

The Weekend – how, where, why

Where and how did the weekend originate? Has there always been a weekend or is this yet another abomination invented by “believers” and non-believers under diabolical influence?

According to Merriam-Webster dictionary:

Weekend [is a]

noun [: any member of a class of words that typically can be combined with determiners to serve as the subject of a verb, can be interpreted as singular or plural, can be replaced with a pronoun, and refer to an entity, quality, state, action, or concept]

[and is pronounced] week·end | \ 'wēk-,end

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Definition of weekend

(Entry 1 of 3)

: the end of the week : the period between the close of one work or school week and the start of the next especially : Saturday and Sunday

First Known Use of weekend

Noun

1638, in the meaning defined

Verb

1901, in the meaning defined

Adjective

1935, in the meaning defined

In the *Torah* *Adonai* orders us to work six days and rest for one day, a day in which He gets all the attention, honour and praise:

🏆 *Sh'mot*¹ 20⁹ You have six days to labor and do all your work,

🏆 *Sh'mot* 20¹¹ For in six days, *ADONAI* made heaven and earth, the sea and everything in them; but on the seventh day he rested. This is why *ADONAI* blessed the day, *Shabbat*, and separated it for himself.

🏆 *Sh'mot* 23¹² “For six days, you are to work. But on the seventh day, you are to rest, so that your ox and donkey can rest, and your slave-girl’s son and the foreigner be renewed.

🏆 *Sh'mot* 31¹⁵ On six days work will get done; but the seventh day is *Shabbat*, for complete rest, set apart for *ADONAI*. Whoever does any work on the day of *Shabbat* must be put to death.

🏆 *Sh'mot* 34²¹ “Six days you will work, but on the seventh day you are to rest — even in plowing time and harvest season you are to rest.

🏆 *Sh'mot* 35² On six days work is to be done, but the seventh day is to be a holy day for you, a *Shabbat* of complete rest in honor of *ADONAI*. Whoever does any work on it is to be put to death.

🏆 *Vayiqra*² 23³ “Work is to be done on six days; but the seventh day is a *Shabbat* of complete rest, a holy convocation; you are not to do any kind of work; it is a *Shabbat* for *ADONAI*, even in your homes.

¹ This is Exodus in Christian bibles

² This is Leviticus in Christian bibles

🕯 *D'varim*³ 5¹³ You have six days to labor and do all your work,⁴

This is not a request from God, but a rule, a command, a *mitzvah* in Hebrew:

Sh'mot 31¹⁵ On six days work will get done; but the seventh day is *Shabbat*, for complete rest, set apart for ADONAI. Whoever does any work on the day of *Shabbat* must be put to death.
[emphasis by writer]

Work six full days, not four, five or part of the sixth day; rest one full day, not during the hour in church.

If *Adonai* had worked for six days during Creation, who are we to decide not to work on certain days? He certainly hasn't given us an extra "day off", according to Scripture. I've heard people using the term "week's-end", which makes a lot of sense, especially *Torah*-obedient people who would honour God by keeping *Shabbat*, making that the week's end.

So, where does this term 'weekend' come from?

Weekends were instituted just over a century ago by none other than the Americans. Not wanting to stand behind the door on their own, the labour unions also, obviously, blame the Jewish immigrants. The following articles explain it very well⁵:

Krissy Clark: The really short and mostly right history of the weekend can be captured on a bumper sticker.

Ricardo Levins Morales: "The Labor Movement: The folks who brought you the weekend."

Ricardo Levins Morales is an artist and labor activist in Minneapolis. And he in fact makes that bumper sticker. He designed it in the early 1980s, in an era when unions were losing favor. Since then, he's sold tens of thousands. He says it's funny to watch people in the rearview mirror squinting with puzzled looks at the stickers.

Morales: For people who are not steeped in labor history, it might take a few minutes to figure out what on earth are they talking about? You know the weekend has always been here, like the weather.

It is hard to imagine life without the weekend. But the word didn't even exist until the 1870s, when Americans were deep into the Industrial Revolution.

Morales: Many working people were fresh off of the farms and they were used to regulating their own day and their own working rhythms. And here all of a sudden they were having to adapt themselves to whistles, to bells, to the clock.

Archival tape: The clock on the wall. So much can be done in a day if Americans will keep their sleeves rolled up.

Many workers – men, women and children – put in 10 to 16 hour days, seven days a week.

And you remember this part: Labor organizers called on the government to mandate shorter hours. Workers lost lives in the struggle. At Haymarket Square in Chicago, police gunned down protesters

³ This is Deuteronomy in Christian bibles

⁴ Unless otherwise indicated, Scriptural citations are taken from Complete Jewish Bible, Copyright © 1998 by David H. Stern. Published by Messianic Jewish Publishers.

⁵ <https://www.marketplace.org/2009/09/04/where-did-weekend-come/>

and men were hanged for inflammatory speeches. The men were demanding, as they put it, time for "what we will."

Morales: The right to have time with our families, to pursue education...

...To go to the zoo, to go to church. Actually, getting Sunday off for worship was relatively easy. It was Saturday that was the tough part.

Michael Feldman: If the Jewish Sabbath had been on Wednesday, we would not have a weekend. We would have Wednesday and Sunday off.

And what kind of weekend is that?

Historian Michael Feldman says even as Americans agitated for more time off, two days off right next to each other was not a foregone conclusion. He says for that, we can thank the massive influx of Jewish immigrants in the late 1800s. They made up a big part of the factory workforce and their holy day wasn't Sunday.

Feldman: And Jews for the most part had to either voluntarily not conduct business on Saturday while the rest of the country did. Or abandon their religious principles to make a living, keep a job.

But Jewish and gentile factory workers aren't the only ones who brought you the weekend. Some of the guys who owned the factories helped too.

Old car commercial: Travel this year the roads to romance, to places you've always wanted to go. And when you travel go in one of the quality motor cars...

Guys like Henry Ford hated labour unions, but he shared their hope in this strange new thing called a weekend. He gave his workers two days off way before he had to. He pretty much invented weekend road trips and promoted them in editorials. Christian Overland of the Henry Ford Museum puts it this way: Ford wanted to sell his Model T and if people were stuck in factories all week...

Christian Overland: Well, when are they going to use it?

Clark: Right, when the hell are they going to have the time?

Overland: If your work force is your consumer, you have to give people the time off to buy the things.

And take them out on weekend adventures, and drives in the country, and, later, trips to the mall. So, who invented the weekend? It was brought to you by the Labor Movement, but also management, Jews and gentiles, and you may as well throw in God, since he came up with the whole "day of rest thing" in the first place.

Here is another short piece⁶:

"While the idea of a non working Sunday goes back to biblical times, the idea of two non working days at the end of every week is not very old. According to the book "Waiting for the Weekend" by Witold Rybczynski, the American concept of the weekend has its roots in labor union attempts to accommodate Jewish workers who took Saturday instead of Sunday as their Sabbath. The first five-day work week was instituted by a New England spinning mill for this reason."

⁶ http://www.answerbag.com/q_view/1743003#ixzz1nxuR81PV

Wikipedia tries to explain it as follows (only excerpts)⁷:

The workweek and weekend are those complementary parts of the week devoted to labour and rest respectively. The legal working week (British English), or workweek (U.S. English), is the part of the seven-day week devoted to labor. In most Western countries it is Monday to Friday. The weekend comprises the two traditionally non-working days in the seven-day week.

What constitutes the workweek is mandated either by law or custom. In Christian tradition, Sunday is the "Lord's Day" and the day of rest and worship. The Jewish or Biblical Sabbath, known as *Shabbat*, lasts from sunset on Friday to the fall of full darkness on Saturday. The French Revolutionary Calendar had ten-day weeks and allowed *decadi*, one out of the ten days, as a leisure day.

The present-day concept of the weekend first arose from the Dies Solis (Day of the Sun) decreed by Constantine, and the Biblical Sabbath. The weekend in Western countries comprises Saturday and Sunday, when most employees do not have to work. Whereas the Sabbath itself was just one day each week, the preceding day also came to be taken as a holiday, because it was considered necessary to do preparatory tasks at home that would permit proper Sabbath observance the next day. (cf. Luke 23:54)

The American labour unions pride themselves on finalising the weekend before changing the working week to only 40 hours in 1937⁸. The Washington Post had the following article regarding Thanksgiving and weekends on 21 November 2011 (only excerpts)⁹:

For most of the 19th century and part of the 20th, there were none — there were simply weeks that ended. The working class had Sundays off only. Because of this, many of them would spend the Lord's day carousing, then call in sick on Mondays. This practice was observed with enough regularity that it was called "Keeping Saint Mondays." Religious groups hated it, and so did bosses, writes University of Pennsylvania professor Witold Rybczynski in his leisure-time history, "[Waiting for the Weekend](#)." Various special interest groups put their heads together to come up with a solution: Saturdays. Give the people Saturday afternoon off so they have less reason to be plastered Monday morning.

The term "weekend" first shows up in the Oxford English Dictionary in 1879; it wasn't until the Great Depression that the Saturday-Sunday dynamic duo really became codified in the United States. Shorter hours were seen as a "remedy" for unemployment, Rybczynski writes. "Each person would work less, but more people would have jobs."

And as for that heathenish practice of Saint Monday holidays? It was mostly abandoned, for decades and decades, until Congress descended upon the calendar and decided to repackage America's free time.

Byron Giles Rogers was a Democrat from Colorado, who also brought the country the bulk of its three-day weekends. Rogers was the man who, in May 1968, introduced bill H.R. 15951, which affected four existing holidays and later became known as the Uniform Monday Holiday Act.

⁷ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Workweek_and_weekend

⁸ https://www.huffingtonpost.com/dean-baker/labor-unions-the-folks-wh_b_8101242.html

⁹ http://www.washingtonpost.com/lifestyle/style/giving-thanks--for-long-weekends/2011/11/21/gIQA9rhM_story_1.html

“The evidence is conclusive,” Rogers said to the floor, “that the Monday holiday program will stimulate greater industrial production and contribute to an increase in our gross national product.”

Before this, holidays were rigid. George Washington’s birthday was marked for the date he was born, Feb. 22. Memorial Day was always May 30; Columbus Day was always Oct. 12.

As we can see, God never intended a two-day rest period after five days of working. *Shabbat* should still be the day of rest and if we followed Scripture according to God’s laws, we wouldn’t even need holidays or vacations. God instituted 7 festivals of which the first and last are six months apart and each festival gives us a week “off” from work.

More information on these festivals is available from our website, www.silvertrumpet.life.

weekend

n

a. the end of the week, esp the period from Friday night until the end of Sunday

b. (as modifier): a weekend party.

vb

(intr) informal to spend or pass a weekend

Collins English Dictionary – Complete and Unabridged, 12th Edition 2014 © HarperCollins Publishers 1991, 1994, 1998, 2000, 2003, 2006, 2007, 2009, 2011, 2014

week•end

(ˈwɪk,ɛnd, -ˈɛnd)

<https://www.thefreedictionary.com/weekend>

<https://en.wiktionary.org/wiki/weekend>

Origin of weekend

First recorded in 1875–80; [week](#) + [end](#)¹

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