

IS THERE A CORRECT DAY TO WORSHIP?

I. The Observance of One Day:

ROMANS 14:5-6a

One person esteems *one* day above another; another esteems every day *alike*. Let each be fully convinced in his own mind. ⁶He who observes the day, observes *it* to the Lord; and he who does not observe the day, to the Lord he does not observe *it*.....

II. Why Gentiles Do Not Keep the Sabbath

- A.** At creation the Sabbath was not a covenant between God and any human at that time. However, it was the 7th day that God ceased from his work of creation and declared it holy.

GENESIS 2:2-3 “And on the seventh day God finished his work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all his work that he had done. So God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it God rested from all his work that he had done in creation.”

- B.** The Sabbath was a covenant sign with Israel, not given to Gentiles:

EXODUS 31:12-17 “And the Lord said to Moses, “You are to speak to the PEOPLE OF ISRAEL and say, ‘Above all YOU shall keep my Sabbaths, for this is a sign between me and YOU throughout YOUR generations, that YOU may know that I, the Lord, sanctify YOU. YOU shall keep the Sabbath, because it is holy for YOU. Everyone who profanes it shall be put to death. Whoever does any work on it, that soul shall be cut off from among his people. Six days shall work be done, but the seventh day is a Sabbath of solemn rest, holy to the Lord. Whoever does any work on the Sabbath day shall be put to death. Therefore the PEOPLE OF ISRAEL shall keep the Sabbath, observing the Sabbath throughout THEIR generations, as a covenant forever. 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.’”

EXODUS 16:22-26 is the first known Sabbath God commanded for Israel when he gave Manna in the wilderness. He told them to gather manna 6 days a week and on the 6th day to gather a double portion for the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord.

C. The New Testament calls attention to the First Day:

1. Resurrection Day:

JOHN 20:1 “Now on the FIRST DAY of the week Mary Magdalene came to the tomb early, while it was still dark, and saw that the stone had been taken away from the tomb.”

JOHN 20:19 On the evening of that day, the FIRST DAY of the week, the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, “Peace be with you.”

2. Christ and the Disciples:

JOHN 20:26 “EIGHT DAYS LATER (First Day of the week), his disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.”

3. Pentecost

ACTS 2:1 “When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place.” Pentecost came on the first day of the week.

4. Troas:

‘ACTS 20:7 “ On the FIRST DAY OF THE WEEK, when we were gathered together to break bread, Paul talked with them, intending to depart on the next day, and he prolonged his speech until midnight.”

5. Offerings:

1 CORINTHIANS 16:1-2 “Now concerning the collection for the saints: as I directed the churches of Galatia, so you also are to do. On the FIRST DAY OF EVERY WEEK, each of you is to put something aside and store it up, as he may prosper, so that there will be no collecting when I come.”

6. Revelation: John’s Experience

REVELATION 1:10 “I was in the Spirit on the LORD’S DAY (First Day of the Week), and I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet”

III. What About Paul’s Synagogue attendance?

ACTS 13:14-18 “but they went on from Perga and came to Antioch in Pisidia. And on the Sabbath day they went into the synagogue and sat down. 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.” So Paul stood up, and motioning with his hand said: “Men of Israel and you who fear God, listen. The God of this people Israel chose our fathers and made the people great during their stay in the land of Egypt, and with uplifted arm he led them out of it. And for about forty years he put up with them in the wilderness.”

ACTS 13:44 “The next Sabbath almost the whole city gathered to hear the word of the Lord.”

ACTS 16:13 “And on the Sabbath day we went outside the gate to the riverside, where we supposed there was a place of prayer, and we sat down and spoke to the women who had come together.”

ACTS 17:2 “And Paul went in, as was his custom, and on three Sabbath days he reasoned with them from the Scriptures”

In each of the 4 passages above it indicates that Paul didn’t go to the synagogues in order to worship but rather to evangelize the Jewish people. This is very important because the Gospel is to the Jews first, and then to the Gentiles. (**ROMANS 1:16**)

IV. What did Jesus say about the Sabbath day?

MARK 2:27-28 “The Sabbath was made for man, and not man for the Sabbath. Therefore the Son of Man is also Lord of the Sabbath.”

He also spoke of His Lordship of the Sabbath in **MATTHEW 12:8** and **LUKE 6:5** and then demonstrated it by “working” miracles on the Sabbath.

While He never commanded anyone to observe the Sabbath day, He did tell weary people to come to Him and that He would give them rest.

MATTHEW 11:28-29 “Come to Me, all *you* who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

V. What did Jesus say about the Law?

MATTHEW 5:17 ““Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill.”

The key word here is “fulfill”. The Greek word for ‘fulfill’ is “pleroo” which means, “to finish”, “to make and end to” or “to complete”. Did Jesus finish? Make an end to? Did he complete the law”? Yes!

When Jesus cried out from the cross, “It is finished.” He made an end of the Old or Mosaic covenant, and his blood, his death and resurrection introduced the New Covenant.

When he died, the veil of the Temple that separated the Most Holy Place from everyone but the High Priest, was torn in two. Now everyone has access directly to God if they desire to draw near to him. No longer is the high priest needed. No longer is any animal sacrifices needed for the forgiveness of sin. The Law with all its punishments was done away with.

The Phillips translation renders **MATTHEW 5:17** as: “You must not think I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to complete them. Indeed, I assure you that, while Heaven and earth last, the Law will not lose a single dot or comma until its purpose is complete.”

VI. What did the Jerusalem Church Leaders say about the Law as it applied to Gentiles?

ACTS 15:28-29 For it seemed good to the Holy Spirit, and to us, to lay upon you no greater burden than these necessary things: 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."

These 4 things were the only regulations the original disciples relayed to the Gentiles in a letter - given to Paul - written by them. No feasts, no Sabbath instructions, no circumcision is required for Gentile believers. (Of course, these 4 things did not negate the things Jesus commanded).

VII. What did Paul say about the Sabbath and Old Covenant Feast days?

COLOSSIANS 2:16-17 "Therefore let no one pass judgment on you in questions of food and drink, or with regard to a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath. These are a shadow of the things to come, but the substance belongs to Christ"

VIII. What does Hebrews say about the Old Covenant?

HEBREWS 8:13 "When God speaks of a "new" covenant, it means he has made the first one obsolete. It is now out of date and will soon disappear. "

IX. How did Jesus fulfill the Torah Law and how are Gentiles to relate to it?

For a better understanding of this interesting and important subject, study the story of **ACTS 15** as well as Paul's entire letter to the churches of Galatia, known as **GALATIANS**.