

# THE FIRST DAY IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

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*There are only eight texts in the entire New Testament that refer to the first day of the week. This study will consider each of them.*

## WHY DOES MATTHEW SAY THEY CAME ON THE FIRST DAY?

In the end of the sabbath, as it began to dawn toward *the first day* of the week, came Mary Magdalene and the other Mary *to see the sepulchre*. *Matthew 28:1*

## WHY DOES MARK SAY THE WOMEN CAME TO THE TOMB?

And when the sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome, had *bought sweet spices, that they might come and anoint him*.  
And very early in the morning *the first day* of the week, they came unto the sepulchre at the rising of the sun. *Mark 16:1, 2*

## WHAT DOES THIS THIRD REFERENCE SAY HAPPENED?

Now when *Jesus was risen early the first day* of the week, he appeared first to Mary Magdalene, out of whom he had cast seven devils. *Mark 16:9*

## WERE THE DISCIPLES CELEBRATING THE RESURRECTION?

And she went and told them that had been with him, as *they mourned and wept*.  
And they, when they had heard that he was alive, and had been seen of her, *believed not*.  
After that he appeared in another form unto two of them, as they walked, and went into the country.  
And they went and told it unto the residue: *neither believed they them*.  
Afterward he appeared unto the eleven as they sat at meat, and *upbraided [rebuked] them with their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they believed not them which had seen him after he was risen*.  
*Mark 16:10-14*

## DOES LUKE INDICATE A CHANGE OF THE SABBATH?

Now upon *the first day* of the week, very early in the morning, they came unto the sepulchre, bringing the spices which they had prepared, and certain others with them.  
*Luke 24:1*

## DOES JOHN SAY THE FIRST DAY REPLACED THE SABBATH?

The *first day* of the week cometh Mary Magdalene early, when it was yet dark, unto the sepulchre, and seeth the stone taken away from the sepulchre. *John 20:1*  
NOTE: Every one of these references clearly reveal that the women came to the tomb on Sunday morning to do a work they would not do on the holy Sabbath and transgress the commandment of God.

## WHY WERE THE DISCIPLES ASSEMBLED TOGETHER?

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*, came Jesus and stood in the midst, and saith unto them, Peace be unto you. *John 20:19*

#### WHY WERE THERE "MANY LIGHTS" AS PAUL PREACHED?

And upon *the first day* of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, *Paul* preached unto them, ready to depart on the morrow; and *continued his speech until midnight*.

And *there were many lights* in the upper chamber, where they were gathered together. And there sat in a window a certain young man named Eutychus, being fallen into a deep sleep: and as Paul was long preaching, he sunk down with sleep, and fell down from the third loft, and was taken up dead.

And Paul went down, and fell on him, and embracing him said, Trouble not yourselves; for his life is in him. *Acts 20:7-10*

NOTE: This is a Saturday night meeting that continued until dawn on Sunday morning. (See the New English Bible or any commentary.) In the Bible a day begins with the evening (Genesis 1:5, 8, 13, etc.; Leviticus 23:32). We still follow this practice for certain holidays such as Christmas and New Year's Eve.

#### WHAT DID PAUL DO AT SUNRISE SUNDAY MORNING?

When he therefore was come up again, and had broken bread, and eaten, and talked a long while, even till break of day, so *he departed....*

And we went before to ship, and sailed unto Assos, there intending to take in Paul: for so had he appointed, minding himself to go *afoot*.

And when he *met with us at Assos*, we took him in, and came to Mitylene. *Acts 20:11, 13, 14*

NOTE: On Sunday Paul walked 20 miles to meet the other disciples at Assos. This is something he would never have done on the Sabbath.

#### DOES THE LAST TEXT REFER TO CHANGING THE SABBATH?

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*. *1 Corinthians 16:1, 2*

NOTE: Paul informed all of the churches, including Corinth, of the need of laying aside money at home for the poor believers in Jerusalem so that when he passed through he could readily pick it up to take to them. (See Acts 11:29, 30; Romans 15:25, 26).

#### WHAT DOES THE FOURTH COMMANDMENT SAY TO DO?

*Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy*. *Exodus 20:8*

#### CAN WE REPLACE THE COMMANDMENTS FOR TRADITION?

But he answered and said unto them, *Why do ye also transgress the commandment of God by your tradition?...*

Thus have ye *made the commandment of God of none effect by your tradition....*

But *in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men*.

*Matthew 15:3, 6, 9*

**IF WE LOVE JESUS WHAT SHOULD WE DO?**

*If ye love me, keep my commandments. John 14:15*