



SABBATH - HIS TIME • MY TEST

FORMING A FOREVER RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD



by Ingo Sorke, PhD

On August 21, 1985, I arrived in the United States as an exchange student from Germany. To my surprise, my host family kept the 7th day Sabbath holy. I grew up in a culture where Sunday was special, with family time and stores closed. Over the course of a year (with much reading, observation, and some resistance), I learned that . . . As the crown of creation (Gen 1-2; Ex 20:8-11), the commemoration of redemption (Deut 5:12-15), the core of sanctification (Ezek 20:20), and the centerpiece between cross and resurrection (Lk 23:54-56), the 7th-day Sabbath rest is a gift of grace (Mk 2:27-28; Heb 4:3-11) and a test of obedience (Isa 58:13), especially in the end-time (Mt 24:20; Rev 14:7,12). The Sabbath is the true sign of the living God (Ex 20:11; Acts 14:15; 2 Tim 2:19; Rev 14:7) and is gratefully kept by those who belong to the God of Jacob (Ps 146:5-6) from Friday evening to Saturday evening (Gen 1-2; Lev 23:32; Neh 13:19; Acts 13:42, 44; 17:2; 18:4). *Currently, Sunday considerations have re-captured the world's attention, with Pope Francis' Laudato Si and global environmental concerns.*

INTELLIGENT DESIGN

GROUNDING IN GRACE

Forming

Filling

Exodus 20:2

Day 1: Light

Day 4: Sun, Moon, Stars

"I am the Lord your God who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage."

Day 2: Water, Air

Day 5: Fish, Birds

Day 3: Vegetation

Day 6: Mammals, Humans

"And it was evening and morning": 6x, but not for Sabbath = a symbol of unending grace & eternity

DAY 7: SABBATH - CROWN OF CREATION

RELATIONSHIP & RESCUE

PURPOSE: CREATION (EXODUS 20)

PURPOSE: REDEMPTION (DEUTERONOMY 5)

8 "Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. 9 Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work: 10 But the seventh day is the sabbath of the LORD thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates: **11 For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it.**" [central commandment!]

12 "Keep the sabbath day to sanctify it, as the LORD thy God hath commanded thee. 13 Six days thou shalt labour, and do all thy work: 14 But the seventh day is the sabbath of the LORD thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, nor thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thine ox, nor thine ass, nor any of thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates; that thy manservant and thy maidservant may rest as well as thou. **15 And remember that thou wast a servant in the land of Egypt, and that the LORD thy God brought thee out thence through a mighty hand and by a stretched out arm: therefore the LORD thy God commanded thee to keep the sabbath day.**"

CASES & CONCEPTS

AN OBLIGATION WITH A BLESSING - NOT AN OPTION WITH A BURDEN

- **Pattern:** We rest like God did; we do what He does! (Gen 1:31-2:3)
- **Purpose:** Inclusive, comprehensive, universal (Ex 20; Deut 5)
- **Practice:** "from evening to evening ... celebrate your Sabbaths" (Lev 23:32).
- **Provision:** Double-Mannah (Ex 16:25-29).
- **Principle:** Punishment of proportionate value (Ex 31:14).
- **Protection:** Shutting the gates - guarding the gates (Neh 13:19).
- **Pledge:** "Hallow my sabbaths ... they shall be a sign between me and you, that ye may know that I am the LORD your God" (Ezek 20:20).

PROPHETIC WARNING!

"He shall speak great words against the most High, and shall wear out the saints of the most High, **and think to change times and laws**" (Daniel 7:25).

Promise: "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 of the LORD, honourable; and shall honor him, not doing your own ways, nor finding your own pleasure, nor speaking your own words: Then you shall delight yourself in the LORD; and I will cause you to ride on the high places of the earth, and feed you with the heritage of Jacob your father: for the mouth of the LORD has spoken it" (Isaiah 58:13).

Matthew 5:17 Neither Jesus nor the apostles cancelled the Law: "Do we make void the law through faith? Absolutely not! On the contrary, we affirm the law!" (Rom 3:31). Break one = break all! (James 2:10).
Matthew 12:12 "It is lawful to do good on the Sabbath."
Matthew 24:20 Sabbath binding 40 years after the Cross!
Mk 2:27-28; Mt 12:8; Lk 6:5 Jesus = Lord of the Sabbath
Luke 4:16 Sabbath = habitual worship + study
Luke 13:14-16 Sabbath = healing + restoration (Jn 7:22!)
Preparation Day: "the day before the sabbath" (Mk 15:42; Lk 23:54).



Preparation for Sabbath = Preparation for the Second Coming!

👉 Prepare every Friday!

THE ATHEISM AGENDA
 French Republican Calendar
 1793-1805 (Paris 1871)
 attempting a 10-day week to remove religious connotations

SABBATH IN THE EARLY CHURCH

CONSISTENCY & CONFIRMATION

Acts 13:44 Gentiles, not Jews, "begged that these words might be preached to them the next Sabbath."
Acts 18:4 "And Paul reasoned in the synagogue every Sabbath, and persuaded both Jews and Greeks."
Acts 20:7 Paul preached all day Sabbath till Saturday night, to possibly travel again on Sunday morning
Romans 6:1-6 The commemoration of the resurrection is baptism, not Sunday-keeping.
Romans 14:5 "Esteeming one day above another" = fast days, not feast days! (Context: food)
1 Corinthians 16:1-2 not a Sunday church offering, but personal budgeting "by himself" [Gr. παρ' ἑαυτοῦ].
Colossians 2:16 "festival, new moon, or sabbaths" = ceremonial feast days, not weekly creation Sabbath.
 (Examples: 2 Chron 2:4; 31:3; Neh 10:33; Ezek 45:17; Hosea 2:11)
Hebrews 4:9 "There remains therefore a Sabbath rest [σαββατισμὸς] for the people of God!"
Revelation 1:10 "the Lord's day": biblically defined as Sabbath, not Sunday (Mt 12:8; Mk 2:28; Lk 6:5).

SABBATH IN HISTORY & PROPHECY

CHANGE & CRISIS

- **Edict of Constantine (March 7, 321):** "On the venerable Day of the Sun let the magistrates and people residing in the cities rest, and let all workshops be closed" - a change was NOT prompted by Scripture!
- **Calendar Change:** In 1582, Pope Gregory XIII's decree dropped 10 dates (not days); the sequence of the 7-day week was not affected: Wed Oct 3 → Thur Oct 4 → Fri Oct 15 → Sat Oct 16
- **Catholic Catechism:** 7th day = Sabbath, not Sunday. "We observe Sunday instead of Saturday because the Catholic Church [not Scripture!] transferred the solemnity from Saturday to Sunday" (1977).
- **Saint Catherine Catholic "Sentinel":** "Perhaps the boldest thing, the most revolutionary change the Church ever did, happened in the first century. The holy day, they Sabbath, was changed from Saturday to Sunday. 'The Day of the Lord' (dies dominica was chosen, **not from any directions noted in the Scriptures**, but from the church's sense of its own power. The day of resurrection, the day of Pentecost, fifty days later, came on the first day of the week. So this would be the new Sabbath. People who think that the Scriptures should be the sole authority, should logically become 7th day Adventists, and keep Saturday holy" (May 21, 1995).
- **Truth ↔ Tradition . . .** "The custom of Sunday observance rests upon the authority of the Catholic Church **and not upon an explicit text in the Bible**" (J. A. O'Brien). → **Mk 7:9; Mt 7:21-23; Jn 14:15!**

Coming Crisis: The End-Time Message of Revelation 14:7 echoes Exodus 20:11 - The Sabbath!

Sabbath is the ultimate mark of a genuine relationship with the living God (Ps 146:5-6; Acts 14:15; 2 Tim 2:19)

Ex 20:11 "For in six days the Lord **made the heavens and the earth, the sea**, and all that is in them."
Rev 14:7 "Worship Him who **made the heaven and the earth, the sea** and springs of water" [flood!]
 ↕ contrast
Rev 14:8 "Babylon [counterfeit religion] is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she has made all nations drink of the wine [counterfeit grapejuice] of the wrath of her fornication [counterfeit relationship]."
Rev 18:2-4 "Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen...All the nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication...**Come out of her, my people!**" *Will you keep Sabbath holy to form a forever relationship with God?!*

SABBATH IN MY LIFE

CHOICE & CONVICTION