



Sabbath or Sunday?

The Sabbath Week

1st Day of the Sabbath Week	2nd Day of the Sabbath Week	3rd Day of the Sabbath Week	4th Day of the Sabbath Week	5th Day of the Sabbath Week	6th Day of the Sabbath Week	7th Day, Sabbath! Rest!
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The Purpose & Destiny of the Labor
Enjoying the Fruit of the Week!
Focus on Thanksgiving to God
Ceasing from Our Works
Set Apart Time Drawing Near to Yah
Special Rest in Him
Time of Restoration

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Part 2: The Beginning Steps in Our Journey

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(Total of 15 Pages)

Eric J. Ellis

Editorial Review by Mary Elizabeth Ellis

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Part 1: Our Personal Walk

I began to hear the Word long ago, when I was in the “church system.” As I listened, I started to question some contradictions. I would go to the religious leaders for answers. This helped me to learn, but looking back, I see that it was sometimes “the blind leading the blind,” especially regarding the Sabbath rest-day change from Saturday to Sunday.

I was shown certain verses which implied the change. I understood the reasoning that since it seemed that Yahshua/Jesus¹ was raised from the dead on the 1st-day of the week we now celebrated that day. This seemed to be confirmed by scripture that appeared to indicate that Paul/new converts met on the 1st-day of the week. Furthermore, it was backed up by Yahshua/Jesus saying that He was "Lord of the Sabbath"; which suggested that He could change the time of rest/worship to another day if He so desired. And next, there were verses that appeared to say that we no longer were to keep any special days at all! (Sabbath too?) Finally, (and most convincing to me), our Sabbath rest should be found in Him, not in any day. So I concluded that after all, it must be so, since most Christians met on Sundays. They couldn't all be wrong, could they?

But a few things still nagged at me:

- To keep the Sabbath Day for ALL generations was repeated throughout the Word.
- Keeping the Sabbath is one of the 10-commandments. Are others also subject to change?
- Shouldn't there be a direct scripture teaching stating that keeping the Sabbath changed?
- And some did meet on Saturday. Why? Did they see something that I was missing?²
- The Creator wanted man (His special creation), to rest 1-day in seven.³

In the end, I just calmed down and accepted that since Yahshua/Jesus was now our Sabbath, our rest is in Yahshua/Jesus, every day. There is a great truth here for sure. I was content with that, at least until Mary Elizabeth stumbled across some books that said there was more to the picture. These books, while asserting Yahshua/Jesus as our Sabbath, also pointed out that Paul & the new believers observed the Sabbath. They explained how several of the verses that indicated otherwise were misleading/mistranslations.

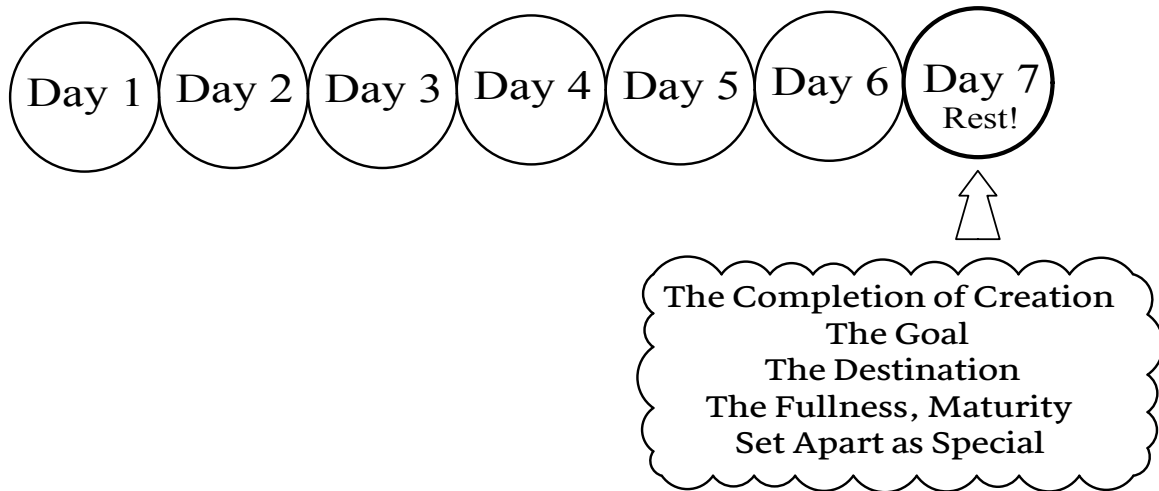
Her mind was set that we were missing truth. While I had no emotional attachment to keeping one day or another or none, the time had come for me to search out the matter.

1. "Yahshua," "Yehshua," or "Y'shua" are all correct transliterations of the sound of His Hebrew name. Some readers are unfamiliar apart from the Greek translation of “Jesus,” so for now I use both.
2. I was herded away from them with stern warnings that they were a cult, legalistic, or deceived.
3. That's because He loves man, and wants him to not be robbed of the fullness of life in the land of the living. I likened this to a car manufacturer telling us how frequently to change the oil in order to get the maximum life out of the car. So why would that become irrelevant? I saw that the change to Sunday didn't stop church-goers from doing their own things for the remainder of the day, (not ceasing/resting).

Part 2: The Beginning Steps in Our Journey

I had kicked the can down the road for years by then, postponing a serious study into the topic. But now it was a priority. Seek and you will find! Join us as we share what we discovered. We began the journey in the Word by viewing the first big picture of the Sabbath, which begins this pattern right at creation in **Genesis 2:2-3**:

The Sabbath Pattern of the Creation "Week"



This Creation Week is the model used to demonstrate the importance for us to cease from our works, to pause before our Creator. Keeping the 7th-Day is a weekly reminder that our rest (physical, mental, emotional, & spiritual), are all dependent upon obedience & submission to entering into our rest in Him & His ways. Keeping the 7th-Day points out whether or not we truly can cease from our own works, (or are we acting as our own gods?)

The Creation Week became the universal pattern for the week time-period. ⁴ This Sabbath Week pattern was formerly required for the new nation of Israelites as soon as they were born, (**Exodus 16**); however, the "Creation Week" had been the pattern for the Sabbath Week, continuous & known since Adam. ⁵ Keeping the Sabbath Week is the framework for remembering & communing with our Creator, ...a time for ceasing from our works, resting in fellowship with Yah. ⁶ It is the day that signifies the completion of the vision & work.

4. Each recurring pattern has a particular emphasis. When the same pattern repeats, each lends insights into the others. Together, they help us to better understand the basic concepts...the big picture.

5. Historians, Astronomers, & Hebrew sources all agree that our present day week has been continuous since the Creation Week itself. The days of the week have remained the same over the millennia. The Sabbath Day of the week today lands on the true 7th Creation Day. The Book of Enoch shows the Sabbath-Week was observed then, before Noah. The Book of Yasher/Jasher shows that Abraham too walked in the Sabbath-Week pattern. And of course the Book of Jubilees details the Sabbath pattern.

6. "Yah" is the poetic "nickname" used for God (Yahovah), 50 times in the Word, but only transliterated nearly-correctly in Psalm 68:4 in the King James Version. In translations that break from religious tradition, it is correctly transliterated all 50-times. "God" is generic for any god, whereas "Yah" is specific to Yahovah. (We do realize however, that "God" is specific of "Yahovah" where the context would so indicate.)

Part 3: The Mistranslation That Hid the Key!

The Creation Week Sabbath is very revealing, but what I really wanted to find was a scripture (written after the apostles were baptized in His Spirit), that clearly stated either that the Sabbath Day observance shifted to the 1st-day of the week (Sunday), or that it did not, or that the 7th-day of the week (Sabbath Day), no longer had to be kept, and neither did the 1st-day of the week, (Sunday).

Well, we struck gold when we discovered the very key verse that unlocks all, but the truth was ironically hidden by this commonly used, but very misleading translation!

*"9. There remains therefore a REST for the people of God."
Hebrews 4:9 The New King James Version*

When translated properly,⁷ We found Hebrews 4:9 to be a clear exhortation to keep the Sabbath Day as a set-apart time. So let's take a look at some other translations that more accurately express the meaning of the Greek words that the verse was translated from, (not to mention being in sync with the context and culture in which it was written).

*"9. It is therefore the duty of the people of God to KEEP THE SABBATH."⁸
Hebrews 4:9 The Lamsa Translation*

*"9. So there remains a SABBATH-KEEPING for the people of Elohim."⁹
Hebrews 4:9 The Scriptures*

*"9. Therefore remains a KEEPING OF A SABBATH for the people of God."
Hebrews 4:9 The Emphatic Diaglott*

*"9. Consequently, a KEEPING OF A SABBATH (a state of rest)
is being left remaining for (or to, in, with) God's people."
Hebrews 4:9 The New Testament by Jonathan Mitchell*

*"9. So there remains a SHABBAT-KEEPING¹⁰ for God's people."
Hebrews 4:9 The Complete Jewish Study Bible*

"Sabbath-keeping" means keeping the Sabbath Day, the 7th-Day! **Paul¹¹ is saying that it is important for us to still keep the Sabbath Day!**

7. There is a Greek word that means "rest," but it's NOT the one used here!

8. All caps are mine for emphasis. "A keeping of sabbath" is also in "The New Testament by Henry Alford."

9. "Elohim" is Hebrew for "God of gods." It isn't God's name, but is used as one of many titles for "Yah."

10. "Shabbat" is a correct transliteration of the sound of the Hebrew word that we miscall as "Sabbath."

11. It is well established from the Eastern Aramaic & Armenian sources that Paul authored Hebrews.

So why does the King James Version mistranslate this as "...a REST..." (as do all other English translations that have some translation sources rooted in the Latin Vulgate)? No surprise, because the bosses who hired Jerome to make this translation were the Pope & Constantine, who worked together to eliminate all who did not adhere to their church system ¹² along with its Latin Vulgate translation. But is "REST" a valid way to translate the Greek? *No!*

The footnote in The Aramaic English New Testament lays out the explanation for the KJV/NKJV mistranslation by having an extensive explanation to **Hebrews 4:9**: of which this is an excerpt, "...neither Aramaic nor Greek has 'Shabbat rest'; the word 'rest' was added by replacement theologians in a bid to twist the 7th-Day Shabbat into a futuristic fulfillment."

Paul's declaring that we must still keep the Sabbath Day was a teaching that was not necessary to explain to the Messianic believers who were brought up in the ways of the Torah. So why does he stress that we are to still keep the Sabbath? It's because so many Gentiles without any background or experience in the Word were becoming believers.

This is why in **Acts 21:17-22** that James & the other elders in Jerusalem were concerned about the false rumors that Paul was no longer keeping the Torah, and teaching others to no longer keep it as well. The second half of verse 22 cleared up the matter:

*"22...Then everyone will know that there is nothing to these rumors
which they have heard about you;
but that, on the contrary, you yourself stay in line and keep the Torah."
Acts 22:22 The Complete Jewish Study Bible*

As we've taught before, they had the new Gentile converts start off with four basic rules that began their separation from paganism. From there, it was known of course that these new believers would join the other believers on the weekly gatherings of the Sabbath. At these meetings they would hear all of the Torah read during the course of a year, which included the importance of keeping this day. ¹³

12. The Emperor Constantine & the Pope were a powerful unholy union of the pagan political-military system with the religious system. They used their combined might & influence to eradicate truth, replacing it with their mutual goal to gain further control & wealth. This is why the Catholic Church has been seen as "the great whore" of Revelation. She chose to be unfaithful to God in exchange for her own selfish gratification.

13. This is the reading/teaching pattern established by Moses, fine-tuned by Ezra, and still carried on today. Each Sabbath's portion of the Torah is called "the Parashah reading." "Parashah" is Hebrew for "portion." To this day, Messianic believers from both Jewish & Gentile backgrounds still follow this schedule. Consistently hearing/reading the Word is even today a vital part in our growth.

Part 4: The First "Bump in the Road" ¹⁴
(...about meeting on the 1st-day of the week)

Let's call the few contrasting verses that imply the Sabbath changed to Sunday as "bumps in the road." We do this because they are at odds with the vast number of verses that say we are to observe the Sabbath Day (& as we saw that Paul emphasized in the corrected translation of **Hebrews 4:9**). So here's our 1st "bump" as we seek to iron out the wrinkles.

*"7. Now on the first day of the week, ¹⁵ when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul, ready to depart the next day, spoke to them and continued his message until midnight."
Acts 20:7 The New King James Version*

In our Western culture we tend to think of coming together to break bread as a Sunday morning communion service. And it does say they gathered together on the 1st-day of the week, (which corresponds mostly to Sunday on our Gregorian calendar). ¹⁶ So we tend to think that keeping the Sabbath changed from Saturday to Sunday. But not so with the Biblical day and in the Hebrew culture in which it was written, still true among Messianics today. This verse is *NOT* Sunday morning! The New English Bible actually translates **Acts 20:7** as "*on the Saturday night*."

"To break bread" meant (to the early Messianic believers), to fellowship while sharing a meal. This verse is really talking about a fellowship Saturday-night supper. The Sabbath Day is the Biblical day, which begins at sunset Friday and goes until sunset Saturday. The Sabbath is such a joy that typically the believers would extend their time together into Saturday night, which is the beginning of the 1st-day of the week. Big meal projects were not to be done on the Sabbath since it took away from resting, so about an hour after the Sabbath Day ended, they prepped the big meal while continuing the teaching, worship, and fellowship. This is so typical to do, that it even has a special name, "the Havdalah." ¹⁷ We too have come to cherish this time.

14. These "bumps" are presented as I was led, not chronologically or in any order of importance.

15. The underlines are mine, to draw attention that it was the conclusion of the Sabbath at sunset, as they entered into the first day of the week, (and actually Sunday on our calendar had not yet begun, which is explained in the next footnote.) At this Saturday evening time the believers could share a big hot meal and deal with money matters, like offerings, neither of which were to be done on the Sabbath.

16. We keep in mind that the Gregorian calendar days go from midnight to midnight, but the Biblical days go from sunset to sunset. This means there is not an exact correlation between Saturday & Sabbath. They are off by about 6-hours, meaning only a 75% correlation. This throws a huge monkey-wrench into understanding scriptures, especially the Sabbath, & what happened when, (like in **Acts 20:7** above, and events such as the resurrection, prophecy, etc.).

17. "The Complete Jewish Study Bible" has a great insightful footnote (plus an insert about the Havdalah), as does the "Aramaic English New Testament." & Michael Rood's "The Chronological Gospels."

On top of this, Paul spoke so late because he was going to leave Sunday morning. Extensive travel was (& still is), to be avoided on the Sabbath, so it was often done on Sundays. This also gave as much time as possible to reach their next destination before the following Sabbath.

There is also another verse along the same theme of meeting on the 1st-day of the week. So, we'll examine that one too. *ALL* verses must harmonize to reveal the greatest truth. Before we go there however, a grasp of this diagram will help prepare us.

The Sabbath Week

1st Day of the Sabbath Week	2nd Day of the Sabbath Week	3rd Day of the Sabbath Week	4th Day of the Sabbath Week	5th Day of the Sabbath Week	6th Day of the Sabbath Week	7th Day, Sabbath! Rest!
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**The Purpose & Destiny of the Labor
 Enjoying the Fruit of the Week!
 Focus on Thanksgiving to God
 Ceasing from Our Works
 Set Apart Time Drawing Near to Yah
 Special Rest in Him
 Time of Restoration**

The days of the week leading up to the Sabbath were not to be given names, but instead to be numbered. This numbering of the days is a constant reminder of how much time is left to wrap up our weekly projects & prepare for the Sabbath Day. This 7th-day is the only day given a name, part of what sets it apart from all of the others. It is "The Sabbath Day." ¹⁸

Now, we go to the other verse on the same theme, (by Paul to the assembly in Corinth):

*"2. On the first day of the week let each one of you lay something aside,
 ... that there be no collections when I come."
 1 Corinthians 16:2 The New King James Version*

18. This is Strong's 7676 in Hebrew. It means "cessation," "interruption," "intermission," "sit still," & "rest." This Hebrew word is always translated as Sabbath, but we note that it was never capitalized in the KJV. Why not? This was done as part of the church system's deliberate attempt to de-emphasize the Sabbath Day.

This verse hints for the believers to take up the collection on Sunday (implied as their new assembly day), so that when Paul comes it will be ready to go with him, (not for him, but to give to the believers in Jerusalem, **Romans 15:25-28**). In other words, it seems to confirm that their day to gather was changed from the Sabbath Day (7th-day), to the 1st-day of the week, (tagged as "Sunday" on our Gregorian calendar). This is so easy to swallow at a surface glance from our cultural view, where we traditionally have assembled on Sundays, (& when we then take up a collection "for the church.") The true intent is the opposite. They indeed were to take up the offering on the 1st-day of the week, but it was because on the Sabbath they were not to do money business, not even for a good cause.

So let's see what Paul is saying in this verse. First of all, "on the first day of the week" is a misleading translation. If we look closely in the King James Version (and many others too), we find that the word "day" is in italics. That means it was inserted by the translators to make the sentence read smoother in English according to what they assumed was the objective of the sentence. Usually this is on target & helpful, but not here. Take it out, and we have "on the first of the week." In this amplified version we see clues to the true intent:

*"2...on one day of the week (or: on one of the sabbaths ¹⁹)
let each one of you have the habit of ...continually storing up...
so that when I may come, no collections may continue to happen at that time." ²⁰
1 Corinthians 16:2 The New Testament by Jonathan Mitchell*

This is explained in the footnotes below, plus in the footnote of this verse in "The Scriptures."

In summary, so far, we first found (in Part 3), that Paul did indeed teach that it was important to still keep the Sabbath. Now here (Part 4), we found the hidden harmony to clean up this 1st-bump of verses that at first seemed to contradict what Paul actually said in **Hebrews 4:9**. Next, we move along (Part 5), to shed light on another verse that on the surface seems to indicate that keeping the Sabbath is either irrelevant or has changed from the 7th-day of the week to the 1st-day of the week. It is our next road-block in our search for scriptural harmony on our journey to truth.

19. The parentheses are in the translation. "One of the sabbaths" refers to any one of the days of the Sabbath week that leads up to the Sabbath Day, the 7th-day. This not only carries the sense of any one of these days when our financial blessings arrive, (our particular "payday,") but also the sense of any combination of these days, meaning daily as income blessings land in our lap.

20. "At that time" is on or just before the Sabbath Day. He intends to leave early on the 1st-day of the week, but doesn't want a collection to distract from the Sabbath Day. Yet it is imperative that when he returns to Jerusalem, he is able to help those destitute individual fellow-believers financially. So, he's saying, be prepared by getting your offering together before you come & bring it with you, but we won't discuss or collect it until Saturday night after the Sabbath day ends, when the 1st-day of the week begins, while you're all still there as we transition during our Havdalah time, (the time of closing the set-apart day and the beginning of a new week).

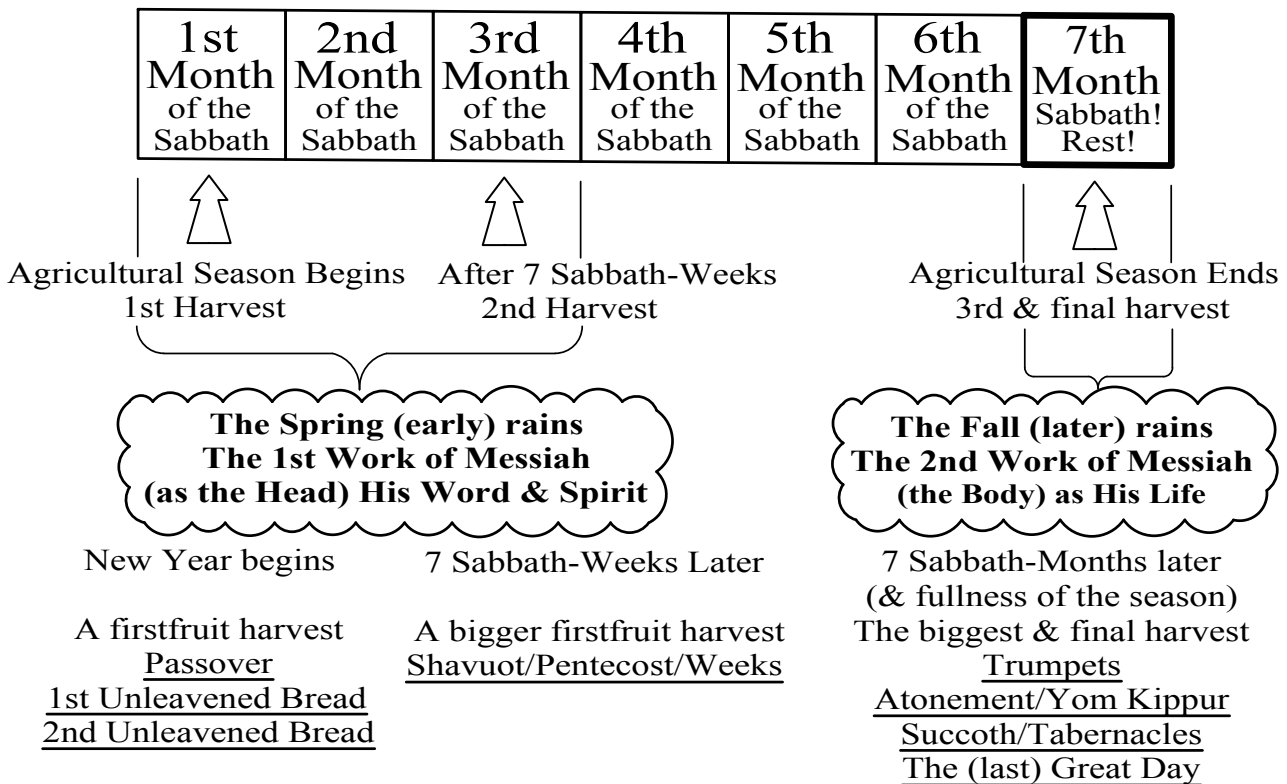
Part 5: The Second Bump (...about "Lord of the Sabbath")

How about this well-known verse?

*"5. And He said to them, 'The Son of Man is also Lord of the Sabbath.'"
Luke 6:5 The New King James Version*

This verse (and its context), has been used incorrectly to teach that as Lord of the Sabbath, Yahshua/Jesus can change the rules about it. Here's the context. He is addressing the Pharisees, who just accused Him of breaking the Sabbath. This passage points out that there are two standards for keeping Sabbath; His, "the Torah standard" vs. their "religious-traditions-of-men standard." ²¹ His life (not theirs), shows the gold-standard for how to keep the Sabbath. He is the exact image of Yahovah/God expressed in a person. The Sabbath points to Him (not to them!), as the Master example of ceasing-from-our-works & entering into the Father's rest. Yahshua/Jesus is declaring much more, but first, we'll tap into some more background:

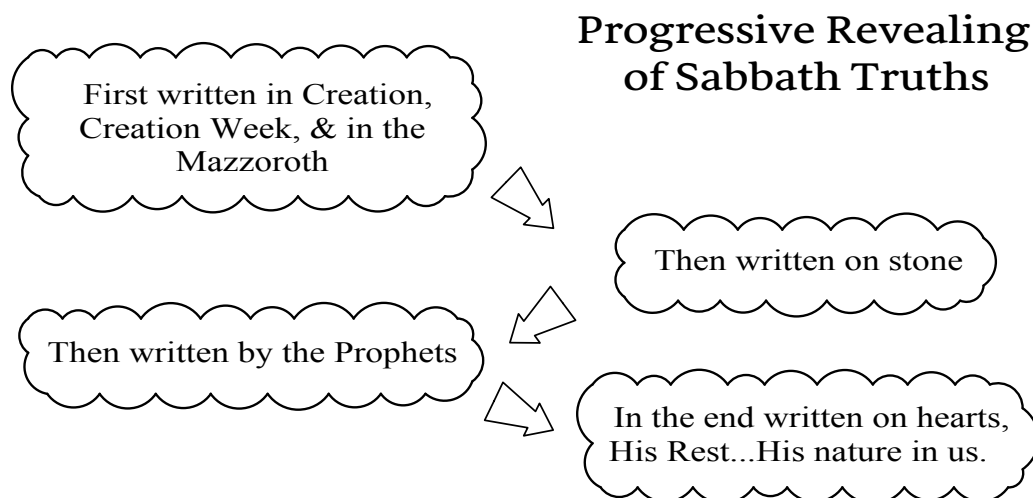
The Sabbath Pattern in Harvest Months



21. There is nothing in the Torah that forbids people picking grain to snack on when walking by it, or from forbidding the priests from giving their old shewbread to the people. Interestingly, today in Israel, people put older bread on their windowsills or fences for those who need it to help themselves. Before too long, the bread disappears. It is a Torah principle to be sensitive to the poor...to help them.

So far we have seen the Sabbath Creation Week, The regular Sabbath Week, and now the Sabbath Month patterns, each full of truth. Many Hebraic scholars believe that Yahshua was resurrected on the Sabbath, (but proving this is a rabbit trail, best left for another time.) Many can show that Yahshua/Jesus was born in the 7th-month, and is expected to return in the 7th-month, (the end of the agricultural year, the time when tares are pulled and all remaining crops are harvested). It is the month of the last 4-of-8 Set-Apart Days, (Succot/Tabernacles). And the Sabbath pattern also repeats in a Sabbath Year, a Sabbath Jubilee (a new beginning after seven Sabbath Years), and even a Sabbath Millennium, ²² when all Creation will rest in His rulership through His Body, His Bride.

Now let's backtrack to the verse in Luke of Yahshua/Jesus being the Lord (Master) of the Sabbath. ²³ In being Master of the Sabbath, Yahshua/Jesus is also proclaiming that He is Sovereign over the Sabbath, meaning that He is the King of Kings who will reign during the Millennial Sabbath Day of Rest! In other words, He is the prophesied Messiah. "Yahshua/Jesus is actually confirming the perpetual relevance of the Sabbath." ²⁴ Keeping the Sabbath Day is focusing on Him. It is the whole point of the Sabbath. We are to be still...to rest in knowing that He is Master. And we have to ask ourselves that if the Sabbath Day amounts to nothing, then is He "King of nothing"? Throughout time, the message of keeping the Sabbath Day progressively unveils God's Plan in the Messiah.



I love the way Andrew Gabriel Roth puts it: ²⁵

"Mashiyach [Messiah] was, is and forever will be the reason for Shabbat and this has been evident since Shabbat was given at the Creation of the World. Shabbat is the completion of the week where the spiritual man rests and rejuvenates his spirit, soul and body in Mashiyach [Messiah]." **Andrew Gabriel Roth**

22. This will be shown in our next diagram, (Part 6.)

23. And in Matthew 12:8 & Mark 2:27-28; often translated (equally & more precisely), as "Master."

24. As Todd Bennett puts it so well in his book, "The Sabbath," page 41.

25. Found on page 954 in his appendix explanation in the Aramaic English New Testament.

Part 6: The Third Bump (...about observing days)

This bump includes 3-scriptures which have been used incorrectly to teach us that we no longer have to keep any set-apart Bible Holy Days, (including the Sabbath Day). We'll tackle them one at a time, so here's the first passage:

*"5. One person esteems one day above another;
another esteems every day alike.
Let each be fully convinced in his own mind.
6. He 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.
He who eats, eats to the Lord, for he gives God thanks;
and he who does not eat, to the Lord he does not eat,
and gives God thanks."
Romans 14:5-6 New King James Version*

As for this passage, we first ask ourselves, "What is the context of this statement?" Well, the book of Romans is to the new believers, (mostly Gentiles from pagan backgrounds as indicated in the first few verses of the chapter). "Weak in the faith" means new converts lacking Torah training. They brought lots of baggage with them, such as astrology, & pagan traditions. Among these converts were also some with Torah backgrounds, but piggy-backed with many Jewish religious traditions.²⁶

This Chapter of Romans teaches His Love is to override differences of eating & special days observances for new Gentile believers who are "weak" (inexperienced/babies) as to what the Torah says about those things. We are exhorted to avoid being divisive, rejecting, & doctrinally-demanding on things that are not as significant, when their desire is to please Yahshua/Jesus & to grow in Him. Paul knows these believers need time to adjust to a radically new lifestyle. But, meanwhile, are we to compromise truth? No!

It's the same today. Many of us don't keep Christmas or Easter or Sundays, but we shouldn't condemn our fellow believers who celebrate those days with good intent. It's been a key part of their culture.²⁷ Those "weak in the faith" at that time however, would have joined with the saints (when they met on the Sabbath Day), in order to hear the Torah, learn, & fellowship. They'll ask loads of questions plus receive teaching.

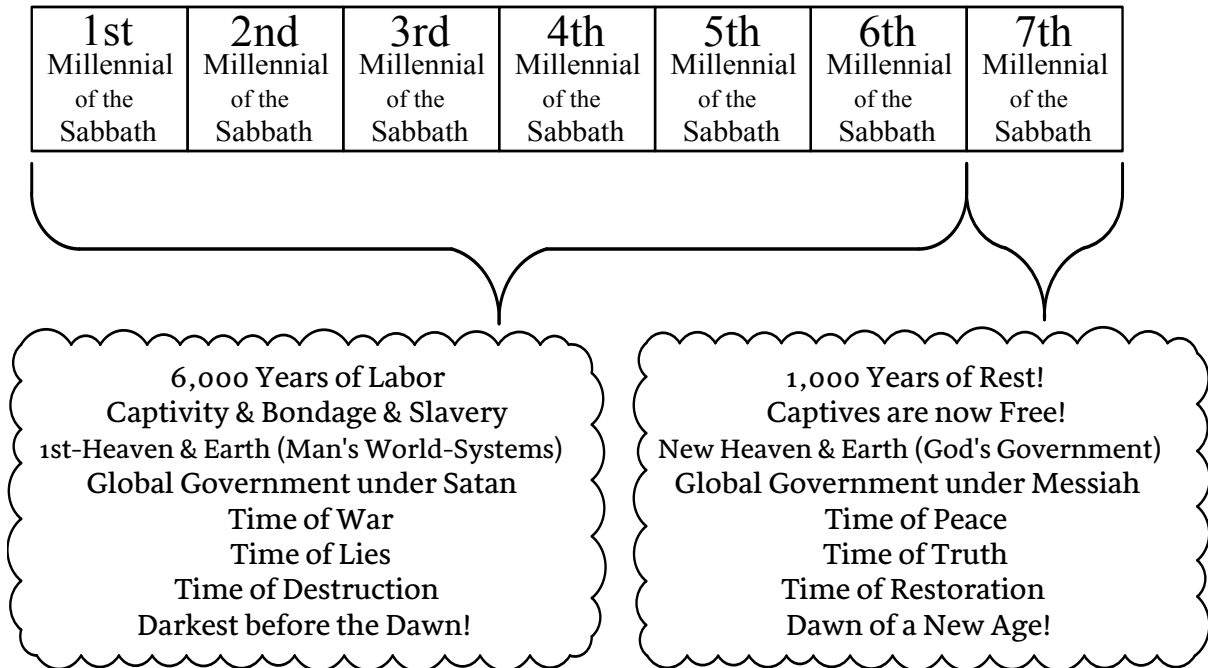
26. Many of these Jewish traditions we were not told to observe or honor by repeating, such as the fast of Esther, or honoring the 4-days set aside for Jephthah's daughter in Judges 11:39-40; they're "optional."

27. As for eating, if these new-to-the-faith are not eating according to the Scriptures, then their physical health will suffer, but the health of their souls is far more important. Also, at that time, meat was often sacrificed to idols when it was butchered, more of a consideration for some than others. This is why diet is mentioned along with keeping certain days. It's part of the context of recognizing that we have different perspectives related to our varied backgrounds; therefore we're to give space for others to mature.

Before going on to the second passage, we'll find this diagram to be helpful:

The Sabbath Pattern of the Millennial "Days"

(2Peter 3:8)



If we overlay the Creation Week with this, we get some great insights. For example, on Day-1 of the Creation Week was "Let there be Light!" And Messiah is the Light of the World. It follows that because of His atonement, we could possess His Spirit, His Mind, His Heart. We are then in Him, when He declares that we too are the Light of the World!

On Day-4 of the Creation Week, the sun, moon, & stars were created. At the end of Day-4 of the Millennial Week is when the Messiah was born in mortal flesh, (to become our Perfect Lamb!) The Sun is a type of our Messiah, the Bridegroom, (**Psalm 19:1-5**), the Light. The moon is a type of us, the Bride, a reflection of His Light. The Weekly Sabbath, the 7th-Day, is a weekly prophetic statement that His New/Renewed Covenant people will fully enter into His rest (including immortality), on the 7th-Millennial Day! Until then we dwell in Him and He in us until we are one. We are His Tabernacle, His Spiritual Temple. Yes, from the Creation Sabbath Week to the Sabbath Millennial, it is also about the marriage of the heavenly spiritual with the earthly realm. The marriage of heaven & earth, forming the New Heavens & Earth from which He-in-us will rule all Creation. Wow! And guess where we are at on the Sabbath Millennial? Yes! We've just begun to enter into fullness with our Head in the 7th Millennial Day! And the best is yet to come as wickedness gets revealed to be wiped away along with our tears...happening even now²⁸

28. I'm writing this during the 7th Day of Unleavened Bread, 2021, (the third of the eight special "set-apart days"). The First Feast of Unleavened Bread was to remember the Passover Lamb and to immediately separate from the system of bondage. The 7th-Day of Unleavened Bread was to remember when they made it to the other side of the Red Sea along with total defeat of their enemies.

Now we can look at the 2nd of 3-passages regarding the observance of days:

*"16. Let no man ²⁹ therefore judge you in meat, or in drink,
or in respect of an HOLYDAY, or of the NEW MOON or of the SABBATH days:
17. Which are a shadow of things to come:
but the body is of Christ."
Colossians 2:16-17 King James Version*

First we correct a couple of obvious errors. The 2-underlined words are italicized in the KJV, meaning they were not in the Greek, but rather added by the translators. Once we remove them, then it becomes readily apparent what is being said. And what is that? It's, "Don't let anyone other than those of the body of Christ judge you about what to eat or what days to observe." In other words, as a loose paraphrase, "Don't let anyone shake you from observing days that the Scriptures tell us to observe!" And this is because those who are outside of the Body of Messiah are not qualified, (obviously because they are neither grounded in the Torah, nor in the Messiah).

As we saw in our first scripture passage, "no man" here is referring to pagans or new believers; those who are anchored in pagan or Jewish traditions. If we read on for context, verse 18 confirms just how unqualified they were. In that verse we see that they were so off-based scripturally that they even worshiped angels.

As for the (1) holydays, (2) new moons, & (3) Sabbaths being shadows of things to come, we certainly agree! That's why God commands us to observe them! It is to remember what they represent, the substance of what they represent. We just saw what when we presented the Sabbath Creation, the Sabbath Months, and the Sabbath Millennial diagrams.

(1) Are there scriptures written after Pentecost/Shavuot that say we're still supposed to keep Bible **Holy Days**? Yes. Here's a sample: ³⁰

1. **Passover/Pesach:** Yahshua/Jesus, coming into Passover said, take this (unleavened) bread, & wine, to remember me as your atoning Passover Lamb. The bread & wine will represent Me & the New/Renewed Covenant, (where My Torah will be written on your hearts & minds, **1Corinthians 11:24-25**). His followers were to do that at Passover & whenever they met with a meal.
2. **Pentecost/Shavuot:** Kept by Paul, so demonstrated as still valid, (**Acts 20:16**).
3. **Tabernacles/Succot:** As the Gospels are focused on Passover, & Acts on Pentecost/Shavuot, so Revelation is on Tabernacles/Succot (the final harvest). Also, **Zechariah 14:16-19** tells us that Tabernacles/Succot will be kept & enforced, even through the Millennial.

29. This is referring to not letting the pagans and/or those who don't know both the Torah & the Messiah (as confirmed in verse 18), teach us, the Body of Messiah!

30. The first & last of the 3-summary Bible "Feast Times" (listed just above), are each over a period of time, so collectively the three include all 8-Holy Days, (Review Lesson No. 4 for further insight).

(2) Are we to still keep **New Moons** too (see **Isaiah 66:23**)? They mark the new beginnings of Biblical months, which mark the seasons for the Holy Days. They define the Sabbath Months. All 3-types of special days are interconnected. World-wide, we can see the beginning of the month in the sky. The new moons are brought in with a shofars/trumpets blasting, joyful noise, & feasting. The 7th-trumpet heralds the concluding month of the final ingathering-harvest. That's when the grapes make wine and the olives make oil, along with the abundance of corn (grain), & all else. These unique days (like the Sabbath Days), are all set as "rehearsals" of entering into Messiah, (as the Messianics who keep them realize).

(3) And whether or not we are to still keep the **Sabbath Day** is the focus of this Lesson.

All three, (Holy Days/"Feasts," New Moons, & Sabbaths), are wonderful shadows that we are to keep/rehearse, both to remember the significance of what they represent & what is yet to come. Let's conclude this Part with the 3rd of the 3-passages on observance of days:

*"8. Howbeit then, when ye knew not God,
ye did service unto them which by nature are no gods.
9. But now, after that ye have known God, or rather are known of God,
how turn ye again to the weak and beggarly elements,
whereunto ye desire again to be in bondage?
10. Ye observe DAYS, and MONTHS, and times, and YEARS."
Galatians 4:8-10 King James Version*

In the beginning verses of this chapter Paul is addressing Jewish converts, the ones who were taught the Torah, encouraging them that they can really grow now that they have the Spirit as well as the Word.³¹ Next, in this new paragraph, Paul is talking to those new Gentile converts who did not have a cultural background/upbringing in the Word. In the first paragraph Paul identifies who he's talking to by saying "we" in verse 3. But in this paragraph Paul does not, using "you" instead. We catch that the days that these new believers still keep do *not* mention the Holy Days, the New Moon observance, or the Sabbath. The context shows us that these days are pagan, since he's talking to those who knew false gods, & served them by keeping the days established to honor them.

What else may be going on? Some translations link these taboo days with astrology, and/or traditions of men, especially religious traditions, either pagan or Jewish traditions that are not based on Torah requirements.³² Modern day examples are Sun-Day, Christmas, & Easter, (all honored under different names dating back to Nimrod.)

31. About a month ago Miles Jones gave a research update on the Hebrew Gospels. He has found that the word "Torah" was commonly erased by later translators, being then both purposely & erroneously replaced with "law." This new find is a monumental game-changer for Bible translations & interpretations!

32. Complete Jewish Bible, Aramaic English New Testament, One New Man Bible, & The Passion.

Part 7: The Scriptural Way to Keep the Sabbath?

I love how God keeps it simple; a delight to walk in by Word & Spirit. The Sabbath was made for man, (not man for the Sabbath, **Mark 2:27**). So what do we do? We can sum it up in 2-lines:

1. Cease from our own works.
2. Rest with a focus on God.

Then **Isaiah 58:13** explains the basics of ceasing from our own works:

1. Avoid extensive traveling.
2. Don't do your own business (regular chores, cleaning, job/work, buying & selling).
3. Don't do your own pleasure (self-centered entertainment, hobbies, sports).
4. Avoid idle talk (what we plan to do, our hobbies).

That's it! The extent of each item is what each of us must hear from His Spirit, like how far is too far to travel? And what talk is idle talk? ***On the other hand, religious leaders have come up with over 2,000 things that you cannot do!*** What a joke. That's not scriptural. They present a burdensome, false, religious idea of Sabbath. Elsewhere in the word we find: "Do not kindle a fire on the Sabbath." In cultural context, that means don't get into cooking projects like baking a turkey or cake. It really falls in the category of ceasing from our own works, pleasure for some, business for others, but certainly not rest for either.

The next verse tells us that if we do these things, then we'll find great delight in our relationship with Yah, which is then followed by an incredible blessing!

So what **can** we do on Sabbath? We can meet together for fellowship, teaching & worship, sleep late, take naps, go for walks, quality family time, like a leisurely nature walk with focus on praising the Creator for His amazing creations. This is really a great time to do Bible research, reading, and writing Bible Studies. (And we can help people in an emergency.) We do all of these things. We eat special pre-prepared food. Some is warmed up, but dishes are minimal. It is a time to be refreshed, recharged, restored, & renewed physically, mentally, emotionally & especially spiritually in our relationship with Yahshua/Jesus.

The 4th Commandment is really 2-in-1; it's also a command for us to work 6-days as part of keeping the Sabbath on the 7th. For 6-days we are to be productive & fruitful. Doing this also causes us to look forward more-so to the Sabbath, think ahead & prepare. We love to begin Sabbath with lighting a menorah (lampstand that holds 7 candles), then the most-special meal of the week, with worship music, decorations, prayers of thanksgiving & a personal blessing over each other. We follow this up by reading the Parashah portion of the Torah in the comfort of the living room. The phone is typically shut off at this time. And we absolutely **LOVE** the Sabbath! Keeping Sabbath has brought abundant blessings into our lives in many ways, in both the natural & spiritual, (too many to share here).

His Spirit has networked us with other Sabbath-keeping believers. (Many of whom also keep the Bible Holy Days). We have lots of rest, and fun too, all centered on our Bridegroom. It wasn't easy at first to "buck the system," but a great joy to find that we're not only not alone, plus the trend to keep Sabbath is catching on as His Light intensifies.

We close this Lesson with a snapshot of the rest of our initial journey in this direction. We had first done the research (summarized in this Lesson), which convinced us that it indeed is very scriptural to keep Sabbath. We then saw that we had been taken for a ride down the wrong road for most of our lives. We don't blame the well-meaning religious leaders. It was our own fault. We were not hungry enough for truth to do the research.

Our search gathered speed when we discovered wonderful friends who kept Saturday (the 7th-day of the week), as the Sabbath. I already knew that they were "strong into the Israel/Jewish thing." So I cautiously asked them about the Sabbath. They replied, "We keep the true Sabbath, because it's Biblical to do so. It is such a special blessing, so we always eagerly look forward to it." So I had a bundle of questions. They surprised me with good answers, & pointed us to great resources, letting us borrow many of them.

We began by reading Todd Bennett's book, "The Sabbath." I discovered a wealth of very well-documented eye-openers! At the same time we splurged to get a few more Bible translations, (mostly ones that several friends had suggested). I reference these translations frequently in our writings. What a blessing today to have current translations that capture the context of the Word in the Hebrew language & culture in which it was written, AND that use recently-discovered (& more reliable), ancient Hebrew scrolls of the Scriptures. Our conclusion was that we were to keep the Sabbath Day. So we began.

Wow! Were our friends ever overjoyed when we returned some time later to announce that we too had shifted to keeping the Sabbath Day! Wally said, "Your lives will be transformed." I tucked that away, and he certainly was right. Also, I renewed my learning of the Hebrew language, so I could read directly from the most ancient Hebrew copies of the Word that the English translators used.

May this Lesson open the avalanche of truth to you as it did to us! (And if we missed some verses/views that you wished we had touched on, ***please let us know.***)

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