

**Let them speak for themselves, the writings of the historians, the records of chronographers, the races of mankind, the languages of earth, and even the calendars of time.**

## **DISCOVERING THE SABBATH OF JESUS.**

The little town of Nazareth is located on the most southerly of the mountain ranges of southern Galilee. Quietly it lies nestled on the side of a shallow ridge that ruins in a horseshoe. Here among the dwellings and groves of this small town, is where Jesus grew to manhood.

But, just now, come back with me in imagination to that village, where so many years ago, the Master walked among men. Another day is quietly dawning, as the early rising sun chases away the bright mists that hang over the slope of Nazareth. From the home of the carpenter, Jesus steps forth and walks to the little church in the center of town. It is Sabbath morning in Nazareth.

Oh, how much you and I would like to go to church with Jesus! And, perhaps more important—how much we would like to go to church on the same weekly Sabbath that He kept. What peace of heart this would bring to us! —to be able to keep the Sabbath of Jesus.

And, my friend, we can. For we know enough from Biblical, historical and other records, that we today can know of a certainty the Sabbath of Jesus.

For, you see, in order to trace back to the Sabbath of Jesus, we must know the truth about the weekly cycle itself. And here are the facts:

The seven-day week, as well as the Bible Sabbath that terminates it, had only one origin in history. Both originated at the Creation of our world. We learn this from Genesis 2:1-3. There is no other way of accounting for the existence of the week. It is a monument to the fact that the true God made the earth and all things therein in six days, and rested on the seventh day. It is because the Seventh-day Sabbath has always been kept that we know about the week.

The Weekly Cycle as we know it, has been maintained from Creation without confusion or loss of days. God gave the Seventh-day Sabbath to mankind when He made all things in the beginning. "The Sabbath was made for man," Jesus said (Mark 2:27), and so it shall stand as true—for Jesus said it, and He is our Creator (John 1:1-3,10, Eph 3:9, Col 1:13-17, Heb 1:1-3), the One who made the Sabbath.

From time to time you will hear someone say, "The weekly cycle has been lost and so we cannot know the true Sabbath." But when pressed for the facts about this, his thoughts are vague and confused. It is unfortunate that they have this idea, for actually, from the Bible and from the lives of men and of races we have an excellent understanding of the preservation of the weekly cycle throughout history. Even the records of the Astronomers tell us that time has never been lost, and if it were, they could account exactly for any errors or losses of time in human history. These are convincing facts, and they are true.

### **Biblical Evidence**

If the weekly cycle were lost between Adam's time when the Sabbath was made, and Moses' day when God put the law (with the Sabbath as its fourth commandment)

into written form,—this situation would at that time have been corrected by the Divine Lawgiver.

A striking illustration of the importance of Sabbathkeeping, in the eyes of God, is the miracle of the manna. For forty years, or 2,080 weeks, God worked a number of miracles every week, thereby pointing out the true Sabbath 2,080 times. We are told about this in the sixteenth chapter of Exodus.

God sent manna for the first five days of each week. That was a miracle. Then on the sixth day, He sent twice as much. Another miracle. And only that which fell on the sixth day could be kept over through the next day. Still another miracle. And then on the seventh day, He sent none. It is very obvious that God wanted His people who knew about Him to keep the Bible Sabbath. When, after all this evidence, some of them went ahead and broke the Sabbath, He clearly showed His will in the matter. Carefully read Exodus 16.

Later on, in Exodus 20, He wrote out the Ten Commandments on solid rock—the most enduring thing there is. Written on the most lasting substance to symbolize the nature of the Moral Law—something that could never pass away, as far as God was concerned.

If the Sabbath had been lost between Moses' time and Jesus' time (which it was not), we would have the example of the Saviour Himself to guide us as to the correctness of the weekly cycle—and the Seventh day. Scripture tells us: "He that saith he abideth in Him ought himself also so to walk, even as He walked."—1 John 2:6. Throughout His earthly life, Jesus gave "us an example, —that ye should follow His steps."—1 Peter 2:21.

We want to follow the steps of Jesus—we want to do as He did, with all our hearts! More than anything else in the whole world, this is what we want. I want it. And I know you want it also. Jesus, "as His custom was" (—Luke 4:16, 31), kept the Seventh-day Sabbath according to the commandment. (Compare John 15:10). If time or the Sabbath had been lost, Jesus would have found it for His followers.

Jesus was crucified on the sixth day of the week, which was the day before the Sabbath (Luke 23:54-56). On this same sixth day, which was also called the "preparation day," —His followers prepared "spices and ointments" to anoint His body for burial, "and rested on the Sabbath according to the commandment."

In death, Jesus rested in the tomb on the Seventh day, the Sabbath (Matt 28:1-7). He then arose on the first working day in the week—for He had a lot of work to do. It was the first day of the week, the day after the Sabbath.

Interestingly enough, Bible Prophecy has something to say about this matter. God gave mankind the Seventh day Sabbath at Creation. It is important to Him. He wants it to be important to us. And so He has told us He wants us to keep it. And in Bible prophecy He has prophesied that in the last days, just before Jesus returned for His own, God's true followers will again be keeping His Sabbath!

Our Heavenly Father predicted that the great Apostasy of the ages would try to do away with Sabbath keeping for a long period of time, read Daniel 7:25 and all of Daniel 7 and 8, as well as Revelation 12 to 17 for more background on this. He also predicted its restoration by His people in the last days —read Revelation 12:17, and 14:12, and the surrounding verses.

God is calling upon us to rebuild the old waste places and the breach, or torn out place, in His holy law:

"And they that shall be of thee shall build the old waste places: thou shall raise up the foundations of many generations; and thou shalt be called, the repairer of the breach, the restorer of paths to dwell in.

"If thou turn away thy foot from the Sabbath, from doing thy pleasure on My holy day; and [shalt] call the Sabbath a delight, the holy of the Lord, honourable; and shalt honour Him, not doing thin own pleasure, nor speaking thine own words:

"Then shall thou delight thyself in the Lord; and I will cause thee to ride upon the high places of the earth, and feed thee with the heritage of Jacob thy father: FOR THE MOUTH OF THE LORD HATH SPOKEN IT." Isaiah 58:12-14.

When the Lord speaks, we want to listen—for what He has to tell us, and what He has to give us—is better than anything we can ever do for ourselves.

There is such a wealth of historical and other information available regarding the unchanged nature of the weekly cycle, that we may know without a doubt that there has been no alteration in it down through the ages of time.

We can know if from the writings of historians. It is given its in the records of chronographers, who trace it in their study of the calendars of yesteryear. It is revealed in the existence of ancient races and their witness today. It is proven by the languages of earth. It is testified to by the stars of heaven, and verified by the leading astronomers of our own time. It is written in the encyclopedias and other standard reference works that deal with the subject.

Has the Sabbath been lost since Jesus' day? What about the calendar? The calendar has been changed but once since 46 B.C. and here is how it came about:

### **The Gregorian Calendar**

The Julian calendar was in use when Jesus Christ was upon the earth. Its originator, Julius Caesar, died 44 years before Christ was born. This calendar which continued in use for fifteen centuries was not accurate in the length of its year, being nearly one quarter of an hour too long. What it needed was our method of "leap years-" By 1582 the vernal equinox of March 21 had receded to March 11, or was 10 days off schedule.

A change was made to correct this at the time that Gregory XIII was the pope, and so it was called the Gregorian calendar. It began to function on Friday, the 5th of October, 1582. Friday the 5th was changed to Friday the 15th. But in all of this, the week remained untouched, and the days of the week were undisturbed. Here is what the calendar looked like that particular month:

## THE LATIN CHANGE-OVER-1582

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SEPTEMBER						
—	—	—	—	—	—	1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	—	—	—	—	—	—
OCTOBER						
—	1	2	3	4	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31	—	—	—	—	—	—
NOVEMBER						
—	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	—	—	—	—

Folk in Spain who retired to sleep on Thursday, October 4, awoke the next morning on Friday, the 15th. Some nations began the use of the new calendar at once. This included Spain, Portugal and Italy. France waited until December to adopt it. Part of Germany, made the changeover in 1583 and the rest of the nation waited until 1700. About that time the Netherlands, Sweden and Denmark also accepted it. Then in 1752, England and the American colonies made the changeover. By that time eleven days had to be changed instead of ten. Wednesday, September 2 was followed by Thursday, September 14. Russia and Greece continued to use the old style calendar –the Julian Calendar –for over a hundred and fifty more years. Finally in 1919, Rumania, Serbia, and Turkey changed to the new calendar and Soviet Russia made the change soon after. That was only about sixty years ago.

For 337 years the calendars of Europe were mixed up, and the dates of the month were different. But all this time the days of the week were alike, for they had never changed. When it was Monday in Russia it was Monday in Germany, England and Spain, though they were living under different calendars. Sabbath in Russia came on the same day as the Sabbath in England, though at the time their dates might be fourteen days apart. That which the Encyclopedia Britannica called the "unalterable uniformity" of the week has never been affected by calendar changes. And because of this, the seven-day week, given by God at the Creation has never been touched by the calendar changes of mankind.

## THE ENGLISH CHANGE-OVER-1752

## THE ENGLISH CHANGE-OVER-1752

AUGUST						
—	—	—	—	—	—	1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31	—	—	—	—	—
SEPTEMBER						
—	—	1	2	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
—	—	—	—	—	—	—
—	—	—	—	—	—	—

### An Abundance of Evidence

How many ways may we know that the weekly cycle—and with it, the Sabbath cycle—has never been changed? Let us count them:

The Orthodox Jews: God has given us many ways by which we can know that we today have the true Bible Sabbath on the Seventh day of the week. He wants everyone to be sure which day is the true Sabbath—whether they have access to the historical records or not. Our Heavenly Father has therefore given us more than written proof—He has given us living proof the Jewish race. Every other Near Eastern ethnic group has disappeared: the Hittites, the Sumerians, the Babylonians, the Assyrians, the Moabites, the Philistines, —all are gone, the Jews remain —and with them the Sabbath. It has been 3400 years since the time that God gave them manna in the wilderness —but all during that time they have been keeping the Sabbath, week after week, month after month, year after year, century after century. Ask any Jewish acquaintance what day is the Sabbath. He will tell you that it is Saturday—the Seventh day.

Orthodox Jews scattered throughout the world have kept strict record of time. They have carefully observed the Seventh-day Sabbath throughout the ages. The existence and testimony of the Jewish race is alone enough to settle the matter.

But there are others who have kept records as well.

The Roman Catholic Church has kept an accurate record of time, as down through the centuries they have kept the rest day their leaders invented —Sunday. The majority of Protestants also keep Sunday, not having understood at the time of the Great Reformation that this was but a Catholic institution.

Historians have amassed an accurate record of time.

Astronomers have also kept an accurate record of time. And theirs is one of the most accurate that you will find anywhere. Moreover, they tell us that if all records of time should be suddenly lost, they could rediscover from the mathematics of the stars in their motions—the year, the month, the week, the day, the hour, the minute, and the second! God put the stars in the heavens "for signs, and for seasons, and for days and years." Gen 1:14. And then we have the calendars themselves. All calendars agree. There is no evidence whatsoever to support the false claim that "time has been lost." And lastly, the standard reference works all tell us the same thing: No time has been lost

in the weekly cycle. An example of this conclusive agreement is to be found in all of the major encyclopedias.

In A Chart of the Week, prepared by the late Dr. William Mead Jones of London, England, it is shown that the week was known from the most ancient times, and with it, the Seventh-day Sabbath. On this chart are listed the names of the days of the week in 160 ancient and modern languages, and in 108 of these 160 languages the seventh day is called "the Sabbath." This is three out of five of the known languages of the world!

In every case, the Sabbath is the word used in each of those languages for the seventh day of the week. And the root meaning of the word in each language is "the Sabbath, or rest day."

Here, as an example, are ten of these languages:

Hebrew Shabbath

Greek Sabbaton

Latin Sabbatum

Arabic Assabt

Persian Shambin

Russian Subbota

Hindustani Shamba

French Samedi

Italian Sabato

Spanish Sabado

-William Mead Jones, A Chart of the Week.

"The only time reckoning on which Christians, Moslems, and Jews agree in the Orient is that of the days of the week. These are numbered and called by their numbers, save Friday and Saturday, which are known [in Arabic] as 'the day of assembling,' and the 'day of the Sabbath.'" -Samuel M. Zwemer, D.D., long known as an authority on Mohammedanism, and for some years a professor at Princeton University, writing under the title, "An Egyptian Government Almanac," quoted in The United Presbyterian, September 26, 1929.

Whether it be in Maba (a central African dialect)-Sab, or in Russian (an eastern European sub-language)-Subbota, the Sabbath is the day of rest in the languages of mankind all over the globe. What an overwhelming array of evidence has been provided for us in these last days that there may be no question-that the Seventh day is the Sabbath, for God never changed it.

### **The Testimony of Scientists and Historians**

"One of the most striking colateral confirmations of the Mosaic history of the creation is the general adoption of the division of time into weeks, which extends from the Christian states of Europe to the remote shores of Hindustan, and has equally prevailed among the Hebrews, the Egyptians, Chinese, Greeks, Romans, and northern barbarians, -nations some of whom had little or no communication with others, and were not even known by name to the Hebrews." -Horne's Introduction to the Critical Study and Knowledge of the Holy Scriptures, volume I, page 69. (1841 edition.)

"Seven has been the ancient and honored number among the nations of the earth. They have measured their time by weeks from the beginning. The origin of this was the Sabbath of God, as Moses has given the reasons for it in his writings." -Dr. Lyman Coleman, Brief Dissertation on the First Three Chapters of Genesis, page 26.

In the official League of Nations Report on the Reform of the Calendar, published at Geneva, August 17, 1926, are the following statements from noted astronomers:

"The week has been followed for thousands of years and therefore has been hallowed by immemorial use." -Anders Donner (formerly Professor of Astronomy at the University of Helsingfors), page 51.

"I have always hesitated to suggest breaking the continuity of the week, which without a doubt is the most ancient scientific institution bequeathed to us by antiquity." -Edouard Baillaud (Director of the Paris Observatory), page 52.

"The majority of the members of the Office of Longitudes considered that . . . it would be highly undesirable to interrupt a continuity which has existed for so many centuries." -Emile Picard (Permanent Secretary of the French Academy of Sciences), page 51.

"The week is a period of seven days ... It has been employed from time immemorial in almost all Eastern countries." -The Encyclopedia Britannica, 11th edition, volume 4, page 988, article: "Calendar."

"As to Question (1)-I can only state that in connection with the proposed simplification of the calendar, we have had occasion to investigate the results of the works of specialists in chronology and we have never found one of them that has ever had the slightest doubt about the continuity of the weekly cycle since long before the Christian era.

--As to Question (2)-There has been no change in our calendar in past centuries that has affected in any way the cycle of the week."-(Signed), James Robertson, Director American Ephemeris, Navy Department, U.S. Naval Observatory, Washington, D. C., Letter dated March 12, 1932.

"As far as I know, in the various changes of the Calendar there has been no change in the seven day rota of the week, which has come down from very early times."-(Signed), F.W. Dyson, Astronomer Royal, Royal Observatory, Greenwich, London., Letter dated March 4, 1932.

"Some of these (the Jews and also many Christians) accept the week as of divine institution, with which it is unlawful to tamper; others, without these scruples, still feel that it is useful to maintain a time-unit that, unlike all others, has proceeded in an absolutely invariable manner since what may be called the dawn of history."- "Our Astronomical Column," Nature, London, number 127, June 6, 1931, page 869.

"The week of seven days has been in use ever since the days of the Mosaic dispensation, and we have no reason for supposing that any irregularities have existed in the succession of weeks and their days from that time to the present." -Dr. W.W. Campbell, Director of Lick Observatory, Mt. Hamilton, California.

"For more than 3,000 years science has gone backward, and with profound research, reveals the fact that in that vast period the length of the day has not changed by the hundredth part of a single second of time."-General O.M. Mitchell, Astronomy of the Bible, page 235.

"By calculating the eclipses, it can be proven that no time has been lost and that the creation days were seven, divided into twenty-four hours each."-Dr. Hinckley, in The Watchman, July, 1926. Dr. Hinckley was a well-known astronomer of half a century ago.

"In spite of all of our dickerings with the calendar, it is patent that the human race never lost the septenary [seven day] sequence of week days and that the Sabbath of these latter times comes down to us from Adam, through the ages, without a single lapse . . ."-Dr. Totten, professor of Astronomy at Yale University.

"The continuity of the week has crossed [both] the centuries, and all known calendars, –still intact."-Professor D. Eginitis, Director of the Observatory of Athens, Greece.

"The division of time into weeks. . . [is a] singular measure of time by periods of seven days [that] may be traced not only through the sacred history before the era of Moses, but in all ancient civilizations of every era, many of which could not possibly have derived their notion from Moses . . . Among the learned of Egypt, the Brahmans of India, by Arabs, by Assyrians, as may be gathered from their astronomers and priests, this division was recognized. Hesiod (900 B.C.) declares the seventh day is holy. And so also Homer and Callimachus. Even in the Saxon mythology, the division by weeks is prominent. Nay, even among the tribes of primitive worshipers in Africa, we are told that a peculiar feature of their religion is a weekly sacred day, the violation of which by labor will incur the wrath of their god. Traces of a similar division of time have been noticed among the Indians of the American continent. Now, on what other theory are these facts explicable than upon the supposition of a divinely ordained Sabbath at the origin of the race?"- The Christian Sabbath [tract number 271 of the Presbyterian Board of Publication].

"It is a strange fact that even today there is a great deal of confusion concerning the question of so-called "lost time." Alterations that have been made to the calendar in the past have left the impression that time has actually been lost. In point of fact, of course, these adjustments were made to bring the calendar into closer agreement with the natural year [the solar year]. Now, unfortunately, this supposed "lost time" is still being used to throw doubt upon the unbroken cycle of the Seventh-day Sabbath that God inaugurated at the Creation. I am glad I can add the witness of my scientific training to the irrevocable nature of the weekly cycle.

"Having been time computer at Greenwich [England observatory] for many years, I can testify . . . that all our days are in God's absolute control-relentlessly measured by the daily rotation of the earth on its axis. This daily period of rotation does not vary one-thousandth part of a second in thousands of years.

Also . . . the year is a very definite number of days. Consequently, it can be said with assurance that not a day has been lost since Creation, and all the calendar changes notwithstanding, there has been no break in the weekly cycle."-Frank Jeffries, Fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society, and Research Director of the Royal Observatory, Greenwich, England.

Wouldn't you rather keep the Sabbath of Jesus?

He is more important than the whole world. Wouldn't it be terrible if we had in some way made a mistake, and were following the ways of men instead of the ways of God.

Read your Bible carefully.



There is no Sunday-sacredness in it anywhere. There is no indication that the Sabbath was ever changed to another day.

The Seventh-day Sabbath is the only Sabbath ever given by God to mankind.

I regularly offer over radio stations across North America - \$100,000. – to anyone who can provide me with one text of Scripture that the Seventh-day Sabbath – the Bible Sabbath, – has been changed to Sunday, the first day of the week.

Wouldn't you rather keep the Sabbath of Jesus?. I know you would. Come, and worship Him on His day –this coming Sabbath.

The Gregorian Calendar, the one we use today, came to us by way of Babylonia, Palestine, and Rome The old Roman calendar was not based accurately on the movements of the heavenly bodies: –The result was a continuous shifting of the seasons. By the time of Julius Caesar, reform was imperative. Julius Caesar, the emperor of Rome, called a famous Alexandrian astronomer and mathematician. Sosigines by name, to come and analyze the Roman calendar and recommend the necessary changes. The result was that the calendar was changed in the year 46 B.C. This was about 42 years before the birth of Christ, and about 72 years before His three and a half year ministry.

This new calendar was called the Julian Calendar, in honor of Julius Caesar, The order of the week and the days of the week, were not changed by this new calendar The Julian calendar stood unchanged for 1,600 years. It made provision for a year of 365.25 mean solar days. But it was inaccurate because the year actually consists of 365.242195 days. Because of this slight discrepancy, as the centuries passed, the seasons shifted. By AD 1582, this shift had increased to ten days, and so the Gregorian Calendar was begun, in place of the Julian, which was seen to be no longer adequate.

Here is how the astronomer would explain it to us: The equinoxes and solstices recur regularly each "solar year," which is the time required for one circuit of the earth around the sun, amounting to 365 days plus slightly less than  $\frac{1}{4}$  day. Caesar's calendar (beginning 46 B.C.) accounted for the fraction of the day above 365 days, by the addition of one day to February every four years (it being then believed that this fraction of a day was exactly  $\frac{1}{4}$ ). Since it is actually slightly less than this, a correction over a period of time would require slightly fewer leap years than one in four. The day that was numbered as October 4 in the year 1582 A.D., would have been numbered the 14th if the calendar had been running in step with the equinoxes. Therefore, by calling the following day the fifteenth, the revisers brought the calendar back into the proper relationship with the equinoxes again. The ten days were not "lost" –the error in the count was simply corrected. Nor were the days of the week affected. Thursday, October 4 was followed by Friday, October 15.

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