

# THE SABBATH SENTINEL

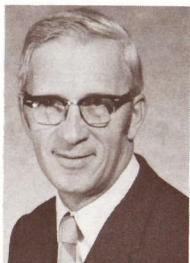
SEPTEMBER, 1980

"Go, set a watchman,  
Let him declare what he seeth."  
ISAIAH 21:6



## A Note From the Editor

# We're Glad We Were Mistaken



We really blew it last month when we stated in our editorial that *Harper's* magazine would suspend publication with the August issue. Too late to change it we learned that billionaire J. Roderick McArthur has rescued the magazine from its economic distress.

Sometimes it's good to be mistaken, and this is one of them. *Harper's* has been part of America's literary heritage, and we hope it will continue to be so for many years to come.

But this will teach us a lesson about announcing a death before it has taken place. And when we hear someone say that the Ten

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Commandments are "dead," we'll think of our experience with *Harper's*.

## THE SABBATH SENTINEL

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The object of this non-sectarian, nondenominational association is to bring together into one strong organization all believers in the Biblical seventh-day Sabbath (Saturday) regardless of sect, creed, or denomination, for the sole purpose of spreading knowledge of, belief in, and observance of the Creator's Holy Day. The only qualification is belief in the seventh-day Sabbath.

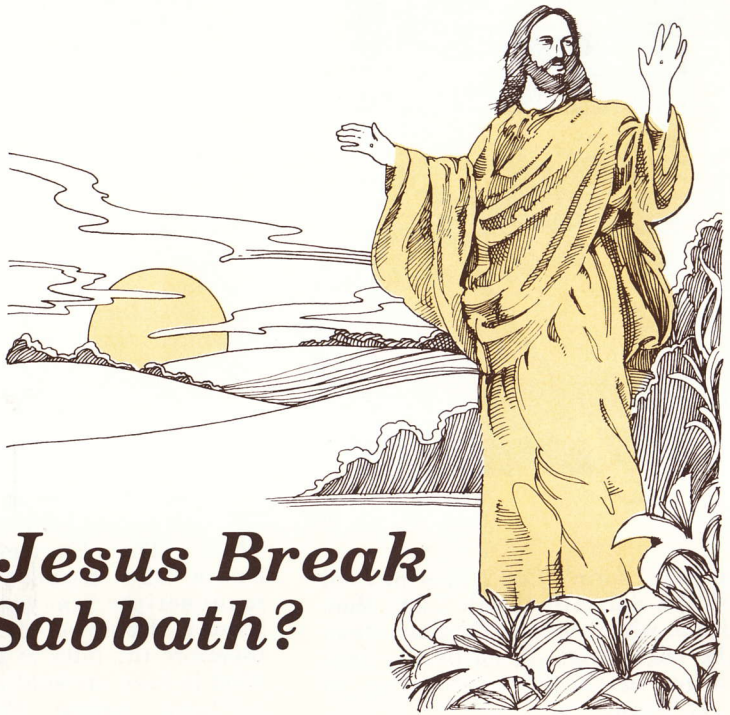
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## *Did Jesus Break the Sabbath?*

**T**HIS is an important question, for if Jesus broke the Sabbath; what does God expect of you and me?

God said to His people, "Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is a sabbath of the LORD your God" (Exodus 20:8-10)<sup>1</sup>. Jesus stated in John 15:10, "I have kept My Father's commandments, and abide in His love." From Luke 23:56 we learn that Sabbath resting is still

God's commandment, for Luke said concerning the women followers of Jesus, "And on the Sabbath they rested according to the commandment." The date that Luke wrote the

Gospel of Luke is unknown, but is generally thought to have been after A.D. 60. This means that as far as Luke has recorded New Testament

history, he does not record any change in God's commandment in reference to Sabbath keeping.

There is no question but that Jesus was accused by some of being a sinner, of being a Sabbath breaker, of being insane, of being demon possessed, and many other negative things. Of course, accusations alone do not prove the truth of these accusations. It is a fact that some Pharisees made such accusations (John 9:16; John 10:20), but are they true?

Some of the Jews were so convinced that Jesus was a Sabbath breaker that they wanted to kill Him (John 5:18). Even if the whole world accused Jesus of breaking the Sabbath, this really means nothing. If you believe that Jesus ("For in Him all the fulness of deity dwells



in bodily form" [Col. 2:9]) is the Lord of the Sabbath (Mark 2:28), then Jesus, who instituted the Sabbath in the beginning, should be the final judge on matters pertaining to God's law.

Jesus said to the Jews who sought to kill Him because he had healed a man on the Sabbath, "Do not judge according to appearance, but judge with righteous judgment" (John 7:24). Also Jesus claimed to have all the powers of judgment; that God as the Father of us all had delegated all authority to Jesus (John 5:22-29).

We learn from John 5:30 that the judgment of Jesus is just. Now, if Jesus is the Lord (institutor) of the Sabbath and the Supreme Judge on Sabbath keeping, and is obedient to His Father's commandments, as stated in the Gospel of John, do you believe the Words of Jesus, or do you believe the accusations of the Jews as reported by John? Choose whether you are going to believe the accusations of those who wanted to kill Jesus or the very words of Jesus.

You will note that the only defense Jesus presented to His accusers was concerning judgment. Jesus pointed out that the judgment of the Pharisees was superficial, based only on outward appearances. Jesus instructed the Pharisees to judge with righteous judgment (John 7:24).

Note also that at no time did Jesus use for a defense on the question of Sabbath-observance the possibility that God's law on Sabbath observance had been annulled. There is no evidence from the Scriptures that God has annulled the commandment to "remember the Sabbath day."

In fact, Hebrews 4:9 as expressed in the original Greek and translated in a more precise version reads;

"Hence there is left over a Sabbath-keeping for the people of God" (The Emphasized Bible) From the ancient Eastern manuscripts as translated by Lamsa, Hebrews 4:9 reads, "It is therefore the duty of the people of God to keep the sabbath."<sup>2</sup>

Let's review. Breaking the Sabbath was a sin that merited the death-penalty, (see Exodus 31:14, 15; Numbers 15:32-36). There is no record that God ever annulled the commandment on Sabbath keeping. Jesus was sinless (see John 8:46; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Hebrews 4:15; 1 Peter 2:22). The only scriptural conclusion must be: Jesus kept the Sabbath, and He is innocent of the charges by the Pharisees and/or anyone that "He broke the Sabbath."

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<sup>1</sup>All Bible quotations are from the New American Standard Bible. Copyright © 1960, 1962, 1963, 1968, 1971, 1972 by the Lockman Foundation.

<sup>2</sup>From the New Testament according to the Eastern Text. Translated by George M. Lamsa. Copyright © 1940, 1968, by A. J. Holman Company.

## GOD'S DAY

*Yes, I enjoy the Sabbath,  
The day God chose to be  
A special day of all the week,  
Especially for me.*

*He might have chosen Sunday  
To be the special one,  
But nowhere does my Bible state  
That this is what was done;*

*Nor does it mention Monday,  
Nor others of the week,  
As being set aside for rest—  
One day He made unique.*

*One day when in His wisdom  
He chose to bless mankind,  
And gave to us the very best  
That He could ever find.*

*One day when I can turn aside  
From all that's commonplace,  
And know that by so doing,  
I'm walking in His grace.*

*Not worshiping the Sabbath,  
But Him who asked that I  
Through love for my Creator,  
Might willingly comply.*

*Yes, often in the Scriptures  
I read of "Sabbath's rest";  
Of "resting on the seventh day"  
"The day which God hath blest."*

*Oh yes, I love the Sabbath,  
And also pray that you  
Might come to hold it ever dear,  
As God would have you do!*

—Owen H. Probasco

## Credit Where Credit Is Due

The article "The Perfect Law of Liberty" published without a byline in the February issue was by the late Clifford A. Beebe. "The Sabbath of History" in the July issue was by Kristian Kristiansen.

We are sorry that these bylines were omitted.

## Ruby Babcock, Charter BSA Member, Dies

Mrs. Ruby Coon Babcock, one of the last surviving charter members of the Bible Sabbath Association, died at Daytona Beach, Fla., on July 22, 1980, at the age of 93.

Born in Walworth, Wis., to Sabbath-keeping parents, she was baptized at the age of 11 and joined the Walworth Seventh Day Baptist Church. She remained a faithful, willing christian the rest of her life.

In the late 1940s, she and her husband, Emile, moved from their home in Battle Creek, Mich., to work for George Main in his Spring Lake farm, near Pomona Park, Fla. There the idea of an association to draw together all Sabbath keepers had its beginning. Ruby and Emile, the Mains, Miss Golda Gerat, Mrs. Almira Butler, M. J. Flanery, and Clifford A. Beebe were among the charter members of the new Bible Sabbath Association.

Mrs. Babcock was member of the Seventh Day Baptist Sabbath School Board and a deaconess at the Daytona Beach SDB Church. For several years she conducted the letter column in THE SABBATH SENTINEL, and before that she was editor of a BSA newsletter. A picture of Mrs. Babcock being pushed in a wheelchair into church was published in the June issue of this magazine.

In his meditation at the graveside service, Rev. Kenneth Van Horn, her pastor, said, "At the grand age of 93, in her passing she leaves few who are her senior. But she leaves a host who are the recipients of her gracious, sweet, loving spirit in the Lord Jesus Christ. We who remain will always remember her lovely smile as she met us in any and all circumstances."

—Submitted by

Mrs. Clara L. Beebe

# Dunkerhook Road

WILLIAM H. VIS

RETURNING to the home office at the end of the day, I would often drive down Dunkerhook Road. An obscure, twisting, half-mile shortcut that crossed a meandering brook in a quiet glen. It offered in its setting a momentary respite from the cares of the day. Then it happened! The morning newspaper carried a single, bold headline that would forever shatter the stillness of the narrow valley road; murder!

The ravished body of a teenage girl had been found in a clump of underbrush on Dunkerhook Road. The small suburban neighborhood was shocked by the brutality of the crime. Responsive sympathy, sorrow and emotional hysteria were soon overshadowed by moral confusion that seemed to rise in a miasmatic cloud of reasoning from the depths of the glen. Quickened by the sadistic nature of the offense, police soon uncovered the chain of events that led to the tragedy.

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William Vis is a member of the North Jersey Seventh-day Baptist Church.

—Adapted from *The Sabbath Recorder*.

Vibrant and happy, the now lifeless girl had regularly attended a local gospel church. In police custody, as a suspect, was a young man, also a member of the local church. Together they were returning home from an evening youth meeting when she resisted amorous overtures. Now in a police morgue, mutilated and violated, she represented a macabre result of moral integrity.

Often in similar situations chagrin is expressed, sometimes anger, jealousy, alcohol, insanity, and a varietal selection of excuses are offered as reasons for the horror. This time it was different. There was no denial, no anger, no jealousy or temporary insanity, and above all no apparent remorse. Authorities were confounded during interrogations by the placidness of the suspect. Made aware of the seriousness of his act, the young man stated he had "accepted Jesus as his Savior" and inferred he was not emotionally belabored by possible future consequences of his deed. Having "given his heart to the Lord," he zealously proclaimed the promise of eternal life in John 3:16.



Quizzically I pondered the innermost stirrings of my mind: Is it possible that some can theologize a rationale of indulgent sin by the sacrifice of the lamb of God?

Evangelists with poetic rhetoric often hypnotize many into an emotional commitment to Jesus Christ that is void of apostolic logic. Many gospel speakers proclaim a message of salvation never seeming to present a preface or developing a postlude to John 3:16, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

Rooted in the infinity of God is a message of eternal life. The written message initiates at Genesis 1:1: "In the beginning God created. . . ." it is finalized in a benediction of eternal loving kindness in Revelation 22:21, "The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all." Implicit in the Biblical record of God's relationship to man is the experience of disobedience; it is a cacophony of sin. Common today is the postulation that sin is spiritual separation from God but alienation from God is the *result* of sin and

unless a reconciliation is effected it leads to eternal death. John 2:4 says, "Sin is the transgression of the law." Romans 6:23, "the wages of sin is death."

#### The Lord Changes Not

There is a permanence about the will of God that cannot be expunged by theological spiritualization. Malachi succinctly puts it, "I am the Lord, I change not" (Malachi 3:6). Religious philosophy uses terms such as *omnipotent*, *omnipresent*, and *omniscient* to describe God. Revelation 1:8, 11; 21:6; 22:13 metaphorically state, "I am Alpha and Omega," the beginning and the end, the "I Am."

We must all decide for ourselves the meaning of the awesome manifestation at Mount Sinai of the ruler of the universe as he carved his will for man on tablets of stone.

In his Sermon on the Mount Jesus reiterated the perennial agelessness of the Sinai declarations. Matthew 5:17 states, "Think not that I am come to destroy the law," Rather, the Son of God extrapolated to His listeners and posterity the full intent of the will of God. A formidable prognosis is

made of any misinterpretation. "Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven" (Matthew 7:21).

Moses in a passion of anger "cast the tablets out of his hands, and brake them beneath the mount" (Exodus 32:19). God restored them (Exodus 34:1). For some today the twentieth chapter of the book of Exodus was nullified at the cross. The sacrificial blood of Calvary is used in an attempt to wash away the stone carvings of God. It is a lesson in futility, for the etchings were made by the hands of eternal love (Exodus 31:8, 32:16; Deuteronomy 5:22). The first epistle of John, which postdates the crucifixion, makes it clear that embraced by the love of God is His will for man. Perhaps the most scathing observation against negligent obedience is found in 1 John 2:4: "He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him."

When mortal man comes face to face with the Father through Jesus Christ; he experiences an awareness and abhorrence of sin: imbued by the Holy Spirit. He then walks in newness of life, not without shortcomings, for the Hebrew scholar Paul in seemingly paradoxical frustration comments in Romans 7:14-15, "I am carnal. . . For that which I do, I allow not; for what I would, that do I not; but what I hate, that do I."

Sin alienated man from the great "I Am." In love Jesus was sent to reconcile humanity to the Creator. "God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation" (2 Corinthians 5:19).

If this text did not impact itself upon you, then read it again and again. The life of Christ is offered to

all who would be reconciled to the Father. "In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world that we might live through him" (1 John 4:9). "For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive" (1 Corinthians 15:22). Oh the wonder of it all. Can we grasp the full meaning? I fear not, for "eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him" (1 Corinthians 2:9).

The victim of Dunkerhook Road, faithful to her love for God, apparently died in the hope of eternal life, and while it is not for us to make the blood of Christ of no effect by condemnation of the young man who aborted a human life, the accused leads us to ask: Was antinomian theology in part responsible for a concept of sin without condemnation? What spiritual counsel permits one to live as though Golgotha is an indulgence for sin?

Fellow Christians, the oracles of God stand as a measuring rod of man's love for his Creator and his fellowman. "By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God, and keep his commandments. . . and his commandments are not grievous" (1 John 5:2-3). As sons of God (1 John 3:1) let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: "Fear God and keep his commandments for this is the whole duty of man" (Ecclesiastes 12:3).

There appears to be a rule of rightness, and a love that made provisions for carnal weaknesses. "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9).

May love for God reign in our lives and "the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen" (Revelation 22:21).



## Is There a Commandment-Keeper In The House?



Some years ago Robert Freeman, pastor of Kansas City's Seventh-day Adventist Church, warned his congregation: "Don't say that a person who has been told the message of the Sabbath is rebellious if he does not turn to it. If later on he realizes the light and refuses it, only then the frown of God does rest upon him."

Please consider a make-believe Sabbath problem, one which really could happen: Two men are shipwrecked onto an island. Both have become confused. The Sabbatarian rests and worships on actual Sunday, thinking it is the seventh-day Sabbath. The Sunday-minded Christian rests and worships on actual Sabbath, thinking it is Sunday. Which one is right before God? Which one is breaking the Fourth Commandment? Does this illustration sound silly? I hope not. Please love those who don't yet see it your way. To quote Paul Osborn, "There is no way to honor the Sabbath while ignoring the love commandment."

My choice, my goal, is to be a commandment-keeper, although I don't perform consistently. Only by the mercy of God through His Son, our Savior (our example), do we find acceptance. Jesus was truly the commandment-keeper.

—Ira Bond  
(Seventh Day Baptist)  
Nortonville, Kansas

I have heard the expression "commandment keepers" used in reference to Sabbatarians as contrasted with Christians who hold Sunday to be the proper day of worship and rest. Are we doing well to identify ourselves in this manner?

The term intimates that our Sunday friends do not keep God's commandments. But who does, really? I fall short in every one of the Ten Commandments at times, in thought, if not in act. God is merciful, and when I confess, He forgives and renews my spirit. Praise His name!

Some Christians who go to church on Sunday are just as spiritually uplifted as those who worship on Sabbath. I definitely do not include those whose conscience says that *maybe* the seventh day Sabbath is the way of complete obedience. The difference? We worship on Sabbath to please God!



# The Choice Is Yours— But . . .

JOHN C. SPROWLES, D.D.

THERE is much talk of the freedom of choice, and that freedom is one of man's greatest gifts. We use the freedom of choice every day in one way or the other, and we could not live without that freedom.

To accept or reject divine truth is a freedom of choice, too, and is the most important decision a man has to make. God gave our first parents this choice, and it was a choice to be made without the pull of sin in the world. They failed God, themselves, and all mankind when they chose to disobey God. Sin and death entered into the world as the punishment because of their choice.

They chose wrong, but their choice no longer condemns the believer in God's sacrifice on the cross.

I have no disagreement with popular television-type crusade-type preachers: it's just that many times they tell only half the story.

How many of these presentations tell the sinner to come to God "just as he or she is?"

When God tells us to repent, He means to stop sinning in whatever we are repenting of; not just to be sorry for the sin, but to stop doing the sin.

Of course if you accept the blood of Jesus Christ, you can be saved *from* your sins—but not saved *in* them. Unless you first repent, or stop doing the sin, all the believing in and claiming of the blood of Jesus Christ will not save you.

God sets two conditions on salvation: *repent* and *believe*, in that order. Unless you meet both conditions, you are not now, and never will be saved. God says so.

The half-truth being preached today, "only believe," is a tool of deception used by the devil to mislead people into thinking they are saved when they are not. Actually, there are three conditions for salvation to be received: repentance, believing in the shed blood of Jesus Christ, and baptism. Unless all three are met, you are not saved.

God says so.

I've known mentally ill people who on the surface were very religious, but God is not looking for religious people: He is looking for men and women to be his sons in the kingdom of God. And the mentally ill need healing before they can understand the mysteries of God. But there are normal people who

cry, "Oh brother, only believe. Give your heart to Jesus." And these are the dangerous preachers, for they come with the cloak of respectability.

No one believes the cries of the insane, and rightly so; but they believe these half-truth preachers who flood the air waves daily with the deceptions of Satan.

No one can earn salvation, but some conditions must be met before one is saved in God's eyes. And half truths will not save anyone, no matter what the attendance or television rating.

The freedom of choice is the freedom to choose whom you will believe— God, or these half-truth preachers, or the devil. And you can follow God, as He leads you, or be misled by these half-truth preachers; but you can't do both. And the choice is yours.

Also, what happens after you make your choice is your fault. You can be blessed, as the child of God always is, or you can be damned, as the misled and the deceived always are.

But the devil didn't make you do it. He misled you and deceived you, but the Scriptures say that we are entrapped only when we are drawn away by our own wrong desires (lusts). So the devil didn't make you do it. He led you, but you were willing to follow, or else he would not have deceived you. Satan is the archenemy of everyone on earth, but he can force no one to follow him.

He knows your weaknesses and he plays on them, and his tools are not always what one might think them to be, for after all, his only tool is deception, and you can be just as deceived in a church as you can be in a bar.

Modern art pictures Satan with horns and a tail, but he seldom comes in that manner; he comes by deceptions only—such as lying, cheating—and he uses many churchmen and churchwomen. The

"religious" are his special targets, for his followers in the churches are Satan's underground, and there are many in his army. Most not even aware of it.

Remember, it was church leaders and Sabbathkeepers of His day who called for the crucifixion of Jesus, even accusing Him of being demon possessed.

Choice is not choice unless it is free, and someone trying to choose for you means that you have not really made any choice. God calls on us to repent, believe, and be baptized— He tells you and me to choose for ourselves, and it is only a choice we make that means anything in God's eyes. Choose life or choose death. You will make one choice or the other. Everybody does.

God created human life as well as everything else that exists, and all have a purpose. Many are not happy with their lives, but they can change them if they really want to.

No one is stopping them but themselves, and no one is to blame for the choice made but themselves. You can choose life, or you can choose death; it's up to you. But once you've made your choice, if the choice is the wrong one, don't blame God for your wrong choice.

God will accept anyone who will meet His conditions—and no one else.

The truth will set you free, but first you must know the truth, and even before that, you must want to know it. You're a free moral agent, as is everyone. You can use your freedom of choice to good or to evil. But once you've made your decision, don't blame anyone else for it, as people are apt to do.

God will save anyone, but on His terms.

Use your free will, your freedom of choice, and believe God. He never changes; what He said yesterday He says today.

Choose freedom with your freedom of choice.



# Cuban Escapes Tyranny, Lives With Fear

KEVIN LAVAL

Fear has followed Rafael Rodriguez Rodriguez to what many Cuban refugees have called the "land of freedom."

Refugees at Fort Chaffee, in Arkansas, have repeatedly expressed relief at having left oppression in Cuba for liberty in the United States. But Rodriguez, an ordained Seventh-day Adventist minister, still is bound by concern

for what effect his words and actions may have on fellow Adventists in Cuba.

Rodriguez, 40, came to the United States with his wife and two children. Educated at a Protestant seminary in Cuba, he was a Seventh-day Adventist pastor for 17 years in his native country. Rodriguez was director of a 1,509-member province when he left Cuba. He said there were about 90,200 Seventh-day Adventists who worshipped in 107 congregations before the mass exodus from Cuba began.

Religious practice is diminishing among Cuba's Christians, whom Rodriguez described as 85 percent Catholic. He said an extremely small proportion of worshipping Cubans adhere to non-Christian faiths. Although Cubans generally have had a strong belief in God, Rodriguez said, fear of government persecution—because religious participation is illegal—has caused many persons to shun organized religion.

"I believe the Cubans have always been very religious," he said. "But the pressure has forced the people to be more conservative in their own beliefs. They (church goers) just know they're taking their chances."

He said government police frequently burn and loot churches. In one year 38 temples were destroyed. Castro also has closed the seminaries in Cuba, thus denying theological education to ministers, Rodriguez said. But he said the persecution extends beyond the confines of a church building's walls.

Persons known to be ministers are given "minimized" food and clothing rations. Children who attend church services often are prohibited from attending high school and college. Persons who participate in church life may be assigned undesirable work. "All

those who follow religious tradition are given the worst jobs and the lowest pay," Rodriguez said.

Jehovah's Witnesses and Seventh-day Adventists are the most persecuted Christian denominations in Cuba, he said. The former group because its members will not submit to Castro's compulsory military service; the latter because it will not participate in government activities on Saturday.

But Rodriguez, who hopes to resume his duties as a Seventh-day Adventist minister in Puerto Rico, said he and many other ministers were not intimidated by the Cuban government. "We have always presented the word of the Lord," he said. Rodriguez said he encouraged members of his congregation to follow their beliefs when government mandates conflicted with scriptural principles.

"Those who practice and preach the Bible are the ones who go through more difficult times," he said. Although he was not imprisoned for his religious convictions, Rodriguez said he knew of ministers who were incarcerated. And he said ministers who compromise with the government have little influence with their congregations.

Castro permits many religious leaders to come to the United States if large numbers of their followers have left Cuba. Rodriguez said he easily received permission to come to America because many of his faith recently have left Cuba. He also said he wanted to come to America before his 14-year-old son became eligible for compulsory Cuban military service at age 15.

*Editor's Note: Pastor Rafael Rodriguez is now pastoring the Seventh-day Adventist Spanish church in New Orleans, LA.*

—Adapted from the Southwest Times Record, Fort Smith, Arkansas, May 23, 1980.

# “Your Sabbath”

CARLO RASMUSSEN

**H**AVE you ever been speaking with someone and the subject of the Sabbath day comes up? At that time, have you heard the words, “Oh yes, that is your Sabbath?” Sometimes the words are said in a general conversation with others around us. Those who say this do not intend to be contentious or mean; however, I wonder if they really know what they are saying when they say these words, “your Sabbath”? What is actually inferred here is that the seventh day is our day, set aside by us, which is not true.

We did not set the day apart from the others in the week. The Bible states, “But the seventh day is the sabbath of the Lord thy God” (Exodus 20:10). The seventh day of the week is actually God’s day, and it was the Lord who set it aside for mankind to rest therein. Many today feel that because the majority consider (mostly in word only) Sunday as the “day of rest” this is it, because everybody could not be wrong.

This whole concept of thinking is erroneous and is a cunning trick of Satan. Jesus was very plain in His words when He said in Matthew 19:17, “If thou wilt enter into life,



keep the commandments.” This includes the seventh day of every week, which is the Sabbath. At no time in Scripture do we find Sunday mentioned as the day of rest.

The child of God fully understands that it is the Sabbath of the Lord and that the day was created by the Lord, because “in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the Lord blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it” (Exodus 20:11).

Here we have God’s reason for setting aside the seventh day of every week; it is the day of rest. Jesus also stated, “The sabbath was made for man.” Thus we see again that it is not our Sabbath day but rather God’s day instead.

Jesus continued by saying that He “is Lord also of the sabbath” (Mark 2:27-28). The words of Jesus are very clear, and we would do well to take heed and follow the Lord Jesus Christ. For us to add or take away from His words could mean the loss of eternal life.

When Jesus spoke, He did not speak His own words, but rather the words of His Father in heaven (John 14:24). This thought is reassuring and comforting to the child of God

because it brings to our memory the unchangeable love God expresses to His people since the Creation.

The Sabbath day gives us a chance to show our love back to God and His Creation by ceasing from our daily labors and concentrating more upon His Word and the wonders of His Creation round about us.

God’s Sabbath, or day of rest, is included in the first of the two great commandments Jesus spoke of in Matthew 22:37-40. He said, “Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment.” By remembering and observing the seventh day of the week, God’s Sabbath, we are showing our love to Him and fulfilling a part of the first four laws of liberty and love.

Let us “remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy” unto God. In so doing we will be reaffirming what is already the Lord’s.

Please remember the seventh day of each week is God’s day of rest and not “our sabbath,” as if we somehow set aside the day by ourselves. May God bless you to understand these thoughts.

—Adapted from *The Advocate of Truth*.

# May We Change His Word?

MONA DAVIS

WHAT thing soever I command you, observe to do it: thou shalt not add thereto nor diminish from it" (Deuteronomy 12:32).

Yahshua the Messiah came in His Father's name to speak, as Moses said: "And it shall come to pass, that whosoever will not hearken unto my words which he shall speak in my name I will require it of him" (Deuteronomy 18:19; see also Acts 3:23; John 17).

Establishing this premise that our Father is unchangeable and that His Word is truth, not to be added to or diminished, we shall cease to live by tradition, which makes it of none effect. "Why do ye also transgress the commandment of Yahweh by your tradition?" (Matthew 15:3, Holy Name Bible\*).

All His Word is our law, but more specifically the Ten Commandments, written on two tablets of stone as the old covenant and now in our minds and hearts that we may all, from the least to the greatest, know Yahweh (Hebrew 10:16; Jeremiah 31:31-33).

Since we cannot see or enter the kingdom of heaven without the new birth or walk in the Spirit, we cannot be obedient without it. Romans 8:4-7 says that this law must be *fulfilled* in us "who walk not after the flesh,

but after the Spirit"—"for the carnal mind is not subject to the law of Yahweh, neither indeed can it be" (Holy Name Bible).

Matthew 5:18-20 says, "Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled. Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven: but whosoever *shall do and teach them*, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I say unto you, That except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the Kingdom of heaven."

The fallacy of saying that the perfect spiritual law is moral and not to be obeyed for we being saved by grace, the Saviour having fulfilled the law for us and the law being done away with, is contradicted daily by others who say we must obey it all but themselves do away with the second, third, fourth, or others.

Over nineteen hundred years have passed since Messiah ascended into heaven, and the world's wise men continually try to tear the Bible to pieces. Despite the truth that Yahshua said in John 5:46, 47—"For had ye believed Moses, ye would have believed me:





for he wrote of me. But if ye believe not his writings, how shall ye believe my words?"—many denominations say that Moses wrote nothing but that all the Torah was written from oral traditions by priests after 600 B.C. Even archaeology is proving this untrue. For we find that the patriarchs were marvelous men who had studied in schools and libraries of their day. Besides this they walked with Yahweh, who is all-knowledge, all-wisdom, and all-love, so they were taught of Him. Imagine Methuselah in prayer meeting talking with Noah, Enoch, and others with whom he was a contemporary!

### Disobedience means to be under the law

When one is driving on the highway, he is under the law only when he disobeys it, fearing then the officers. Before that, when he carefully obeys the law, he fears not at all, but knows his true freedom is to follow the rules. Yet churches have misused this term, making it a curse to be obedient to *all* the law of liberty (Galatians 1).

If there were a change in the Sabbath from the seventh day to the first in the church in Acts, exact words by the Master would have to be found. No words have been discovered, and the few times the saints met on the first day cannot

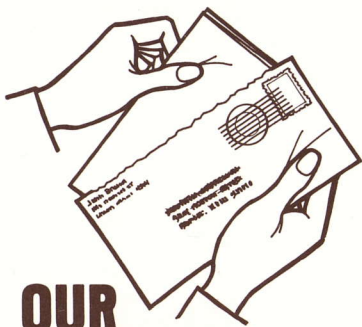
cancel out the more than 75 times they met on the holy seventh-day Sabbath as was the custom of the Master, too. I have marked them countless times to assure myself I was not fooled. No man or church can make a working day holy; only the Creator can do this. It is also a command to work six days a week. Part of the problem is that we have learned a condensed form of the Fourth Commandment.

"Remember the sabbath-day to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work: but the seventh day is the sabbath of Yahweh, thy Elohim: In it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, nor thy manservant, nor thy maid-servant, nor thy cattle, nor the stranger that is within thy gates: for in six days Yahweh made heaven and earth, the sea and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore Yahweh blessed the sabbath-day, and hallowed it." (Exodus 20:8-11).

Let us teach it word for word!

Moreover, the seventh-day Sabbath is a sign upon Israel to show the world that we remember our Creator (Ezekiel 20:12, 20; Exodus 31:17). Will His sign and seal be upon you?

\*From The Holy Name Bible. Copyright 1963 by Scripture Research Association.



## OUR READERS RESPOND

I am deeply grateful to you for your words about what I have tried to do during my ten years in Congress.

Your prayerful encouragement and your support are sincerely appreciated.

—Robert F. Drinan,  
Member of Congress

I noticed the following on page 28 of a booklet called *Christian Prisoners in the USSR, 1979*: "The Church of True and Free Seventh-day Adventists broke away from the official Adventist Church in the USSR in 1928, accusing the official leaders of compromise with the state. The church has been persecuted since then, its present leader, Vladimir Shelkov, having spent 23 years in prison and camps."

This same Vladimir Shelkov was 82 years old in March, 1978, when he was again arrested "following a

house search in which a large quantity of religious literature was confiscated." He was "sentenced to 5 years strict regime camp and confiscation of property." On page 7 of the same booklet, we read: "The stricter the camp, the more unpleasant the conditions; harder or more dangerous work, less calories in the diet, etc." At the age of 82 he is sent to one of these camps. Why? Because he was not afraid to witness for his faith.

We have been told that it is mostly the older people in Russia who have deep religious convictions, but it is interesting to note that many young people also are standing for their faith. Twenty or more members of The Church of True and Free Seventh-day Adventists were arrested in 1878, and Alexander Mikhel was one of them. He was only 18 years old when he was arrested because he would not bear arms, swear the military oath, or perform duties on Saturdays. Others aged 28, 29, and 31 were also arrested, as well as many who were older.

We should not forget to pray for those Sabbath keepers in Russia and China who know first-hand what it means to be persecuted for their Sabbath keeping.

—Kay Cullen  
Madison, Tenn.

P.S.: Since writing the above, I learned that Vladimir Shelkov, whom I mentioned in paragraph 1, died in death camp. His big "sin" was keeping holy the seventh-day sabbath, having sacred literature in his possession, and witnessing for his faith.

Recently I noticed a calendar sent to us by an importing company from the Netherlands. What a shock to see **Monday** as the first day of the week and **Sunday** shown as the seventh right on the calendar! Recently I entitled a sermonette to our local church, "Have You Lost Something?" and I included that calendar as an example . . . Associations such as yours are essential in promoting and establishing God's true Sabbath over this whole earth.

I heard this "reformed" calendar is accepted and used throughout Europe today.

*Editor's Note: You are correct. The calendar is widely used in European countries. This picture is of a Russian calendar showing Sunday as the seventh day.*

Would please send me 24 copies of the pamphlet *Questions for Seventh-Dayists Answered?* We found them extremely well done and have been asked to send some to our congregations and friends.

Thanks again, and keep up the good work. We love your pocket- or purse-sized magazine. We can carry it with us during the day and read it anywhere.

—John and Merrily Benett  
(Church of God, International)  
North Vancouver, B.C.,  
Canada

	СЕНТЯБРЬ SEPTEMBER					
Пн	1	8	15	22	29	Mo
Вт	2	9	16	23	30	Tu
Ср	3	10	17	24		We
Чт	4	11	18	25		Th
Пт	5	12	19	26		Fr
Сб	6	13	20	27		Sa
Вс	7	14	21	28		Su

I received the June issue a few days ago and am a bit disturbed over the reader suggestion on pages 22 and 23. I am in full agreement on the

suggestion that we do what we can to help our Sabbath-keeping brothers and sisters to find gainful employment. However, I see the possibility of stooping to carnal methods to do it. My Bible says, "For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through . . . [Elohim] to the pulling down of strong holds" (2 Corinthians 10:4).

I may be wrong, but it seems that the suggestions made may fall in the category of carnal weapons. Aren't they the weapons used by the world?

I can see the possibility of the SENTINEL making room for prospective employers and employees to let their needs be known and perhaps thereby render a real service to both.

I have one other suggestion that may prove to be helpful. That is starting a business of your own. Nine and a half years ago my wife and I did that. We had a friend in town who was in the janitor business. He gave us a little help getting started, and it has provided us a good living ever since with no Sabbath problems. This friend got his start by working for a janitor service until he learned the business and then going on his own.

We will be very happy to help any Sabbath keeper in our area to get started. Of course this offer is very limited because of distance from most Sabbath keepers. However, I am sure there are many who can do as Bro. Smith did—find a job and learn the business, then start their own business.

—W. H. Green  
Route 7, Box 2035  
Odessa, Texas 79763



## Looks at Books

CONDUCTED BY KRISTIAN KRISTIENSEN

Abraham Joshua Heschel, *The Sabbath. Its Meaning for Modern Man*. New York, NY: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 1980. 118 pp. \$3.25.

Reading this modern Jewish classic (now in its sixth printing, originally published in 1951) is an experience indeed. There is a lot of mystery, a lot of quiet beauty, and a lot of grandeur in it. It is evidently written by a man who is *fond* of the tradition of his people.

The publisher writes, "Abraham Joshua Heschel was one of this country's most widely respected and loved religious leaders, and a writer of extraordinary gifts. *The Sabbath* is a profound, scholarly, and beautiful meditation on the nature and celebration of the seventh day. Its thesis is that Judaism is a religion of time, not space, and the Sabbath symbolizes the sanctification of time, so that "the Sabbaths are our great cathedrals." They represent a day of separation from space and the material things that fill it, a day of devotion to time and the eternity that fills it."

"Eternity utters a day" are the closing words of the book. Words that go into your mind and then they explode like little bombshells, and you realize their magnificent meaning.

Like so many other things said in this little book.

Wm. F. Dankenbring, *The First Genesis. The Saga of Creation vs. Evolution*. 1979. 417 pp. \$12.00.

Same author, *The Creation Book for Children*. 1976. 56 pp. \$5.95 (hardcover), \$3.95 (softcover).

Mr. Lawrence Burrell, secretary-treasurer, presented a pertinent point during the 1976 Bible Sabbath Association convention. "One of the ways that we can enrich Sabbath observance in contemporary culture," he said, "is by reading materials written by those who believe in Creation instead of evolution." I agree wholeheartedly, and one author I personally favor very much in this regard is William F. Dankenbring.

Since writing his first book six years ago (it dealt with keys to radiant health), he has written several others dealing with Bible-related topics of importance. *The First Genesis: A New Case for Creation* (1975), I regard as one of the best books ever issued on the Creation-evolution controversy. It is a comprehensive survey of the issues involved. To quote from it, "The scope of this book is vast and a large number of scientific disciplines are investigated and evidence brought to bear on the major thesis of the book—the evidences for divine creation." The approach is refreshingly unorthodox.

A new expanded and updated version came off the press last year, and the very same words can be said about this edition (which is being reviewed here). Some of the items covered include the miracle and web of life, the incredible interior of the cell, the sudden extinction of dinosaurs, the awesome universe, the atom, the intricacy of the human brain. An impressive case indeed is presented for Creation and the author has successfully communicated to his readers an appreciation of God's creation, its wonders, and at times reflects even the humor!

With new material on Genesis, the Bible, and science, and the dire implications of evolutionary theory, it holds nothing back, blistering evolution and Darwin's survival-of-the-fittest concept from the new first chapter on.

He also wrote *The Creation Book for Children*, a photographically excellent, lavishly illustrated full-color book. This beautiful, educational, and inspiring book is "dedicated to all children everywhere, that they may remember the Creator in the days of their youth." Filling a need for children's literature that is both Biblically sound and scientifically accurate, children from five years old will enjoy going through it with their parents (and I wonder which parents would not enjoy going through it with their children!).

Famous rocket scientist Dr. Wernher von Braun, who was an ardent believer in a Creator, shortly before his death was glad to write the introduction to the book.

To read it is to love it. It is as simple as that.

Both books are available from Triumph Publishing Co., Box 292, Altadena, CA. 91001.

*Please send copies of books to be reviewed to Kristian Kristiansen, Box 205, DK-5230, Odense M, Denmark.*

## BSA Issues New Book on History of Sabbath, Sunday

BY EUGENE LINCOLN

I'm excited and thrilled after reading a copy of Elder John Keisz's book *A History of the Sabbath & Sunday*, which just came off the press. I'm sure you will be, too, when you read it. Many of you enjoyed the series of Sabbath-Sunday articles by Elder Keisz published in the SENTINEL several years ago. Well, those articles have been revised and are now in this attractive 63-page book.

A book on Sunday and the Sabbath is not, of itself, anything unusual; quite a few of them are available. But Elder Kiesz has coupled extensive research with the ability to cram a lot of information into a few well-chosen words; that's what lifts this book well above most of the others.

I believe it is the most attractive book ever issued by the Bible Sabbath Association; it is one you can be proud to give to a non-Sabbath-keeping friend.

It is available from the Bible Sabbath Association, Fairview, Ok 73737, at \$2.95 for a single copy or \$2.50 each for ten or more copies sent to one address.

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

I would like to correspond with a Sabbath-keeping gentleman between the ages of 55 and 65. I am single, retired, and lonely, as there aren't many Sabbath keepers in the area. Box S, Bible Sabbath Association, Fairview, Okla. 73737.

## Pilgrim Acres Announces Feast of Tabernacles

Pilgrim Acres invites readers to join them in praise and thanksgiving September 25 through October 4. "We expect a wonderful time of preaching, praying, shouting, and singing as we come together to magnify our heavenly Father, Yahvah, and His Son, Yahshua," Elder Paul Wilds said.

"If you enjoy old time campmeeting days, you won't want to miss this one. We plan to have an appreciation day for elder ministers in the faith who have carried the great truths of the Sabbath and all the commandments to the people. We expect such ministers as Elder John Kiesz, Elder L. D. Snow, Elder Zeigler, Elder W. L. Bodine, Elder

Shipley, and others from different parts of the country."

If you know any elder minister who plans to attend this meeting, please send a brief history of his labor and accomplishments.

The meeting place is located approximately 5½ miles east of Emory, Texas. From Emory, take Highway 515 toward Winnsboro, approximately 5½ miles, look for a big sign on left with red arrow pointing toward the assembly, turn left, and go ½ mile.

Pilgrim Acres will provide dorms for both men and women, dining area, and plenty of room for campers and tents. Meals will be served on free-will offering basis. You need to bring only bed linens such as sheets, pillows, and towels. Showers are available for bathing.

For further information, write or call the pastor, Paul Wilds, Route 1, Box 235, Emory, Texas 75440, Phone (214) 473-2974.

### *Shall We Loiter With the Message?*

Shall we loiter with the message while the world is drugged with sin?

Shall we stand by unconcerned while mankind hungers from within?

Shall we ponder who is worthy of the Master's saving call?

Shall we think of special branches when the Savior died for all?

Yes, He died, and He is risen—died to prove eternal life—

Died to reconcile the sinners, to give hope through worldly strife!

Shall we loiter, then, and slumber while there's work for us to do?

While we have the urgent message He entrusted me and you?

Tell the world that you love Jesus, tell the story hundredfold!

Tell all souls that He is coming to take us to streets of gold!

He is coming— He is coming, sure as each new day unfolds,

And the promise of salvation in His holy hand He holds!

He is coming with the angels to a dying, thirsting world,

For His followers who have rallied to the message He unfurled!

He who came as babe of Bethlehem, who died to set us free—

He who rose on that glad morning, is now calling you and me!

—Rahya Montouri

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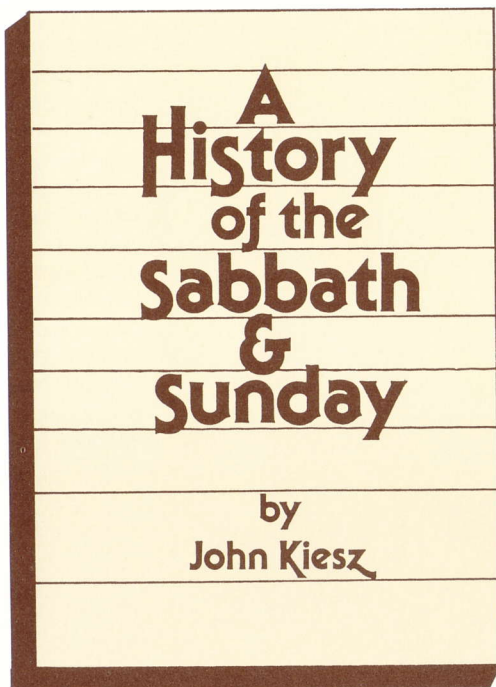
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