁸ *and "A stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense." They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.* ⁹ *But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.* ¹⁰ *Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.* (ESV) In the above passage, Peter is speaking to the Church. He quoted from Isaiah 28:16, ¹⁶ *Therefore thus says the Lord God: "Behold, I lay in Zion a stone for a foundation, A tried stone, a precious cornerstone, a sure foundation; Whoever believes will not act hastily.* (NKJV) This pictures Christ as that foundation of the Church on which it is built. God's Church was built on the *ROCK* (its foundation), being Christ, *not* on the stone, meaning Peter.

In the passage found in **1 Peter 2**, in each case, the word *stone* is translated from the Greek word *lithos*—not *petros*. *Lithos* is defined as a stone, a millstone, a stumbling-stone. The same word is used for the stones with which the temple was built and also the stone that was rolled up to the door of Christ’s sepulcher, higher than a man’s head. The word *rock*, however, in verse 8, is translated from the Greek *petra*, meaning a massive stone. It pictures Christ, not Peter, as the Head of the Church. The Church is described in Ephesians 2:20, **20 *having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief corner stone,*** (NKJV) Here Christ is plainly said to be the Chief or Head. The real foundation of the Church is Christ, 1 Corinthians 3:11-17, **11 *For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.*** **12 *Now if anyone builds on this foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw,*** **13 *each one’s work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one’s work, of what sort it is.*** **14 *If anyone’s work which he has built on it endures, he will receive a reward.*** **15 *If anyone’s work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.*** **16 *Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?*** **17 *If anyone defiles the temple of God, God will destroy him. For the temple of God is holy, which temple you are.*** (NKJV) Many teach that Christ left and went “way off,” forsook the Church and turned its leadership over to Peter and his successors. But this is recorded concerning Yeshua Himself in Hebrews 13:5, **5 *Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, “I will never leave you nor forsake you.”*** **6 *So we may boldly say: “The Lord is my helper; I will not fear. What can man do to me?”*** **7 *Remember those who rule over you, who have spoken the word of God to you, whose faith follow, considering the outcome of their conduct.*** **8 *Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.*** (NKJV) He is shown in Revelation 1:13, 18 to be the living Head, spiritually *in the midst* of the Church. Revelation 1:13, **13 *and in the midst of the seven lampstands One like the Son of Man, clothed with a garment down to the feet and girded about the chest with a golden band.*** Revelation 1:18, **18 *I am He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore. Amen. And I have the keys of Hades and of Death.*** (NKJV) Who does the Word of God say is the living Head of the Church? Does God name Peter, an ecclesiastical leader, or Christ? **READ IT in the following passages of Scripture!** Ephesians 5:23, **23 *For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body.*** (NKJV); Ephesians 4:15, **15 *But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:*** (KJV); Ephesians 1:22, **22 *And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church,*** (NKJV); Colossians 1:18-20, **18 *And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence.*** **19 *For it pleased the Father that in him should all fulness dwell;*** **20 *And, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven.*** (KJV); Colossians 2:17-22, **17 *which are a shadow of things to come, but the substance is of Christ.*** **18 *Let no one cheat you of your reward, taking delight in false humility and worship of angels, intruding into those things which he has not seen, vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind,*** **19 *and not holding fast to the Head, from whom all the body, nourished and knit together by joints and ligaments, grows with the increase that is from God.*** **20 *Therefore, if you died with Christ from the basic principles of the world, why, as though living in the world, do you subject yourselves to regulations—*** **21 *“Do not touch, do not taste, do not handle,”*** **22 *which all concern things which perish with the using—according to the commandments and doctrines of men?*** (NKJV) Yeshua, the Christ, rose from the dead! Yeshua *LIVES* today! *WHY* then is Christ pictured either as a helpless babe in His mother’s arms, glorifying the mother even ahead of Christ, or else *hanging dead* on a cross? Jesus Christ is alive today! For more than 1,900 years, He has been the living Head and High Priest of the *true* Church, that He built.

Thus we see that the true New Testament Church was founded by Yeshua, the Christ and not the Apostle Peter. It was the *resurrected, living* Christ, after His ascension to God's throne in heaven, who actually founded the Church. It was on the day of Pentecost, 31 CE. On that day, Christ, did as He had promised in John 16:7-15, *7 Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you. 8 And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: 9 of sin, because they do not believe in Me; 10 of righteousness, because I go to My Father and you see Me no more; 11 of judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged. 12 I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. 13 However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come. 14 He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you. 15 All things that the Father has are Mine. Therefore I said that He will take of Mine and declare it to you. (NKJV) The *Helper* Yeshua spoke of is the Holy Spirit who would enter into His disciples, thus baptizing, or plunging them into, the Church. The Church is *not* a building or cathedral. The word *church* comes from the Greek *ekklesia* which means congregation of *people*. The Church consists of people, the *begotten* children of God. It consists of, and *only* of, those who have been begotten of God by having received His Holy Spirit.*

Paul confirms this fact in 1 Corinthians 12:13-14, *13 For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free—and have all been made to drink into one Spirit.* 14 *For in fact the body (of the church) is not one member but many.* (NKJV) The word *baptized* means plunged into or inducted into. The receiving of God's Spirit begets one with God-life and makes him a partaker of "the divine nature." Thus Peter exalts every believer in Yeshua in the opening verses of his second book, 2 Peter 1:1-12, *1 Simon Peter, a bondservant and apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who have obtained like precious faith with us by the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ:*

2 Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord, 3 as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, 4 by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

5 But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, 6 to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, 7 to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love. 8 For if these things are yours and abound, you will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 For he who lacks these things is shortsighted, even to blindness, and has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins. 10 Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble; 11 for so an entrance will be supplied to you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

12 For this reason I will not be negligent to remind you always of these things, though you know and are established in the present truth. (NKJV) The people Peter was addressing are begotten children of God. God made man in His image, however He did not make man immortal or of the same substance that He possesses. The Bible unquestionably states that the ability to live forever is a gift from God to those who obey Him. This group, as stated here, will become *the Saints* who assist Yeshua in the ruling of the Kingdom of God during the one-thousand year reign of Christ! Now, we should all see clearly that it was Yeshua who founded the Church. Yeshua went to heaven and sent God's Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost. The same resurrected, *living* Yeshua, the Christ, has been the Head of the *true* Church for more than 1,900 years! We have found the one and only infallible authority to *settle*

this Sabbath question, once and for all! That Supreme Authority is Yeshua, the Christ, the Son of God, the Messiah, and His written Word, the Bible.

But even if Christ *is* the living Head of the *true* Church, even if He is the Supreme Authority to settle this question, one may still ask: “How does that concern me?” Does it still make any difference even if it involves the sin question? Most people today leave God out of the picture. People today take sin lightly, in fact, it could be said today that sin is taken with the *proverbial grain of salt*. I said before, if God is not in the picture, then you cannot possibly see any reason why it makes any difference *which* day, or *whether* you observe any particular day to honor God. Thankfully God is ***IN*** the picture!

The truth is God doesn't seem *real* to most people. We are all a *creation* of God! God Almighty put humanity on Earth for a purpose! His laws and His decrees determine your happiness, well-being and success here and now, as well as your fate for eternity! You will not be the Judge when you appear at the final Judgment! The Eternal God created the entire universe: He sets in motion, sustains and *controls* every power, force and energy! He rules His creation and the laws He set in living motion determine your well-being or lack of it. Oh, yes, He is *in the picture!* Again, is the sin question involved? *WHO* determines *what* is sin, and just *what difference* does it make?

Most people do not know *what* sin really is. Some say dancing is a sin while others say it is not. Some say smoking is a sin and others say it is not. Different people and different churches have different ideas. That could be very *costly ignorance!* The first thing you need to get settled in your mind is this: **The living God of all power does not allow us to decide *WHAT* is sin. He determines *WHAT* is sin, and compels you to decide *WHETHER* or *NOT* to sin! Remember the penalty of sin is death for *ETERNITY!* In simple terms, *sin is disobedience to God's rules and laws!***

Let's look at how this rule or law was initially stated that identified death as a penalty for disobedience. Let's return to the act of creation in the book of Genesis to find the beginning of God's rules for mankind. In Genesis 2:16-17 God established the first rule and instructed the man in this rule: ***16 And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, “You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, 17 but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.”*** (ESV) We know that the man gave this instruction to the woman because Scripture tells us as recorded in Genesis 3:2-3, ***2 And the woman said to the serpent, “We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, 3 but God said, ‘You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.’”*** (ESV) Ah! We find out how cunning Satan can be and why he is the author of all lies because of what is recorded in Genesis 3:4-5, ***4 But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not surely die. 5 For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”*** (ESV) We must understand that God is instructing the man that this is a spiritual death, a total separation from Him! That penalty is *real!* It is a terrifying, *frightful* fate! Sin is doing what God says is harmful and injurious to *you* and others! Sin is doing what *deprives* you of God's blessings: peace, happiness, security, abundance and joyful living. The above blessings are a part of God's supreme gift of eternal life!

We have established who holds Supreme Authority. Yeshua, the living Christ constitutes the sole Supreme Authority to settle this question once and for all! We have answered our first question: Who has the authority over the church? Our answer is Yeshua and not Peter! Our next question pertains to which day is directly specified with *your connection* to God? That answer is directly connected with your welfare here and now, and the choice you make for your eternity. It makes a *tremendous difference to GOD!* Yeshua, the Christ is the living *personal* Word of God. The Holy Bible is the *written* Word of God by which Christ speaks to *you!* Christ is the active Head of the only true Church. We have found the Supreme Authority to establish the Church! So, through the Bible, let us see what Christ says about *which* day we are to keep as our day of rest in this New Testament era, and whether it makes any difference.

Who Made and Established the Sabbath?

Yeshua had considerable to say and teach about the Sabbath as well as its observance. In Mark's Gospel, we read of the *beginning* of His ministry and the gospel He taught. He said repeatedly, this gospel came directly from God the Father, God's message to mankind. Mark 1:1, ¹ *The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.* (NKJV) The gospel of Jesus Christ is *not* a gospel from men *about* the person of Christ. The gospel *OF* Christ is Christ's gospel, the gospel Christ preached, is the gospel God sent by Yeshua for mankind!

We find several stories pertaining to the early ministry of Yeshua in the gospel of Mark. Mark illustrates for us in verse one of chapter one that Yeshua is bringing His Gospel from God the Father to mankind. We know that John the Baptist was to prepare the way in the manner of Elijah, and Christ was baptized by John and immediately went into the wilderness to be tempted by Satan. After forty days we know that Yeshua returned back to Galilee and we pick up our story at that point. We are going to look at verses 14 through 39 of the first chapter of Mark, ¹⁴ *Now after John was put in prison, Jesus came to Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God,* ¹⁵ *and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel."* In verses 16-20, we see Yeshua choosing the first four of His Apostles, ¹⁶ *And as He walked by the Sea of Galilee, He saw Simon and Andrew his brother casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen.* ¹⁷ *Then Jesus said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you become fishers of men."* ¹⁸ *They immediately left their nets and followed Him.* ¹⁹ *When He had gone a little farther from there, He saw James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother, who also were in the boat mending their nets.* ²⁰ *And immediately He called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired servants, and went after Him.* This group went to Capernaum and immediately on the Sabbath He entered the synagogue to teach those attending this gathering, verses 21-22, ²¹ *Then they went into Capernaum, and immediately on the Sabbath He entered the synagogue and taught.* ²² *And they were astonished at His teaching, for He taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes.* We now find our first illustration of the authority that Yeshua possessed, verses 23-28, ²³ *Now there was a man in their synagogue with an unclean spirit. And he cried out,* ²⁴ *saying, "Let us alone! What have we to do with You, Jesus of Nazareth? Did You come to destroy us? I know who You are—the Holy One of God!"* ²⁵ *But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be quiet, and come out of him!"* ²⁶ *And when the unclean spirit had convulsed him and cried out with a loud voice, he came out of him.* ²⁷ *Then they were all amazed, so that they questioned among themselves, saying, "What is this? What new doctrine is this? For with authority He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey Him."* ²⁸ *And immediately His fame spread throughout all the region around Galilee.* The next verse identifies the closeness of Peter's house to the synagogue, verse 29, ²⁹ *Now as soon as they had come out of the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John.* Verses 30-31 illustrate for us the second act of mercy and healing shown by Yeshua, verses 30-31, ³⁰ *But Simon's wife's mother lay sick with a fever, and they told Him about her at once.* ³¹ *So He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up, and immediately the fever left her. And she served them.* The third illustration of Yeshua's power to heal is shown in verses 32-34, ³² *At evening, when the sun had set, they brought to Him all who were sick and those who were demon-possessed.* ³³ *And the whole city was gathered together at the door.* ³⁴ *Then He healed many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and He did not allow the demons to speak, because they knew Him.* Yeshua demonstrates for us the need He had to commune with the Father in verse 35, ³⁵ *Now in the morning, having risen a long while before daylight, He went out and departed to a solitary place; and there He prayed.* Next, after He is found by Peter in verse 36 Peter wanted Yeshua to return to Capernaum, verse 37, ³⁶ *And Simon and those who were with Him searched for Him.* ³⁷ *When they found Him, they said to Him, "Everyone is*

looking for You.” Yeshua tells them the purpose He was sent to Earth by God, the Father, verse 38, ³⁸ *But He said to them, “Let us go into the next towns, that I may preach there also, because for this purpose I have come forth.”* Finally, we see that Yeshua preaches the Kingdom of God and demonstrates His authority over demons in verse 39, ³⁹ *And He was preaching in their synagogues throughout all Galilee, and casting out demons.* (NKJV)

Our next story is found in Mark 2:23-27. It is interesting to observe the choice of words used in various Bible translations. Of the various translations on my Bible program, all use the word *grainfields* except the King James Version. The KJV uses *cornfields* as the field of grain that Yeshua and the Apostles were walking through in Mark chapter 2. At any rate, the story is in Mark 2:23-28, ²³ *And it came to pass, that he went through the corn fields on the sabbath day; and his disciples began, as they went, to pluck the ears of corn.* ²⁴ *And the Pharisees said unto him, Behold, why do they on the sabbath day that which is not lawful?* ²⁵ *And he said unto them, Have ye never read what David did, when he had need, and was an hungred, he, and they that were with him?* ²⁶ *How he went into the house of God in the days of Abiathar the high priest, and did eat the shewbread, which is not lawful to eat but for the priests, and gave also to them which were with him?* ²⁷ *And he said unto them, The sabbath was made for man, and not man for the sabbath.* ²⁸ *Therefore the Son of man is Lord also of the sabbath.* We see that the Pharisees accused Yeshua’s disciples of breaking the Sabbath by plucking ears of corn to eat. Yeshua began a discussion to teach them, as part of His gospel, *how* to observe the Sabbath. He said: *“The sabbath was made for man, and not man for the sabbath: Therefore the Son of man is Lord also of the sabbath”* Recall that we have seen the parallel verses from Matthew in Matthew 12:1-8. There is one important verse that is recorded in Matthew but not recorded in Mark. Inserted here is that one verse, Matthew 12:12, ¹² *Of how much more value then is a man than a sheep? Therefore it is lawful to do good on the Sabbath.”* (NKJV)

I want you to read that pivotal text again! Yeshua said, *“The sabbath was made.”* It is one of those things that was *made*. Therefore, it had to have a Maker. *Who*, then, *made* the Sabbath? God is the Creator. But it is written in Ephesians 3:8-12, ⁸ *To me, who am less than the least of all the saints, this grace was given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ,* ⁹ *and to make all see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the ages has been hidden in God who created all things through Jesus Christ;* ¹⁰ *to the intent that now the manifold wisdom of God might be made known by the church to the principalities and powers in the heavenly places,* ¹¹ *according to the eternal purpose which He accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord,* ¹² *in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through faith in Him.* (NKJV) Do you see the statement in verse 9: *God who created all things through Jesus Christ?*

John’s Gospel begins, John 1:1-5, 14-15, ¹ *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.* ² *He was in the beginning with God.* ³ *All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made.* ⁴ *In him was life, and the life was the light of men.* ⁵ *The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. . . .* ¹⁴ *And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.* ¹⁵ *(John bore witness about him, and cried out, “This was he of whom I said, ‘He who comes after me ranks before me, because he was before me.’”)* That *Word* was Yeshua! Christ was *with* God the Father from eternity. Christ *was* God! All things were made by Him! The Sabbath is one of those things that was made. Therefore, it was Yeshua who made the Sabbath. God made the Sabbath *through* Yeshua!

We are looking for Biblical authority as to who is performing the actual creation in order to learn what is made by God. Review once again Colossians 1:16-18, ¹⁶ *For by Him (Christ) all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him.* ¹⁷ *And He*

is before all things, and in Him all things consist. ¹⁸ *And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence.* (NKJV) There is no reason or excuse for wondering who created what! Yeshua plainly stated that He is Lord of the Sabbath! (Mark 2:28).

Return again to Mark 2:27. The Sabbath was not only one of those things that was *made*, it not only had a Maker, but it was made *for someone*. Today's prevalent thought seems to be that the Sabbath was made *for the Jew*. However, what did Christ Himself say? He said it was made *for man!* If it was made *for mankind*, we should suppose it was made *when* man was made. But we must not *suppose*. We must have Biblical authority!

Let's turn back to the description of the time when man was made. Genesis 1:26-28, ²⁶ *Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."* ²⁷ *So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.* ²⁸ *Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth."* (NKJV) When did this happen? Verse 31 of chapter 1 stated it was the sixth day of creation week. Further, *man* was the very *last* thing or being created on that day. Man came into being, then, probably in the late afternoon of the sixth day. Continuing in chapter 2, we observe the following in verses 2-3, ² *And on the seventh day God ended His work which He had done, and He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had done.* ³ *Then God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it, because in it He rested from all His work which God had created and made.* (NKJV)

Notice this! When *God said, "Let us make man,"* *who was it that did the speaking?* The original Hebrew word here translated 'God' is *Elohim*. This Hebrew word for God is a noun plural in form (collective noun) meaning more than one Person, yet one God. *God is a Kingdom, a Family.* There is the Father. Yeshua, the Christ, is the Son. Christ is also the Word, that is, the *Spokesman*. He speaks only as the Father directs. God created all things *by* Yeshua! Therefore, it was Yeshua who spoke! It was Yeshua who *said: "Let us make man."* It was Yeshua who did the work of creation, as directed by the Father! Notice this also! Did Yeshua *complete* His creating on the sixth day? Does it say that on the seventh day He ceased to create? Not at all! Carefully notice the order of things! *On the seventh day God ended,* what? Not creating! He ended *His work which He had done* There was a full seven days of creation! Not six, a full seven days! On the seventh day He *MADE THE SABBATH!* But the Sabbath was made, not by work, but by rest. What He *ended* on the seventh day was *the work* of creation, that which was created by *work!* On the seventh day He *rested!* He created the Sabbath day by *resting*.

Why did Yeshua, who had done the work of creation, *rest?* Was He *all tired out?* Was He so fatigued He was forced to stop and rest? Positively not! I assume that Yeshua rested for another reason as well. He was modeling what He had set forth as required for mankind! Remember, we are looking for Biblical answers to the questions we posed concerning the Church and God's Sabbath. We find an answer to the question asked here in Isaiah 40:28, ²⁸ *Have you not known? Have you not heard? The everlasting God, the Lord, The Creator of the ends of the earth, Neither faints nor is weary.* (NKJV) Yet, this was a *real rest*, because in Exodus 31:17 it is written: ¹⁷ *It is a sign between Me and the children of Israel forever; for in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, and on the seventh day He rested and was refreshed.'* ¹⁸ (NKJV) Since He was *refreshed* by this rest, it was a real rest. Yet, He was not tired or weary! Why did He rest? To put His divine presence in that day! *He made the Sabbath on that day by resting, whereas He had made all other things by working!* Now, notice this also, ³ *Then God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it, because in it He rested from all His work which God had created and made.* What does *sanctified* mean? Look in your dictionary. It means

set apart for holy use or purpose. He *set apart* this day from other days, set it apart for holy use, for a day of physical rest, in which His people may assemble and worship God! He also “*hallowed*” the seventh day of every week, Exodus 20:11, ***“For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day. Therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it.”*** (NKJV) He made it holy! It is, as we shall see in the Scriptures later, holy to God.

We are beginning to see that the Sabbath is a special to God day. It is the particular seventh day *of the week* as we just saw above in Exodus 20:11, ***“For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth . . . and rested the seventh day. Therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it.”*** Therefore what God did, and God did it by Christ, *was to make future TIME holy!* Now ask yourself, and answer: Does any *man* have authority to make *future time* holy? No man is holy of himself. No man has power to make anything holy. God alone is holy, or whatever God has *made* holy! No group or organization of *men* has authority to make future time holy! The Sabbath is a space of time. God set it as that space of time from Friday sunset to Saturday sunset. Whenever that time comes to us, *we are in holy time!* It is God’s time, not ours! God made it holy and placed it in the Ten Commandments as we shall see in detail a little later. He commanded us to *keep it holy!* Many do not realize today that it is a sin to profane that which is holy to God! Once again, does it *make any difference* whether we keep this very day God blessed and made holy? Must the Christian *respect* what God makes holy?

God gives us a very plain explanation in an experience of Moses. Moses, raised from a baby as a prince by Pharaoh’s daughter, had killed an Egyptian guard, and fled to the land of Midian near Mt. Sinai. There he had married a daughter of Jethro the priest. We then pick up this story in Exodus 3:1-6, ***“Now Moses was tending the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian. And he led the flock to the back of the desert, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. And the Angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire from the midst of a bush. So he looked, and behold, the bush was burning with fire, but the bush was not consumed. Then Moses said, “I will now turn aside and see this great sight, why the bush does not burn.” So when the Lord saw that he turned aside to look, God called to him from the midst of the bush and said, “Moses, Moses!” And he said, “Here I am.” Then He said, “Do not draw near this place. Take your sandals off your feet, for the place where you stand is holy ground.” Moreover He said, “I am the God of your father—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.” And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look upon God.”*** (NKJV)

Now suppose Moses had been like most people today. He probably would have argued: “Well, Lord, I don’t see where it *makes any difference* where I take off my shoes. I don’t want to take them off here on this ground. I’ll wait and take my shoes off a mile down the way.” Had Moses rebelled and said that, he would have never been used to lead God’s people out of Egyptian slavery. The ground a mile away was not holy. *Why* did it make any difference whether Moses took off his shoes, or *where*? Here is why! The ground where he then stood was *HOLY*. He was required, by God, to treat holy ground with a respect he did not treat other ground. And *why*? Well, what made that particular bit of ground holy? God’s very presence was in that ground! God is *HOLY!* God’s *presence* in that bush made the ground around it holy! In the very same manner, God’s presence is in His Sabbath. He *rested* on that first Sabbath to put *His presence* in that day! This made it holy time! Four thousand years later, when this same “Logos,” or “Word,” was made flesh when God came as Yeshua, the Christ in human flesh, God was still putting His presence in that same weekly recurring Sabbath. Yeshua went into the synagogues as His custom was, continuing what His Father had established long before! As it is stated in Hebrews 13:8, ***“Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.”*** (NKJV) *Do you believe that?* Is your Bible an authority? Do you accept it as *AUTHORITY*? By God’s authority, Paul penned the following so we could understand more of the relationship between our flesh and Yeshua in Romans 8:7-11, ***“Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can***

be. ⁸ So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God. ⁹ But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His. ¹⁰ And if Christ is in you, the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. ¹¹ But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you. (NKJV)

If Yeshua dwells in you, the body is dead to sin, but the spirit is life because of righteousness. Yeshua has not changed, He is *still* putting His presence in His Sabbath! Moses was commanded, *by God*, to take his shoes off because he was on holy ground. Disobedience would have been sin with the penalty of eternal death. Mankind is commanded, *by the same God*, to take his foot off from trampling over and profaning God's holy day! God requires His children to treat that holy time with a respect not required in other time.

Understand this prophecy, ***for our time now***: Isaiah 58:13-14, ¹³ ***“If you turn away your foot from the Sabbath, From doing your pleasure on My holy day, And call the Sabbath a delight, The holy day of the Lord honorable, And shall honor Him, not doing your own ways, Nor finding your own pleasure, Nor speaking your own words, ¹⁴ Then you shall delight yourself in the Lord; And I will cause you to ride on the high hills of the earth, And feed you with the heritage of Jacob your father. The mouth of the Lord has spoken.”*** (NKJV) There rests, in this passage from Isaiah, a plain, old fashioned ***“thus saith the Lord”*** statement! We *honor God* by *keeping holy* those things that He has *made* holy! We *dishonor Him* when we speak our own words, saying, “Well, I think the ideas and ways of men, and of all of this world's churches, must be right. I'd rather do as they do and honor them, so I will be well thought of by them.” God commands: “Take your foot off my holy time! Quit trampling all over that which is holy and sacred to me! Quit profaning my holy things, whether it be my name, my tithe of your income, or my holy days.” The sin is in profaning that which God made holy! God has never made any other weekly day holy outside of His ordained Feast Days! Man has no authority to make a day holy. You *cannot* keep a day holy, unless God has first *made* it holy, any more than you can keep cold water *hot*, unless it has first been *made hot*! God made this space of time holy, He commands *you to keep it that way!*

This world, and all its civilization, including its religions, consists of a system of beliefs and customs that have been derived from ***the way which seemeth right unto a man***. God says *mankind's* way incurs the penalty of eternal death. That way, *the way that seems right to men*, is the way of sin. *If* the world's religions really accepted the Bible as their authority, they would all believe exactly the *same thing*, all would follow God's Ways, and the customs He has ordained. Many who profess Christianity also *profess* to follow the Bible and the Bible *only*. Yet they believe the very opposite of the plain teachings of Scripture and of Christ. They follow customs of *pagan* origin *condemned* by God in the Bible! Truly this world is *deceived!* Having just made that statement, let's add three more passages of Scripture just to show you the magnitude of mankind's rebellion and Satan's influence. Our first passage illustrates mankind's feeling of their worth to Yeshua through their disobedience. If mankind calls Yeshua LORD they surely mean to obey Him, but they do not. Review Matthew 7:21-23 to see what Yeshua thinks about mankind's servitude toward Him. Matthew 7:21-23, ²¹ ***“Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. ²² Many will say to Me in that day, ‘Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?’ ²³ And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!’*** (NKJV) Paul provides us with the knowledge that Satan is the god of this world in 2 Corinthians 4:3-4, ³ ***But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, ⁴ whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine***

on them. (NKJV) *Yeshua gives us a story and the last passage I'd like for you to see. This story comes from Revelation 12:7-9, ⁷ And war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought with the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought, ⁸ but they did not prevail, nor was a place found for them in heaven any longer. ⁹ So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.* (NKJV) Yes! The entire Earth has been deceived.

Men evolve (meaning to change over time) many arguments to evade (meaning escape or avoid) the commandments of God, because the carnal mind is hostile to God, and is not subject to His law! Romans 8:7-8, ⁷ *Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be. ⁸ So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God.* (NKJV). When men reject the commandments of God, so that they may hold to their traditions, they must devise *arguments* to justify their rebellion. Mark 7:6-9, ⁶ *He answered and said to them, "Well did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written: 'This people honors Me with their lips, But their heart is far from Me. ⁷ And in vain they worship Me, Teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.'* ⁸ "For laying aside the commandment of God, you hold the tradition of men—the washing of pitchers and cups, and many other such things you do." ⁹ He said to them, "All too well you reject the commandment of God, that you may keep your tradition. (NKJV)

One of their arguments is that God's commandments did not exist until the children of Israel reached Mt. Sinai. Tell me then, how did Abraham *keep* God's commandments 430 years before his descendants reached Sinai? *Read it in your own Bible!* Genesis 26:3-6, ³ *Dwell in this land, and I will be with you and bless you; for to you and your descendants I give all these lands, and I will perform the oath which I swore to Abraham your father. ⁴ And I will make your descendants multiply as the stars of heaven; I will give to your descendants all these lands; and in your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed; ⁵ because Abraham obeyed My voice and kept My charge, My commandments, My statutes, and My laws."* ⁶ *So Isaac dwelt in Gerar.* (NKJV). God is speaking. He is explaining *why* He made the great promises to Abraham. It was because Abraham kept God's Sabbath! We read in the New Testament that to break any one of the commandments is sin. We find this recorded in James 2:10-11, ¹⁰ *For whoever shall keep the whole law, and yet stumble in one point, he is guilty of all. ¹¹ For He who said, "Do not commit adultery," also said, "Do not murder." Now if you do not commit adultery, but you do murder, you have become a transgressor of the law.* (NKJV).

Here is a good place to insert a personal statement to all those who claim to be New Covenant Christians yet they say that they do not need to read, study and understand the Old Testament portion of their Bible. Without the knowledge of the Old Testament, you have no knowledge of the basis, the ground work or foundation of what your particular portion of Biblical text is founded upon!

Some try to argue that "perhaps time became lost. Perhaps they lost count of which day was the same seventh day of every week that God rested on." Adam was created and living when sunset came that sixth day of creation week, when God rested from His *work*. Adam knew which was the seventh day. Yeshua called Abel "righteous." Matthew 23:34-35, ³⁴ *Therefore, indeed, I send you prophets, wise men, and scribes: some of them you will kill and crucify, and some of them you will scourge in your synagogues and persecute from city to city, ³⁵ that on you may come all the righteous blood shed on the earth, from the blood of righteous Abel to the blood of Zechariah, son of Berechiah, whom you murdered between the temple and the altar.* (NKJV) Yeshua declared Abel to be righteous, thus Abel must have *kept* the Sabbath. Genesis 5:24, ²⁴ *And Enoch walked with God; and he was not, for God took him.* (NKJV) Enoch "walked with God," so Enoch kept the Sabbath, and he was "taken" less than a hundred years before Noah. These great men of Biblical history knew which day was the same seventh day all through this time. Adam lived 243 years with Methuselah, and until Lamech was 56 years of age. These men knew which day was the seventh. Methuselah lived 600 years with Noah, and

Lamech lived with Noah 595 years. Noah certainly learned from them, and others, which was the same seventh day. Noah kept it, because 2 Peter 2:5 states Noah was a preacher of righteousness, ⁵ *and did not spare the ancient world, but saved Noah, one of eight people, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood on the world of the ungodly;* (NKJV) We find that “all thy commandments are righteousness” in Psalm 119:172, *172 My tongue shall speak of Your word, For all Your commandments are righteousness.* (NKJV) Shem was also righteous, and he lived until Abraham was 150 years old. Noah died only about two years before Abraham was born. **No!** It is clear that time was not lost down to the time of Abraham.

However, after the death of Jacob and of Joseph, the children of Israel (Jacob) became slaves in Egypt. We see in Exodus 1:10-14 the Egyptians set hard taskmasters over the Hebrews, ¹⁰ *come, let us deal shrewdly with them, lest they multiply, and it happen, in the event of war, that they also join our enemies and fight against us, and so go up out of the land.”* ¹¹ *Therefore they set taskmasters over them to afflict them with their burdens. And they built for Pharaoh supply cities, Pithom and Raamses.* ¹² *But the more they afflicted them, the more they multiplied and grew. And they were in dread of the children of Israel.* ¹³ *So the Egyptians made the children of Israel serve with rigor.* ¹⁴ *And they made their lives bitter with hard bondage—in mortar, in brick, and in all manner of service in the field. All their service in which they made them serve was with rigor.* (NKJV)

The Egyptians observed no Sabbath. They lashed the Israelites in their slave-labor, on the Sabbaths the same as all other days. These Israelites, for most of the 430 years they were in Egypt, several generations, were not permitted to keep the Sabbath. See Exodus 13:40 to confirm this length of time, ⁴⁰ *Now the sojourn of the children of Israel who lived in Egypt was four hundred and thirty years.* (NKJV). They had no priesthood. There was no Sabbath nor religious service. Probably there was no religious teaching, certainly none was allowed on an organized scale.

And there was no BIBLE, no written record of God’s instruction, or of God’s law! The Bible says *“the word of God endureth for ever.”* If any inspired Word of God had been written prior to Moses, it would be in evidence today. The first Scriptures were written by Moses, *after* the Israelites were delivered out of Egyptian slavery. The generation of Israelites which Moses led out of Egypt had received no religious instruction or training. Probably they knew little about the Sabbath. Time *could* have been lost, to *them*, but, if so, God revealed it by amazing miracles!

NOTICE! These Israelites, some 3 or 4 million in total number (600,000 men above age 20), came to the wilderness of Sin two months after leaving Egypt, and some two weeks before arriving at Mt. Sinai. Remember, this is weeks *before* God gave them the Ten Commandments. These people were griping and grumbling because of scarcity of food in the desert.

It was here God *revealed* to them, by miracles, *which day* was the Sabbath, and *whether it makes any difference* if it is kept. Then said God unto Moses, Exodus 16:4-5, ⁴ *Then the Lord said to Moses, “Behold, I will rain bread from heaven for you. And the people shall go out and gather a certain quota every day, that I may test them, whether they will walk in My law or not.”* ⁵ *And it shall be on the sixth day that they shall prepare what they bring in, and it shall be twice as much as they gather daily.”* (NKJV) This was more than two weeks *before* they received the Ten Commandments, *before* the Old Covenant had so much as been proposed, *before* the law of Moses. But God’s law was in force and effect. **God was going to prove (test) them**, whether they would obey one of His laws. I will show you that God was speaking to them on a Sabbath. It is evident that God (who, in human flesh, later became Christ) first preached to man on the first Sabbath. Adam was created on the sixth day of creation week. Evidently he was created in the late afternoon, since the creation of man was the last act of creation on that day. When the sun had set, immediately after Adam’s creation, God *preached to him*, offering him the gift of eternal life (through the tree of life), and warning that the wages of sin is death. Genesis 2:15-17, ¹⁵ *Then the Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to tend and*

keep it. ¹⁶ And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, “Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; ¹⁷ but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.” (NKJV)

Here God is again preaching to Israel, through Moses, *on the Sabbath*. Read the next verses in Exodus 16, Verse 9, *Moses and Aaron gathered the people*. Verse 10, *they all saw the glory of the LORD*. Verses 11-13, *between the two evenings, at dusk, immediately after sunset on that Sabbath, God sent the quails for food, and next morning the manna was on the ground. Now notice the next miracle*. Verse 20, *Some tried to save a supply of manna over until next morning, contrary to God’s command. “It bred worms, and stank.”* Now verse 22, *On the sixth day they gathered a double portion of manna*. Verse 23, *Moses explained that “Tomorrow is the rest of the holy sabbath unto the LORD.” And on this sixth day, they were commanded to lay up the Sabbath supply of food, which they did*. And, verse 24, *it did not breed worms nor decay, as on the preceding five days!* Here was another miracle from God, showing them *which* day of the week is the God appointed seventh day! When the next morning came, the Sabbath, *Moses said, “to day is a sabbath unto the LORD: to day ye shall not find it in the field. Six days ye shall gather it; but on the seventh day, which is the sabbath, in it there shall be none”* (verses 25-26). Did it make any difference? Was it not all right to go ahead and work on the seventh day and then rest on the first day of the week? Mankind has not changed. They still want things to be *THEIR* Way! They want control. Just like most professing Christians today, some of these Israelites thought their way would be better. They wanted to have their own way.

NOTICE WHAT HAPPENED! The next verse, verse 27: *Now it happened that some of the people went out on the seventh day to gather, but they found none*. These *people* thought it made no difference *which* day, or *whether* they kept the Sabbath! However, it made a difference to God! On the six weekdays God had Himself taken care of the work of raining down manna. But God Himself did none of this work on His Sabbath, which is holy to Him! On this seventh day, God Himself *rested* from sending them manna! Notice verses 28-29: ***“And the LORD said unto Moses, HOW LONG REFUSE YE TO KEEP MY COMMANDMENTS AND MY LAWS? See, for that the LORD hath given you the sabbath, therefore he giveth you on the sixth day the bread of two days; abide ye every man in his place, let no man go out of his place [to gather, to work] on the seventh day”!*** (KJV) And after that blazing rebuke from God, the people rested on the seventh day! **It certainly does make a difference to God!** And Hebrews 13:8 teach us: ⁸ *Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever*. (NKJV) If God, the Father, and Yeshua, the Son are one and the same, can’t we carry this over and say that God is also the same yesterday, today and forever?

Examine these miracles by which God revealed to the Israelites *which day* is His Sabbath day. Manna fell for six days, but none on the seventh day. God Himself *worked* by sending manna the six weekdays, but He rested on the seventh day. On the first five days of the week, the manna would decay and breed worms if any was saved over, but on the eve of the Sabbath, the night after the sixth day, it did not decay but remained fresh in perfect state of preservation, and they had no refrigerators! Also on the sixth day God gave them twice as much. He gave them none on the seventh day. After all those generations of slavery in Egypt, some might argue that the Israelites lost track of time. God revealed by the many miracles illustrated above which day is His Sabbath. God gave them a blazing rebuke for not keeping His Sabbath. He revealed that the keeping of the Sabbath holy was His law, many days *prior* to the proposing of the Old Covenant, or the giving of the Ten Commandments in the form God spoke them at Sinai. Thus didn’t God reveal *which day* is His Sabbath, and also, that it does make a life-and-death difference? To break God’s Holy Sabbath is sin, and the penalty of sin is eternal death!

Notice, once again, Exodus 16:29, ²⁹ ***See! For the Lord has given you the Sabbath; therefore He gives you on the sixth day bread for two days. Let every man remain in his place; let no man go out of his place on the seventh day.***” (NKJV) Nowhere, in all of God’s Word, can you find any statement

that “God gave to mankind Sunday, or the first day of the week!” *Who, then, did give the professing Christian world its SUNDAY?* You can easily find the answer in history, carnal man gave professing “Christianity” its Sunday, pagans, those *cut off* from God, men that were in rebellion against God! It came out of *paganism!* It came, in part, from Babylon as sun god worship. The world, having been deceived by Satan, follows those customs! What is the source of *your* religion? Is it men, the majority of public opinion and the customs of man, or is it God Almighty as the source of what you believe and do? ***Which?*** Is your authority human acceptance, or is God your authority along with God’s Word, the Holy Bible? ***WHICH?*** *Your ETERNITY hangs on your answer to that question!*

Before we turn the page and study the Ten Commandments let’s get some dates established!

First, what are the dates associated with Moses? Deuteronomy 34:7 informs us that Moses lived for one hundred and twenty years, ***7 Moses was one hundred and twenty years old when he died. His eyes were not dim nor his natural vigor diminished.*** (NKJV) The last forty years of Moses’ life were spent in the wilderness. We find this record in Deuteronomy 29:5, ***5 I have led you forty years in the wilderness. Your clothes have not worn out on you, and your sandals have not worn off your feet.*** (ESV) My reference book for the full dates of Moses is *The Timechart of Biblical History*, © 2002, Third Millennium Trust. The date for Moses death is 1451 BCE. If I use that date, I should have an approximate date for the Exodus from Egypt as 15th of Nisan, 1491 BCE. We must remember two other points. First, the Exodus began at the first Passover before it was even established as one of God’s ordained feast days. Second, Exodus 19:1, ***1 On the third new moon after the people of Israel had gone out of the land of Egypt, on that day they came into the wilderness of Sinai.*** (ESV) informs us that the Israelites reached the area of Mt. Sinai on the third new moon after leaving Egypt. My Hebrew Calendar would inform me that the third month would be Tammuz, or the equivalent of our early July. Exodus 19:16 says on the morning of the third day, ***16 On the morning of the third day there were thunders and lightnings and a thick cloud on the mountain and a very loud trumpet blast, so that all the people in the camp trembled.*** (ESV) Therefore, on approximately the 18th of Tammuz, 1491 BCE God spoke the Ten Commandments to Moses and the Israelites.

There are three other important dates we need to know about.

- 1) The division between the house of Israel and the house of Judah occurred in 930 BCE.
- 2) The taking of Samaria and the house of Israel into captivity occurred in 722 BCE.
- 3) The taking of Jerusalem and the major portion of the house of Judah to Babylon occurred in 586 BCE.

My reference for these three dates was taken from a chart produced by the Zondervon Corporation and copyrighted in 1991. If we take the original date for the giving of the Ten Commandments and today’s date. we should all see that mankind, as a whole, has been violating God’s Commands for an approximate period of Three Thousand and Fourteen years. No wonder God is upset with His creation, mankind!

Moses Was Not the Giver of the Ten Commandments, God Was!

In the third month of the newly established sacred calendar, the month of Nisan, God had given the Israelites a release from their Egyptian bondage. This multitude of three to four million people had left Egypt under the guidance of Moses and traveled into the wilderness.

Once across the Reed Sea, they traveled toward Mount Sinai and set up their tent encampment at the base of the mountain. This camp must have been at least twenty miles across. We pick up the story of the Exodus in Exodus chapter 19:2 ² *For they had departed from Rephidim, had come to the Wilderness of Sinai, and camped in the wilderness. So Israel camped there before the mountain.* ³ *And Moses went up to God, and the Lord called to him from the mountain, saying, “Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob, and tell the children of Israel: ⁴ ‘You have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles’ wings and brought you to Myself. ⁵ Now therefore, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be a special treasure to Me above all people; for all the earth is Mine. ⁶ And you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.’ These are the words which you shall speak to the children of Israel.”*

⁷ *So Moses came and called for the elders of the people, and laid before them all these words which the Lord commanded him. ⁸ Then all the people answered together and said, “All that the Lord has spoken we will do.” So Moses brought back the words of the people to the Lord. ⁹ And the Lord said to Moses, “Behold, I come to you in the thick cloud, that the people may hear when I speak with you, and believe you forever.” So Moses told the words of the people to the Lord.*

¹⁰ *Then the Lord said to Moses, “Go to the people and consecrate them today and tomorrow, and let them wash their clothes. ¹¹ And let them be ready for the third day. For on the third day the Lord will come down upon Mount Sinai in the sight of all the people. ¹² You shall set bounds for the people all around, saying, ‘Take heed to yourselves that you do not go up to the mountain or touch its base. Whoever touches the mountain shall surely be put to death. ¹³ Not a hand shall touch him, but he shall surely be stoned or shot with an arrow; whether man or beast, he shall not live.’ When the trumpet sounds long, they shall come near the mountain.”*

¹⁴ *So Moses went down from the mountain to the people and sanctified the people, and they washed their clothes. ¹⁵ And he said to the people, “Be ready for the third day; do not come near your wives.” ¹⁶ Then it came to pass on the third day, in the morning, that there were thunderings and lightnings,*

Then, in verse 3 of chapter 19, Moses went up the mountain to meet God. And there God gave him a proposition to lay before those millions of people. This proposition, or agreement, was what we now call the “Old Covenant.” This covenant agreement was to make these people a nation, God’s own nation on Earth. The proposition provided that God was to be their sole King and Ruler. Their government was to be a theocracy. God was the Lawmaker, not a congress, or parliament. God would appoint leading men to execute His orders. Moses returned to the vast tent city. There, at the base of the mountain, Moses came and called for the elders of the people, and laid before their faces all these words which God had spoken, (verse 7). The people unanimously accepted God’s proposition. You see, in this proposition, the people were intent on receiving what God promised in this contract, *“ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people.”* That is, the greatest, most prosperous, most powerful nation on Earth did not consider too seriously the *condition: “if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant”* (verse 5). Nor did they consider what was to come from the very voice of God for them to obey? A great law that *already existed* even as the laws of gravity and inertia, the laws of physics and chemistry, already existed. Only this was a spiritual law! God’s voice was to reveal that living, inexorable law in specific words, as a definite code.

Why this law? It's high time we, of today, realized the true answer: God Almighty not only is Creator and Ruler over His endless and vast creation of the entire universe, He is a God of love. In love, God created man in His own image. God loves human beings. God wanted the humans He was to create to be happy, to have peace, and to *enjoy* life in security and interesting, vigorous, abundant living. In order to make such a happy state possible, God set in living motion the spiritual laws which form the very *WAY* to every physical, mental and spiritual well-being. Through obedience to this law, mankind would avoid sorrow, suffering, anguish, insecurity, boredom, emptiness, frustration, violence and death. These spiritual laws provide the way to happy, invigorating, vital, interesting and joyful living. God is love, and God knows that love is heartwarming and good. So He fashioned and set in living motion a law of love, a law fulfilled, obeyed, performed *by* love. What a wonderful, glorious gift to mankind! You'd think humanity would rejoice and give God ceaseless thanks and praise in deep gratitude! But humanity doesn't! Good and glorious as this law is, human nature is *hostile* to it! Humanity was hostile then and continue to be hostile to this very day! Human nature is the inward *pull* of vanity, selfishness and greed. Selfishly, humanity *wants* to *take* everything God's way of life would bring. Rebelliously, humanity resents traveling that road to obtain these lavish blessings. Love is an outgoing concern. It is the way of giving, serving, sharing. Human nature wants to *take*. All good things, blessing, benefits, come from God. He is the source of everything good humanity craves. In God's proposition to be their King and Ruler, to make them the world's most prosperous, most blessed and powerful nation, they were to have the supreme blessing of having the guidance, protection and help of the all-wise, all loving, all-powerful God! Of course this vast congregation of people looked only to the end promise, to what they would get, and glibly agreed to the terms of God's proposition before they even heard God's terms. Then, (verse 8), Moses climbed the mountain again to report to God.

God instructed Moses: ***“Go unto the people, and sanctify them today and tomorrow ... And be ready against the third day: for the third day the LORD will come down in the sight of all the people upon mount Sinai”*** (verses 10-11). On that great day, in the morning, there was a *tremendous* display of thunder and lightning up on the mountain. Can you picture it? I think I can, at least partially. During those years I served this nation in its Air Force, I had the opportunity to travel to many places around the globe. I have gone through snow storms and whiteouts in Alaska. I have been in Japan, Philippines, Turkey and Alaska during earthquakes. I have seen the results of typhoons, hurricanes and tornados. I have seen lightning strikes that reach out for miles and miles. Some storms are scary, some are very noisy but I can't even begin to imagine what the Israelites were going through before Almighty God on that eventful morning. I thought, then, of only one thing, this very experience when God thundered down from Mt. Sinai His great spiritual law! Only difference, I realized that what I saw and heard must have been tame by comparison. Yet, it caused me to realize what an imagination defying experience occurred in the sight of all Israel! Imagine that vast sea of people, millions of them, stretching as far as the eye could see! Imagine the terrifying flashes of blinding lightning and crashes of thunder that would almost break eardrums! *The GREAT GOD HIMSELF* in the midst of this eye blinding, ear-splitting display preparing to thunder His great law in the hearing of that vast assemblage! No wonder the people were frightened and asked Moses to stand between them and God! Amid this tremendous manifestation of God's power and glory, Moses ***“brought forth the people ... to meet with God; and they stood at the nether part of the mount. And mount Sinai was altogether on smoke, because God descended upon it in fire ... and the whole mount quaked greatly”*** (verses 17-18). What a setting for the receiving of God's law! This was no ordinary occasion! God wanted the paramount importance of this law, God's perfect way of life, impressed on His people!

Think of it! A whole nation of millions gathered together in one vast, tremendous, history making assemblage! And God Himself speaking through fire, and flashing lightning, and deafening peals of thunder, with a great supernatural voice that needed no microphone or loudspeakers or public-

address systems to be heard by millions. That was not a throng of 100,000 people, such as we see each year in Pasadena at the Rose Bowl football game. That football crowd seems like something tremendous to us today. It is merely a puny, tiny grease spot compared to a thick cloud on the mountain, and the sound of the trumpet was very loud, so that all the people who were in the camp trembled. Let's look more closely to Scripture in Exodus 19:17-25, *¹⁷ And Moses brought the people out of the camp to meet with God, and they stood at the foot of the mountain. ¹⁸ Now Mount Sinai was completely in smoke, because the Lord descended upon it in fire. Its smoke ascended like the smoke of a furnace, and the whole mountain quaked greatly. ¹⁹ And when the blast of the trumpet sounded long and became louder and louder, Moses spoke, and God answered him by voice. ²⁰ Then the Lord came down upon Mount Sinai, on the top of the mountain. And the Lord called Moses to the top of the mountain, and Moses went up. ²¹ And the Lord said to Moses, "Go down and warn the people, lest they break through to gaze at the Lord, and many of them perish. ²² Also let the priests who come near the Lord consecrate themselves, lest the Lord break out against them." ²³ But Moses said to the Lord, "The people cannot come up to Mount Sinai; for You warned us, saying, 'Set bounds around the mountain and consecrate it.' "* *²⁴ Then the Lord said to him, "Away! Get down and then come up, you and Aaron with you. But do not let the priests and the people break through to come up to the Lord, lest He break out against them." ²⁵ So Moses went down to the people and spoke to them. (NKJV)*

Imagine this meeting between God and the Israelites. However, it was not Moses' voice that delivered God's law. It was the voice of Almighty God! The whole nation of people heard the voice of God! This is recorded in Exodus 20:1-21, *¹ And God spoke all these words, saying: ² "I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. ³ You shall have no other gods before Me. ⁴ "You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth; ⁵ you shall not bow down to them nor serve them. For I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and fourth generations of those who hate Me, ⁶ but showing mercy to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments. ⁷ "You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain, for the Lord will not hold him guiltless who takes His name in vain. ⁸ "Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. ⁹ Six days you shall labor and do all your work, ¹⁰ but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord your God. In it you shall do no work: you, nor your son, nor your daughter, nor your male servant, nor your female servant, nor your cattle, nor your stranger who is within your gates. ¹¹ For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day. Therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it. ¹² "Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long upon the land which the Lord your God is giving you. ¹³ "You shall not murder. ¹⁴ "You shall not commit adultery. ¹⁵ "You shall not steal. ¹⁶ "You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor. ¹⁷ "You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, nor his male servant, nor his female servant, nor his ox, nor his donkey, nor anything that is your neighbor's." ¹⁸ Now all the people witnessed the thunderings, the lightning flashes, the sound of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking; and when the people saw it, they trembled and stood afar off. ¹⁹ Then they said to Moses, "You speak with us, and we will hear; but let not God speak with us, lest we die." ²⁰ And Moses said to the people, "Do not fear; for God has come to test you, and that His fear may be before you, so that you may not sin." ²¹ So the people stood afar off, but Moses drew near the thick darkness where God was. (NKJV)*

God gave His law, His way of life, to the only ones on Earth who were His people. This came at the founding and setting up of God's nation on Earth. The establishment of the nation of Israel!

WHO gave the people the Ten Commandments? Notice this carefully! The people *did not receive the Ten Commandments from Moses*, as most people seem to believe today. Moses was hearing the very first delivery of the commandments, in this form, along with that whole nation of millions of people! It was not Moses who gave this law to the people, never the less “God spoke all these words.”

Now, notice Deuteronomy 5:4-22. ⁴ *The Lord talked with you face to face on the mountain from the midst of the fire.* ⁵ *I stood between the Lord and you at that time, to declare to you the word of the Lord; for you were afraid because of the fire, and you did not go up the mountain. He said:* ⁶ *‘I am the Lord your God who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.* ⁷ *‘You shall have no other gods before Me.* ⁸ *‘You shall not make for yourself a carved image—any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth;* ⁹ *you shall not bow down to them nor serve them. For I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children to the third and fourth generations of those who hate Me,* ¹⁰ *but showing mercy to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments.* ¹¹ *‘You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain, for the Lord will not hold him guiltless who takes His name in vain.* ¹² *‘Observe the Sabbath day, to keep it holy, as the Lord your God commanded you.* ¹³ *Six days you shall labor and do all your work,* ¹⁴ *but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord your God. In it you shall do no work: you, nor your son, nor your daughter, nor your male servant, nor your female servant, nor your ox, nor your donkey, nor any of your cattle, nor your stranger who is within your gates, that your male servant and your female servant may rest as well as you.* ¹⁵ *And remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt, and the Lord your God brought you out from there by a mighty hand and by an outstretched arm; therefore the Lord your God commanded you to keep the Sabbath day.* ¹⁶ *Honor your father and your mother, as the Lord your God has commanded you, that your days may be long, and that it may be well with you in the land which the Lord your God is giving you.* ¹⁷ *‘You shall not murder.* ¹⁸ *‘You shall not commit adultery.* ¹⁹ *‘You shall not steal.* ²⁰ *‘You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.* ²¹ *‘You shall not covet your neighbor’s wife; and you shall not desire your neighbor’s house, his field, his male servant, his female servant, his ox, his donkey, or anything that is your neighbor’s.’* ²² *“These words the Lord spoke to all your assembly, in the mountain from the midst of the fire, the cloud, and the thick darkness, with a loud voice; and He added no more. And He wrote them on two tablets of stone and gave them to me. (NKJV)*

This section of Scripture from Deuteronomy happened at a later date. Recall that the original giving of the Ten Commandments was made in Exodus 20. Observe who is speaking in Exodus 20:1, ¹ *And God spoke all these words, saying:* (NKJV) In the Scripture we are reviewing at this time, we find Moses talking to the people of Israel. Moses said to the people in Deuteronomy 5:4, ⁴ *The Lord talked with you face to face on the mountain from the midst of the fire.* Compare that with Exodus 20:22, ²² *Then the Lord said to Moses, “Thus you shall say to the children of Israel: ‘You have seen that I have talked with you from heaven. (NKJV)* It is absolute truth that God, not Moses, spoke the Ten Commandments. Why have you been taught that Moses “gave the law”? Why has this law been called the “law of Moses”? The Ten Commandments did not come from Moses, instead they came from God! The Ten Commandments were not given to the people by Moses, but by God to all the nation, assembled, including Moses.

Notice further, after completion of the rewriting of the words of the Ten Commandments in verse 21 of Deuteronomy chapter 4. Moses continues, in verse 22, to say to the people of Israel: *“These words the Lord spoke to all your assembly, in the mountain from the midst of the fire, the cloud, and the thick darkness, with a loud voice; and He added no more. And He wrote them on two tablets of stone and gave them to me.* Read that again carefully! That is not what you most likely have been told. Read it in your own Bible! The Lord spoke these words of the Ten Commandments. To whom? *“Unto*

all your assembly.” The people did not receive the Ten Commandments from Moses, but directly from the very voice of God, which they all heard! **“And he added no more.”** That was a complete law! It is a spiritual law! It is complete! He added no more to that law! Any other law is a different, separate law, and no part of that spiritual law! It is complete in itself!

Now, if you think this law was for “Jews only,” you couldn’t be more mistaken! Have you not read, in Acts 7:38, ³⁸ *This is the one who was in the congregation in the wilderness with the angel who spoke to him at Mount Sinai, and with our fathers. He received living oracles to give to us.* (ESV) Isn’t this an illustration of Moses who taught the Israelites the laws of God? Didn’t Yeshua command us to keep the Laws of God? 1 John 5:3, ³ *For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome.* (NKJV) Under the New Testament, are we not called Christians and aren’t we to follow the teachings of Yeshua? All other nations had turned from God and His ways. Now God was choosing a downtrodden slave people as *His nation*, the only people on Earth who had not cut themselves completely off from God. This was the basis upon which the Old Covenant was made, but what is the basis of the New Covenant? Read it, in Hebrews 8:10, ¹⁰ *For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put My laws in their mind and write them on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.* (NKJV) It will be made eminently plain, in this booklet, that this was 1) no temporary law to end at the cross; and 2) no special law for one nation only and forbidden to other nations. God is no respecter of persons, or in other words, shows no partiality. As stated in Acts 10:34-35, ³⁴ *Then Peter opened his mouth and said: “In truth I perceive that God shows no partiality. ³⁵ But in every nation whoever fears Him and works righteousness is accepted by Him.* (NKJV)

) Observe more closely, the Sabbath command, Exodus 20:8. ⁸ **“Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.** (NKJV). **God said remember this day!** So men have insisted on *forgetting*, or trying to *change* it to a different day! Christ said, in the sermon on the mount: **“Think not that I am come to destroy the law,”** so professing Christians think He *did* come to destroy it! Christ said, in the same sermon on the mount **“Swear not,”** so professing Christians universally hold up their right hand and swear. Christ said **“Love your enemies,”** so professing Christians, pretending to follow Him, hate their enemies and go to war to kill them. Christ said **“Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect,”** so professing Christians say, “It’s impossible to keep God’s law, let alone to be perfect. Christ kept it in our stead and then abolished it.” Christ commands **“Do!”** and His professed followers don’t! Christ commands **“Don’t!”** and His professed followers do! Christ commanded **“REMEMBER the sabbath day!”** So pretending followers forget it! But notice the rest of that same sentence, **“to KEEP it HOLY.”** The word *keep* means to preserve in the same condition. You can’t keep ice water hot, you can only *keep* hot water hot. You can’t keep an unholy day holy. The only weekly day God ever *made* holy is His Sabbath. It is utterly impossible to keep Sunday or Friday holy, because God never made them holy, and **man has no power to make anything holy.** These are not arguments, they are facts that you will be judged by at the LORD’s judgment! Now notice verses 9 and 10 of Exodus 20, ⁹ *Six days you shall labor and do all your work, ¹⁰ but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord your God. In it you shall do no work: you, nor your son, nor your daughter, nor your male servant, nor your female servant, nor your cattle, nor your stranger who is within your gates.* (NKJV)

Neither God, nor Christ, said *any* seventh day or “one day in seven,” Christ said **“the seventh day”!** In Matthew 28:1, after the crucifixion and resurrection, *after* whatever was “nailed to the cross” had been nailed, you will find it is *the* seventh day of the week, the day *before* the first day of the week! Notice further! Christ did *not* say, “the Sabbath of the Jewish people.” He said, distinctly, **“the sabbath of the Lord thy God”!** If it is the Lord’s Sabbath, the Sabbath of the Lord, then the Sabbath is, truly, “the Lord’s day.” The Sabbath day is Saturday on our calendar,

Right here, let's put an end to the rebellious arguments about Sunday being the "Lord's day." The "Lord's day" is the day the Lord is *lord of*, the day that is *HIS* day. In Mark 2:28, Christ said He is Lord *of the Sabbath*, **NOT** of Sunday. In this present verse, Exodus 20:10, Moses said to all the people assembled, ¹⁰ *but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord your God.* Not the Sabbath "of the Jewish people," but "*of the Lord thy God.*"

What day is the true Sabbath of the LORD your God? It is Friday sunset until Saturday sunset that is God's day! We should all know this is true as told in the text pertaining to Creation Week. Return to Genesis 1:4-5 for the creation of the first day, ⁴ *And God saw the light, that it was good; and God divided the light from the darkness.* ⁵ *God called the light Day, and the darkness He called Night. So the evening and the morning were the first day.* (NKJV) Did you notice the last sentence? *So the evening and the morning were the first day.* It was God who established that the structure of the day was evening first and then the day. It is mankind who changed God's order and made the day first and then the evening. You can take your Bible and go through the other days of creation and find that **all** days of God's creation begin with the evening and then the day.

Genesis 1:8 gives the completion of the second day, ⁸ *And God called the firmament Heaven. So the evening and the morning were the second day.* (NKJV)

Genesis 1:13 completes the third day, ¹³ *So the evening and the morning were the third day.* (NKJV)

Genesis 1:19 establishes the fourth day, ¹⁹ *So the evening and the morning were the fourth day.* (NKJV)

Genesis 1:23, finishes the fifth day, ²³ *So the evening and the morning were the fifth day.* (NKJV)

Genesis 1:31, ends the sixth day, but does not complete creation week, ³¹ *Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good. So the evening and the morning were the sixth day.* (NKJV)

We have to turn over to chapter 2 to find the seventh day of creation week. Genesis 2:1-3, ¹ *Thus the heavens and the earth, and all the host of them, were finished.* ² *And on the seventh day God ended His work which He had done, and He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had done.* ³ *Then God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it, because in it He rested from all His work which God had created and made.* (NKJV)

Read God's word to mankind in the 4th commandment again: Exodus 20:8-11, ⁸ *"Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. ⁹ Six days you shall labor and do all your work, ¹⁰ but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord your God. In it you shall do no work: you, nor your son, nor your daughter, nor your male servant, nor your female servant, nor your cattle, nor your stranger who is within your gates. ¹¹ For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day. Therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it.* (NKJV)

This very commandment above, is the rule (law) which defines *sin*. This is plainly stated in 1 John 3:4 which gives us the Biblical definition of what constitutes sin. 1 John 3:4, ⁴ *Whoever commits sin also commits lawlessness, and sin is lawlessness.* (NKJV) "Sin is the transgression of the law." In James 2:9-11 you will read *which* law defines sin, ⁹ *but if you show partiality, you commit sin, and are convicted by the law as transgressors.* ¹⁰ *For whoever shall keep the whole law, and yet stumble in one point, he is guilty of all.* ¹¹ *For He who said, "Do not commit adultery," also said, "Do not murder." Now if you do not commit adultery, but you do murder, you have become a transgressor of the law.* (NKJV) Did you notice in verse 10 that the whole law is divided into points. Since we are speaking of God's law, there must be ten points. One of its "points" is "Do not commit adultery," quoted from this very law (Exodus 20:14), and another of its 10 "points" is "Do not kill," also quoted

from this same law (Exodus 20:13). Again we read in James 2:10 that if you break any one of these 10 points you are guilty of sin. This same law also says: ***“Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. ... [T]he seventh day is the sabbath of the Lord thy God.”*** ***Whoever disobeys that command commits SIN!*** This is probably far from what you have believed or have been taught. But if any wish to argue, I should suggest they save their arguments for the Judgment, and then try to argue face to face with their Savior and their Maker, Yeshua.

Before leaving Exodus 20, notice one more important fact. In verse 11, you will read, ***“For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth ... and rested on the seventh day: wherefore the Lord blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it.”*** Now *when* did the Lord bless and hallow this seventh day? You will read, as explained before, in Genesis 2:3, that He gave this blessing and hallowing on that seventh day of the original creation week. And this Sabbath command says plainly, ***“[T]he Lord blessed the sabbath day.*** He gave this blessing and hallowing the very day after the creation of Adam and Eve. And, *what* was it He *then* blessed and hallowed? Exodus 20:11, records it was ***THE SABBATH DAY***. It was God’s Sabbath day from that original creation week. That is *when* the Lord *made* the Sabbath. Many have used the deceptive argument that God never made the Sabbath until He gave the Ten Commandments at Mt. Sinai. But this says plainly that the seventh day of creation week, which the Lord *then* blessed and hallowed was, *then*, the Sabbath day. Further, as emphatically proved above, the Sabbath existed, and was God’s holy day *before* the children of Israel arrived at Mt. Sinai, as shown in Exodus 16. Therefore, Yeshua, as the “Logos” (John 1:1, Greek), or the “YHVH” (Hebrew) of Genesis 2, who made everything that was made, did make the Sabbath, as Yeshua plainly stated in Mark 2:27. It is one of the things He made, and it was made on the seventh day of the very first week, creation week. The Sabbath has existed from creation, and, more than two millenniums later, this same Lord, the Person of the Godhead who *became* Yeshua, commanded His people to *keep it holy!* And, about another 2,000 years after that, He proclaimed that He is Lord of that day! Lord of the Sabbath!

A SPECIAL ETERNAL COVENANT

What God commanded mankind to remember, rebellious men resort to every argument of human reason to justify forgetting! Consequently, many have used the argument, without any scriptural authority of course, that the Ten Commandments were abolished at the cross. Of course, they never stop to realize that, if there is no law, there is no transgression, as Paul plainly states in Romans 4:15-16, ¹⁵ *because the law brings about wrath; for where there is no law there is no transgression.* ¹⁶ *Therefore it is of faith that it might be according to grace, so that the promise might be sure to all the seed, not only to those who are of the law, but also to those who are of the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all* (NKJV) Therefore, if there is no law then there has been no transgression. Following that thought, no one has sinned since the cross. Thus, we should not need a Savior! Yet, even if this perverted and deceptive argument were true, *if* God had abolished all *TEN* of His commandments at the cross, and then brought back nine of them in the New Testament, in order to get rid of the Sabbath, as many do teach, *still* they are without excuse! God made for the Sabbath a special and separate covenant, *binding forever!*

You will remember that *to the Ten Commandment law, God added no more* (Deuteronomy 5:22, ²² *“These words the Lord spoke to all your assembly, in the mountain from the midst of the fire, the cloud, and the thick darkness, with a loud voice; and He added no more. And He wrote them on two tablets of stone and gave them to me.* (NKJV) Let me add one more verse to show you that the people did hear the Lord and the Lord also heard their combined voice, Deuteronomy 5:28, ²⁸ *Then the Lord heard the voice of your words when you spoke to me, and the Lord said to me: ‘I have heard the voice of the words of this people which they have spoken to you. They are right in all that they have spoken.* (NKJV)

Any other law, or covenant, coming later, is no part of the Ten Commandment law, but a separate law or covenant. Paul makes this plain in Galatians 3:15, ¹⁵ *Brethren, I speak in the manner of men: Though it is only a man’s covenant, yet if it is confirmed, no one annuls or adds to it.* (NKJV) The Ten Commandment law is complete, God added *no more*. Also, the *Old Covenant* was *confirmed, it cannot be added to*. Later, after both the Ten Commandments and the Old Covenant had been made *complete*, ratified, put in force and effect, God made another totally separate and eternally binding covenant with His people. God never does anything *in vain*, that is, to no good and useful purpose. When God does anything, or makes anything, there is a reason, an important purpose. God created man and put him here on Earth. However, mankind has lost knowledge of His purpose. God had an important reason. You were put here for a very important purpose. God, through “the Word” (John 1:1-3, ¹ *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.* ² *He was in the beginning with God.* ³ *All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.* (NKJV)) who became Yeshua, *made* the Sabbath. He made it *for* man. But why? What purpose does it serve? Mankind has lost knowledge of *that* important purpose, too! Yeshua said it was made *for* man, rather than man *for* the Sabbath. Mark 2:27-28, ²⁷ *And He said to them, “The Sabbath was made for man, and not man for the Sabbath.* ²⁸ *Therefore the Son of Man is also Lord of the Sabbath.”* (NKJV) But at that time He merely told *for whom* He had made it, not why, not for what purpose, except to serve and benefit man. That is why this special, separate Sabbath covenant is important. For it reveals the reason, the basic *purpose*. Therefore it becomes important to study it carefully. It is found in Exodus 31:12-17, ¹² *And the Lord spoke to Moses, saying,* ¹³ *“Speak also to the children of Israel, saying: ‘Surely My Sabbaths you shall keep, for it is a sign between Me and you throughout your generations, that you may know that I am the Lord who sanctifies you.* ¹⁴ *You shall keep the Sabbath, therefore, for it is holy to you. Everyone who profanes it shall surely be put to death; for whoever does any work on it, that person shall be cut off from among his people.* ¹⁵ *Work shall be*

done for six days, but the seventh is the Sabbath of rest, holy to the Lord. Whoever does any work on the Sabbath day, he shall surely be put to death. ¹⁶ *Therefore the children of Israel shall keep the Sabbath, to observe the Sabbath throughout their generations as a perpetual covenant.* ¹⁷ *It is a sign between Me and the children of Israel forever; for in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, and on the seventh day He rested and was refreshed.*’ “ (NKJV) Notice, once again, which day is “the Lord’s day.” God calls the Sabbaths “*My sabbaths.*” The Sabbaths are His, they do not belong to us, they are not *our* days, but the Lord’s. They are not “the Jewish Sabbaths” or “the Gentile Sabbaths.” The Sabbath is a space of time. That time, whenever it arrives, is *not ours*, but God’s. If we appropriate it for ourselves, for our own use, whether work, pleasure, or whatever, we are stealing that time from God!

Notice further what God said: “*My sabbaths ye shall keep.*” In Exodus 20:8, we saw that God commanded to “keep it holy,” God *made* it holy time and commanded us to *keep* it holy, not to profane what is holy to God. Now study this special Sabbath covenant a little further: ¹⁷ *It is a sign between Me and the children of Israel forever;* Furthermore, review Exodus 31:13, ¹³ “*Speak also to the children of Israel, saying: ‘Surely My Sabbaths you shall keep, for it is a sign between Me and you throughout your generations, that you may know that I am the Lord who sanctifies you.* (NKJV) What tremendous meaning is packed in these two passages of Scripture! Yet most people read right past it, failing to get the vital truth it contains! Notice! Here is the purpose of the Sabbath. “. . . *for it is a sign . . .*” What is a *sign*? You walk down a main street in the business section of a city. Everywhere you see *signs* identifying stores, offices and factories. If you want to know what a *sign* is, just turn to the word in the “Yellow Pages,” the classified business listings of your telephone directory. You will find such names as “Jones Neon Sign Company,” or “Smith Brothers Signs.” If you call one of them on the telephone and ask, “What do you make, or sell?” they will tell you that they make signs for business firms, institutions, or professional individuals to hang out in front of their place of business. The sign *identifies* whose establishment, institution or office is inside. A *sign* is a badge, symbol, or token of identity. You see the sign “A.B. Brown, Furniture and Furnishings.” The sign identifies the *owner*. It tells you what kind of business he owns. Webster’s dictionary defines a *sign* thus: “A publicly displayed notice on a building, office, etc., to advertise the business there transacted, or the name of the person or firm conducting it. Something indicating the existence of a thing; a token.” And, of course, there are the special technical meanings in mathematics, medicine, and astronomy. The word which Moses wrote, in the Hebrew language, that is translated “sign” is *’owth*, and the Hebrew-English dictionary defines it as “a signal, as a flag, beacon, monument, evidence, etc., mark, miracle, sign, token.” A flag identifies a nation. A beacon is a signal to announce the existence of something warned about. A token is a visible sign that serves as an identifying signal to make something known, as a white flag is a token of surrender.

God commanded His people to keep His Sabbath as a *sign*. It is a sign between God’s people and God, “. . . *a sign between me and you,*” the commandment says. It is a badge or token of identity. It advertises, announces or proclaims certain identifying knowledge. But what knowledge? God answers: “. . . *that you may know that I am the Lord who sanctifies you.*”

Note those words carefully! It is the *sign* that identifies to them *who is their GOD!* It is the sign by which we may *KNOW that He is the LORD!* It identifies *GOD!* But doesn’t everybody know who God is? Absolutely *NOT!* This whole world is deceived, so says your Bible in Revelation 12:9, ⁹ *So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.* (NKJV) This world has a god, a false god, Satan the devil! He pretends to be “an angel of light,” stated in 2 Corinthians 11:14, ¹⁴ *And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light.* (NKJV) He has his religious organizations. Not all are Buddhists, Shintoists, Taoists or Confucianists. Many have appropriated the very name “Christian,” whose ministers, say, according to your Bible, actually are Satan’s ministers. We find this stated in 2 Corinthians 11:13-15, ¹³ *For such are false apostles, deceitful workers,*

transforming themselves into apostles of Christ. ¹⁴ *And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light.* ¹⁵ *Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also transform themselves into ministers of righteousness, whose end will be according to their works.* (NKJV) Read verse 13 again: ¹³ *For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into apostles of Christ.* Yes, Satan is the great counterfeiter. He palms himself off as God. He is called, in your Bible, the *god of this world* (2 Corinthians 4:4, ⁴ *whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them.* (NKJV) He palms off his ministers as the ministers of Christ, accusing the *true* ministers of Christ of being “false apostles” to divert suspicion from themselves! Does this world’s “Christianity” really know the true God? It is *deceived* into believing it does, and a deceived world may be sincere in their false belief, but the true God is the one whom we *should obey*. This world is not taught to obey God! Its false “Christianity” teaches that God’s law has been “done away with.” It actually puts human conscience, actuated by Satan’s false teaching, in place of God’s law! It does not teach, as did Christ, that we must actually *live* by every word of God, of the Bible! The world obeys Satan by *sinning*!

God gave man His Sabbath for the purpose of keeping mankind in the true knowledge and true worship of the true God. How does the Sabbath identify God? How does it point to the *true* God, rather than the false? Doesn’t Sunday serve the purpose just as well? Positively not!! Review Exodus 31:17 one more time, ¹⁷ *It is a sign between Me and the children of Israel forever; for in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, and on the seventh day He rested and was refreshed.* “ (NKJV) It was on *the seventh* day of that creation week that He rested from the work of creation. Not Sunday, the first day of the week. Only *the seventh* day of the week points back to creation. How does *that* identify who God is? If you believe anyone else or anything else is God, I will *prove* that my God is the true God, because whatever else you may think is God *was made or created* by the true God. He who created and made *everything else* is greater than whatever He made, superior to anything else that could be called God. Creation is the *PROOF* of God, of His existence. It is the act of creating *that identifies* God! So God took the most enduring, lasting, imperishable thing mankind can know, a recurring space of time, the *only* day that is a memorial of the act of creating. He took the *only day* that points, constantly, every *seventh* day of the week, to the existence of the almighty, all-powerful, all-ruling *GOD*, the Omnipotent, the *Creator*! God set that particular day apart from others as His day, God made that particular day sacred and holy to Him, designating it as the *very* day on which He commands His people to assemble for worship. The Sabbath is the day man is commanded to rest from his own work and physical pleasure, and to be refreshed by assembling with other obedient worshipers in spiritual fellowship! No other day is a memorial and reminder of creation. True, Satan has deceived a deluded world into supposing Christ’s resurrection occurred on Sunday morning at sunrise, the very time which has always been the time of pagan sun worship. But this is not true! It is a shocking eye-opener, and it is the truth you can verify and prove at your public library. The resurrection of Christ actually occurred on *the Sabbath*, **NOT** on Sunday! And, furthermore, *nowhere* in the Bible does God tell us to celebrate the day of Christ’s resurrection! That is a pagan custom of men, on apostate (one who abandons a religions principle) man’s authority alone, contrary to the commands of God! So here we find a great purpose in the Sabbath. *It identifies* God! The very day which God set aside for assembly and worship that points as a memorial to whom we are to worship, the Great Creator and Ruler of all that is!

Yet, *that is not all!* The Sabbath was also given as a sign that identifies the people of God and those who are not the people of God! Notice, one more time, what this special covenant shows us in Exodus 31:13! Not only does this special covenant say, ¹³ *“Speak also to the children of Israel, saying: ‘Surely My Sabbaths you shall keep, for it is a sign between Me and you throughout your generations, that you may know that I am the Lord who sanctifies you.”* (NKJV) Notice the tremendous meaning of that statement! What does the word *sanctify* mean? It means “to set apart for holy use or purpose.” On

the seventh day of the very creation week, God *sanctified*, that is He set apart for holy use, the Sabbath day. We also see that God says it is a sign that He also sanctifies, sets apart from other people as *HIS*, for His holy purpose those who are His people.

In Old Testament times, His people were the people of the congregation of Israel. In New Testament times, His people are those of God's Church, the truly converted, begotten of the spirit Christians! Even so, how does the Sabbath set them apart, separate them, from those who are *not* God's own true people? Well, if you *have* begun to *keep* God's Sabbath holy as He commands, you have found the answer already by actual experience. If you haven't, just start keeping God's Sabbath holy as He commands you, and you'll soon learn that you are automatically *set apart* from all other people! Yes, sir! The Sabbath is God's sign which identifies not only God as Creator and Ruler, but it also identifies those who are truly His. But how?

Let me give you still another definition of God. Although the only wise and true God is the Great Creator and Ruler of the universe, there are many false, or counterfeit, gods. Satan palms himself off to the deceived as God, and indeed the Bible plainly calls him the god of this world. Idols were worshiped as gods, and still are today, even in so-called "Christian" churches. Whoever, or whatever, you *serve* and *obey* is your god! The very word *Lord* means ruler, master, boss, the one you obey! Yeshua exclaimed in Luke 6:46, ⁴⁶ ***"But why do you call Me 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do the things which I say?"*** (NKJV) He was *not* their Lord if they did not obey Him! So why did they *call* Him Lord, when He was *not* their Lord? Then again, Yeshua said in Matthew 7:21-23, ²¹ ***"Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. 22 Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' 23 And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!"*** (NKJV) Only they who obey God can be His children and enter His Kingdom! God is the one you obey! Notice again Romans 6:16, ¹⁶ ***Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one's slaves whom you obey, whether of sin leading to death, or of obedience leading to righteousness?*** (NKJV)

Regarding idols as false and counterfeit gods, the Second Commandment says in Exodus 20:5-6, ⁵ ***you shall not bow down to them nor serve them. For I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and fourth generations of those who hate Me, 6 but showing mercy to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments.*** (NKJV)

How significant! The Sabbath command is the only one of the Ten Commandments which is a sign identifying the real and true Christians today! ***It is the real TEST command!*** The people of this world are willing to acknowledge the other nine commandments, but the Sabbath command is the one they positively rebel against! ***It is the one that is the crucial test of obedience!*** It identifies those who have *surrendered* their wills to God, who obey God, regardless of persecution or cost! Oh, it sets you apart all right! What a sign! It identifies the true God on the very day He set apart for assembly and worship. It identifies the real people of God! God's sign is one you accept voluntarily, of your own volition, or not at all. The "beast" (symbol of the coming resurrected, so-called "Holy" Roman Empire in Europe) has a mark, which is soon going to be placed on every person who does not pass ***GOD'S TEST!*** That mark, at that time, has everything to do with *buying*, *selling*, trading, business, earning a living, or having a job! Review Revelation 13:16-17 to confirm this fact, ¹⁶ ***He causes all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on their right hand or on their foreheads, 17 and that no one may buy or sell except one who has the mark or the name of the beast, or the number of his name.*** (NKJV) ***Yes, this is the test command, the one on which your***

very salvation and eternity depends! Only you hold the answer for your very soul and you must make a choice!

BUT IS IT A COVENANT?

I have said that God made the Sabbath a separate, eternal and perpetual COVENANT, entirely separate and apart from what we term “the Old Covenant” made at Mt. Sinai. How, then, is it a covenant?

Let’s define the word *covenant*. Webster defines a covenant as: “An agreement between persons or parties, a solemn compact.” A covenant is a contract, or agreement, by which one party promises certain rewards or payments in return for certain stipulated performance by the other party. The Old Covenant between God and the children of Israel made at Mt. Sinai *imposed* upon the people certain terms and conditions to be performed. Primarily, they were to be obedient to the Ten Commandments. It *promised* the reward of making Israel a nation “above all people.” The promises were purely national, and material, for *this* world. The New Covenant is founded on better promises. We understand this from Hebrews 8:6-13, ⁶ *But now He has obtained a more excellent ministry, inasmuch as He is also Mediator of a better covenant, which was established on better promises.*

⁷ *For if that first covenant had been faultless, then no place would have been sought for a second.* ⁸ *Because finding fault with them, He says: “Behold, the days are coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah—* ⁹ *not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day when I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt; because they did not continue in My covenant, and I disregarded them, says the Lord.* ¹⁰ *For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put My laws in their mind and write them on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.* ¹¹ *None of them shall teach his neighbor, and none his brother, saying, ‘Know the Lord,’ for all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them.* ¹² *For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more.* ¹³ *In that He says, “A new covenant,” He has made the first obsolete. Now what is becoming obsolete and growing old is ready to vanish away. (NKJV) We learn more of this second covenant and its “eternal inheritance” in Hebrews 9:13-28, ¹³ *For if the blood of bulls and goats and the ashes of a heifer, sprinkling the unclean, sanctifies for the purifying of the flesh, ¹⁴ how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God? ¹⁵ And for this reason He is the Mediator of the new covenant, by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions under the first covenant, that those who are called may receive the promise of the eternal inheritance.**

¹⁶ *For where there is a testament, there must also of necessity be the death of the testator.* ¹⁷ *For a testament is in force after men are dead, since it has no power at all while the testator lives.* ¹⁸ *Therefore not even the first covenant was dedicated without blood.* ¹⁹ *For when Moses had spoken every precept to all the people according to the law, he took the blood of calves and goats, with water, scarlet wool, and hyssop, and sprinkled both the book itself and all the people, ²⁰ saying, “This is the blood of the covenant which God has commanded you.” ²¹ Then likewise he sprinkled with blood both the tabernacle and all the vessels of the ministry. ²² And according to the law almost all things are purified with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no remission.*

²³ *Therefore it was necessary that the copies of the things in the heavens should be purified with these, but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these.* ²⁴ *For Christ has not entered the holy places made with hands, which are copies of the true, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us; ²⁵ not that He should offer Himself often, as the high priest enters the Most Holy Place every year with blood of another— ²⁶ He then would have had to suffer*

often since the foundation of the world; but now, once at the end of the ages, He has appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself. ²⁷ *And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment,* ²⁸ *so Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many. To those who eagerly wait for Him He will appear a second time, apart from sin, for salvation.* (NKJV) Once a covenant is signed, sealed, or ratified, that is, confirmed, it cannot be added to, Galatians 3:15, ¹⁵ *Brethren, I speak in the manner of men: Though it is only a man's covenant, yet if it is confirmed, no one annuls or adds to it.* (NKJV) I am compelled to stop for a moment and make several comments. There are a lot of verses inserted within this work at this point. There is a reason and a purpose for my moment of hesitation. I have years of study of God's Word and feel that there is so much truth in the words placed in this book. Why can't I be a helper and a guide for you to see the words, to know the truth and to be more aware of the decisions that you must make pertaining to where your soul will spend eternity. By God's Holy grace The words placed here in this book may, just may, guide at least one person to seeing the "holy light" and changing some of their ways, to repent and learn to obey the words of our LORD. We are in the season of the LORD's return and every human, on this planet, must make a choice as to where they desire for their soul to spend eternity.

My wife and I enjoy working on puzzles, be they crossword, sudoku or 1000 piece picture puzzles. Ultimately the greatest, most important puzzle is the Bible itself. God's truth is throughout the entire Bible and it takes time to put the pieces together for clear understanding. Let me show you one of those pieces that is a puzzle. In the book of Exodus, how many covenant agreements are there that God made with Israel? Some people may say one, others may say two, and still others may say three or even four. I am going to attempt to show you that there are only two covenants that God made with Israel in the book of Exodus. As we begin, turn with me to Exodus 19:2b-6, ^{2b} . . . *So Israel camped there before the mountain.* ³ *And Moses went up to God, and the Lord called to him from the mountain, saying, "Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob, and tell the children of Israel:* ⁴ *'You have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to Myself.* ⁵ *Now therefore, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be a special treasure to Me above all people; for all the earth is Mine.* ⁶ *And you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.'* *These are the words which you shall speak to the children of Israel."* (NKJV) Recall that God spoke the Ten Commandments to Moses and the children of Israel in Exodus 20:1-17. Since these verses, in full, are used in several places through this book I am only going to insert verse 1 of chapter 20, ¹ *And God spoke all these words, saying:* (NKJV) The Ten Commandments represent the first covenant God made with Israel. The people demonstrate fear in hearing the voice of God and tell Moses to speak to God for them, verse 19, ¹⁹ *and said to Moses, "You speak to us, and we will listen; but do not let God speak to us, lest we die."* (ESV) Moses replied to the people in verse 20, ²⁰ *And Moses said to the people, "Do not fear; for God has come to test you, and that His fear may be before you, so that you may not sin."* (NKJV)

Now, there is a slight shift that is made starting with chapter 20, verse 22 and going through chapters 21, 22 and 23. I will not list all the verses in these 3 chapters, however, I will give the additional headings that are illustrated in these chapters. These headings are: Laws about Altars; Laws about Slaves; Laws about Restitution; Laws about Social Justice; and Laws about the Sabbath and Festivals. We have arrived at Chapter 24 and we seem to run into another covenant, but is it really? Let's investigate chapter 24 a little more. Moses has once again gone up the mountain and back. He again told the words of God to the people, verses 3-4, ³ *So Moses came and told the people all the words of the Lord and all the judgments. And all the people answered with one voice and said, "All the words which the Lord has said we will do."* ⁴ *And Moses wrote all the words of the Lord. And he rose early in the morning, and built an altar at the foot of the mountain, and twelve pillars according to the twelve tribes of Israel.* (NKJV) Continue with verses 7-8 of chapter 24. ⁷ *Then he took the Book of the Covenant and*

*read in the hearing of the people. And they said, "All that the Lord has said we will do, and be obedient."*⁸ *And Moses took the blood, sprinkled it on the people, and said, "This is the blood of the covenant which the Lord has made with you according to all these words."* (NKJV) In this passage of Scripture there is one more verse I'd like for you to see, that is verse 12,¹² *Then the Lord said to Moses, "Come up to Me on the mountain and be there; and I will give you tablets of stone, and the law and commandments which I have written, that you may teach them."* (NKJV) There is another shift in the story beginning with chapter 25. In chapter 25 through chapter 30, we find instructions pertaining to the articles and construction of the Tabernacle. In chapter 31 verses 12-17, we find that special Sabbath covenant. This is the second covenant that God established with Israel. We find the record in chapter 34 that Moses was to make new stone tablets and take them back to God for Him to write the law on them. Exodus 34:1, *And the Lord said to Moses, "Cut two tablets of stone like the first ones, and I will write on these tablets the words that were on the first tablets which you broke."* (NKJV) The conformation that the covenant was renewed and that there was only one covenant that God was speaking about is given in chapter 34:27-28, *Then the Lord said to Moses, "Write these words, for according to the tenor of these words I have made a covenant with you and with Israel."*²⁸ *So he was there with the Lord forty days and forty nights; he neither ate bread nor drank water. And He wrote on the tablets the words of the covenant, the Ten Commandments.* (NKJV)

Through all of that, we found that there is only two covenants that God established with Israel. The first was the covenant of the Ten Commandments and the second was the special Sabbath covenant. I now return to my task and pick up my pen to complete this book.

Anything appearing beneath the signature on a covenant or contract is not legally any part of the covenant. You read of the actual *making* of the Old Covenant and sealing it *with blood* in Exodus 24:6-8. And notice (verse 8), it concludes with the words, *"the covenant, which the Lord hath made with you. . . ."* It was then already made, completed. **We do not come to the making of this special eternal Sabbath covenant until seven chapters later** from the sealing of the first covenant, the Ten Commandments. Therefore, it is no part of the Old Covenant! But, again, *is it a covenant?* The wording in your Bible *says* it is! Notice Exodus 31:16, *Therefore the children of Israel shall keep the Sabbath, to observe the Sabbath throughout their generations as a perpetual covenant.* (NKJV) *Perpetual* means continuous and unbroken. But was it to last forever? Read the following verse:¹⁷ *It is a sign forever between me and the people of Israel that in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, and on the seventh day he rested and was refreshed.'* (ESV)

Now what is the condition to be performed? We must keep the Sabbath day holy! *"It is holy unto you,"* says God (verse 14). And what is the reward promised upon performance of the condition? It is not only a sign, but also a compact, or covenant, *"between me and you,"* says God, *"that ye may know that I am the Lord that doth sanctify you"* (verse 13). **There it is!** God promises to sanctify them, He will set them apart as holy, as His holy people! Can you ask for a bigger promise? No, not really! Is it a covenant? YES! However, it is a *separate*, totally different covenant. Even if one tries to argue that the Old Covenant is "abolished" and that, therefore, the Ten Commandments are abolished, he cannot argue that *this* covenant was to last only until the cross. This covenant is binding throughout your *"generations"* (verse 13); *"a perpetual covenant"* (verse 16); and *"for ever"* (verse 17).

ISN'T IT A SIGN FOR ISRAEL ONLY?

"Yes," says the rebellious one, who would argue his way out of obedience, but it is between God and the children of Israel. It is throughout Israel's generations it is between God and the Israelites forever. Oh, then you admit it is binding forever on Israelites and throughout *their* generations? There are two answers to that argument that will condemn you! First, no one can deny that this absolutely

binds the people of Israel to keep the Sabbath forever, and throughout their generations perpetually. Their generations are still going on, therefore it is binding on them today. Second, you have to admit that salvation and Christianity are open to Jews and all Israelites. The gospel, the “Word,” is the power of God, Romans 1:16, *16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.* (NKJV) Therefore, the Jew can be a converted Christian! Indeed, the Church at the beginning was nearly altogether Jewish! So the Jew, even though a Christian, in God’s Church, is bound to keep God’s Sabbath as a perpetual covenant, throughout his generations, forever! Now, does God have two kinds of Christians? Is it sin for a Jewish Christian to break the Sabbath, and sin for all others to keep it? Must Jewish Christians assemble on the Sabbath, and those of other nationalities on Sunday? Didn’t Jesus say a house divided would fall? Are there two kinds of Christians? Read Galatians 3:26-29, *26 For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. 27 For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. 28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. 29 And if you are Christ’s, then you are Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to the promise.* (NKJV) Since the Sabbath is binding today on the Jewish part of God’s Church and there is no difference between Jew and non-Jew, we are all one in Christ, therefore, it is also binding on Gentiles!

WE ARE ISRAEL!

There is *another answer* to this argument, The peoples of the United States, the British Commonwealth nations and the nations of Northwestern Europe *are*, in fact, the peoples of the ten tribes of the house of Israel. The Jewish people are the house of Judah. Now, in light of this Sabbath truth, more than ever, it is important that you read, study, and check the proof of this identity in your own Bible. I have two other books to prove my point. My first book on this subject was “*The Thirteenth Tribe of Israel.*” I let a friend read it and it didn’t take too many pages before he set the book down and said, “That Herbert Armstrong stuff!” That was a sad disappointment to me along with a challenge. I had to show that this was a fact without any references to Herbert Armstrong material. Yes! I will admit that this work is based on Herbert Armstrong material, however it is a modified rewrite. At any rate, I petitioned God to show me how I could possibly manage to complete such a task. Well, my God sent His angel who sits on my right shoulder when I’m working on one of God’s books. God’s angel took me to the book of Jeremiah and we began on the second book, entitled “*Jeremiah’s Mystery.*” There are enough questions in the book of Jeremiah that should lead anyone who desires to know the truth to find the necessary answers. One question remains concerning Jeremiah: Why is it the Jews cannot give an answer to: Where did Jeremiah die? Simple! They don’t know! I have also attempted to have people of the United States and those of Great Britain to understand that they are descendants of those ten lost tribes of Israel. People do not want to hear it, even when it becomes obvious. Mankind’s rebellious nature just keeps pushing God away and allowing Satan to confuse and deceive. No wonder we are in the mess we are in! God’s people, all of God’s people need to repent and return back to God’s ordained principal rule of honoring God’s Holy Sabbath.

It is a staggering revelation! And it is true! Yes, the Sabbath is binding on us today! But if the Sabbath is God’s sign to identify His people Israel, then *WHY* doesn’t our nations keep it today? The answer to that question is the answer to another: *WHY* are the ten tribes of the house of Israel called “the lost ten tribes”? Why does our nations think they are Gentiles? *WHY* don’t they know their true identity? Ah, *NOW* we have a staggering, startling, surprising truth to reveal!

WHY THE TEN TRIBES BECAME LOST!

Here's a dumbfounding truth that is far stranger than fiction! Here are facts that have been hidden for centuries and more intriguing than a mystery novel! *WHY* is the Sabbath called, *disrespectfully, sneeringly*, "the Jewish Sabbath"? Why does the world think all Israelites are Jews, and that the Jews are the total sum of the Israelites? *Here's* an astonishing surprise to those who have believed that! *The Jewish people are only a small minority of the Israelites.* Believe it or not! The very first place in all the Bible where you'll find the term "Jew" or "Jews" is in 2 Kings 16:5-6, *5 Then Rezin king of Syria and Pekah son of Remaliah king of Israel came up to Jerusalem to war: and they besieged Ahaz, but could not overcome him. 6 At that time Rezin king of Syria recovered Elath to Syria, and drave the Jews from Elath: and the Syrians came to Elath, and dwelt there unto this day.* (KJV) *Believe it or not*, there you'll find the kingdom of Israel, allied with Syria, in a war against the Jews. Yes, there it is! Israel was at war against the Jews! Strange as it may seem, the children of Israel had become divided. They had become two different nations! One was the kingdom of Israel. Its capital was *not* Jerusalem, but Samaria. The other was the kingdom of Judah. Judah's capital was at Jerusalem. Now read this strange story!

After the death of King Solomon, the people of the nation of Israel rebelled against the high tax rate imposed by Solomon. The wise old Solomon lived in a state of luxury and splendor perhaps never equaled before or since. To pay for his great enterprises, he simply kept raising the taxes. The people demanded tax reform from Solomon's son, King Rehoboam. Now, we most certainly haven't seen anything like that in England, France, Canada, other European countries or the United States. Have we? King Rehoboam was young. He had young ideas. He surrounded himself with a "brain trust," of "whiz kids." They, too, had young ideas. They counseled, "Tell the people you will show them who is their master and you will tax them even higher than your father did." Rehoboam scorned the counsel of older, wiser heads. To him, they were the reactionaries of his day. The people staged a gigantic mass rebellion. They rejected Rehoboam, and set up Jeroboam, who had been promoted to a high position by King Solomon, as their king. But the tribe of Judah dissented. King Rehoboam was of their tribe, and they wanted to keep him as their king. The result was King Jeroboam declared to the tribes in 1 Kings 12:16-17, *16 Now when all Israel saw that the king did not listen to them, the people answered the king, saying: "What share have we in David? We have no inheritance in the son of Jesse. To your tents, O Israel! Now, see to your own house, O David!"*

So Israel departed to their tents. 17 But Rehoboam reigned over the children of Israel who dwelt in the cities of Judah. (NKJV) We see the tribe of Judah *separating from the nation* of Israel. They formed a separate kingdom called the kingdom of Judah. The tribe of Benjamin went with them. They became known as the Jews, a nickname for Judah.

ISRAEL LOST SIGHT OF THE SABBATH SIGN

Nowhere in all the Bible are any of the ten tribe nation of Israel called Jews. That name applies only to the kingdom of Judah. Jews are Israelites, truly, but only *part* of the Israelites are Jews! Almost immediately on being made a king, Jeroboam became afraid that when his people journeyed to Jerusalem to attend the annual festivals, they would see and desire Rehoboam again for their king. He took swift action to protect his own position. The tribe of Levi composed the priesthood. They were the leaders, the best-educated. The Levites had enjoyed incomes two or three times larger than the other tribes, living off the tithes. With one swift stroke, Jeroboam demoted the Levites, set the lowest and most ignorant of the people to be the priests. He could control them! Thus he would control the religion, as

Gentile kings had always done. Thereupon many, if not most, of the Levites went back into the kingdom of Judah, and became known as Jews.

Immediately, Jeroboam set up two great idols for his people to worship. He ordered the fall festivals (including the annual Sabbaths) to be observed in the eighth month, at a place of his choosing in the north, instead of in the seventh month and at Jerusalem as God ordered. We see these things in 1 Kings 12:28-32, *28 Therefore the king asked advice, made two calves of gold, and said to the people, "It is too much for you to go up to Jerusalem. Here are your gods, O Israel, which brought you up from the land of Egypt!" 29 And he set up one in Bethel, and the other he put in Dan. 30 Now this thing became a sin, for the people went to worship before the one as far as Dan. 31 He made shrines on the high places, and made priests from every class of people, who were not of the sons of Levi. 32 Jeroboam ordained a feast on the fifteenth day of the eighth month, like the feast that was in Judah, and offered sacrifices on the altar. So he did at Bethel, sacrificing to the calves that he had made. And at Bethel he installed the priests of the high places which he had made.* (NKJV) Through the rule of 19 kings and nine successive dynasties, the ten tribe house of Israel continued in the basic twin sins begun by Jeroboam: idolatry and Sabbath-breaking. Several of the kings added other evil and sinful practices.

ISRAEL WAS MADE SLAVES

God caused the house of Israel to be invaded and conquered by the kingdom of Assyria in 721–718 BCE (Before Christian Era). These Israelites were removed from their farms and their cities, and taken to Assyria on the southern shores of the Caspian Sea as slaves. The house of Judah, the Jews, a separate and different nation, was not invaded until 604 BCE. Two or three generations after the captivity of Israel, however, the Chaldeans rose to world power forming the first world ruling empire. Under Nebuchadnezzar, the Chaldeans (Babylon) invaded Judah (604–585 BCE). The Assyrians later left their land, north of Babylon, and migrated northwest through the lands that are now Georgia, Ukraine, Poland and into the land that is called Germany today. Today the descendants of those Assyrians are known to us as the German people. The people of ten tribe Israel also migrated northwest. Though the Assyrians had taken Israel into captivity, the Israelites did not remain as slaves of the Assyrians in Europe. They continued on a little further, into Western Europe, the Scandinavian peninsula and the British Isles! Now why did they come to be known as the “lost ten tribes”? They had lost their national identifying *SIGN!*

All of Israel's kings, that's the northern kingdom, followed the practice of Sabbath breaking, in addition to idolatry! As long as they remained in the land of Israel and *called* themselves “the kingdom of Israel,” their identity was known. However in Assyria, they were no longer a nation with their own government and their own king. They were mere slaves. They took up with the language of the Assyrians as succeeding generations grew up. They lost the Hebrew language. They lost all national identity. I have to add a special fact or two here before I continue. There are several misnomers stated by historians pertaining to the tribe of Joseph. Remember, Joseph was sold into slavery by his older brothers and he was taken to Egypt. Because of God's grace, Joseph was promoted into a position under Pharaoh as Governor of all Egypt. Genesis 41:50-52 identifies Joseph's two sons, *50 And to Joseph were born two sons before the years of famine came, whom Asenath, the daughter of Poti-Pherah priest of On, bore to him. 51 Joseph called the name of the firstborn Manasseh: "For God has made me forget all my toil and all my father's house." 52 And the name of the second he called Ephraim: "For God has caused me to be fruitful in the land of my affliction."* (NKJV) Here you find the reason that my first book on the connection between the United States and the nation of Israel was entitled, “*The Thirteenth Tribe of Israel*”. Manasseh was born first, number 13, Ephraim is tribe number 14. In Genesis 48:18-

20, we see that Jacob, when he adopted Joseph's two sons, placed Ephraim the younger, over Manasseh, the older, ¹⁸ *And Joseph said to his father, "Not so, my father, for this one is the firstborn; put your right hand on his head."* ¹⁹ *But his father refused and said, "I know, my son, I know. He also shall become a people, and he also shall be great; but truly his younger brother shall be greater than he, and his descendants shall become a multitude of nations."* ²⁰ *So he blessed them that day, saying, "By you Israel will bless, saying, 'May God make you as Ephraim and as Manasseh!'" "And thus he set Ephraim before Manasseh.* (NKJV) Here is the answer to a Godly mystery. How was it that Great Britain, a country much older than the United States, was the home of many who came to the colonies to get away from the tyranny in Great Britain and they were from the tribe of Manasseh, while those remaining in Great Britain were from the tribe of Ephraim. Therefore the younger was before the older and, also, the leader of many nations, while the United States is only one nation. There are a couple of other questions we might as well answer right now. Where was Jacob (Israel) buried and by whom? Genesis 50:12-14 gives us our answer, ¹² *So his sons did for him just as he had commanded them.* ¹³ *For his sons carried him to the land of Canaan, and buried him in the cave of the field of Machpelah, before Mamre, which Abraham bought with the field from Ephron the Hittite as property for a burial place.* ¹⁴ *And after he had buried his father, Joseph returned to Egypt, he and his brothers and all who went up with him to bury his father.* (NKJV) Where was Joseph buried and by whom. Turn to Exodus 13:19, ¹⁹ *And Moses took the bones of Joseph with him, for he had placed the children of Israel under solemn oath, saying, "God will surely visit you, and you shall carry up my bones from here with you."* (NKJV) The tribe of Reuben settled in the country that is France today. They had lost their national identity, yet we find that the French have the very characteristics of their ancestor Reuben. Denmark is another example, Denmark is the tribe of Dan. The ten tribes, known as the house of Israel, lost their identifying tag, God's Sabbath day. That is why they lost their national identity!

WHY JEWISH PEOPLE ARE RECOGNIZED?

Judah kept the Sabbath! They did not continue long to keep it holy or to keep it *God's way*, however they did maintain it and do to this day. They continue to acknowledge and observe the Sabbath as the day of rest. Result? All the world looks on them as the chosen people of God! The world thinks they are Israel, not merely Judah! The identity of the Jewish people *has NOT been lost!* Since their identity as racial descendants from ancient Israel is known, and that of the far more numerous "lost ten tribes" is not known, the world supposes that the Jews are Israel, instead of Judah. Here again, the whole world is deceived, even of the true identity as to whom the chosen birthright people of God really *are!* The reader, if he has not already carefully read it, should go to my website, www.vqpub.org and download either "*The Thirteenth Tribe of Israel*" or "*Jeremiah's Mystery*" or both. All of my material is free for the download of PDF files. Either book will provide astonishing truth that the people of the United States, as well as countries of the British Commonwealth and the people of northwestern Europe are, in actual fact, those very same "lost" ten tribes of the nation of Israel, and not Gentiles by birth at all! Yes, the Sabbath, God's day, the true Lord's day is, after all, the day for our people. This is two fold, first, because it is for all people of God, even Gentile-born people who are now Christians. Secondly, because racially, even by fleshly birth, it is God's day which He gave our own forefathers and commanded them to keep the Sabbath holy forever!

WHICH DAY FOR GENTILE CHRISTIANS?

Wait a minute, one might still argue, “Wasn’t that Sabbath covenant for Israel only? Does it not exclude Gentiles? Was not its purpose to identify Israelites as separate and distinct from Gentiles?” The answer is absolutely, *NO!* Let’s understand! So, let’s get this straight!

EXCLUDE GENTILES?

God gave the Sabbath covenant to identify, first, the true God as distinct and separate from false gods, and second, to identify those who are His people as separate and distinct from those who are NOT God’s people! It was not given to distinguish between two kinds of God’s people, that is, for example, two kinds of Christians, such as those who were born Jewish from those who were born Gentile. God does not have two kinds of Christians, Galatians 3:26-29, ***26 For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. 27 For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. 28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. 29 And if you are Christ’s, then you are Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to the promise.*** (NKJV)

Understand this! In Old Testament days, the ONLY people on Earth who were God’s people were the Israelites! Furthermore, the Sabbath was the sign identifying them as God’s people. Have you not read, in Hosea 1:9 how God pictured the house of Israel (the ten tribe kingdom), ***9 Then God said: “Call his name Lo-Ammi, For you are not My people, And I will not be your God.*** (NKJV) This was because they had rejected God’s Sabbath and followed King Jeroboam’s custom of observing the first day of the week (today called Sunday) as their “Sabbath.” God said to this idolatrous Sabbath rejecting house in Hosea 2:6, ***6 “Therefore, behold, I will hedge up your way with thorns, And wall her in, So that she cannot find her paths.*** (NKJV) That is, the house of Israel shall lose her way as she migrates from Assyrian captivity to the northwest into Europe, to the Atlantic coastlands, Scandinavia and Britain. She shall lose her identity, become lost, the lost ten tribes! Read those first two chapters of Hosea, a prophecy for the ten tribe house of Israel. It portrays them as having lost all knowledge of who their true God is!

PROPHECY FOR NOW

Note this! From Hosea 2:8, ***8 For she did not know That I gave her grain, new wine, and oil, And multiplied her silver and gold—Which they prepared for Baal.*** (NKJV) That Scripture presents to us a picture of Britain and America today! God has given us unprecedented national wealth that He unconditionally promised Abraham. He gave it to us not because of our sins, but because of Abraham’s obedience! How have we *used* this wealth? In Baal worship, the day of Baal the sun god called Sunday, in Baal’s Christmas, Easter, and other holidays in the paganized so-called “Christianity,” much of which is the very antithesis (direct opposite) of the true religion of Yeshua! Therefore, take notice of what God is going to do about it! Verse 9, ***9 “Therefore I will return and take away My grain in its time And My new wine in its season, And will take back My wool and My linen, Given to cover her nakedness.*** (NKJV) This is the famine already *now* beginning in its early years prophesied by Joel, Ezekiel, Christ, and can also be found in Revelation! Yes, this is a prophecy for now, today and that was for our people! As you read, it is even now beginning! *Continue!* Notice what else God is now about to do to us, verse 11-13, ***11 I will also cause all her mirth to cease, Her feast days, Her New Moons, Her Sabbaths—All her appointed feasts. 12 “And I will destroy her vines and her fig trees, Of which she***

*has said, 'These are my wages that my lovers have given me.' So I will make them a forest, And the beasts of the field shall eat them. ¹³ I will punish her For the days of the Baals to which she burned incense. She decked herself with her earrings and jewelry, And went after her lovers; But Me she forgot," says the Lord. (NKJV) I have been shouting God's prophecies to all Christians. No, I have not literally shouted, instead God has directed and led me to write books containing His words, commandments and laws and publish them to be available to all who will surrender to His holy guidance through the books God had me to write. Prophecy foretells that we are going to have such total drought and disease epidemics that it will take one-third of all Americans! And, unless America as a nation wakes up and repents of these sins, we shall then be invaded, and taken captive as slaves. You may scoff, you may ignore, but not for long! In the near future it will strike! *You won't scoff then!* Just what is the end of this particular prophecy of Hosea? Read it! "Therefore, behold the remaining verses of Hosea chapter 2 reads in the following manner: ¹⁴ "Therefore, behold, I will allure her, Will bring her into the wilderness, And speak comfort to her. ¹⁵ I will give her her vineyards from there, And the Valley of Achor as a door of hope; She shall sing there, As in the days of her youth, As in the day when she came up from the land of Egypt. ¹⁶ "And it shall be, in that day," Says the Lord, "That you will call Me 'My Husband,' And no longer call Me 'My Master,' ¹⁷ For I will take from her mouth the names of the Baals, And they shall be remembered by their name no more. ¹⁸ In that day I will make a covenant for them With the beasts of the field, With the birds of the air, And with the creeping things of the ground. Bow and sword of battle I will shatter from the earth, To make them lie down safely. ¹⁹ "I will betroth you to Me forever; Yes, I will betroth you to Me In righteousness and justice, In lovingkindness and mercy; ²⁰ I will betroth you to Me in faithfulness, And you shall know the Lord. ²¹ "It shall come to pass in that day That I will answer," says the Lord; "I will answer the heavens, And they shall answer the earth. ²² The earth shall answer With grain, With new wine, And with oil; They shall answer Jezreel. ²³ Then I will sow her for Myself in the earth, And I will have mercy on her who had not obtained mercy; Then I will say to those who were not My people, 'You are My people!' And they shall say, 'You are my God!' " (NKJV)*

Probably you never *understood* the prophecy of Hosea before! It cannot be really understood unless you first understand the Sabbath covenant of Exodus 31:12-17! Now back to the original question of this chapter. Doesn't this special Sabbath covenant *exclude* Gentiles? No! Not if you have accepted Yeshua as your Lord and Savior. Was its purpose to identify Israel as separate and distinct from Gentiles? No! God did not establish two classes of His people: Jews and Gentiles. All are one through Yeshua. When Israel rejected this identifying sign, it most assuredly *did not* identify them, period! It did not distinguish them from Gentiles, they came to believe that *they* were Gentiles. The Gentile people of the world called them Gentiles. The Jewish people called them Gentiles! The Jewish people continued to recognize the Sabbath, and the whole world called them "the chosen people"!

A LIGHT TO THE GENTILES!

Then why did God make this special everlasting Sabbath covenant with Israel, and not with Gentile nations? Simply because all Gentile nations had cut themselves off, totally, from God. All had gone into idolatry. None *knew* the true God. Simply because God had taken a downtrodden slave people, yet a people of superior heredity through Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and Joseph, who were not inoculated with any religion, and made them His nation. Simply because God then gave this called-out people that was His nation His right ways. *WHY?* To be a light to the Gentiles! God did it to show other nations what *BLESSINGS* would follow obedience to His laws! It was to *set an example* to other nations! God gave His right ways and all His promises, including salvation through Christ, to Israel, so as to make these ways and blessings known and available to the Gentiles! All other nations had lost

knowledge of God, lost knowledge of His identity. Their ancestors had once known who God was. But so many fictitious and imaginary gods and demigods had been set up in their minds, originally as intermediaries *between* humans and the one supreme God, that all knowledge of the one God had been erased. At the very beginning of humanity, God talked to Adam and Eve personally. He gave them His instruction, preached to them His gospel. They knew that God offered them eternal life as His gift. They knew the wages of sin was death. However, they reasoned their way around this truth, just as some of you reading this are reasoning *your* way around what God would like to give you. Adam and Eve rebelled. They willingly obeyed Satan. God created mankind as a free moral agent. God always has made His truth available and God has decreed that man must choose! God does not allow man to reason out or to decide *what* things are sin. God *does force* every man to decide *WHETHER* he will sin. God has made it a sin to break His Sabbath. *YOU* must decide! And as you sow, you shall reap! Adam's children made *their* decisions. Abel made the right decision. Yeshua said Abel was righteous. His reward is assured! Cain made the wrong decision and sealed his own fate. Almost 2,000 years later, only one man on Earth, Noah, was obedient to God. Later, Shem apparently followed God's way, but after the Flood, the rest of the world followed Nimrod, founder of this world's civilization. Mankind made its decision. It rebelled against God's right ways. It willingly followed Satan's deceptions, set up established customs and modes of worship that were hostile to God. Succeeding generations lost the knowledge of the true God.

WHY THE NATION ISRAEL?

It was in such a world, cut off from God, that God called out a despised, humiliated, slave people, descended from Abraham. They had listened to and obeyed God. It seems human nature and human degradation are such that God had to take a debased, beaten down, slave people as the only ones who were humbled enough to listen to and obey the Creator! But remember, they were a superior people by heredity, though reduced to slavery by circumstances. God purposed now to give all other nations a chance through this specially selected people, Israel! Of this people, God said: ***"This people have I formed for myself"***, that is, to be *His instrument*, so that Gentile nations would see the desired results and tremendous blessings and national prosperity that would occur to Israel if they obeyed. ***"They shall shew forth my praise,"*** said God (Isaiah 43:21). Of course, these Israelites reacted according to their own human nature. Even Israel, for whom God performed stupendous and most astounding miracles, never followed God's ways for long. Yet through them, God has taken away every excuse from all who rebel. Humanity has been given every chance to repent of its ways! Later, during Christ's earthly human ministry, and after, God used His Church. Christ summoned the Church as specially selected people, not merely to preach His gospel to the world, but to model for the world the desired results reaped from obedience! As ancient Israel was called to be, so the Church, too, was to be a light to the world! ***"Ye are the light of the world,"*** said Yeshua to His disciples. ***"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works"!*** (Matthew 5:14, 16). That is, God desired for the Israelites to set the example! Let the world see the happy results! The right ways of God, which He created as living, set in stone laws, are not for Jewish people only. They are for mankind! The Sabbath was made for man, not for the Jewish people only. The Ephesians were Gentiles, but they heard Christ's gospel and they repented, believed and obeyed. They became converted Christians.

To these converted Christians, Paul wrote, Ephesians 2:11-19, ***"Therefore remember that you, once Gentiles in the flesh—who are called Uncircumcision by what is called the Circumcision made in the flesh by hands—¹² that at that time you were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope and without***

God in the world. ¹³ But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

¹⁴ For He Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation, ¹⁵ having abolished in His flesh the enmity, that is, the law of commandments contained in ordinances, so as to create in Himself one new man from the two, thus making peace, ¹⁶ and that He might reconcile them both to God in one body through the cross, thereby putting to death the enmity. ¹⁷ And He came and preached peace to you who were afar off and to those who were near. ¹⁸ For through Him we both have access by one Spirit to the Father.

¹⁹ Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, (NKJV)

GENTILES NOT EXCLUDED

To become a converted Christian one must become spiritually an Israelite! Salvation, as quoted before, is for *“every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek”* (Romans 1:16). But, weren't Gentiles excluded under the *OLD* Testament? No, they were not! What God gave for Israel was also for the Gentiles. The Sabbath was for Gentiles as well as Israelites! You want proof? Okay, here it is! Gentiles could *always* come into the congregation (church) of Israel, and many did. Even as they were first leaving Egypt, *“a mixed multitude went up also with them”* (Exodus 12:38). These were Gentiles who were with the Israelites when they departed from Egypt. In the instructions for observing the Passover, God said in Exodus 12:48-49, ⁴⁸ *And when a stranger dwells with you and wants to keep the Passover to the Lord, let all his males be circumcised, and then let him come near and keep it; and he shall be as a native of the land. For no uncircumcised person shall eat it.* ⁴⁹ *One law shall be for the native-born and for the stranger who dwells among you.* (NKJV) Gentiles could also come in and become naturalized citizens of Israel. Thousands did. Let the Prophet Isaiah, in a prophecy for our time, *NOW*, tell you whether the Sabbath was for *Jews only*!

SABBATH FOR GENTILES TODAY!

Yeshua said the Sabbath was made for man not Jews only, not Israelites *only*, but for *MAN*! It was made for Adam! It was made for man, in the 20th century, and in century 21! Now read Isaiah's prophecy! Isaiah 56:1-8, ¹ *Thus says the Lord: “Keep justice, and do righteousness, For My salvation is about to come, And My righteousness to be revealed.* ² *Blessed is the man who does this, And the son of man who lays hold on it; Who keeps from defiling the Sabbath, And keeps his hand from doing any evil.”* ³ *Do not let the son of the foreigner Who has joined himself to the Lord Speak, saying, “The Lord has utterly separated me from His people”; Nor let the eunuch say, “Here I am, a dry tree.”* ⁴ *For thus says the Lord: “To the eunuchs who keep My Sabbaths, And choose what pleases Me, And hold fast My covenant, ⁵ Even to them I will give in My house And within My walls a place and a name Better than that of sons and daughters; I will give them an everlasting name That shall not be cut off.* ⁶ *“Also the sons of the foreigner Who join themselves to the Lord, to serve Him, And to love the name of the Lord, to be His servants—Everyone who keeps from defiling the Sabbath, And holds fast My covenant—”* ⁷ *Even them I will bring to My holy mountain, And make them joyful in My house of prayer. Their burnt offerings and their sacrifices Will be accepted on My altar; For My house shall be called a house of prayer for all nations.”* ⁸ *The Lord God, who gathers the outcasts of Israel, says, “Yet I will gather to him Others besides those who are gathered to him.”* (NKJV) Now, beginning in verse one. Notice, first, it comes from the Supreme Authority! *“Thus saith*

the Lord" There is your AUTHORITY! Continue: "... Keep ye judgment, and do justice: for my salvation is near to come, and my righteousness to be revealed." Here is the *TIME* to which this prophecy applies. *WHEN* is God's salvation near to come? *WHEN* is His righteousness to be revealed? This is explained in Hebrews 9:27-28, ²⁷ *And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment,* ²⁸ *so Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many. To those who eagerly wait for Him He will appear a second time, apart from sin, for salvation.* (NKJV) Christ brings salvation, *when* He appears *the second time!* The Revised Standard Version renders it: *"So Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him."* When does Christ's salvation *appear*? That is also explained in Revelation 12:10, ¹⁰ *Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, "Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down.* (NKJV) This is speaking of the time of Christ's Second Coming! Yeshua also said in Revelation 22:12-16, ¹² *"And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give to every one according to his work. ¹³ I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End, the First and the Last."* ¹⁴ *Blessed are those who do His commandments, that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter through the gates into the city. ¹⁵ But outside are dogs and sorcerers and sexually immoral and murderers and idolaters, and whoever loves and practices a lie. ¹⁶ "I, Jesus, have sent My angel to testify to you these things in the churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David, the Bright and Morning Star."* (NKJV) The time: Christ's Second Coming! So the time of Isaiah's prophecy is just shortly before the Second Coming of Christ. The time, then, is now, *TODAY!*

Now notice what Christ, the Supreme Authority, says in Isaiah's prophecy verses 2-5, ² *Blessed is the man who does this, And the son of man who lays hold on it; Who keeps from defiling the Sabbath, And keeps his hand from doing any evil.* ³ *Do not let the son of the foreigner Who has joined himself to the Lord Speak, saying, "The Lord has utterly separated me from His people"; Nor let the eunuch say, "Here I am, a dry tree."* ⁴ *For thus says the Lord: "To the eunuchs who keep My Sabbaths, And choose what pleases Me, And hold fast My covenant, ⁵ Even to them I will give in My house And within My walls a place and a name Better than that of sons and daughters; I will give them an everlasting name That shall not be cut off.* Notice the words in verse 3, that no Gentile, in our time, has been converted and joined himself to Yeshua, saying that Christ has separated him from God's people, Israel. No, the Sabbath was *NOT* a sign to separate Gentiles from Israelites! Gentiles were not excluded! Now look once again at verses 6-8, ⁶ *"Also the sons of the foreigner Who join themselves to the Lord, to serve Him, And to love the name of the Lord, to be His servants—Everyone who keeps from defiling the Sabbath, And holds fast My covenant— ⁷ Even them I will bring to My holy mountain, And make them joyful in My house of prayer. Their burnt offerings and their sacrifices Will be accepted on My altar; For My house shall be called a house of prayer for all nations."* ⁸ *The Lord God, who gathers the outcasts of Israel, says, "Yet I will gather to him Others besides those who are gathered to him."* There is proof positive! There is an irrefutable *"Thus saith the Lord."* The Sabbath was made for man, for mankind, for *GENTILE* as well as Israelite. God Himself made His Sabbath binding forever, Exodus 31:12-17, ¹² *And the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, ¹³ "Speak also to the children of Israel, saying: 'Surely My Sabbaths you shall keep, for it is a sign between Me and you throughout your generations, that you may know that I am the Lord who sanctifies you. ¹⁴ You shall keep the Sabbath, therefore, for it is holy to you. Everyone who profanes it shall surely be put to death; for whoever does any work on it, that person shall be cut off from among his people. ¹⁵ Work shall be done for six days, but the seventh is the Sabbath of rest, holy to the Lord. Whoever does any work on the Sabbath day, he shall surely be put to death. ¹⁶ Therefore the children of Israel shall keep the Sabbath, to observe the Sabbath throughout their generations as a perpetual covenant.*

¹⁷ It is a sign between Me and the children of Israel forever; for in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, and on the seventh day He rested and was refreshed.’ “ (NKJV)

Keeping the Sabbath is binding forever, perpetually, throughout their generations for Israelites. Their generations have not ended. Forever has not ended. Israelites became Christians through Christ, the same as Gentiles. Israelite Christians, then, are *bound* to keep God’s Holy Sabbath, even so, what about Gentiles? They, too, must keep it. They *became* Israelites, spiritually, when they received God’s Holy Spirit and *became* truly converted Christians. God does not have one way for Jews and another one for Gentiles. He does not have one day for the Jew and another day for the Gentile. Christ is not divided, God is no respecter of persons, we are all one in Christ!

WHY ISRAEL AND JUDAH WERE MADE SLAVES

What were the sins of Jeroboam in relation to the sins of ancient Israel? Those sins were spoken of so many times in the books of Kings and Chronicles. Whatever is sin for an Israelite is also a sin for a Gentile! God had reason for setting His law in motion. That reason was our happiness. Every tear of human agony, every war, every bit of human suffering and unhappiness, has been the result of sin. Sin robs humans of happiness, joy and prosperity. God loves humans, therefore, He hates sin because sin is man's enemy! God punishes for sin! If you take sin lightly, if you think God does not note, and *PUNISH* for sin, you need to learn now just how God dealt with His chosen people for breaking His Sabbath.

WHY WERE THE JEWS MADE SLAVES?

Do you know why the kingdom of Israel was invaded by Assyria, conquered, removed from their land as slaves during the period between 721–718 BCE? Do you know why the kingdom of Judah was later taken captive and scattered over the world? Both houses of Israel were sent into national punishment and banishment from the Holy Land *because* they broke God's Sabbath! Does it make any difference? It certainly made a lot of difference to God! He says He has not changed, Hebrews 13:8, ⁸ *Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.* (NKJV)

First, let's see why Judah was invaded, conquered by Nebuchadnezzar, and taken into Babylonian captivity during the years 604–585 BCE. According to Jeremiah's prophecy, we find in Jeremiah 29:10, ¹⁰ *For thus says the Lord: After seventy years are completed at Babylon, I will visit you and perform My good word toward you, and cause you to return to this place.* (NKJV) The house of Judah spent 70 years as slaves in Babylon. After those seventy years, many of the house of Judah returned to the Holy Land to rebuild the temple and restore the worship there. The Prophet Nehemiah tells *why* they had been driven into captivity and slavery years before, Nehemiah 13:15-18, ¹⁵ *In those days I saw people in Judah treading wine presses on the Sabbath, and bringing in sheaves, and loading donkeys with wine, grapes, figs, and all kinds of burdens, which they brought into Jerusalem on the Sabbath day. And I warned them about the day on which they were selling provisions.* ¹⁶ *Men of Tyre dwelt there also, who brought in fish and all kinds of goods, and sold them on the Sabbath to the children of Judah, and in Jerusalem.* ¹⁷ *Then I contended with the nobles of Judah, and said to them, "What evil thing is this that you do, by which you profane the Sabbath day?"* ¹⁸ *Did not your fathers do thus, and did not our God bring all this disaster on us and on this city? Yet you bring added wrath on Israel by profaning the Sabbath."* (NKJV) There it is in plain language! Sabbath-breaking was a prime cause of Judah's captivity! It was so important to God that He punished His own chosen people with this most severe national punishment, defeated in war, removed from their land, and made slaves in a foreign land! Sin is defined by God as the transgression of His law, 1 John 3:4, ⁴ *Everyone who makes a practice of sinning also practices lawlessness; sin is lawlessness.* (ESV) God's law says, Exodus 20:8, ⁸ *"Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.* (ESV) The seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord thy God. To work on the Sabbath, to defile it by your own pleasure-seeking, doing business, etc., is a major sin, punishable by eternal death!

THE HOUSE OF JUDAH WARNED

The house of Judah was without excuse. They had been warned by the prophets. Observe the warning through Jeremiah, Jeremiah 17:21-23, 27, ²¹ *Thus says the Lord: "Take heed to yourselves, and bear no burden on the Sabbath day, nor bring it in by the gates of Jerusalem;* ²² *nor carry a*

burden out of your houses on the Sabbath day, nor do any work, but hallow the Sabbath day, as I commanded your fathers. ²³ But they did not obey nor incline their ear, but made their neck stiff, that they might not hear nor receive instruction. . . . ²⁷ But if you will not heed Me to hallow the Sabbath day, such as not carrying a burden when entering the gates of Jerusalem on the Sabbath day, then I will kindle a fire in its gates, and it shall devour the palaces of Jerusalem, and it shall not be quenched." ' ' "

(NKJV) That was the warning. The house of Judah did not heed it. Now see what happened! We find that in Jeremiah 52:12-13, ¹² *Now in the fifth month, on the tenth day of the month (which was the nineteenth year of King Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon), Nebuzaradan, the captain of the guard, who served the king of Babylon, came to Jerusalem. ¹³ He burned the house of the Lord and the king's house; all the houses of Jerusalem, that is, all the houses of the great, he burned with fire.* (NKJV) When God warns, if mankind does not heed (obey or listen) the punishment is sure!

WHY WAS ISRAEL DEFEATED?

Let us now investigate to see what happened to the *other* nation of Israelites, the kingdom of Israel, or the house of Israel. One hundred and thirty-six years before Judah's captivity. God had laid down the choice to these people in the days of Moses, long before they were divided into two nations.

We find this passage of Scripture in Leviticus 26:1-33, ¹ *'You shall not make idols for yourselves; neither a carved image nor a sacred pillar shall you rear up for yourselves; nor shall you set up an engraved stone in your land, to bow down to it; for I am the Lord your God. ² You shall keep My Sabbaths and reverence My sanctuary: I am the Lord.*

In offering the following promises for obedience, or punishments for rebellion, in this key prophecy, only the two commandments were mentioned, those against idolatry and Sabbath-breaking. ³ *'If you walk in My statutes and keep My commandments, and perform them, ⁴ then I will give you rain in its season, the land shall yield its produce, and the trees of the field shall yield their fruit. ⁵ Your threshing shall last till the time of vintage, and the vintage shall last till the time of sowing; you shall eat your bread to the full, and dwell in your land safely. ⁶ I will give peace in the land, and you shall lie down, and none will make you afraid; I will rid the land of evil beasts, and the sword will not go through your land. ⁷ You will chase your enemies, and they shall fall by the sword before you. ⁸ Five of you shall chase a hundred, and a hundred of you shall put ten thousand to flight; your enemies shall fall by the sword before you. ⁹ 'For I will look on you favorably and make you fruitful, multiply you and confirm My covenant with you. ¹⁰ You shall eat the old harvest, and clear out the old because of the new. ¹¹ I will set My tabernacle among you, and My soul shall not abhor you. ¹² I will walk among you and be your God, and you shall be My people. ¹³ I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, that you should not be their slaves; I have broken the bands of your yoke and made you walk upright.* Notice how important these verses are: **"IF ye walk in my statutes, and keep my commandments, and do them:"** God promised abundance and wealth, national peace and national dominance that would have led to world dominance (verses 3-13)

God warned them (verses 14-33), if they refused to obey those commandments, they would suffer sickness and disease, lose all prosperity for 2,534 years, be invaded, conquered and driven from their land as slaves to their enemies' lands. We arrive at this figure by taking the date for the captivity of the house of Judah (586 BCE) and adding it to 1948, the year Israel was reestablished as a nation.

¹⁴ *'But if you do not obey Me, and do not observe all these commandments, ¹⁵ and if you despise My statutes, or if your soul abhors My judgments, so that you do not perform all My commandments, but break My covenant, ¹⁶ I also will do this to you: I will even appoint terror over you, wasting disease and fever which shall consume the eyes and cause sorrow of heart. And you shall sow your seed in vain, for your enemies shall eat it. ¹⁷ I will set My face against you, and you*

shall be defeated by your enemies. Those who hate you shall reign over you, and you shall flee when no one pursues you. ¹⁸ ‘And after all this, if you do not obey Me, then I will punish you seven times more for your sins. ¹⁹ I will break the pride of your power; I will make your heavens like iron and your earth like bronze. ²⁰ And your strength shall be spent in vain; for your land shall not yield its produce, nor shall the trees of the land yield their fruit. ²¹ ‘Then, if you walk contrary to Me, and are not willing to obey Me, I will bring on you seven times more plagues, according to your sins. ²² I will also send wild beasts among you, which shall rob you of your children, destroy your livestock, and make you few in number; and your highways shall be desolate. ²³ ‘And if by these things you are not reformed by Me, but walk contrary to Me, ²⁴ then I also will walk contrary to you, and I will punish you yet seven times for your sins. ²⁵ And I will bring a sword against you that will execute the vengeance of the covenant; when you are gathered together within your cities I will send pestilence among you; and you shall be delivered into the hand of the enemy. ²⁶ When I have cut off your supply of bread, ten women shall bake your bread in one oven, and they shall bring back your bread by weight, and you shall eat and not be satisfied. ²⁷ ‘And after all this, if you do not obey Me, but walk contrary to Me, ²⁸ then I also will walk contrary to you in fury; and I, even I, will chastise you seven times for your sins. ²⁹ You shall eat the flesh of your sons, and you shall eat the flesh of your daughters. ³⁰ I will destroy your high places, cut down your incense altars, and cast your carcasses on the lifeless forms of your idols; and My soul shall abhor you. ³¹ I will lay your cities waste and bring your sanctuaries to desolation, and I will not smell the fragrance of your sweet aromas. ³² I will bring the land to desolation, and your enemies who dwell in it shall be astonished at it. ³³ I will scatter you among the nations and draw out a sword after you; your land shall be desolate and your cities waste. (NKJV)

Now remember, God made a special, eternally binding covenant with them involving the Sabbath, Exodus 31:12-17, ¹² *And the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, ¹³ ‘‘Speak also to the children of Israel, saying: ‘Surely My Sabbaths you shall keep, for it is a sign between Me and you throughout your generations, that you may know that I am the Lord who sanctifies you. ¹⁴ You shall keep the Sabbath, therefore, for it is holy to you. Everyone who profanes it shall surely be put to death; for whoever does any work on it, that person shall be cut off from among his people. ¹⁵ Work shall be done for six days, but the seventh is the Sabbath of rest, holy to the Lord. Whoever does any work on the Sabbath day, he shall surely be put to death. ¹⁶ Therefore the children of Israel shall keep the Sabbath, to observe the Sabbath throughout their generations as a perpetual covenant. ¹⁷ It is a sign between Me and the children of Israel forever; for in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, and on the seventh day He rested and was refreshed.’* “ (NKJV) The Sabbath was made the national sign *by which* the true God would be identified and known to them, and by which they were to be identified as His people. After the division into two nations, when the kingdom of Israel made Jeroboam their king, the first thing this king did was introduce idolatry and Sabbath-breaking.

As God had warned, this resulted in a national invasion by King Shalmaneser of Assyria, defeat, captivity, and being taken as slaves to Assyria, 722–721 BCE. Now see what God said about it through the Prophet Ezekiel. Ezekiel was given a message from God for the house of Israel (not the house of Judah). Ezekiel was among the Jewish captives, during *their* captivity in Babylon, more than a hundred years after Israel’s captivity. By this time, the Assyrians had been defeated by the king of Babylon and left their land on the southern shores of the Caspian Sea and migrated northwest, finally settling in the land called Germany today. The people of the house of Israel also migrated northwest across Europe, however, they did not stop in Germany. They went on farther west and north, into Western Europe, including, France, Belgium, Holland, the Scandinavian countries, and the British Isles, where they are still to this day. The exception was the tribe of Manasseh, which much later migrated to the United States from our brother nation, Great Britain.

The Prophet Ezekiel was commissioned to “go” from where he was, among the Jewish people, to the house of Israel, Ezekiel 3:1, ¹ *And he said to me, “Son of man, eat whatever you find here. Eat this scroll, and go, speak to the house of Israel.”* (ESV) Ezekiel never took that message to the lost house of Israel. The reason Ezekiel never took that message to the the house of Israel was because he was a captive and a slave in Babylon.

Here is the difficult part to understanding the book of Ezekiel. Observe in Ezekiel 1:3, ³ *the word of the Lord came to Ezekiel the priest, the son of Buzi, in the land of the Chaldeans by the Chebar canal, and the hand of the Lord was upon him there.* (ESV) We learn in this verse that Ezekiel was in Babylon *in the land of the Chaldeans* (Babylon) *by the Chebar canal*. Now turn over to Ezekiel 2:3, ³ *And he said to me, “Son of man, I send you to the people of Israel, to nations* (plural, more than one) *of rebels, who have rebelled against me. They and their fathers have transgressed against me to this very day.* (ESV) We now arrive at chapter 3. There, we find several verses we need to review. First, Chapter 3, verse one, ¹ *And he said to me, “Son of man, eat whatever you find here. Eat this scroll, and go, speak to the house of Israel.”* (ESV) Next, verse 5, ⁵ *For you are not sent to a people of foreign speech and a hard language, but to the house of Israel* (ESV) Moving on, to verse 7, ⁷ *But the house of Israel will not be willing to listen to you, for they are not willing to listen to me: because all the house of Israel* (all would indicate both nations, both houses, Israel and Judah) *have a hard forehead and a stubborn heart.* (ESV) Now, please observe verses 14-15, ¹⁴ *The Spirit lifted me up and took me away, and I went in bitterness in the heat of my spirit, the hand of the Lord being strong upon me.* ¹⁵ *And I came to the exiles at Tel-abib, who were dwelling by the Chebar canal, and I sat where they were dwelling. And I sat there overwhelmed among them seven days.* (ESV)

Let’s look at these verses more closely. Compare the wording in Ezekiel 1:3 and 3:15. Do you see that Ezekiel has not physically moved from where he was when God gave him the task to go speak to the house of Israel? Notice how the term house of Israel is used in verses: 3:1; 3:5 and 3:7. However, Ezekiel is still at the Chebar canal in Babylon. The main portion of the book of Ezekiel is referring and teaching about the fall and destruction of Jerusalem. If you look at the two books of Jeremiah and Ezekiel, you will notice that Jeremiah was warning the people at Jerusalem and Ezekiel was warning the exiles in Babylon about the fall and destruction of Jerusalem.

Yet, both books are prophetic. In the case of Ezekiel, he is giving a prophecy to the house of Israel. As the Watchman over the house of Israel, he *is taking God’s warning to them* and to us today. Ezekiel is using what he had written in his book in the Bible, and by the fact that it is being taken to those very people of the lost ten tribes of Israel, today! It is a prophecy! It is a message for our peoples today! You are reading it now! *God help you to understand!*

PROPHECY FOR US, TODAY!

Speaking, first, of ancient Israel, God says, in Ezekiel 20:9-12, ⁹ *But I acted for the sake of my name, that it should not be profaned in the sight of the nations among whom they lived, in whose sight I made myself known to them in bringing them out of the land of Egypt.* ¹⁰ *So I led them out of the land of Egypt and brought them into the wilderness.* ¹¹ *I gave them my statutes and made known to them my rules, by which, if a person does them, he shall live.* ¹² *Moreover, I gave them my Sabbaths, as a sign between me and them, that they might know that I am the Lord who sanctifies them.* (ESV) Compare verse 12 from the above passage and verse 13 from the everlasting Sabbath covenant of Exodus 31:12-17, ¹³ *“Speak also to the children of Israel, saying: ‘Surely My Sabbaths you shall keep, for it is a sign between Me and you throughout your generations, that you may know that I am the Lord who sanctifies you.’”* We continue with text from Ezekiel 20:13, ¹³ *Yet the house of Israel rebelled against Me in the wilderness; they did not walk in My statutes; they despised My judgments,*

'which, if a man does, he shall live by them'; and they greatly defiled My Sabbaths. Then I said I would pour out My fury on them in the wilderness, to consume them. (NKJV) Then God pleaded with their children a generation later. We find this in Ezekiel 20:18-20, ¹⁸ *"But I said to their children in the wilderness, 'Do not walk in the statutes of your fathers, nor observe their judgments, nor defile yourselves with their idols. ¹⁹ I am the Lord your God: Walk in My statutes, keep My judgments, and do them; ²⁰ hallow My Sabbaths, and they will be a sign between Me and you, that you may know that I am the Lord your God.'* (NKJV)

Notice, the entire emphasis here is between *GOD'S* statutes, judgments and Sabbaths, on the one hand, and *their FATHERS'* different sabbaths, statutes and judgments on the other hand. Continue with verse 21, ²¹ *Notwithstanding, the children rebelled against Me; they did not walk in My statutes, and were not careful to observe My judgments, 'which, if a man does, he shall live by them'; but they profaned My Sabbaths. Then I said I would pour out My fury on them and fulfill My anger against them in the wilderness.* (NKJV) What was it God finally did generations later? Verse 23, ²³ *Also I raised My hand in an oath to those in the wilderness, that I would scatter them among the Gentiles and disperse them throughout the countries,* (NKJV)

But why, you might ask? Verse 24, ²⁴ *because they had not executed My judgments, but had despised My statutes, profaned My Sabbaths, and their eyes were fixed on their fathers' idols.* (NKJV) *THAT'S WHY!* Did it make any difference? It made all the difference with God. You haven't read anything yet! Observe the passage in verses 30-31, ³⁰ *Therefore say to the house of Israel, 'Thus says the Lord God: "Are you defiling yourselves in the manner of your fathers, and committing harlotry according to their abominations?" ³¹ For when you offer your gifts and make your sons pass through the fire, you defile yourselves with all your idols, even to this day. So shall I be inquired of by you, O house of Israel? As I live," says the Lord God, "I will not be inquired of by you.* (NKJV) Change the wording slightly and the same statement could be stated in the following manner: Are you defiling yourselves in the pagan manners of your fathers, and committing abortions, transgender issues, homosexual practices, and same sex marriages? You even slap God in the face by taking His rainbow and using it as your sign of *PRIDE*. When you do any of these acts you defile yourselves with all your pagan practices. You commit murder, practice adultery, steal, lie, covet, dishonor your parents, create idols and profane the very name of God, even to this very day!

It is time to continue forward in this amazing prophecy! Notice the prophecy for us, today! Speaking of a time, in possibly this decade or the next, in our time, to our peoples, God says in verse 33, ³³ *"As I live," says the Lord God, "surely with a mighty hand, with an outstretched arm, and with fury poured out, I will rule over you.* (NKJV) The expression "*FURY poured out*" refers to the seven last plagues at the very time of the Second Coming of Christ. Compare this with Revelation 16:1, ¹ *Then I heard a loud voice from the temple saying to the seven angels, "Go and pour out the bowls of the wrath of God on the earth."* (NKJV) The time when Christ will rule over us is at the time of and after His Second Coming. So this, then, is a prophecy for our time! Every prophecy in the Bible shows *where* our people (Israel) will be at the Second Coming of Christ, and the coming great Exodus back to the Holy Land pictures them in captivity and slavery once again.

Continue this prophecy in verses 34-35: ³⁴ *I will bring you out from the peoples and gather you out of the countries where you are scattered, with a mighty hand, with an outstretched arm, and with fury poured out. ³⁵ And I will bring you into the wilderness of the peoples, and there I will plead My case with you face to face.* (NKJV) Notice it! This is the Word speaking, Christ! He will then be on Earth again in Person! And at that time He is going to plead with our people face to face. That will soon happen to you and to your loved ones. It's time to awaken to the *imminence* (the great importance of the present time that this could happen at any moment), and the stark seriousness of this! Perhaps only one lone voice is warning you! However, recall that God used one lone voice to warn the world in Noah's

day, one lone voice in Elijah's day, one lone voice in the day of John the Baptist, and after John the Baptist was put in prison, He used one lone voice in the Person of Christ Himself!

If you rely on the words and actions of the majority of sinful people, you will suffer their penalties with them! Notice *HOW* He will plead in verses 36-38, ³⁶ *Just as I pleaded My case with your fathers in the wilderness of the land of Egypt, so I will plead My case with you," says the Lord God.* ³⁷ *"I will make you pass under the rod, and I will bring you into the bond of the covenant; ³⁸ I will purge the rebels from among you, and those who transgress against Me; I will bring them out of the country where they dwell, but they shall not enter the land of Israel. Then you will know that I am the Lord.* (NKJV) And how shall we know that He is the Lord? *By His Sabbath SIGN!* Read verses 39-44 in your own Bible, ³⁹ *"As for you, O house of Israel, thus says the Lord God: Go serve every one of you his idols, now and hereafter, if you will not listen to me; but my holy name you shall no more profane with your gifts and your idols. ⁴⁰ "For on my holy mountain, the mountain height of Israel, declares the Lord God, there all the house of Israel, all of them, shall serve me in the land. There I will accept them, and there I will require your contributions and the choicest of your gifts, with all your sacred offerings. ⁴¹ As a pleasing aroma I will accept you, when I bring you out from the peoples and gather you out of the countries where you have been scattered. And I will manifest my holiness among you in the sight of the nations. ⁴² And you shall know that I am the Lord, when I bring you into the land of Israel, the country that I swore to give to your fathers. ⁴³ And there you shall remember your ways and all your deeds with which you have defiled yourselves, and you shall loathe yourselves for all the evils that you have committed. ⁴⁴ And you shall know that I am the Lord, when I deal with you for my name's sake, not according to your evil ways, nor according to your corrupt deeds, O house of Israel, declares the Lord God."* (ESV) He says My people, when they are no longer rebellious, they will then be keeping His Sabbath, shall remember their ways in which they were defiled, and shall loathe themselves for their Sabbath-breaking! This is pretty strong teaching! It is the Word of God speaking to you!

IS SUNDAY MENTIONED IN THE NEW TESTAMENT?

The word **Sunday** does not appear any place in the Bible. But the phrase *first day of the week* is found in the New Testament. It occurs in exactly eight places. So it will not take long to examine these eight texts employing this phrase. If the day was changed by Biblical authority, if Christians are to find any Biblical authority whatsoever for observing Sunday as the Lord's day today, then *we must find that authority in one of these eight texts!* Let us acknowledge at the outset, since the seventh day of the week is clearly established as the Sabbath up until the time of the crucifixion, that there can be no Biblical authority for Sunday observance unless we find it clearly and plainly stated in one of these eight New Testament passages! So let us examine them carefully, honestly, prayerfully.

THE DAY AFTER THE SABBATH

1) *Matthew 28:1: ¹ Now after the Sabbath, as the first day of the week began to dawn, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to see the tomb.* (NKJV) This is the first place in the Bible where *the first day of the week* is mentioned. Matthew wrote these words, under inspiration of the Holy Spirit, six years after the New Testament Church came into being. The text says that after the Sabbath day it was drawing toward the first day of the week. So this scripture, we must admit, tells us plainly that three days and three nights after all that was done away had been securely *nailed to the cross*, the Sabbath was *still* the day before the first day of the week, still the seventh day of the week. One point is plainly proven here. Many tell us that the Sabbath command was merely for *one day in seven*, that it did not have to be the seventh day *of the week*, but merely the seventh part of time. They argue that Sunday, being one day out of seven, fulfills the command. Yet here is a passage in the New Testament, inspired by the Holy Spirit six years after the beginning of the New Testament Church, stating in plain language that, three days after all abolished things had been done away, the Sabbath still existed and that it was the seventh day of the week, the day before the first day of the week. That much is proven, and must remain settled for all who honestly seek and accept Biblical authority. The next question is: "Was the day changed later?"

2) *Mark 16:1-2: ¹ Now when the Sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, that they might come and anoint Him. ² Very early in the morning, on the first day of the week, they came to the tomb when the sun had risen.* (NKJV) This is merely Mark's version of the sunrise visit to the tomb. It was written ten years after the crucifixion. This first day of the week, also, was when the sabbath was past, according to verse 1. So this text proves the same thing as the one above, that the first day of the week was not at that time (three days after the crucifixion) the Sabbath, but the day after the Sabbath. The Sabbath, then, still was the seventh day of the week.

A COMMON WORKDAY

3) *Mark 16:9: ⁹ Now when He rose early on the first day of the week, He appeared first to Mary Magdalene, out of whom He had cast seven demons.* (NKJV) This text speaks of Jesus' appearance to Mary Magdalene later the same day, the day after the Sabbath. Nothing here calls the first day of the week the Christian Sabbath, we must admit. Nothing here calls it "the Lord's day." Nothing here hallows Sunday or says God made it holy. Nothing here commands us to observe it. Nothing here sets it apart as a memorial of the resurrection, or for any purpose. There is no command or example of rest on this day, and absolutely no authority for observing Sunday here.

4) *Luke 24:1: ¹ Now on the first day of the week, very early in the morning, they, and certain other women with them, came to the tomb bringing the spices which they had prepared.* (NKJV) This text tells again the same event recorded by Matthew and Mark, and it shows that on the first day of the week these women came *to do the work of a common weekday*, after having rested the Sabbath day “*according to the commandment.*” For we read, in the verses just before this, Luke 23:54-56, ⁵⁴ *That day was the Preparation, and the Sabbath drew near.* ⁵⁵ *And the women who had come with Him from Galilee followed after, and they observed the tomb and how His body was laid.* ⁵⁶ *Then they returned and prepared spices and fragrant oils. And they rested on the Sabbath according to the commandment.* (NKJV) Shall we dare to say these women did not yet know the commandment was abolished? No, we cannot, for this statement was not made by the women, but inspired by the Holy Spirit. God did know it was *not* abolished. And it was written approximately thirty years after the establishing of the New Testament Church! God then inspired the direct statement that these women “rest” on the Sabbath day according to the commandment, a statement that would not be possible had the commandment been abolished. This text, then, establishes Sunday as a common workday, three days after the crucifixion, and it further establishes that at that time the command to rest on the Sabbath had not been abolished.

5) *John 20:1: ¹ Now on the first day of the week Mary Magdalene went to the tomb early, while it was still dark, and saw that the stone had been taken away from the tomb.* (NKJV) This, written sixty three years after the crucifixion, is merely John’s version, describing the same visit to the tomb. It confirms the facts above.

WAS THIS A RELIGIOUS MEETING TO CELEBRATE THE RESURRECTION?

6) *John 20:19: ¹⁹ Then, the same day at evening, being the first day of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in the midst, and said to them, “Peace be with you.”* (NKJV) Let us examine this carefully, for some claim this was a religious service called for the purpose of celebrating the resurrection. Was it? Notice this is the *same* first day of the week that followed the Sabbath. It was Jesus’s first opportunity to appear to His disciples. For three and one-half years He had been constantly with them, on all days of the week. His meeting with them, of itself, could not establish any day as a Sabbath. *Were* they assembled to celebrate the resurrection, thus establishing Sunday as the Christian Sabbath in honor of the resurrection? The text says they were assembled “*for fear of the Jews.*” The Jews had just taken and crucified their Master. They were afraid. The doors were shut because of their fear, probably bolted. Why were they assembled? For fear of the Jews, according to this text, and also because they *all lived together in this upper room*, Acts 1:13, ¹³ *And when they had entered, they went up into the upper room where they were staying: Peter, James, John, and Andrew; Philip and Thomas; Bartholomew and Matthew; James the son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot; and Judas the son of James.* (NKJV) They could not have assembled to celebrate the resurrection for they did not believe Jesus was risen: Mark 16:14, ¹⁴ *Later He appeared to the eleven as they sat at the table; and He rebuked their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they did not believe those who had seen Him after He had risen.* Luke 24:37, 39, 41, ³⁷ *But they were terrified and frightened, and supposed they had seen a spirit.* ³⁹ *Behold My hands and My feet, that it is I Myself. Handle Me and see, for a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see I have.”* ⁴¹ *But while they still did not believe for joy, and marveled, He said to them, “Have you any food here?”* (NKJV) Nothing in this text calls this day “Sabbath,” or “Lord’s day,” or any sacred title. Nothing here sets it apart, makes it holy. No authority can be found here for changing a command of God!

LORD'S SUPPER DAY—OR WORKDAY—WHICH?

7) *Acts 20:7-8: ⁷ Now on the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul, ready to depart the next day, spoke to them and continued his message until midnight. ⁸ There were many lamps in the upper room where they were gathered together.* (NKJV) Here, at last, we find a religious meeting on the first day of the week. *But it was not a Sunday meeting!* Of necessity, we need to go a little deeper to understand what really transpired here at Troas. Let's go back a few verses and see what is really going on. Acts 20:6, *⁶ But we sailed away from Philippi after the Days of Unleavened Bread, and in five days joined them at Troas, where we stayed seven days.* (NKJV) We need to understand three things. First, Paul and his party were in Philippi (Greece) where they left after the feast of Unleavened Bread. That feast would be the seven days between the 15th and the 21st of Nisan (about early to mid-April). Second, then they sailed for five days to get to Troas in modern day Turkey. Third, they stayed in Troas for seven days. That would put this dinner meal at either the 3rd or 4th of the month Iyar (toward the end of April). At that time sundown would be about 6 to 7 in the evening which ends the Sabbath and begins the first day of the week. We know that the Sabbath is from sunset on Friday to sunset on Saturday. Therefore, this meal and Paul's teaching would be from maybe 7 PM to Midnight on a Saturday night. Let's repeat that a little different way. Paul continued his speech *until midnight!* *"And there were many lights in the upper chamber, where they were gathered together."* It was after sunset, prior to midnight, the first day of the week. Now at that time, the first day of the week did not *begin* at midnight as men begin it today. It began and ended at sunset! All Biblical days begin and end at sunset. Days began and ended at sunset throughout the Roman world at that time, and for a few hundred years afterward. The practice of beginning the new day at midnight was started much later. In either way, a day is one rotation of the earth to form a period of time that we call a day. Therefore this meeting, and Paul's preaching, took place during the hours we now call Saturday night, therefore it was not a Sunday meeting at all! Notice the rendering of Today's English Version and it is correctly translated from the inspired Greek text: *"On Saturday evening we gathered together for the fellowship meal. Paul spoke to the people, and kept on speaking until midnight, since he was going to leave the next day."*

WHY PAUL REMAINED BEHIND

Now let us pick up the thread of the narrative related in this passage. Begin with Acts 20:9-14, *⁹ And in a window sat a certain young man named Eutychus, who was sinking into a deep sleep. He was overcome by sleep; and as Paul continued speaking, he fell down from the third story and was taken up dead. ¹⁰ But Paul went down, fell on him, and embracing him said, "Do not trouble yourselves, for his life is in him." ¹¹ Now when he had come up, had broken bread and eaten, and talked a long while, even till daybreak, he departed. ¹² And they brought the young man in alive, and they were not a little comforted. ¹³ Then we went ahead to the ship and sailed to Assos, there intending to take Paul on board; for so he had given orders, intending himself to go on foot. ¹⁴ And when he met us at Assos, we took him on board and came to Mitylene.* (NKJV) Paul's companions had to sail around a peninsula, a distance of 50 or 60 miles, while Paul, afoot, walked across a distance of 19 1/2 miles. He was able to walk this distance in shorter time than they could sail the much longer distance, which gave Paul the opportunity to remain behind after they left, for this last farewell sermon and visit. Now do you see what actually happened? Paul's companions were engaged in the labor of rowing and sailing a boat while Paul was preaching that Saturday night until midnight *on the first day of the week*. They had set sail Saturday night, after the Sabbath had ended. Paul remained behind for one more last farewell sermon. Then, at break of day Sunday morning Paul set out afoot indulging in the labor of a 19 1/2 mile

walk from Troas to Assos! He waited till the Sabbath was past for this long walk, a good hard day's work, if you ever tried it! He did it on the first day of the week! Again, it was a common workday and not a Sabbath!

WHAT "BREAK BREAD" MEANS

But does this text not say, as many claim today, that the disciples always held communion every first day of the week? Not at all! In the first place, the Bible says nothing about anything being done every first day of the week. It relates the events of this one particular first day of the week, only. It is not speaking of any customs, but of the events occurring as Paul and his companions concluded their seven-day visit in passing by this town. Yeshua had introduced the "Lord's Supper" as part of the Passover, at the beginning of the annual "Days of Unleavened Bread." There was no longer a need for them to kill lambs or eat the roasted body of the Passover lamb. After Christ, our Passover, had been once slain for us all. Yet the Passover was ordained forever, Exodus 12:24-25, ²⁴ *And you shall observe this thing as an ordinance for you and your sons forever.* ²⁵ *It will come to pass when you come to the land which the Lord will give you, just as He promised, that you shall keep this service.* (NKJV) At His last Passover supper, Yeshua substituted the wine as the emblem of His blood, instead of the blood of the slain lamb. He substituted the unleavened bread for the roasted body of the lamb as the symbol of His body broken for us. The disciples continued to observe the Passover annually, now in the form of "the Lord's Supper," using only the bread and wine, as a memorial of Christ's death, 1 Corinthians 11:24-26, ²⁴ *and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, "Take, eat; this is My body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me."* ²⁵ *In the same manner He also took the cup after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."* ²⁶ *For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes.* (NKJV) Thus, they were remembering His death until He comes again. They continued to observe the Days of Unleavened Bread, Acts 20:6, ⁶ *But we sailed away from Philippi after the Days of Unleavened Bread, and in five days joined them at Troas, where we stayed seven days.* (NKJV)). This year they had observed the Days of Unleavened Bread and the "Communion" service at Philippi, after which they came to Troas in five days, where they remained seven days. After the Sabbath day had ended, at sunset, it was "upon the first day of the week ... the disciples came together to break bread." People have assumed this expression to mean the taking of communion. But notice! Paul preached, and continued preaching until midnight. They had no opportunity to stop and "break bread" until then. When Paul "therefore was come up again"—after restoring the one who had fallen down from the third balcony—"and had broken bread, and eaten" (verse 11). Note it! "Broken bread, and eaten." This breaking bread was not communion—it was simply eating a meal. This expression was commonly used of old to designate the eating of a meal. It still is used in that sense in parts of even the United States. Notice Luke 22:16, where Jesus was introducing the Lord's Supper, taking it with His disciples. He said, *"I will not any more eat thereof, until it be fulfilled in the kingdom of God."* Yet, the day after His resurrection, after walking with the two disciples to Emmaus, *"... as he sat at meat with them, he took bread, and blessed it, and brake, and gave to them"* (Luke 24:30). Here Jesus "brake bread," but it was not the Lord's Supper, which He said He would not take again. It was a meal, *"he sat at meat."* Notice Acts 2:46, ⁴⁶ *So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart,* (NKJV) Here again, "breaking bread" means eating a meal. Not on the first day of the week, but daily. Again, when Paul was shipwrecked on the voyage to Rome, we find this recorded in Acts 27: 33-36, ³³ *And as day was about to dawn, Paul implored them all to take food, saying, "Today is the fourteenth day you*

have waited and continued without food, and eaten nothing. ³⁴ *Therefore I urge you to take nourishment, for this is for your survival, since not a hair will fall from the head of any of you.*” ³⁵ *And when he had said these things, he took bread and gave thanks to God in the presence of them all; and when he had broken it he began to eat.* ³⁶ *Then they were all encouraged, and also took food themselves.* (NKJV) Here Paul broke bread to give to unconverted sailors who were hungry. The truth is, nowhere in the Bible is the expression “breaking of bread,” or “to break bread,” used to signify observance of “the Lord’s Supper.” In all these texts it means, simply eating a meal. Therefore, we know by Scripture interpretation it referred only to eating food as a meal, not to a communion service.

WHAT WAS THIS COLLECTION?

We come now to the eighth and last place where the term *first day of the week* occurs in the Bible.

8) *1 Corinthians 16:2: ² On the first day of the week let each one of you lay something aside, storing up as he may prosper, that there be no collections when I come.* (NKJV) Often we see this text printed on the little offering envelopes in the pews of popular churches, and we have been told that this text sets the first day of the week as the time for taking up the church collection for the carrying on of God’s Work, paying the minister, etc. Let us begin with the first verse and really catch the true intended meaning of this verse. *“Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given order to the churches of Galatia, even so do ye.* Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come” (verses 1-2). This speaks of a collection, but for whom, for what? Note it! *Not* for the preacher—not for evangelism—but “the collection for the saints.” The poor saints at Jerusalem were suffering from drought and famine. They needed, not money, but food. Notice Paul had given similar instruction to other churches. Now observe his instruction to the Romans, Romans 15:25-28, ²⁵ *But now I am going to Jerusalem to minister to the saints.* ²⁶ *For it pleased those from Macedonia and Achaia to make a certain contribution for the poor among the saints who are in Jerusalem.* ²⁷ *It pleased them indeed, and they are their debtors. For if the Gentiles have been partakers of their spiritual things, their duty is also to minister to them in material things.* ²⁸ *Therefore, when I have performed this and have sealed to them this fruit, I shall go by way of you to Spain.* (NKJV) Ah! Did you catch it? It was not money, but fruit that was being sealed for shipment to the poor saints at Jerusalem! (The Greek word can also refer to grain, wine, and other produce which can be stored a long time without spoiling.) Now turn back to 1 Corinthians 16. Paul is speaking concerning a collection for the saints. Upon the first day of the week each one of them is instructed to do what? Look at it! Does it say drop a coin in the collection plate at a church service? Not at all! It says, ² *On the first day of the week let each one of you lay something aside, storing up as he may prosper, that there be no collections when I come.* Note it says let each lay up, store up! Store up by himself *at home*, not lay up at the church house nor as a group. Now why? *That there be no collections when I come.* Men gather fruit out of the orchard, they gather vegetables out of the ground to be stored up. Putting coins in a collection plate at church, or handing in your tithe envelope could not be called a gathering, but an offering or collection. Notice further, verses 3-4, ³ *And when I come, whomever you approve by your letters I will send to bear your gift to Jerusalem.* ⁴ *But if it is fitting that I go also, they will go with me.* (NKJV) Apparently it was going to require several men to carry this collection, gathered and stored up, to Jerusalem. If it were tithe or offering for the minister or the spread of the gospel, Paul could have carried the money alone. So, once again, the last and final text in the Bible where we find *the first day of the week* mentioned, it is a workday, a day for gathering fruit and food out of the orchards and the fields and gardens and storing it up. It was to be the first labor of the week, hence the first day of the week, as soon as the Sabbath had passed!

NO BIBLE AUTHORITY

So, finally, we find, upon honest examination, that not one of the texts speaking about the *first day of the week* sets it apart as a rest day. Not one makes it holy, calls it the Sabbath or by any other sacred title. In every case, the first day of the week was a common workday. In none of the texts was there a religious meeting and preaching service being held during the hours we now call Sunday. In none of these can we find a single shred of Biblical authority for Sunday observance! There is no record in the Bible describing the resurrection on Sunday. Revelation 1:10 is sometimes used as Biblical authority for calling Sunday “the Lord’s day.” It says, ¹⁰ ***I was in the Spirit on the Lord’s Day, and I heard behind me a loud voice, as of a trumpet,*** (NKJV) But this does not say the “first day of the week,” or “Sunday,” is the “day” here called “the Lord’s day.” As a matter of fact, it is not speaking of any day of the week at all, but of “the day of the Lord”, the time of the coming wrath, climaxing in the coming of Christ and the Millennium. This is the theme of the Revelation. But, if one wants to argue, and insist upon this text applying to some definite day of the week, they shall have to look elsewhere to see which day the Bible calls the Lord’s day. For this text does not designate any day of the week. Yeshua said He was Lord of the Sabbath, and if He is Lord of that day, then it belongs to Him and is His day, and therefore, the Sabbath is the Lord’s day. We find this in the New Testament in Mark 2:27-28, ²⁷ ***And He said to them, “The Sabbath was made for man, and not man for the Sabbath. ²⁸ Therefore the Son of Man is also Lord of the Sabbath.”*** (NKJV) We find a similar statement made by God in the Old Testament in Isaiah 58:13 ¹³ ***“If you turn away your foot from the Sabbath, From doing your pleasure on My holy day, And call the Sabbath a delight, The holy day of the Lord honorable, And shall honor Him, not doing your own ways, Nor finding your own pleasure, Nor speaking your own words,*** (NKJV) Notice that the Sabbath (the seventh day of the week) is called “my holy day.” Observe that God is the one speaking. Therefore, the Sabbath is the Lord’s day. In the original commandment, in Exodus 20:10, we read, ¹⁰ ***“but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord your God. In it you shall do no work: . . . “*** (NKJV) The Sabbath is not **Not** my day, or your day. Sunday is my day. So is Monday, and every other weekday, for my labor and my own needs. **But, the seventh day is not mine, it is the Lord’s!** It belongs to Him, and He made it holy and commanded us to keep it that way. We have no right to use it for ourselves. It is His day!

THE TRUE SABBATH OF THE NEW TESTAMENT!

Now briefly let us look through the New Testament to find which day Paul kept and taught Gentile converts to keep. Notice which day Paul and Barnabas used for preaching to Gentiles: 1) Acts 13:14-16, ¹⁴ ***But when they departed from Perga, they came to Antioch in Pisidia, and went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day and sat down. ¹⁵ After the reading from the Law and the Prophets, the rulers of the synagogue sent a message to them, saying, “Brothers, if you have any word of encouragement for the people, say it.” ¹⁶ So Paul stood up, and motioning with his hand said: “Men of Israel and you who fear God, listen. (NKJV) Now view verses 42-50 from this passage, ⁴² So when the Jews went out of the synagogue, the Gentiles begged that these words might be preached to them the next Sabbath. ⁴³ Now when the congregation had broken up, many of the Jews and devout proselytes followed Paul and Barnabas, who, speaking to them, persuaded them to continue in the grace of God. ⁴⁴ On the next Sabbath almost the whole city came together to hear the word of God. ⁴⁵ But when the Jews saw the multitudes, they were filled with envy; and contradicting and blaspheming, they opposed the things spoken by Paul. ⁴⁶ Then Paul and Barnabas grew bold and said, “It was necessary that the word of God should be spoken to you first; but since you reject it, and judge***

yourselves unworthy of everlasting life, behold, we turn to the Gentiles. ⁴⁷ *For so the Lord has commanded us: 'I have set you as a light to the Gentiles, That you should be for salvation to the ends of the earth.'* ⁴⁸ *Now when the Gentiles heard this, they were glad and glorified the word of the Lord. And as many as had been appointed to eternal life believed.* ⁴⁹ *And the word of the Lord was being spread throughout all the region.* ⁵⁰ *But the Jews stirred up the devout and prominent women and the chief men of the city, raised up persecution against Paul and Barnabas, and expelled them from their region.* (NKJV) Here in verse 42, we see that Paul waited a whole week, passing up a Sunday, in order to preach to the Gentiles on *the Sabbath day*.

GENTILES MET ON THE SABBATH!

2) Acts 15:1-2, 10-12, 13, 19-21, 23-30: Study this whole passage carefully. Acts 15:1-2, ¹ *And certain men came down from Judea and taught the brethren, "Unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved."* ² *Therefore, when Paul and Barnabas had no small dissension and dispute with them, they determined that Paul and Barnabas and certain others of them should go up to Jerusalem, to the apostles and elders, about this question.* (NKJV) Paul and Barnabas present their case to the Apostles and elders, Acts 15:10-12, ¹⁰ *Now therefore, why do you test God by putting a yoke on the neck of the disciples which neither our fathers nor we were able to bear?* ¹¹ *But we believe that through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ we shall be saved in the same manner as they.* ¹² *Then all the multitude kept silent and listened to Barnabas and Paul declaring how many miracles and wonders God had worked through them among the Gentiles.* (NKJV) James, as the leader of the church at Jerusalem, spoke the following (verse 13), ¹³ *And after they had become silent, James answered, saying, "Men and brethren, listen to me:* (NKJV) James announced the following, (verses 19-20), ¹⁹ *Therefore I judge that we should not trouble those from among the Gentiles who are turning to God,* ²⁰ *but that we write to them to abstain from things polluted by idols, from sexual immorality, from things strangled, and from blood.* (NKJV) He did not say they should not keep the Ten Commandments. The Ten Commandments were not in question, but only the ritual law of circumcision, which was an altogether different law. He merely mentioned four prohibitions, and otherwise they did not say anything pertaining to the observance of the Law of Moses. But *why WRITE this sentence to them?* Note it in verse 21, ²¹ *For Moses has had throughout many generations those who preach him in every city, being read in the synagogues every Sabbath.*" (NKJV) Do you see it? The law of Moses, the first five books of the Bible, was being taught in the synagogues every Sabbath day. The apostles were writing only these decrees, because Gentile converts were going to church on the Sabbath day. They had heard God's law read and discussed every Sabbath in the synagogues and did not need further instructions. It shows that the Gentile converts had started keeping the Sabbath day, and went to worship God on that day, His day! Therefore, the apostles' letter did not reprove them for this Sabbath keeping. This is very significant since Gentiles had never kept the Sabbath. Therefore it is something these Gentiles had started doing *after they were converted under the teaching of Paul and Barnabas!* There is one more passage I'd like for you to see. What did the letter back to the Gentiles read? Verses 23-29 provides us with the letter sent from Jerusalem,

²³ *They wrote this letter by them:*

The apostles, the elders, and the brethren,

To the brethren who are of the Gentiles in Antioch, Syria, and Cilicia:

Greetings.

²⁴ *Since we have heard that some who went out from us have troubled you with words, unsettling your souls, saying, "You must be circumcised and keep the law" —to whom we gave no such commandment—* ²⁵ *it seemed good to us, being assembled with one accord, to send chosen men to*

you with our beloved Barnabas and Paul, ²⁶ men who have risked their lives for the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁷ We have therefore sent Judas and Silas, who will also report the same things by word of mouth. ²⁸ For it seemed good to the Holy Spirit, and to us, to lay upon you no greater burden than these necessary things: ²⁹ that you abstain from things offered to idols, from blood, from things strangled, and from sexual immorality. If you keep yourselves from these, you will do well. Farewell. (NKJV) If you proclaim to be a New Testament Christian and practice anything of the LBGTQ community you are violating these instructions given directly from the original ***apostles, elders and brethren at Jerusalem.***

A SABBATH IN PHILIPPI

3) Acts 16:12-15: Here we find Paul and Silas at Philippi. ¹² *and from there to Philippi, which is the foremost city of that part of Macedonia, a colony. And we were staying in that city for some days. ¹³ And on the Sabbath day we went out of the city to the riverside, where prayer was customarily made; and we sat down and spoke to the women who met there. ¹⁴ Now a certain woman named Lydia heard us. She was a seller of purple from the city of Thyatira, who worshiped God. The Lord opened her heart to heed the things spoken by Paul. ¹⁵ And when she and her household were baptized, she begged us, saying, “If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come to my house and stay.” So she persuaded us.* (NKJV) Here again Paul and his companions waited until the Sabbath, and then went to a place of worship and preached. This woman, probably a Gentile, was converted. The passage indicates it was the custom to meet there on the Sabbath, and that it was custom for Paul and his companions to go to a place of prayer and worship when the Sabbath day came.

PAUL WORKED WEEKDAYS, AND KEPT THE SABBATH

4) Acts 18:1-11: ¹ *After these things Paul departed from Athens and went to Corinth. ² And he found a certain Jew named Aquila, born in Pontus, who had recently come from Italy with his wife Priscilla (because Claudius had commanded all the Jews to depart from Rome); and he came to them. ³ So, because he was of the same trade, he stayed with them and worked; for by occupation they were tentmakers. ⁴ And he reasoned in the synagogue every Sabbath, and persuaded both Jews and Greeks. ⁵ When Silas and Timothy had come from Macedonia, Paul was compelled by the Spirit, and testified to the Jews that Jesus is the Christ. ⁶ But when they opposed him and blasphemed, he shook his garments and said to them, “Your blood be upon your own heads; I am clean. From now on I will go to the Gentiles.” ⁷ And he departed from there and entered the house of a certain man named Justus, one who worshiped God, whose house was next door to the synagogue. ⁸ Then Crispus, the ruler of the synagogue, believed on the Lord with all his household. And many of the Corinthians, hearing, believed and were baptized. ⁹ Now the Lord spoke to Paul in the night by a vision, “Do not be afraid, but speak, and do not keep silent; ¹⁰ for I am with you, and no one will attack you to hurt you; for I have many people in this city.” ¹¹ And he continued there a year and six months, teaching the word of God among them.* (NKJV) Paul reasoned in the synagogue every Sabbath, and persuaded the Jews *and the Greeks.*” If we could find *one text* in the New Testament giving as strong authority for Sunday observance as this one does for Sabbath keeping, we should certainly have Biblical authority for it! Here Paul worked weekdays, but went to church and taught Gentiles as well as Jews *every* Sabbath. Now the commandment says: “Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work,” just as much as it says “***Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy.***” There is just as much commanding us to work six days as there is to rest the seventh day. And so if the day had been changed, Paul would have had to

work Sabbaths, in order to go to church and preach every Sunday. But here he worked weekdays and went to church and preached every Sabbath, not just on one particular occasion. It clearly says every Sabbath, he preached Christ and the gospel of the Kingdom. And when the Jews became offended and blasphemed, he turned away from the Jews altogether. From that time forward, he preached to Gentiles only (verse 6), and he *continued there a year and six months* (verse 11), working weekdays, preaching to *Gentiles ONLY*, every Sabbath! What more conclusive proof could we desire? What stronger Biblical evidence than this, as to the true Sabbath of the New Testament? For a year and a half Paul continued working weekdays, six days, including Sundays, and preaching to Gentiles exclusively every Sabbath! Certainly it was his custom and manner! Certainly he could not have done this had the Sabbath been done away, or changed. To these Gentiles converts at Corinth, Paul commanded in 1 Corinthians 11:1. ¹ *Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ.* (KJV) We find Paul at Thessalonica following his manner when the Sabbath day arrived, Acts 17:2-3, ² *Then Paul, as his custom was, went in to them, and for three Sabbaths reasoned with them from the Scriptures, ³ explaining and demonstrating that the Christ had to suffer and rise again from the dead, and saying, “This Jesus whom I preach to you is the Christ.”* (NKJV) It was his manner, his custom, as we have seen by ample evidence showing a total of 84 different Sabbaths. Paul is shown specifically to have kept God’s Sabbath 84 times!. Did he follow Jesus in this? Why, certainly! Jesus was at the synagogue on the Sabbath day, every Sabbath day, Luke 4:16, ¹⁶ *So 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 to read.* (NKJV) It was Yeshua’s custom to do this. Paul followed Yeshua, and commanded the Gentile converts to follow him (Paul), even as he followed Christ.

THE AMAZING TRUTH ABOUT CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

Now notice another eye-opening reason why only the true Sabbath day can be the day for assembled Christian fellowship. Jesus Christ said, in John 15:4-5, ⁴ *Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me.* ⁵ *I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.* (NKJV) We are told to abide in Him or spiritually we can do nothing. A grape branch cannot produce grapes unless joined to the vine.

A DIVINE FELLOWSHIP

Next, notice the basis of Christian fellowship, in 1 John 1:1-7, ¹ *That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, concerning the Word of life—* ² *the life was manifested, and we have seen, and bear witness, and declare to you that eternal life which was with the Father and was manifested to us—* ³ *that which we have seen and heard we declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ.* ⁴ *And these things we write to you that your joy may be full.*

⁵ *This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all.* ⁶ *If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth.* ⁷ *But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.* (NKJV): We can have true Christian fellowship *only* when each individual Christian is joined to Christ, and to the Father, as a branch of a grapevine joined to the vine. Now, what joins the many branches of that vine to one another? It is the fellowship of the many individuals who have joined themselves to Christ and to the Father.

When *people* meet on *their own humanly appointed day*, trying to join themselves together in a church group, Christ is *not* present with them in that fellowship. He never put His presence in that day! They are like a lot of grape branches, cut off from the vine, trying to join themselves together! Now, how did we find that Jesus Christ put *His presence* in His Sabbath? On that day He rested, and was refreshed. While resting on that day, He blessed that day, He set it apart for holy use and purpose as His day, He hallowed it and made it holy time. But how did He make it holy? Remember, I showed you plainly before, that just as *the very ground* where Moses stood near the burning bush was holy ground, *because Christ's presence was there.* Christ's presence makes holy whatever or wherever He is, just as we can be holy if, and *only if*, *Christ's presence*, by the Holy Spirit, is within us. Therefore *Christ's presence* in the Sabbath makes that space of time holy. When the Lord of the Old Testament, the Word was made human flesh, and was named Yeshua, some 4,000 years after He rested originally on the Sabbath, putting His presence in it. He still kept the Sabbath, and put His presence in it *"as his custom was."* He had not changed. Christ is still the same today. So *His very presence* is in His day, the same today as it was then. When God's own obedient children, each joined to Christ, each walking with Christ in harmony and obedient assembly on His holy day, they actually *have fellowship* with Christ. He is *there* in their midst, *in Spirit!* Then Christ joins them together in fellowship with Him and the Father! **When people assemble on Sunday, Christ's presence is not in that day!** You may argue to have your own way rather than surrender to this truth, but this is *truth* by which you will be judged when you face Christ in the Judgment!

CAN YOU WORSHIP CHRIST IN VAIN?

Then what about public or a church group led worship in a weekly service on Sunday—or Friday? Listen and heed! Your Bible says: ***“God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in TRUTH”*** (John 4:24). What do the churches of this world say? “Worship God according to the dictates of your own conscience.” That is contrary to what God says! How do you worship God *in spirit and in truth*? What is truth? Jesus said plainly: ***“Thy word is truth.”*** God’s Word is the Bible! The Bible authorizes *only the Sabbath* as God’s *weekly* holy day for joint assembly and worship. The Bible is the authority of God! What authority do people have for Sunday? To worship God *in spirit and in TRUTH* is to worship Him how and when (so far as congregational assembly is concerned) He says in His Word, which is truth! God Himself set apart the one and only day that identifies Him as the Creator! He set it apart for a blessing, for our physical rest, and for spiritual refreshing! And that day that we cease from our business or labors, He set apart as “a holy convocation” (Leviticus 23:2-3), which means a commanded assembly, at which our presence is *commanded*. It is the very day when His divine spiritual *presence* is there, as well. He set apart as the day *for* that joint worship together the one day which identifies the God whom we are to worship! **No other day can fulfill that great and glorious purpose!** Yes, God has *a reason* for the Sabbath, a purpose in it! Those who assemble to worship God and the Lord Jesus Christ in any way contrary to the way or the time God’s Word commands are not worshiping Him *in spirit and in TRUTH*. **They are also denying the fourth Commandment and failing God’s test for mankind.** That is the title for this book and it shows how much mankind is rebelling against God and being disobedient toward the living God. God will not accept their worship. Did you realize that Christ Himself said you can not only profess His name and call yourself a Christian, but you may actually worship Him, *and do it in vain*? You will still be totally “unsaved”? Read the very words of Christ, Mark 7:7-9, ⁷ ***“And in vain they worship Me, Teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.”*** ⁸ ***“For laying aside the commandment of God, you hold the tradition of men —the washing of pitchers and cups, and many other such things you do.”*** ⁹ ***He said to them, “All too well you reject the commandment of God, that you may keep your tradition.”*** (NKJV) Assembling for worship on Sunday is *nothing but the tradition of men* and a pagan tradition at that! Those who do so *reject the commandment of God*, disobey God’s commandment to *keep* His Sabbath day holy, are guilty of committing sin, and such worship is utterly in vain! *Christ said so!*

NOT “JEWISH” SABBATH

Unfortunately, in spite of all the scriptures in the whole Bible, in spite of direct commands from God, many have heard or read of the Sabbath being called “the Jewish Sabbath” so many times that their minds will argue immediately: “Yes, but all this about the Sabbath being holy, about the Sabbath covenant, doesn’t apply to me; all that was for the Jewish people, and I’m a Gentile.” Oh yes, this does apply to *YOU!* Jesus Christ says, ***“The sabbath was made for man”***, for all mankind! Remember? It was made when man was made, at the time of Adam! There were no Jewish people then! God Almighty does not have one standard for Jewish people and another for Gentiles. No Gentile can become a Christian *until* he becomes an Israelite in spiritual form, read Ephesians 2:1-22, ¹ ***“And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins, ² in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, ³ among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others.***

⁴ But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, ⁵ even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), ⁶ and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, ⁷ that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. ⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, ⁹ not of works, lest anyone should boast. ¹⁰ For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

¹¹ Therefore remember that you, once Gentiles in the flesh—who are called Uncircumcision by what is called the Circumcision made in the flesh by hands— ¹² that at that time you were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. ¹³ But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. ¹⁴ For He Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation, ¹⁵ having abolished in His flesh the enmity, that is, the law of commandments contained in ordinances, so as to create in Himself one new man from the two, thus making peace, ¹⁶ and that He might reconcile them both to God in one body through the cross, thereby putting to death the enmity. ¹⁷ And He came and preached peace to you who were afar off and to those who were near. ¹⁸ For through Him we both have access by one Spirit to the Father. ¹⁹ Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, ²⁰ having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief corner stone, ²¹ in whom the whole building, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, ²² in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit. (NKJV)

God says, through the Apostle Paul, to Gentiles, Galatians 3:28-29, *²⁸ There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. ²⁹ And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise. (NKJV)*

You cannot find any such term as “the Jewish Sabbath” anywhere in the Bible! That is a derisive, scornful, contemptuous label. It came from non-Christians intending to deceive by creating prejudice against the truth of God. It is the slurring, discrediting, misleading language and terminology employed by deceivers, false prophets, and upholders of pagan doctrines and customs contrary to God's Word. It is NOT Biblical language! Yet, perhaps even most of you who read this have been so prejudiced by that contemptuous term that it is very difficult for your mind to comprehend, and to accept, the plain truth of your own Bible! Read again Ephesians 2:11-12, ¹¹ Therefore remember that you, once Gentiles in the flesh—who are called Uncircumcision by what is called the Circumcision made in the flesh by hands— ¹² that at that time you were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world.

You have to become an Israelite to be saved! You have heard a lot of *false* and *anti-scriptural* teaching leading you to suppose salvation is for Gentiles. It is not! All the promises were given to Israel. Why? Listen! Read carefully, and understand! All nations had gone into anti-God, false, pagan religions. In such a God rejecting world, God raised up, from the children of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, in the days of Moses, a special nation to be His nation, to be a *light* to the non-believing Gentiles. Incidentally, the very name *Gentile* means non-Jewish, unbeliever. God gave to this special called out nation His right ways of life, and *to them* were given the promises which include salvation, Romans 9:4, *⁴ who are Israelites, to whom pertain the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the service of God, and the promises;* (NKJV) However, when a Gentile born person repents, accepts Christ and receives God's Holy Spirit, then he becomes spiritually, an Israelite, a child of Abraham, and an heir of the promises, Galatians 3:28-29, *²⁸ There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither*

slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. ²⁹ *And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.* Salvation is of the Jews, John 4:22-24, ²² *You worship what you do not know; we know what we worship, for salvation is of the Jews.* ²³ *But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him.* ²⁴ *God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.*" (NKJV)

Salvation, however, is for everyone that believes (in *living* faith, not dead faith), to the Jew first, and, through Christ, also to the Gentile, Romans 1:16, ¹⁶ *For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.* (NKJV) You can have no salvation unless you become, spiritually, a Jew! Romans 2:28-29, ²⁸ *For he is not a Jew who is one outwardly, nor is circumcision that which is outward in the flesh;* ²⁹ *but he is a Jew who is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the Spirit, not in the letter; whose praise is not from men but from God.* (NKJV) Of course, through disobedience, all natural-born Israelites have been cut off from the promises and God's salvation, but they may receive it, like all others, through Christ! Romans 11:17-18, 23-26, ¹⁷ *And if some of the branches were broken off, and you, being a wild olive tree, were grafted in among them, and with them became a partaker of the root and fatness of the olive tree,* ¹⁸ *do not boast against the branches. But if you do boast, remember that you do not support the root, but the root supports you. . . .* ²³ *And they also, if they do not continue in unbelief, will be grafted in, for God is able to graft them in again.* ²⁴ *For if you were cut out of the olive tree which is wild by nature, and were grafted contrary to nature into a cultivated olive tree, how much more will these, who are natural branches, be grafted into their own olive tree?* ²⁵ *For I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own opinion, that blindness in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in.* ²⁶ *And so all Israel will be saved, as it is written: "The Deliverer will come out of Zion, And He will turn away ungodliness from Jacob;* (NKJV) Therefore, the true Christian must remove from his heart any prejudice or hatred against Jews.

IS CHRIST IN YOU?

Once again, does it make any difference *which* day, or *whether* we keep that day holy? The Bible definition of a Christian is one who has received the *gift* of God's Holy Spirit and is being led by the Spirit of God. In other words, Christ *IN* you is your hope of glory! Colossians 1:27, ²⁷ *To them God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.* (NKJV) The Holy Spirit is the life-giving Spirit that emanates from the very Person of the Father and of Christ! The Holy Spirit *IN* you puts in you not only the *love*, the *power*, the *faith* and the *life* of the ever living Christ, but also the mind of Christ. Philippians 2:5, ⁵ *Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus,* (NKJV) It means, literally, that Christ Himself is *IN* you, not in Person, but in Spirit, Galatians 2:20, ²⁰ *I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.* (NKJV)

Christ is a Savior who literally comes *inside* of us in our minds, to clean us up and save us *from within!* It means that Christ is living *His life* within *US!* Or, in other words, it means that we yield to let Christ live our lives *for us!* The question becomes: *IF* Christ is *IN YOU* and you are not a fully converted Christian, unless He is, would He, *through you*, profane His holy day and observe a pagan day? **NO! IMPOSSIBLE!** Yeshua has not changed. He is the same, yesterday, today and forever! Hebrews 13:8, ⁸ *Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.* (NKJV)

It is Christ who *made* the Sabbath. It is Christ who rested on that very first Sabbath! It is God (YHVH) who became the physical Christ who spoke to the Israelites on the Sabbath, Exodus 16:28-30, ²⁸ *And the Lord said to Moses, “How long do you refuse to keep My commandments and My laws? ²⁹ See! For the Lord has given you the Sabbath; therefore He gives you on the sixth day bread for two days. Let every man remain in his place; let no man go out of his place on the seventh day.”* ³⁰ *So the people rested on the seventh day.* (NKJV) It is Christ who kept the Sabbath *as His custom was*, Luke 4:16, ¹⁶ *So 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 to read.* (NKJV)

Yeshua has always *put His presence* in His own holy day! *IF* Christ is *IN* you, He, in you, can keep no other day now! And *IF* you, having read the truth in this book, now make excuse, or rebel and refuse to *keep* holy Christ’s holy day, then on His infallible authority, I say to you that He is not in you! It is just that serious! God gives His Holy Spirit only to those that *OBEY* Him! Acts 5:32, ³² *And we are His witnesses to these things, and so also is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey Him.* (NKJV) The conditions to receiving the Holy Spirit as God’s gift are: Repent, and be baptized, Acts 2:38, ³⁸ *Then Peter said to them, “Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.* (NKJV) Sin is the transgression of God’s law, 1 John 3:4, ⁴ *Whoever commits sin also commits lawlessness, and sin is lawlessness.* (NKJV) That law is a *spiritual* law, Romans 7:14, ¹⁴ *For we know that the law is spiritual, but I am carnal, sold under sin.* (NKJV) The penalty for transgression is death, for all eternity! Romans 6:23, ²³ *For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.* (NKJV) The Fourth Commandment of God’s law commands you to remember the Sabbath day, to *keep* it holy! Exodus 20:8-10, ⁸ *“Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. ⁹ Six days you shall labor and do all your work, ¹⁰ but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord your God. In it you shall do no work: you, nor your son, nor your daughter, nor your male servant, nor your female servant, nor your cattle, nor your stranger who is within your gates.* (NKJV) It also says the *seventh* day is the Sabbath of the LORD thy God! Sunday, the first day of the week is not the Sabbath!

There are no loopholes! There is no escape for those who disobey! God’s laws are enforced automatically! God needs no human policemen to catch you! There will be no human court trial with a jury of 12 erring and easily misled human jurors. No, there will be no escape! This is the Almighty *GOD* you are dealing with when it comes to this question! God is love! God loves mankind. God loves *YOU*! God made His Sabbath holy for a purpose, to keep *YOU* in His fellowship! His law is *LOVE*. It takes *love* to fulfill it! It requires a *spiritual* love to fulfill the *spiritual* law. You were not born with that love. God freely offers it to you, His own love, “shed abroad in our hearts *by* the Holy Spirit” Romans 5:5, ⁵ *Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.* (NKJV)

God *promises* His Holy Spirit when you surrender, repent, and believe. His Spirit imparts to you the spiritual love to fulfill His law! It is truly wonderful! It keeps you in Christ’s own fellowship, in close contact. It bestows upon you His security, peace of mind, happiness, and abundant living! “But,” one may *still* object, “how could I live if I can’t kindle a fire on the Sabbath, or even eat any food?” Let’s understand! The prohibition against “picking up sticks,” or “kindling a fire” on the Sabbath was part of the added civil and ritualistic, or ceremonial law added by the Pharisees and no part of the Ten Commandment spiritual law! *Because* of transgressions, that is, *because* the spiritual law was being broken, God *added*, 430 years after Abraham, through Moses, a material and physical law of rituals and ceremonies. Galatians 3:16-29, ¹⁶ *Now to Abraham and his Seed were the promises made. He does not say, “And to seeds,” as of many, but as of one, “And to your Seed,” who is Christ. ¹⁷ And this I say, that the law, which was four hundred and thirty years later, cannot annul the covenant*

that was confirmed before by God in Christ, that it should make the promise of no effect. ¹⁸ For if the inheritance is of the law, it is no longer of promise; but God gave it to Abraham by promise.

¹⁹ What purpose then does the law serve? It was added because of transgressions, till the Seed should come to whom the promise was made; and it was appointed through angels by the hand of a mediator. ²⁰ Now a mediator does not mediate for one only, but God is one. ²¹ Is the law then against the promises of God? Certainly not! For if there had been a law given which could have given life, truly righteousness would have been by the law. ²² But the Scripture has confined all under sin, that the promise by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe. ²³ But before faith came, we were kept under guard by the law, kept for the faith which would afterward be revealed. ²⁴ Therefore the law was our tutor to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith. ²⁵ But after faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor.

²⁶ For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. ²⁷ For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. ²⁸ There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. ²⁹ And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise. (NKJV)

That law was a physical law including animal sacrifices. It was a substitute for Christ's sacrifice and the Holy Spirit which was not given to Old Testament Israelites. The Holy Spirit gives us, now, power to obey. These rituals and sacrifices consisted of *physical labor*, things to do morning, noon and night, to instill in them the habit of obedience. Why? Because they had been disobeying! The *physical* rituals were to teach them obedience! Therefore they were a "schoolmaster" lasting only until Christ came (verse 24). When the reality came (Christ, and the gift of the Holy Spirit), the substitute ended. The Sabbath command is a spiritual command. It has to do with our fellowship, assembly and worship of God. The Sabbath forbids our regular weekday work or labor by which we earn a living, our job, or business. The Sabbath was made *FOR* man, as a blessing to man! It was made to be enjoyed, to spiritually refresh in blessed fellowship and communion with Christ! Jesus Christ kept the Sabbath while He lived as a human on Earth. Entire chapters in the four Gospel books are devoted to recording how He taught us to keep the Sabbath. The Pharisees of Jesus' day observed some 65 stern regulations of "do's and don'ts" which the human rabbis had instituted to make Sabbath observance a "yoke of bondage."

Yeshua swept those human regulations aside on one Sabbath when He and His disciples were going through a cornfield. The disciples plucked ears of corn to eat. The Pharisees complained, but Yeshua rebuked them. He showed that it is right to do minor work to gather or prepare food to eat on the Sabbath. That was the very experience that caused Him to say, "The Sabbath was made for man, and not man for the Sabbath," and to proclaim that He is Lord of the Sabbath. Therefore, the Sabbath is the Lord's day! Yeshua healed the sick on the Sabbath. This was not doing business or labor by which He earned a living. It was an act of mercy, and of love. Yeshua said it is right to do good on the Sabbath day. He showed it is even right to pull an ox out of a ditch on the Sabbath. Too many people today would throw the poor ox in the ditch on Friday, so they could have an excuse to pull it out on the Sabbath! Jesus expected us to use wisdom and judgment, and be honest! Many, having read this far, will say, "But I *can't* keep the Sabbath. I'd lose my job." Let me tell you something! I have known of hundreds of such cases! It takes living faith to *OBEY* God! Can you trust *HIM*, even with your job? Unless you can find Biblical proof, I wouldn't give you a counterfeit penny for your chances of escaping the lake of fire! Never *ask* an employer if you can have Saturdays off. Use a little wisdom, and pray for God's help. Then *tell* your employer, in a quiet but earnest and positive manner, that you have learned that those hours from Friday sunset to Saturday sunset have been made holy by God, and He commands you to *keep* them holy. You are very sorry if it inconveniences him in any way, but you will not be able to work any more during those hours. Say it in a friendly, but firm manner. Tell him you are willing to work Sundays, if that would help. Out of hundreds of experiences, I have found that nine in ten do not

lose their jobs! If you first pray and ask God sincerely to give you grace and favor in your employer's eyes, then tell him firmly but politely and kindly, it makes it pretty hard for an employer to interfere with your religion! Nine in ten have not lost their jobs, as they probably expected they would. And what about the one in ten who did? Nearly always, the few who *did* lose their jobs soon found better ones. You can *TRUST* God! This is a situation that involves faith, prayer and most importantly total trust in our LORD and SAVIOR where you have to mix living faith with obedience! Finally, remember once again, God has decided *what* sin is. He compels you to decide *WHETHER* to sin or to obey!

The Mark of the Beast

What is the Mark of the Beast? Let's see if we can find an answer! Millions of people have heard about the dreaded Mark of the Beast and its number 666. There are many theories of what it might be. Some people have alleged that the number 666 is on the papal crown. Others have alleged that the number will be inserted under your skin by means of a microchip. Many believe it has something to do with a new form of money, or the coming "cashless society" that will replace cash. I've even seen a grid chart formed in a square of six boxes by six boxes with all the letters of the alphabet along with the numbers 0 through 9 placed in the boxes and the statement made that the Mark of the Beast will be contained in that grid of 6 by 6 by 6 (this last six boxes is made up of the diagonal boxes).

a b c d e f
g **h** i j k l
m n **o** p q r
s t u **v** w x
y z 0 1 **2** 3
4 5 6 7 8 **9**

The Bible contains stern warnings about those who receive the mysterious Mark of the Beast. It was the Apostle John who received the visions from Christ about the Mark of the Beast, Revelation 16:1-2, ¹ *Then I heard a loud voice from the temple telling the seven angels, "Go and pour out on the earth the seven bowls of the wrath of God."* ² *So the first angel went and poured out his bowl on the earth, and harmful and painful sores came upon the people who bore the mark of the beast and worshiped its image.* (ESV) Notice that it is not only those who receive the Mark of the Beast, but also those who "worship his image" who will come under the wrath of God. So, if there is a Mark of the Beast, we must have a Beast and an image of the Beast. What is the Beast? What is the "image of the Beast?" How can we recognize it? How can you insure that you do not receive the Mark of the Beast so that you do not come under God's wrath?

Weird, ridiculous theories about the meaning of the Mark of the Beast are legend. We just listed above some of the thoughts of what the Mark of the Beast may be. To others it seems it is a way for the government to keep track of everyone. It seems to be the harbinger of this mark and many have begun wondering whether it could be the first step toward a national identity card. This "deep state" or "big brother" identity card would spy on everyone of us who was carrying such a card. Through it the government would know everything we do, where we go, what we buy, to which church we belong, and be aware of everything about our individual private lives. This paranoid fear of surveillance convinces many that various forms of personal identification such as drivers license, social security cards, credit cards and the like are the Mark of the Beast.

Some have gone so far as to suggest that the bar code label that appears on practically any item you purchase is the Mark of the Beast. There are those who have been convinced that these striations on their packages are threatening to them. Actually, each bar represents a letter, or a number, like a code. The laser scanner instantly reads the code, and displays it on a small screen attached to the electronic cash register. The purchaser may then watch an electronic display of each item, such as a can of string beans accompanied by the price appearing. A computer is automatically reducing the inventory in the store by one can of beans, thus saving the old-fashioned method of painstakingly counting all the cans remaining on the shelf and, at the same time, computing the sales of the day. Such modern methods have greatly reduced man-hours of labor: helped us get through check out lines much faster; and are far more accurate than human fingers on a cash register.

This modern, much simpler and faster, development in computer-age technology is in no way threatening to anyone. Yet, some people who tend toward paranoia are fair game for religious hucksters who like to play upon people's fears. Some paranoids believe super computers are watching them, somehow; believe black helicopters with no rotor-blade noise are spying on them; and they believe they must be constantly on alert lest some government agency sneakily label them with the Mark of the Beast. All of this is sheer foolishness, of course, but there are hucksters of fear who continually spread their warnings or allegations of government surveillance and spying. We can actually see the play, the standards and the control, such a system would look like by the vast interconnected surveillance camera system all over China. It is time you swept away all this Babylon of confusion, and looked directly into the Word of God to see what really **IS** the mysterious Mark of the Beast, and what it is **NOT!**

Obviously, before one can understand the Mark of the Beast, one must understand who or what is the Beast! Hopefully, you have some idea of understanding that the Beast was a two-fold entity of a composite government driven by a religious leader. The government portion of this social, economic and military entity would be a personification of the "man of sin" ruling the revised Holy Roman Empire. The religious portion of this two-part entity would be the "false prophet," and together they encompass the "Antichrist" under the direct influence of Satan. If all of this is completely new to you please go to my website and review my booklet, "*Season of the Lord's Return*" where all of this is explained. My website address is: www.vqpub.org

The Beast is a symbol of a great, super government (a future version of the European Union as a revised Holy Roman Empire). That the beast rose up out of the sea indicates it derived its power from masses of people. The seven heads are seven revivals or stages of this beast's power. The ten horns are symbols of individual governments, each presided over by a king or absolute ruler, symbolized by the "crowns." Finally, the label on each of these seven successive governments was the "name of blasphemy" indicating its alignment with a spiritual power that was called "Babylon the Great" in Revelation 17:5, ***⁵ And on her forehead a name was written: MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.*** (NKJV)

Therefore, this end time Beast is the final resurrection of the same old Babylonian system that was to reemerge many times down through history. Its final version shall be a revised Holy Roman Empire just before the beginning of the Great Tribulation (the last 3 and a half year period of the 7 year Tribulation), the Day of the Lord and the Second Coming of Christ.

This great political, military and ecclesiastical power will have a SIGN, an identifying label, a MARK that it will seek to impose on all who will submit to its will. It will not be a "secret" sign, or mark, but an obvious, outward, easily recognized sign, that the whole system wears just like a label! The "little horn" of Daniel is the spokesman of this evil mystery religion. Daniel 7:25, ***²⁵ He shall speak pompous words against the Most High, Shall persecute the saints of the Most High, And shall intend to change times and law. Then the saints shall be given into his hand For a time and times and half a time.*** (NKJV) He had all intention of changing times and laws. This ecclesiastical ruler has done just that. They have changed God's laws, abolished His divinely appointed Sabbaths and His annual holy days.

This great false church has adopted the labels associated with SUN worship and changed God's weekly Sabbath for SUNDAY, the day of the sun, and forced upon millions of unsuspecting believers the PAGAN holidays of Ishtar (Easter) and the Saturnalia (Christmas). For centuries countless thousands were brutally martyred, tortured, burnt alive, killed in the most horrifying ways for **refusing** to accept the Mark of the Beast, instead clinging to God's holy Sabbath and His annual feast days.

For many centuries, those who continued to observe God's Passover on the fourteenth of Abib, or Nisan, the first month of the sacred year, were labeled "Judaizers," and relentlessly hunted down and slain! This had to do with TIMES and LAWS! The TIME for observing "communion," or the Lord's

Supper, as it came to be called, was to be observed on the 14th day of the first month according to the Jewish Sacred Calendar. But the apostate church issued a decree that Christians should not be found “Judaizing” by keeping God’s holy Passover exactly as Jesus had, but should substitute pagan Easter instead! Easter is celebrated amid symbols of sex and fertility, rabbits and eggs, and is known to be of wholly PAGAN ORIGINS! Thus, by decree, backed up by force of arms, the now paganized apostate church ENFORCED the changing of “times and laws” on those who, fearful of their very lives, would submit! The Bible shows that the identifying SIGN of the Beast and the Image of the Beast is something that has been around for many centuries! It is something that has already caused the death of countless thousands who refused to accept it! It is NOT something that is of modern invention, such as computer chips or identity cards.

Remember, it is not only those who receive the Mark of the Beast who will suffer God’s wrath in the Day of the Lord. It will also be those who “worship his image.” Recall what Revelation 13:11-18 reveals, ¹¹ *Then I saw another beast coming up out of the earth, and he had two horns like a lamb and spoke like a dragon.* ¹² *And he exercises all the authority of the first beast in his presence, and causes the earth and those who dwell in it to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed.* ¹³ *He performs great signs, so that he even makes fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men.* ¹⁴ *And he deceives those who dwell on the earth by those signs which he was granted to do in the sight of the beast, telling those who dwell on the earth to make an image to the beast who was wounded by the sword and lived.* ¹⁵ *He was granted power to give breath to the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak and cause as many as would not worship the image of the beast to be killed.* ¹⁶ *He causes all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on their right hand or on their foreheads,* ¹⁷ *and that no one may buy or sell except one who has the mark or the name of the beast, or the number of his name.* ¹⁸ *Here is wisdom. Let him who has understanding calculate the number of the beast, for it is the number of a man: His number is 666.* (NKJV)

This second beast is able to CAUSE WORSHIP! It is therefore a political and religious system! It encourages state worship! It points to the great economic, industrial and military power of the first beast! It urges loyalty, servitude, cooperation and worship by all of its followers toward this great ten-nation union. We have seen Audio-animatronics coupled with robots at Disney World and watched presentations of historical U. S. presidents make speeches and move. We know of holographs that can mimic human sight and sound. Sprinkle a little Satanic influence over the image of the beast and you would have awe and wonder at the magic the image conveys.

Notice this scripture and think deeply about what you will read! This scripture is Revelation 20:4, ⁴ *And I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was committed to them. Then I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God, who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received his mark on their foreheads or on their hands. And they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.* (NKJV) Observe this: There is a conscious choice that is to be made! These who were beheaded refused to have anything to do with the beast, the mark of the beast or the image of the beast. That tells me that they knew what the mark was! They made a reasoned, conscious choice to refuse!

Just as happened during the infamous “Inquisition,” when hundreds of thousands were put to death for refusing to give up their Bible based faith. Therefore, the Beast and the False Prophet will be attempting to FORCE Christians to bow down to them in worship. True Christians will refuse, choosing to OBEY GOD rather than man and they will be martyred because of that choice! Make no mistake, the Mark of the Beast is definitely something that will be enforced! It will be a matter of law and people will be ordered to obey it! That choice will be either submit, to give in and cooperate with the coming

socio economic, military spiritual system, or under pain of DEATH to refuse to cooperate and refuse the Mark of the Beast.

We have seen that a mark is a stamp, a sign, a symbol, an identifying label! Anciently, Almighty God designated a great SIGN that would identify His people! That sign was created at the end of the creation week. Here is what God said about **His special SIGN** between Himself and His people, Exodus 31:12-17, ¹² *And the Lord spoke to Moses, saying,* ¹³ *“Speak also to the children of Israel, saying: ‘Surely My Sabbaths you shall keep, for it is a sign between Me and you throughout your generations, that you may know that I am the Lord who sanctifies you. ¹⁴ *You shall keep the Sabbath, therefore, for it is holy to you. Everyone who profanes it shall surely be put to death; for whoever does any work on it, that person shall be cut off from among his people.* ¹⁵ *Work shall be done for six days, but the seventh is the Sabbath of rest, holy to the Lord. Whoever does any work on the Sabbath day, he shall surely be put to death.* ¹⁶ *Therefore the children of Israel shall keep the Sabbath, to observe the Sabbath throughout their generations as a perpetual covenant.* ¹⁷ *It is a sign between Me and the children of Israel forever; for in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, and on the seventh day He rested and was refreshed.’ “ (NKJV)**

Did you recognize God’s special SIGN? I know that there will be those who reject the statements made here and especially concerning the scripture verse of Exodus 31:17 just above. They will make the claim that this does not apply to them because they are New Testament Christians and not “children of Israel”. How foolish can you become in the falsehood that has been pulled over your eyes. If you claim to be Christian, that makes you a follower of Jesus the Christ; Jesus the Jew; Jesus the Lion of the tribe of Judah; Jesus the son of David; the son of Abraham; the son of Adam; the son of God!

Let’s review a few things. First, look at a portion that the Apostle John declared concerning Jesus in the first chapter of the Gospel of John, John 1:10-13, ¹⁰ *He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him.* ¹¹ *He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him.* ¹² *But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: ¹³ who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.* (NKJV) Do you understand that verse 11 basically says that Jesus came to the Jews and they refused to accept Him as their Messiah. Verse 12 says that those who believed in Jesus were given the right to become “children of God”

This entire work was a study to have you better understand we are in the “*Season of the Lord’s Return.*” In the full version of the booklet entitled “*Season of the Lord’s Return*” we review who the Antichrist is, what is the Christian Sabbath, what are God’s Ordained Feast Days, Who or what is the Beast of the Apocalypse, and, What is the Mark of the Beast. All my books and booklets are available on my website, www.vqpub.org and all are in PDF file version and free for the download.

Jesus spoke the following in Matthew 24:4-14, ⁴ *And Jesus answered and said to them: “Take heed that no one deceives you. ⁵ *For many will come in My name, saying, ‘I am the Christ,’ and will deceive many.* ⁶ *And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not troubled; for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet.* ⁷ *For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places.* ⁸ *All these are the beginning of sorrows.* ⁹ *Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and kill you, and you will be hated by all nations for My name’s sake.* ¹⁰ *And then many will be offended, will betray one another, and will hate one another.* ¹¹ *Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many.* ¹² *And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold.* ¹³ *But he who endures to the end shall be saved.* ¹⁴ *And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come.* (NKJV)*

The Apostle Paul spoke the following in 2nd Corinthians 11:15, ¹³ *For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into apostles of Christ.* ¹⁴ *And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light.* ¹⁵ *Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also transform themselves into ministers of righteousness, whose end will be according to their works.* (NKJV)

The Apostle John coined a new word in 1st John 4:3-4. ³ *and every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God. And this is the spirit of the Antichrist, which you have heard was coming, and is now already in the world.* ⁴ *You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.* (NKJV)

Jesus, in revealing the Revelation to John provided the following for John to record in Revelation 18: 4-8, ⁴ *And I heard another voice from heaven saying, “Come out of her, my people, lest you share in her sins, and lest you receive of her plagues.* ⁵ *For her sins have reached to heaven, and God has remembered her iniquities.* ⁶ *Render to her just as she rendered to you, and repay her double according to her works; in the cup which she has mixed, mix double for her.* ⁷ *In the measure that she glorified herself and lived luxuriously, in the same measure give her torment and sorrow; for she says in her heart, ‘I sit as queen, and am no widow, and will not see sorrow.’* ⁸ *Therefore her plagues will come in one day—death and mourning and famine. And she will be utterly burned with fire, for strong is the Lord God who judges her.* (NKJV)

Here is a summary of the Beasts of Revelation:

The first great beast that comes out of the sea is the leader of a future revival of the Holy Roman Empire as a ten-nation European Union. The leader of this earthly superpower will be the final dictator of the world and called “the man of lawlessness (sin).

The second beast coming out of the earth will be the ecclesiastical ruler of that time and called “the False Prophet.” This church leader will be working in conjunction with the Beast and forcing everyone who will yield to the doctrine of this apostate church to worship the Beast. Those who do not yield to the will of this apostate church will be killed.

The apostate church will wear the title of Babylon the Great. The image of this church is that of a woman riding a dragon and called a prostitute. This church will practice many of the pagan traditions of ancient Babylon and use the name of the Roman Catholic Church. The daughters of this false church are the harlot religious denominations formed during the time of the Protestant Reformation. These titles are the blasphemy spoken against God.

I plead with all who practice the Catholic faith. If you have any desire to be with Yeshua in heaven, please, listen to what the Holy Spirit has led men to write in God’s Word. You must return back to God’s Commandments and God’s Feast Days! To continue to follow the Pope’s of history and the traditions of the counterfeit church only marks you a rebel against God. 2nd Peter 3:9, ⁹ *The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.* (NKJV) Yeshua can and will forgive you of all sins if you repent and accept Him as your Lord and Savior. No human is your spiritual “Father,” only God is “Father” and no human can stand in your place before the Father on the Day of the Lord to act as your defence attorney, Yeshua can, if you have a personal relationship with Him. Remember it is your choice whether you want to be with Yeshua in heaven, or if you will spend eternity with Satan in the lake of fire.

Make it a good choice!

IT'S NOW UP TO YOU!

It is now up to *YOU!* I have given you God's Word faithfully. It is not popular. It is not what the popular majority tells you. Now you *KNOW!* You will be judged by what you do with this knowledge! You must make your own choice. Rebellion means eternal punishment of everlasting death. God will *save* no person that He does not rule. You must choose between God's ways or man's ways which man falsely calls "Christian." My responsibility ends with telling you what is in this book. I have cried aloud, I have lifted my voice and I have told you your sin in this regard. God calls *you* to repentance, but He will not force you. You must make your own decision, with full knowledge that what you sow, you shall reap. You shall be saved by grace, however God does lay down conditions. You can comply, and receive glorious grace, or you can rebel. If you choose the later you will pay the death penalty, for eternity!

Maranatha



VQP C



VQP C



VQP C

