

What does the BIBLE say?

As you read this study, I encourage you to study the corresponding scriptures for yourself so you can develop a personal, confident understanding of biblical truth. Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that need not be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. Study like the Bereans, who listened to Paul but did not take his word for it. They studied the scriptures for themselves so they would know for sure.

Acts 17:11 “These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.” I ask that you do the same with this study. Please pray before you begin.

Prophecy’s Day of Hope (Sabbath)

In our last study, we learned that the devil’s plan is to try to change God’s law. Today, we’ll look more closely at how he has tried to do this. Let’s start by reviewing how God describes the little horn’s plan. Look at Daniel 7:25. This verse shows that the devil will try to trick people into thinking it doesn’t matter if they keep God’s times and laws.

This brings up a question: Which law is about the time the little horn would try to change? Let’s read the Ten Commandments in Exodus 20:3-17. After reading them, notice that only the fourth commandment, in verses 8-12, talks about time.

The commandment to remember the Sabbath day is the one the devil has especially targeted. It tells us not to do regular work on the Sabbath. But how many people actually follow this commandment? Not many. We’re often so busy that we don’t set aside a day for God anymore. Why? Because we’ve been told it isn’t important. But it does matter. God knows we need the Sabbath to keep a good relationship with Him and with others.

Let’s take a closer look at the fourth commandment to see what’s at stake. How has the little horn tried to change the commandment about time? Which day does the Bible call the Sabbath? Exodus 20:10 says the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord. This is the day God set apart for people to rest.

Which day is the seventh day of the week? Here are four ways to find out.

1. If you look at a standard calendar, you’ll see that Saturday is the seventh day.
2. According to the dictionary, “Saturday” is identified as the seventh day of the week, following Friday.

3. In over 105 languages, the word for “Saturday” is identical to “Sabbath.” For instance, in Spanish it’s Sabado, in Russian it’s Subbota, and in Italian it’s Sabato.

4. In conclusion, the Bible clearly shows that the seventh-day Sabbath falls on Saturday. Let’s examine the verses.

Luke 23:52-56 and 24:1-3 mention three days. The first is the preparation day, when Jesus died. Then comes the Sabbath, and then the first day of the week, when Jesus rose. The preparation day is the day Jesus died, which we call Good Friday. He rose on Sunday. So, Jesus died on Friday, and the Bible says the women rested on the Sabbath, which would be Saturday. After the Sabbath, they went to the tomb early on Sunday and found that Jesus had risen. The Sabbath is clearly the day between Good Friday and Easter Sunday.

Now that we know the Sabbath is Saturday, let’s see what Jesus did on the Sabbath while He was on earth.

Luke 4:16 He went to the synagogue to worship.

What did the disciples do after Jesus died? Did they begin keeping Sunday to honor the resurrection, or did they continue keeping the Sabbath?

Luke 23:56 says that after Jesus died, the disciples kept the Sabbath as the commandment requires. This was written 35 years after the Cross, and Luke still observed the seventh-day Sabbath.

When did God first give the Sabbath to people, and why?

Genesis 2:1-3 shows that God established the Sabbath when He created the world. He knew people needed a day to rest and connect with Him. The Sabbath also reminds us that God is our Creator. God did three things to make the Sabbath special: He rested, blessed it, and made it holy. The Sabbath carries a special blessing that isn’t found on any other day. It reminds us of our origins and who we should honor. If everyone had always kept the Sabbath, there would be no atheists or evolutionists.

Will people always keep the Sabbath, or was it only for Old Testament times?

Isaiah 66:22-23 says that when God makes the new earth and heavens (see also Revelation 21:1), we will still keep the Sabbath every week as we worship Him.

If people kept the Sabbath at creation, Jesus kept it during His life, the disciples kept it after His death, and we will keep it in eternity, when did Christians start keeping Sunday instead of the Sabbath? Does the Bible say the Sabbath was changed?

The Bible never records God changing the Sabbath. Christians began keeping Sunday long after the disciples had died.

This change happened slowly. It began when the Romans rejected the Jews for causing unrest. Since Christians and Jews both worshipped on the Sabbath, the Romans thought Christians were part of the same problems. Sunday was already a special day for pagan Romans, so Christians began keeping Sunday to distinguish themselves from the Jews.

It wasn't until the third and fourth centuries that Sunday keeping became common, especially in cities where Christians were blending in with pagans. Still, many faithful Christians continued to keep the Sabbath on Saturday. Over time, this compromise led the Roman Church to allow Christians to keep Sunday instead of the Sabbath.

However, the Bible does mention a change in God's law. It's found in...

Daniel 7:25 says the little horn would "think to change times and laws." This means he made people believe that God's times and laws had been altered.

Earlier, we observed how the devil influenced the early church, prompting the Medieval Roman Church to incorporate many pagan customs. Numerous historical and church records affirm that the Roman Church officially shifted the day of worship from the Biblical Sabbath to Sunday. Here are some quotes from those sources. (Read The Catholic Church's Official Word on the Sabbath.) The Roman Church generally acknowledges that it made this change.

What are the four main methods Satan uses to influence people into believing it's acceptable to change the day God designated for worship?

1. Is the statement 'The Sabbath is for Jews' supported by the Bible? What does the Bible actually say about this?

In Gen. 2:1-3, the Sabbath was given to mankind 2,300 years before the first Jew existed. It was given as a blessing at creation to all of humanity.

In Mark 2:27, "The Sabbath was made for man." Not just for Jews.

2. We observe Sunday as the Lord's Day to honor the resurrection, not necessarily because it is the seventh-day Sabbath. Is it accurate to assume the Lord's Day is Sunday? Let's examine the Bible's teachings.

Mark 2:28 "The Son of man is Lord of the Sabbath."

Matt. 12:8 "Lord of the Sabbath day." The seventh day is the Lord's Day.

3. "The law was nailed to the Cross, so we don't need to keep the Sabbath."

How would you respond if someone asked you? (Referring to your study on law and grace, Jesus' death doesn't free us from the responsibility to obey.)

There is a text along these lines that someone might show you that seems to say the Sabbath doesn't matter. Let's look at it.

Col. 2:14-17 discusses what was nailed to the cross. Verse 14 states, "the handwriting of ordinances that was against us." This does not refer to the Ten Commandments, since those were inscribed by God's own finger, not by a human. The Bible clarifies what this handwriting was.

Deut. 31:24-26 Moses wrote the words of the law and placed them on the side of the ark as a witness against them. The ordinances that were against them were written by Moses, not the finger of God. Moses also wrote the ceremonial laws governing animal sacrifices.

These laws were kept in a compartment beside the ark of the covenant, not in it. The Ten Commandments, by contrast, were kept in the center of the ark of the covenant and were written by God's finger. The Ten Commandments are never mentioned as being against us. They are for us because they point us to Jesus, convicting us of sin and our need for a Savior.

Let's revisit Col. 2:14 to look at it again.

Col. 2:14-17 Because Moses' law was nailed to the cross, we are no longer judged regarding meats, drink, holy days, new moons, or Sabbath days (PLURAL), "which were a shadow of things to come."

Which law contained shadows, the sacrificial law or God's law?

Hebrews 10:1-2 explains that the law, which contained 'shadows of things to come,' was the law that included sacrifices offered by people. However, God's law itself never explicitly mentioned sacrifices. It was Moses' law that incorporated these sacrifices as symbols pointing forward to Jesus, who would become the true sacrifice for our sins.

Notice that the word in Col. 2:16 is "Sabbath days." These sabbath days were yearly holy days, not the weekly Sabbath. We have yearly holidays such as Christmas and Labor Day. The Jews had similar days as well. These yearly holy days involved offering meat and drink offerings, as well as new moons. These were all part of the ceremonial law (Moses' law) and not the Ten Commandments. We read about them in...

Lev. 23:24-28, 32 specify Sabbaths that were not the regular seventh-day Sabbath but occurred on various days throughout the year, such as the first day of the month or the tenth day of the month (see verses 24, 27).

Notice that these annual Sabbaths were in addition to the seventh-day Sabbath and included meat and drink offerings.

Leviticus 23:37-38 indicates that the ceremonial law included yearly Sabbaths, not weekly ones, and these were part of the sacrificial system. Each yearly Sabbath foreshadowed events in Jesus' plan of salvation. For instance, Passover was an annual Sabbath. When Jesus died, He fulfilled the Passover, so believers no longer need to observe it or its associated Sabbath. Since we now live after the Cross, we no longer need the shadow—we can focus on the reality of Jesus' sacrifice.

Historically, Paul authored the letter to the Colossians in response to Jewish Christians who insisted that Gentile converts observe ceremonial sacrificial days and undergo circumcision to attain salvation. Paul emphasized that salvation does not require circumcision or adherence to ceremonial laws, but rather obedience to God's commandments, including keeping the Sabbath. This is the main message in...

1 Cor. 7:19 (NKJV and NIV) "Circumcision is nothing, and uncircumcision is nothing, but keeping the commandments of God—is what matters (NKJV)—is what counts (NIV)."

It's clear that the law nailed to the Cross was the ceremonial sacrificial law. Since Jesus, the true sacrifice, died, we no longer need to keep the ceremonial law.

4. Some say, “We should keep every day holy, not just the seventh day.” It’s true that we should live for God every day, but keeping a day holy is different. What does it mean to keep a day holy?

Exodus 20:8-11 says not to do regular work. If we tried to keep every day holy, we’d need someone else to support us financially.

These are the four main reasons people use to justify changing God’s times and laws. The Sabbath has confused millions over the years. People read the fourth commandment and see that Saturday is the seventh day, then wonder how the Sabbath got changed to Sunday. Our study today shows that this change was predicted.

We won’t spend much more time on this now, but it’s worth praying about. In our next lesson, we’ll look at the other side of this topic and examine the biblical reasons people give for keeping Sunday as the Sabbath.

The most important thing to remember from this study is that our Creator and Savior, Jesus Christ, is the only one truly worthy of our worship. I love Him for giving His life for my sins, and I know you love Jesus too. I encourage you to pray, tell Him how much you love Him and want to honor Him. I encourage you to ask Him to give you a hunger, a thirst, and a love for the truth.

As you prayerfully consider this topic, I want you to know that we are here to help answer any questions you might have. If you have questions, please get in touch with us at <https://freechristianbooks.us>.

The Catholic Church’s Official Word on the Sabbath

Question: Which day is the Sabbath day? Answer: Saturday is the Sabbath.

Question: Why do we observe Sunday instead of Saturday?

Answer: We observe Sunday instead of Saturday because the Catholic Church transferred the solemnity from Saturday to Sunday. (Peter Geiermann, *The Convert’s Catechism of Catholic Doctrine*, Rockford, IL; Tan Books and Publishers, 1977; p. 50.)

The word “Sabbath” means rest, and is Saturday, the seventh day of the week. Why, then, do Christians observe Sunday instead of the day mentioned in the Bible?...the infant Church changed the day to be kept holy from Saturday to Sunday....it rests upon the authority of the Catholic Church and not upon an explicit text in the Bible. (John A. O’Brien, *The Faith of Millions*, p. 543, 544. W. H. Allen, London, 1958. Preface by Cardinal Griffin.)

Sunday keeping “not only has no foundation in the Bible, but is in flagrant contradiction with its letter, which commands rest on the Sabbath, which is Saturday. It was the Catholic Church that...has transferred this rest to the Sunday in remembrance of the resurrection of our Lord. Thus, the observance of Sunday by Protestants is an homage they pay, despite themselves, to the authority of the Church.” (Monsignor Segur, *Plain Talk About the Protestantism of Today*, p. 213. Thomas B. Noonan & Co., Boston, 1868.)

Practically everything that Protestants regard as essential or important, they have received from the Catholic Church. They accepted Sunday rather than Saturday as the day for public worship after the Catholic Church made that change. (article, Since They Take Everything Else, Why Not The Pope?, Our Sunday Visitor, The Popular National Catholic Action Weekly, Vol. XXXVIII, Huntington, Indiana, Feb. 5, 1950. Religious Section, pp. 1 and 9)

Has time been lost?

Since the time of Christ, there has only been one major calendar change: the switch from the Julian to the Gregorian calendar in 1582. The Julian calendar had too many leap years, which caused the seasons to get out of sync. To fix this, ten dates were dropped from the calendar in October 1582. Even though these dates were skipped, the order of the days of the week stayed the same. Friday was still followed by Saturday.