

The Sabbath To Sunday Change

What is it about the Seventh Day Sabbath command that meets with so much opposition?

What is the real historical and Biblical truth about the changing of the Sabbath to Sunday?

In the Christian Bible we find that there are over 40 verses from the apostle Paul alone as to why circumcision is not performed physically anymore.

1 Corinthians 7:19 [King James] *“Circumcision is nothing, and uncircumcision is nothing, but the keeping of the commandments of God.”*

If Paul says that the Ten Commandments, which includes the keeping of the Seventh Day Sabbath, are what matters, how are there **not** found even more verses telling us that the Seventh Day Sabbath is no longer to be kept?

The fact that there are **not one** scripture that says *“the Sabbath is now Sunday.”*

Why not?

The answer is simple. It was never changed to Sunday by the authority of the Creator God, so no such scripture exists.

It was actually changed by those who wanted to worship the sun god, hence the name Sun-day.

Sun worship infected ancient Israel –

In the ancient world, *“sun worship”* was one of the most common forms of pagan idolatry.

Immediately after bringing Israel out of pagan Egypt, God warned His people against being *“driven to worship the sun.”* [**Deuteronomy 4:19**]

God put to death any who worshipped the sun. [**Deuteronomy 17:2-7**]

During a time of revival, King Josiah purged much of Israel and *“burned the chariots of the sun with fire.”* [**2 Kings 23:11**]

Before the Babylonian captivity, many Israelite leaders rejected their Creator God and worshipped the sun. [**Ezekiel 8:15-16**]

Ezekiel 22:26 [King James] *“Her priests have violated my law, and have profaned mine holy things: they have put no difference between the holy and profane, neither have they shewed difference between the unclean and the clean, and have hid their eyes from my sabbaths, and I am profaned among them.”*

The religious leaders ignored the command to keep the Sabbath Day.

1 Corinthians 10:1-11 [King James] *“Moreover, brethren, I would not that ye should be ignorant, how that all our fathers were under the cloud, and all passed through the sea; And were all baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea; And did all eat the same spiritual meat; And did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ. But with many of them God was not well pleased: for they were overthrown in the wilderness. Now these things were our examples, to the intent we should not lust after evil things, as they also lusted. Neither be ye idolaters, as were some of them; as it is written, The people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play. Neither let us commit fornication, as some of them committed, and fell in*

one day three and twenty thousand. Neither let us tempt Christ, as some of them also tempted, and were destroyed of serpents. Neither murmur ye, as some of them also murmured, and were destroyed of the destroyer. Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come."

Paul warned the Church against repeating the sins of ancient Israel, which included the worship of the sun.

Quotation: **'Webster's Dictionary'** 1929 Edition; Sun Worship, The Day of the Sun and Sunday – *"The Romans called the sun god 'Mithra' and 'Apollo' and they especially worshipped the sun of 'the first day of the week', also called 'Diessolis' [Latin] which means 'day of the sun'. The name 'Sunday' was adopted 'because this day was anciently dedicated to the sun, or to its worship. The first day of the week.'"*

A predicted "*falling away*" within the early Church – through the enlightenment of the Holy Spirit, the apostle Paul discerned that a tragic "*falling away*" from Jesus Christ and Bible truth would eventually occur within Christianity and that "*the man of sin*" would arise. [2 **Thessalonians 2:3**]

Even in his day, Paul saw errors creeping into the Church, and declared "*the mystery of iniquity doth already work.*" [2 **Thessalonians 2:7**]

Paul also warned the elders of the Church of this apostasy. [Acts 20:17, 19-30]

1 Timothy 4:1-2 [NIV] *"The Spirit clearly says that in later times some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons. Such teachings come through hypocritical liars, whose consciences have been seared as with a hot iron."*

This false teaching can be very subtle. Satan deceives people by offering a clever imitation of the real thing, or half-truths.

Other New Testament writers warned that deceptions were entering the Church. [2 **Peter 2:1**; 1 **John 2:18-19**; **Jude 1:3-4**]

Anti-Jewish sentiment fuelled the Sabbath to Sunday change – it was in AD49 when Emperor Claudius expelled the Jews, including Jewish converts to Christianity, from Rome because of the constant rioting over the instigation of Chrestus.

Since converted Jews such as Aquila and Priscilla were expelled [Acts 18:2], we know that at that time the Romans did **not** distinguish between Sabbath-keeping Christians and Jews.

Fourteen years later, however, Emperor Nero identified the Christians and the Jews as being separate entities and very distinctive from one another.

The Jewish wars that began about 66AD put an end to any favours Jews had in the Roman Empire.

Matthew 24:1-2 [King James] *"And Jesus went out, and departed from the temple: and his disciples came to him for to shew him the buildings of the temple. And Jesus said unto them, See ye not all these things? verily I say unto you, There shall not be left here one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down."*

Jesus predicted the destruction of the Jewish Temple and the end of the sacrifices. This occurred in 70AD.

Both the Sanhedrin and the office of High Priest were abolished under Emperor Vespasian. [AD69-79]

The Jewish wars took place after the book of Acts was written and resulted in great pressure being put on the early Church to move away from anything that "*appeared Jewish,*" including the Sabbath.

Because Sunday was already popular throughout the Roman Empire as a day for sun worship, some Christian leaders [now called the early “*Church fathers*”] yielded to temptation and began to move worship from Sabbath to Sunday.

They rationalised this move by saying it honoured the resurrection of Jesus Christ on a Sunday, this was about 90-120AD, after the last of the apostles had died.

Because of these minority of Church leaders that began to keep Sunday in honour of the resurrection, this eventually resulted in Sunday being called the Lord’s Day, but **not** the Lord’s Day as designated by the Christian Bible.

[Please download and study our article ‘*Three Days And Nights*’ listed under ‘*Religion*’]

Just like today, many people chose tradition and their own ideas rather than the Commandments of God. [Mark 7:6-9]

Christians compromised with pagan “*sun worship*” practices and adopted “*Sunday*.”

Quotation: ‘**Ecclesiastes History**’, by Mosheim –

“Before the coming of Christ, all eastern nations performed divine worship with their faces turned to that part of the heavens where the sun displays his rising beams ... the Christian converts ... retained the ancient and universal custom of worshipping towards the east which sprang from it.”

Quotation: ‘**Encyclopaedia of Religious Knowledge**’ by Schaff-Herzog; article ‘*Sunday*’ –

“Sunday [dies solis of the Roman calendar, ‘day of the sun’, because it was dedicated to the sun], the first day of the week, was adopted by the early Christians as a day of worship.”

The Church “*in Rome*” becomes the Roman Catholic Church –

Before the Jewish Temple was destroyed in 70AD, Paul wrote to the growing congregation of Christians in Rome from Corinth just before his visit to Jerusalem [AD57].

But because this church was surrounded by paganism inside the then world’s mightiest capital, this church soon experienced a “*falling away*.”

This transition especially took place during the time of the Emperor Constantine [4th century] who favoured the Roman Catholic Church above other Christian churches in Asia Minor.

In 312AD, prior to his pivotal victory over his rival Maxentius at the battle of Milvian Bridge, the Emperor Constantine became a “*Christian*” after claiming in broad daylight a vision of “*a cross above the sun*” with these words emblazoned “*in hoc signo vinces*” [by this sign conqueror].

The next day, 28th October 312AD, Constantine advanced behind a standard portraying a cross. Of course, such a seeming victory for Christianity did much to further the power of the Church in Rome.

After his victory and becoming undisputed Emperor of Rome, Emperor Constantine presided in the full royal pomp over the “*first council of Nicea*” in 325AD.

A shrewd political genius, Constantine’s scheme was to unite paganism and Christianity in an effort to strengthen his disintegrating empire.

Constantine knew that pagans throughout the empire worshipped the sun on the “*first day of the week*” and he discovered that many Christians, especially in Rome and in Alexandria, also kept “*Sunday*” because they believed that Jesus Christ rose from the dead on that day.

So Constantine developed a plan to unite both groups on the common platform of Sunday keeping.

Constantine even produced coins which “*bore on one side the letters of the name of Christ, on the other the figure of the sun god*” – Quotation: **History of the Eastern Church**; by Arthur P. Stanley.

Again, Constantine’s promotion of Sunday observation was part of his definite strategy to combine paganism with Christianity.

Quotation: ‘**Stanley’s History of the Eastern Church**’; page 184 –

“The retention of the old pagan name of ‘dies solis’ or ‘Sunday’ for the weekly Christian festival, is in great measure owing to the union of pagan and Christian sentiment with which the first day of the week was recommended to his subjects by Emperor Constantine, pagan and Christian alike, as the venerable day of the sun.”

The Council of Laodicea around AD364 decreed in Canon XXIX – “*Christians must not Judaize by resting on the Sabbath, but must work on that day, rather honouring, the Lord’s Day, if they can, resting then as Christians. But if any shall be found to be Judaizers, let them be anathema from Christ.*”

The Fourth Commandment is constantly called the Jewish Sabbath, yet this phrase does **not** occur once in the entire Christian Bible.

This is because the Sabbath was created in the first week of this planet’s renewal for human existence, [**Genesis 1:2** – the word “*was*” is more correctly translated “*became*” when we include **Psalm 104:30**.]

This was long before Jews ever existed.

Also the Hebrew word translated “*rest*” in **Genesis 2:3** is “*shabbath*” and means Sabbath.

It was Jesus Christ who made the Sabbath at creation. [**John 1:1-3, 14**] This is the reason for His claim to be Lord of the Sabbath Day. [**Mark 2:28**]

If Jesus is Lord of the Sabbath, then the Sabbath is the true “*Lord’s Day*” **not** the first day of the week, the day of the sun.

The Sabbath is also for the “*stranger*” the non-Israelite. [**Exodus 20:10**]

Isaiah 66:22-23 [King James] “*For as the new heavens and the new earth, which I will make, shall remain before me, saith the LORD, so shall your seed and your name remain. And it shall come to pass, that from one new moon to another, and from one sabbath to another, shall all flesh come to worship before me, saith the LORD.*”

In the new world after the Second Coming of Jesus Christ, the Sabbath will be the day that God’s people worship Him.

Acts 13:42-43 [King James] “*And when the Jews were gone out of the synagogue, the Gentiles besought that these words might be preached to them the next sabbath. Now when the congregation was broken up, many of the Jews and religious proselytes followed Paul and Barnabas: who, speaking to them, persuaded them to continue in the grace of God.*”

Grace-saved gentiles kept the Sabbath.

Quotation: ‘**Faith of Our Fathers**’ by James Cardinal Gibbons, 1917 edition; pages 72-73. Also 16th edition; page 111: 88th edition; page 89 –

“Is not every Christian obliged to sanctify Sunday and to abstain on that day from unnecessary service work? Is not the observance of this law among the most prominent of our sacred duties? But you may read the Bible from Genesis to Revelation, and you will not find a single line authorising the sanctification of Sunday. The scriptures enforce the religious observance of Saturday, a day which we never sanctify.”

Christian Churches **only** observe Sunday instead of Saturday, the Seventh Day Sabbath, because the Catholic Church, in the Council of Laodicea (AD364), transferred the solemnity from Saturday to Sunday.

Quotation: **‘Ecclesiastical Review’** [February 1914] –

“They [the protestants] deem it to keep the Sunday holy. Why? Because the Catholic Church tells them to do so. They have no other reason ... The observance of Sunday thus comes to be an ecclesiastical law entirely distinct from the divine law of Sabbath observance ... The author of the Sunday law ... is the Catholic Church...”

Quotation: **‘Plain Talk About the Protestantism of Today’** by Monsignor Louis Segur –

“It was the Roman Catholic Church which ... has transferred the rest to Sunday in remembrance of the resurrection of our Lord. Therefore, the observance of Sunday by the protestants is an homage they pay, in spite of themselves, to the authority of the Roman Catholic Church.”

So why did Satan give his power to the Roman Catholic Church to change the Sabbath to Sunday?

Because he wanted to be worshipped like the most high.

Isaiah 14:12-14 [King James] *“How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High.”*

Satan accomplished this through human agents, [**2 Corinthians 11:14-15**] a church that worships on his favourite day, sun-day. Remember that Satan’s original name was Lucifer meaning the bringer of light, the sun! [**Isaiah 14:12**]

This is how Satan has deceived the whole world [**Revelation 12:9**] and blinded people to the Gospel Message. [**2 Corinthians 4:4**]

The big question is, who do we worship and what day do we worship on?

Do we give Satan our allegiance and worship him on his day implemented by his ministers of “righteousness”?

Or do we worship the Creator God on the day that He blessed and sanctified at the beginning of human existence, the Seventh Day Sabbath?

This is the choice every human being has to make.

Satan does **not** give up in his attack on true Christians who seek to worship the Creator God in the way He tells us we should.

John 4:23-24 [King James] *“But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.”*

True worship involves the active work of the Holy Spirit within us revealing to us the truth. [**John 16:13**]

Romans 12:1-2 [NIV] *“Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God, this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is, his good, pleasing and perfect will.”*

Thankfulness to God for what He has done for all humanity through Jesus Christ causes us to surrender our lives to God to use as He wills. This is true worship of our Creator God.

Satan will continue to detract us from such true worship by worshipping him on his day.

To change the day that the vast majority of people keep to worship their god will take courage, because of the pressure put on us by family and friends. [Matthew 10:21-22] I know this from personal experience.

Within the early Christian Church many were put to death for being faithful to Sabbath Day worship.

Revelation 6:9-11 [NIV] *“When he opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain because of the word of God and the testimony they had maintained. They called out in a loud voice, ‘How long, Sovereign Lord, holy and true, until you judge the inhabitants of the earth and avenge our blood?’ Then each of them was given a white robe, and they were told to wait a little longer, until the number of their fellow-servants and brothers who were to be killed as they had been was completed.”*

The same persecution will happen to the generation of faithful Christians at the time of Jesus Christ’s Second Coming.

Revelation 20:4 [NIV] *“I saw thrones on which were seated those who had been given authority to judge. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony for Jesus and because of the word of God. They had not worshipped the beast or his image and had not received his mark on their foreheads or their hands. They came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.”*

The mark of the beast, Satan’s human instrument, is a counterfeit of the seal that God placed on His people. [Revelation 7:4] The seal or mark could very well be what sets apart those who worship on God’s Sabbath Day or Satan’s day of the sun, Sunday.

Revelation 12:9, 11 [NIV] *“The great dragon was hurled down, that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray. He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him.” ... “They overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony; they did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death.”*

Satan influence overcome by Christ’s sacrifice and the faithful obedience to God’s commanded Sabbath Day!!