

The Sabbath Sentinel

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

JULY 1984



"Shabbat shalom"

Jewish Sabbath Customs

By Eugene Lincoln

The Sabbath, or *Shabbat*, is a central figure of the Jewish religion. The Jewish poet Hayyim Nahman Bialik wrote, "The Sabbath is the cornerstone of Judaism."¹ Abraham Joshua Heschel has written a classic book on this subject, which all Sabbathkeepers will profit by reading.²

Some customs still practiced by devout Jews perhaps would be considered overly legalistic by most Christians. Following are some Sabbath prohibitions that many Jews observe during the Sabbath hours:

1. Writing or making permanent marks on anything.

2. Lighting or putting out a fire (except in cases of emergency), making a fire burn brighter, or causing a metallic object to glow from the heat. This restriction includes turning electrical appliances on or off, ringing a doorbell, or operating an elevator. However, fires started before the Sabbath or electrical appliances turned on before the Sabbath may be kept going. Jews in Orthodox neighborhoods who live in apartment houses use "Shabbat elevators," which are programmed before sundown on Friday to operate continuously, automatically stopping at every floor.

3. Cooking or preparing cooked food.

4. Tearing or altering the shape of anything, including paper. Letters that arrive on Sabbath are not opened until sundown.

5. Playing of musical instruments, and (for some) playing games such as ball.

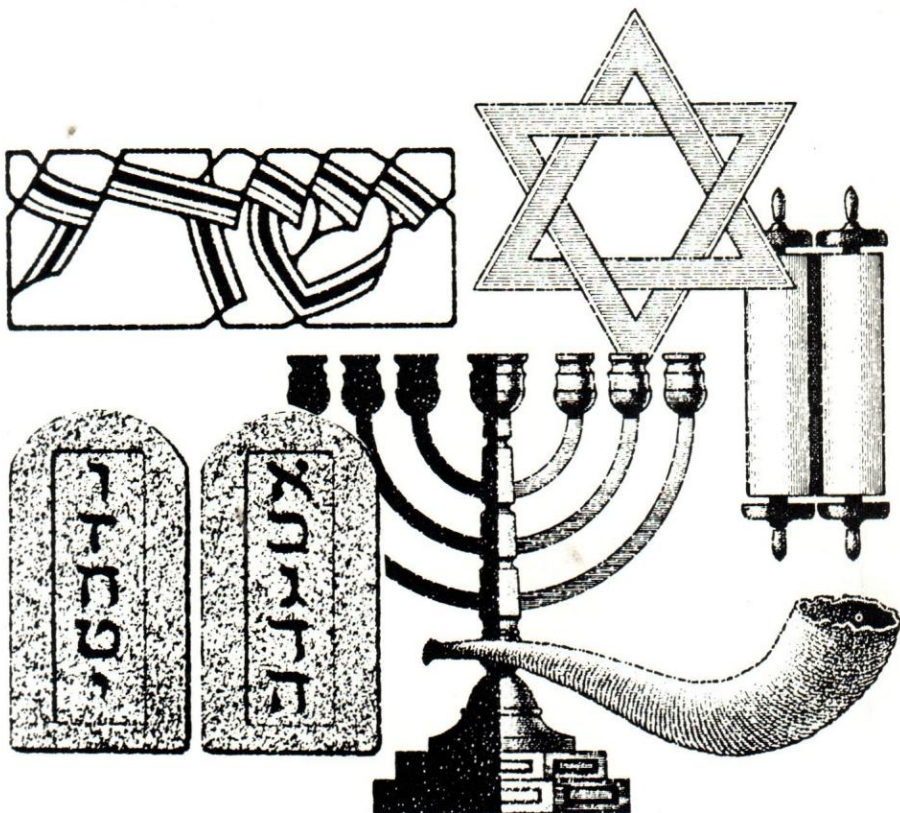
6. Using a towel to dry oneself after bathing. Because of this and other restrictions on bathing, many Jews bathe just before the Sabbath begins. If they do bathe on Sabbath, they let the air dry them. Ritual bathing, such as the *mikva* by women whose period of ceremonial uncleanness after a menstrual period (see Leviticus 15:19-28) has ended, is permitted, however.

7. Carrying anything outside of one's house. This includes handkerchiefs and keys. But if a handkerchief is worn around one's neck (making it a scarf) or if a key is gold plated and made into a tie clasp or a brooch, it may be carried.³

But after we have omitted these restrictions (or at least most of them), we can still learn much about Sabbath observance from our Jewish friends—practices that may be adopted, or adapted, to make our Sabbaths more inspiring and meaningful.

Sabbath preparation in the

THE SABBATH SENTINEL is published monthly by the Bible Sabbath Association, Route 1, Box 197, Fairview, Oklahoma 73737. USPS 474-580. Single copy, \$1.00; year subscription (in the U.S.), \$10.00. Bible Sabbath Association members receive this magazine as part of their annual membership dues. Second class postage paid in Cleveland, Tennessee 37311. **Postal Employees:** Send forms 3579 to Route 1, Box 222, Fairview, Oklahoma 73737. Vol. 36, No. 7, Issue No. 327.



Jewish home begins on Friday, the Preparation Day. All shopping is done then. Weekday items, such as money, sewing tools, and cooking utensils, are put away, and everyone puts on his or her best clothes. The housewife covers the table with a white cloth and places on it a bottle of wine and a goblet, Sabbath flowers, and two candles.

The wife ushers in the Sabbath eighteen minutes before sundown by lighting the two candles, symbolizing the essential characteristics of the Sabbath—light, joy, and good cheer.⁵ After lighting them, she covers her head and says, "Blessed art Thou, O Lord, our God, King of the universe, who has sanctified us in His commandments and commanded us

to light the Sabbath light.⁴

The father then blesses the children, placing his hands on the bowed head of each one and saying (for a son), "May God make you like unto Ephraim and Manasseh" or (for a daughter), "May God make you like unto Sarah, Rebekah, and Leah."⁶

The Sabbath meal begins with the father sipping from the wine cup and then passing it to his wife, who drinks from it. In many families the children also drink from the cup. Then all wash their hands, and the father blesses the two Sabbath loaves of bread, or *challot*, which have been covered with a napkin. The two loaves signify the double portion of manna that fell on the day before the Sabbath. The family

sings special songs during and after the meal, some in a minor key and slow, but some so lively that the family will leave the table and dance to them.

The father again says grace over the bread. This grace is called *birchat ha-mazon*, and the family sings Psalm 126.⁷

A custom of the past, no longer widely practiced, was that of inviting a poor Jewish friend, often a student, to share the meal.⁸

The family attends services at the synagogue on Sabbath morning. Before and after services people greet one another with the salutation *Shabbat shalom* ("a peaceful Sabbath").

The noonday Sabbath meal is warmed over a burner on the range that has been turned on before Sabbath began and left on. The food must not have cooled off to room temperature, however, and it must not be reheated to a point hotter than one's hand can stand. Water used in reheating food must have been boiled before Sabbath and kept warm until needed.⁹

Sabbath afternoon often finds the older people resting, while the younger ones walk. Social calls are

also popular on Sabbath afternoons. Several times each year one reads the six chapters of the *Pirke Abot* (The Ethics of the Fathers).

The final Sabbath meal, just before sundown, usually consists of fish and bread, though the Sephardim Jews often serve vegetables with olive oil.¹⁰

The Sabbath does not end until at least three stars are visible with the naked eye. Then the mother recites a prayer that begins with the words, "O God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, guard Thy people for Thy praise!"¹¹

FOOTNOTES

¹Abraham E. Millgram, *Sabbath: The Day of Delight* (Philadelphia: The Jewish Publication Society of America, 5706-1946), p. 6.

²Abraham Joshua Heschel, *The Sabbath* (New York: Harper & Row, Publishers, 1952).

³Michael Asheri, *Living Jewish* (New York: Everest House Publishers, 1978), pp. 156-158.

⁴*Ibid.*, p. 149.

⁵Millgram, p. 10.

⁶*Ibid.*, pp. 10, 11.

⁷Asheri, pp. 152, 153.

⁸Millgram, p. 12.

⁹Asheri, p. 153.

¹⁰*Ibid.*, p. 154.

¹¹Millgram, p. 13.

Have You Read It Yet?

A History of the Sabbath & Sunday

By John Kiesz

A concise, but authoritative, study of Sabbatarians

63 pages — \$2.95

THE BIBLE SABBATH ASSOCIATION
Fairview, Oklahoma 73737

The Biblical Truth of God's Seventh-Day Sabbath

1. In the beginning God created the Sabbath day (Genesis 2:3).

2. God rested from his labors on the seventh day (Genesis 2:2).

3. The Sabbath was made for man, that is, for all mankind (Mark 2:27).

4. God blessed the seventh day and named it Sabbath (Exodus 20:10,11).

5. God blessed the seventh day because on it He rested from the work of His creation (Genesis 2:2; Exodus 20:11).

6. God not only blessed the seventh day, but He also sanctified it, made it holy, by His declaration (Genesis 2:3).

7. There is no record in all the Scriptures that God ever removed His blessing from the Sabbath and placed it upon another day of the week.

8. God's people kept the Sabbath before the Ten Commandments were given at Mount Sina (Exodus 16:22-26).

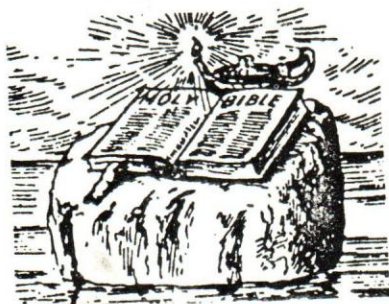
9. God ordained that man should keep the Sabbath (Exodus 20; Hebrews 4:3,4).

10. God forbade work on the Sabbath day even in harvest time (Exodus 34:21).

11. God promised the Gentiles, those of all nations, a blessing if they joined His people and kept the Sabbath (Isaiah 56:6,7).

12. God promised to bless any one who keeps the Sabbath (Isaiah 56:2).

13. Nowhere in the Bible do we find a command to observe any other day of the week holy as a



substitute or replacement of the seventh-day Sabbath.

14. God calls the Sabbath His holy day (Exodus 20:10; Leviticus 23:2,3; Isaiah 58:13; Mark 2:28).

15. The keeping of the Sabbath is a sign between God and His people (Exodus 31:12-17).

16. The Sabbath commandment, the longest of the ten, is one of the commandments God gave to His people to observe and shows our love and obedience towards God (Exodus 20:8-11; Deuteronomy 5:12-15; Matthew 22:37-40).

17. Jesus kept and observed the Sabbath as a habit, which expressed His love and obedience toward God the Father (Luke 4:16).

18. Jesus Christ is Lord of the Sabbath, and as such, the Sabbath is the true Lord's day (Mark 2:28; Isaiah 58:13; Matthew 12:8).

19. Jesus Christ recognized the Sabbath commandment as binding (Matthew 12:12; 5:17,18; Mark 3:4).

20. Jesus Christ kept His Father's commandments, which included the seventh day Sabbath (John 15:10; 8:29; 5:46,47).

21. The Sabbath was observed at the time of the crucifixion (Luke 23:56).

22. Observance of the Sabbath was the practice years after the crucifixion (Acts 17:2).

23. Paul recognized and observed the Sabbath during his ministry, about A.D. 45 (Acts 13:27).

24. Paul taught the Gentiles on the Sabbath day, at their own request (Acts 13:42).

25. Paul preached to an entire city on the Sabbath day (Acts 13:44).

26. Paul attended a prayer meeting on the Sabbath day, when no synagogue was available (Acts 16:13).

27. It was Paul's custom to preach Jesus Christ on the Sabbath day (Acts 17:2,3).

28. At Corinth Paul preached every Sabbath for eighteen months (Acts 18:1-4,11).

29. James recognized the seventh-day Sabbath many years after Christ's resurrection (Acts 15:21).

30. The seventh-day Sabbath will be observed and kept during the time of the millennium (Isaiah 66:23).

31. No other day of the week is given by Jesus Christ but the seventh-day Sabbath to be observed as a holy day (Hebrews 4:4).

32. The sanctity of the seventh day was never changed by Jesus Christ or the apostles to the first day of the week, neither was it changed by the resurrection of Jesus Christ or otherwise.

33. Jesus Christ made it part of our Christian requirements to receive eternal life, that we keep all of the Ten Commandments (Matthew 19:17; Revelation 22:14).

34. The seventh-day Sabbath remains as the day of rest for God's people (Hebrews 4:9).

35. Jesus warned that in the end time, as the tribulation was beginning, that we should not flee

on the Sabbath (Matthew 24:20).

36. The sign of God's people in the end time is that they would be keeping the commandments of God (Revelation 12:17; 14:12).

Panel Urges Referendum On Blue Laws

Lawmakers looking for a way to deal with South Carolina's stringent Sunday closing laws are hoping an advisory referendum may lend an answer.

"Really that's the best way to approach the issue," Rep. Thomas Huff said Wednesday.

"I mean we in the legislature can debate it year after year ad nauseum," he said. "I think it's time that we go ahead and just put it to the people and see what their sentiments are."

The house judiciary committee agreed, voting to send a bill calling for an advisory referendum on the November general election ballot to the full House with a favorable report.

"Whatever they (the voters) decide by way of repeal or not to repeal, we can deal with it and forget about the issue," Huff said.

The referendum, which would have no binding effect on the General Assembly, would ask voters to say "yes" or "no" to ridding the state of the so-called blue laws.

The committee added another option that would ask voters if they would support repealing the laws after 1 p.m. Sunday during the last six weeks of the year.

The amendment came at the request of Rep. Joe Anderson, who is pushing a bill that would call for lifting the sales ban for that last six-week period from Thanksgiving through Christmas.

Sabbath Day Prayer

Dear Father and loving God,

In humbleness we come to Thee with grateful hearts for this special day which Thou had appointed as a holy day, a day for full respite from daily labor and cares, a time set aside and sanctified for our special communion and fellowship with our fellow man, and with Thee, our loving, caring, Father.

Lord, God, we praise Thy name and thank Thee for the tender, watchful care You give us, even a rest time that you have apportioned for the benefit of humanity.

How wise Thou art to give us a commandment to keep holy Thy Sabbath Day. Surely mankind doesn't have the wisdom on its own to get the needed rest for body and soul, a time for special closeness and spiritual refreshment.

In the heart of Your holy law You have given us the when, the why, and the how for the keeping of a set and sanctified day, a day that provides a peace and assurance of Thy great love for us, a day to help us remember that You are our Creator and we your creatures, and objects of Your tender care!

Out of deep love and respect we will keep holy Your seventh-day Sabbath and be thankful for its special blessings.

Happy are we that Your Word has assured us that in the earth made new we will come before Thy throne from one Sabbath to another to worship Thee!

Thy love, Thy mercy, Thy wisdom, and Thy grace astound us, gracious heavenly Father.

Humbly we bow before Thee on this Thy holy Sabbath Day. Humbly we pray for the infilling of the Holy Spirit on this sanctified day. Amen and amen.

Announcement

Our church, Hope Community Church, is located at 10010 Fernwood Road in Bethesda, MD. 20014. We are a Sabbath-observing church. We have open worship. Our phone number is (301) 258-9197. Our pastor is Ray Greenley.

Joys of Sabbath Conviction

A butterfly was passing by
One very windy day.
Into the wind, it tried to fly,
It struggled
All the way!

It landed on my hand,
'tis true!!
I think it paused to pray.
And when its spirit
Was renewed,
It rode
The wind
Away!!!

My spirit . . .
Like the butterfly,
Encounters windy days!!
So often . . .
As the days go by,
It falters
And it sways,

But when I give it
Sabbath rest,
And when I pause to pray,
My spirit is renewed,
And blessed!!!
Thank God for Sabbath day!!!

—Author Unknown

What Are We Going to Do About Sunday?

There's something special about Sunday to millions of people around the world. Johnnie Cash called it "Sunday morning coming down." In America it was once rated right up there with apple pie and motherhood. A special feeling on a special day was the clear message of Johnnie's song. How did it happen? Why did a day named after the sun find its way into the hearts of so many? Was it because of the Bible, or something else?

On the origin of Sunday observance, there is no better summarizing explanation than the words of Dr. Hiscox, author of *The Baptist Manual* and one of the best scholars the Baptists ever produced. In a talk before a Baptist ministers convention in New York, he said:

"There was and is a commandment to keep holy the Sabbath day, but that Sabbath was not Sunday. It will be said, however, and with some slow triumph, that the Sabbath was transferred from the seventh to the first day of the week, with all its duties, privileges, and sanctions.

"Earnestly desiring information on this subject, which I have studied for many years, I ask, 'Where is the record of such a transaction to be found?' Not in the New Testament, absolutely not. There is no scriptural evidence of the change of the Sabbath institution from the seventh to the first day of the week.

"I wish to say that this Sabbath question, in this aspect of it, is the gravest and most perplexing

Will You Volunteer to Become a

FAITH PARTNER?

We are hoping to have a full-time paid public relations director/coordinator to help the Bible Sabbath Association grow. But we need your regular help to provide the funds.

Will you become a faith partner? Please let us know how much you can contribute, the Lord helping you.

*Bible Sabbath Association
Fairview, OK 73737*

Yes! I want to help. With the Lord's help I hope to contribute \$ _____ each _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State/Province _____ Postal Code _____

question connected with Christian institutions which at this time claims attention from Christian people, and the only reason it is not a more disturbing element in Christian thought and religious discussions is because the Christian world has settled down content on the conviction that somehow a transference has taken place at the beginning of Christian History."

"To me it seems unaccountable that Jesus, during three years' intercourse with His disciples, often conversing with them upon the Sabbath question, discussing it in some of its various aspects, freeing it from its false glosses, never alluded to any transference of the day; also, that during forty days of His resurrection life, no such a thing was intimated. Nor, so far as we know, did the Spirit which was given to bring to their remembrance all things whatsoever that He had said unto them deal with this question. Nor did the inspired apostles, in preaching the gospel, founding churches, counseling, and instructing those founded, discuss or approach this subject."

"Of course, I quite well know that Sunday did come into use in early Christian history as a religious day, as we learn from the fathers and other sources. But what a pity that it comes branded with the mark of paganism and christened with the name of the sun god, when adopted and sanctioned by the papal apostasy, and bequeathed as a sacred legacy to Protestantism."—*The New York Examiner*, November 16, 1893.

Silence Does Not Warrant Change

Since the early Christian community was almost exclusively Jewish, as indicated by the book of Acts and as stated by Paul in Romans 1:16, any attempt to change from the Sabbath to the "Lord's

Day" during the first few years of the glad message era would have caused a commotion among these early believers that no doubt would have been recorded in the pages of history.

Such silence concerning the Sabbath during the first 30 years of these early assemblies is not an indication that they suddenly switched their lifestyle without one word of resistance and forever banished the Sabbath from the life of all Christians, but rather indicates that no attempt was made to change to another day.

The absence of a Sabbath message among these early Jewish believers during a time when even Gentiles came out to hear Paul on the Sabbath shows us that current conditions dictate the emphasis on the message of God. This message must therefore rise up to meet the needs of the current lawless status of the world.

Our biggest problem is that we don't love our Creator and our fellowman. We recognize this, and we do not advocate keeping the Sabbath void of love. It is true that keeping this day is a minor objective compared to love, but we must remember that the commandments simply tell us how we would be if we loved our Creator and our fellowman. They provide the basis for a relationship of love and function as a schoolmaster to bring us to the Christ when we fall short of His holy, just, and good law.

The Memorial of Creation

I hope that the following quote by Wilbur M. Foor will challenge some of you to a further study: "Because the Sabbath is primarily the memorial of Creation, any argument used against it, to be at all valid, should show why the Creator's work no longer warrants a memorial and where He has withdrawn His blessing from it."

New Sunday Restrictions In Maryland?

Man charged with shooting wife on Sunday

A 37-year-old Hagerstown man who allegedly shot his wife following an argument Sunday afternoon has been charged by city police with assault

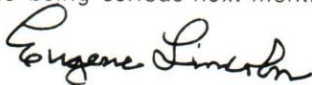
OUR area of western Maryland is strong on Sunday laws. Except for a few supermarkets and small stores, everything is closed up tightly on this day.

But when I saw this headline in the evening paper, my first reaction was: If he had done it on a weekday, would he have saved himself the penalty?

Actually, of course, the news item has nothing to do with blue laws. Some headline writer inadvertently let that one slip

through without realizing it could have more than one meaning. It brightens my day when I find something in the newspaper to bring a smile. This was the best one I had seen since years ago I read in a headline: "Spider in Bathing Suit Bites Woman."

I realize that these editorials should be on serious matters, but I just couldn't keep this to myself. I'll get back to being serious next month. Promise!



P.S. The victim was only superficially wounded, or I wouldn't have mentioned it.

THE SABBATH SENTINEL (USPS 474-580)



EDITOR Eugene Lincoln
CONTRIBUTING EDITORS Gilbert Sanford
George Dellinger

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.

Annual member contribution: Regular or subscribing members, \$20.00; family membership, \$25.00 (individual certificates issued but only one set of records maintained and only one copy of the Sentinel and other mailings sent); life members \$500.00 or more during any one year.

WRITERS: Please type manuscripts double spaced and leave wide margins on all sides. Use only one side of paper. If you wish your manuscripts returned, include stamped, addressed envelope. Address to editor, 1228 Wayne Avenue, Hagerstown, Md. 21740. We invite manuscripts on various aspects of the Sabbath, but cannot pay for them.

Opinions in articles are those of the writers and not necessarily endorsed by the Bible Sabbath Association.

HALF PRICE! HALF PRICE!

Yes, you read it correctly. For a limited time we are offering **THE SABBATH SENTINEL** to new subscribers and for gift subscriptions for **HALF PRICE**. In other words, we're pushing the calendar back five years ago pricewise.

But please remember three important points:

1. This is for *new* and *gift* subscriptions only—not for renewal subscriptions.
2. This offer is for a limited time, so you must hurry in order to take advantage of it.
3. Because of postage costs, we can offer the special price only for subscriptions to the United States.

Who says there are no bargains anymore? You can introduce yourself or your friends to the only magazine in the world published solely to promote the Sabbath and to promote more understanding among Sabbathkeepers.

Send your orders for subscriptions to

**THE BIBLE SABBATH ASSOCIATION
INTERNATIONAL**
Fairview, Oklahoma 73737

THE LAW OF GOD
EXODUS 20:3-17

I

Thou shalt have no other gods before me.

II

Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven images, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth: thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the Lord thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me; and showing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments.

III

Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain; for the Lord will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain.

IV

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 the Lord thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates: for 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.

V

Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee.

VI

Thou shalt not kill.

VI

Thou shalt not commit adultery.

VIII

Thou shalt not steal.

IX

Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour.

X

Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor any thing that is thy neighbour's.

**THE LAW OF GOD
IN THE NEW TESTAMENT**

I

“Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.” Matthew 4:10 (Revelation 19:10)

II

“Little children, keep yourselves from idols.” “Forasmuch then as we are the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the Godhead is like unto gold, or silver, or stone, graven by art and man’s device.” 1 John 5:21; Acts 17:29.

III

“That the name of God and his doctrine be not blasphemed.” 1 Timothy 6:1.

IV

“The sabbath was made for man, and not man for the sabbath: therefore the Son of man is Lord also of the sabbath.” “For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth.” “For he spake in a certain place of the seventh day on this wise, And God did rest the seventh day from all his works.” Mark 2:27,28; Colossians 1:16; Hebrews 4:4.

V

“Honour thy father and thy mother.” Matthew 19:19.
(Ephesians 6:1-3).

VI

“Thou shalt not kill.” Romans 13:9 (James 2:11).

VII

“Thou shalt not commit adultery.” Matthew 19:18.

VIII

“Thou shalt not steal.” Romans 13:9 (Ephesians 4:28).

IX

“Thou shalt not bear false witness” Romans 13:9.

X

“Thou shalt not covet.” Romans 7:7.

The Sabbath is not just "a day off."

Spend a Sabbath with God

ONCE upon a time (in reality, not just a fable) there was a spot on this world where man and animal, and where man and woman lived in absolute peace and security. There, under the shade of trees known as much for their beauty as for the nourishing food they readily provided, God and man walked together in the cool of the day. This, of course, was that place spoken of in Genesis 2:8: "Now the Lord God had planted a garden in the east, in Eden; and there he put the man he had formed" (NIV). But the first man and woman chose to turn their backs on God and on the garden He had created as their home, going their own way. By their disobedience sin became part of human nature, and its consequences, a part of human experience (Romans 5:12). Mankind began to know death (both physical and spiritual). Suddenly God seemed far away (Isaiah 59:2). The bearing of children became painful for women, and men could support their families only by painful toil in the sweat of the brow (Genesis 3:16-19). A new desire to control one another

jeopardized the marriage relationship (Genesis 3:16). Thus evolved the world we know today—created good, yet lying presently under a curse.

Will that curse ever be removed? Yes, it will, for those of us who have found new life in Christ. When Jesus returns for us, the curse will be completely and permanently removed, as our bodies and the physical universe itself are released from decay and futility (John 14:1-6; Romans 8:18-25). There will be a new heaven and earth under His control (Revelation 21:1-4). Jesus has already freed us from sin's punishment and power (Romans 8:1; 6:11-14); nonetheless, as Scripture says, "at present we do not see *everything* subject to him" (Hebrews 2:8, NIV). We must wait for the final redemption of ourselves and our world, with the Holy Spirit's presence in our hearts as its guarantee (Ephesians 1:13-14).

In the meantime can we find no relief from worldly cares, no rest along the way to heaven, no close walk with the God who spoke with our first ancestors in the cool of the



day in Eden? In the Book of Genesis we find that where God imposed a curse, He also pronounced a blessing. Mankind would bear the curse of physical pain and toil (Genesis 3:17-19), which would fill their hearts with worldly cares and distract them from fellowship with God. But God also “blessed the sabbath day and made it holy” (Genesis 2:3), providing temporary release from the curse and, in that way, a foretaste of heaven. On the seventh day of each week (Saturday) God invites us to rest temporarily from our labors, as He rested, “from all the work of creating that he had done” (Genesis 2:3, NIV). Sabbath rest, though it is a physical rest, is not the rest of inactivity or sleep; it is the rest of release (I.E., rest *from* something, as in the disengagement from appointed tasks, the laying aside of burdens). This quality is what makes the Sabbath a picture of heaven. For the essence of heaven is release from all that has separated us from the presence of God, release which has become a permanent condition. In this life only the

Sabbath (the “day of rest,” Exodus 16:23) anticipates the rest of heaven (when believers, “the dead who die in the Lord, will rest from their labors,” Revelation 14:13). That future rest is even called a “Sabbath rest” (i.e. a Sabbath-like rest) in Hebrews 4:9-11. So the Sabbath is not just “a day off;” it is a partial and temporary release from the curse, so that we may seek the presence of God as mankind did in Eden before they sinned, and as they will in heaven when redeemed from sin.

The Sabbath is God’s regular appointment with His people. It is not the only time they may have fellowship with Him (Hebrews 4:16 and 10:19-22 promise constant access to God), but it is God’s longstanding, regular, and Scriptural appointment with them. He expects us to clear our schedules and keep that appointment even when earthly business seems most pressing (“even during the plowing season and harvest,” Exodus 34:21). It is so important that God commands us to remember it: “Remember the Sabbath day by

keeping it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord your God. On it you shall not do any work, neither you, nor your son or daughter, nor your manservant or maidservant, nor your animals, nor the alien within your gates. For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but he rested on the seventh day. Therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy" (Exodus 20:8-11, NIV). Why is the Sabbath so important? Because it is the constant reminder we need so we will not forget who God is and what He had done for us ("Keep my Sabbaths holy, that they may be a sign between us. Then you will know that I am the Lord your God." "Ezekiel 20:20, NIV). With the Sabbath God has associated His gracious actions toward mankind: the Creation (Exodus 20), the Exodus (Deuteronomy 5), and the final redemption (Hebrews 4:9-11). Spiritually as well as physically, mankind needs Sabbath rest, for as Jesus said, "The Sabbath was made

for man" (Mark 2:27, NIV). That it is commanded calls for our loving obedience, not grudging compliance: "For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome" (1 John 5:3, RSV). By not working at our jobs on the Sabbath, we do not jeopardize our financial security. The lesson of the manna teaches us that since it is God who has given us the Sabbath, He will provide enough for us on the six other days when our work may be done (Exodus 16:29).

With all the blessings of the Sabbath and the clear Scriptural commands to keep it, why had it dropped out of the lives of most Christians today? The reason is that believers have been following the misguided human traditions of their churches, rather than the Word of God. The Pharisees did the same thing with the Fifth Commandment that churches today have done with the Fourth Commandment (the commandment to remember to keep the Sabbath day holy). Jesus said to them, "Why

● **Sabbath Promotional Aids** ●

First quality, ball point pens, printed with

"The Seventh Day is the Sabbath" Postpaid.....	\$5.00 per doz.
Bumper Stickers	\$1.00 each or \$7.00 per doz.
Sabbath Stamps	12 for \$1.00
Home Bible Study Series (13-lesson book).....	\$2.00 each or \$20.00 per doz.

Book, <i>History of the Sabbath & Sunday</i> (Kiesz).....	\$2.95
Book, <i>From Sabbath to Sunday</i> (Bacchiocchi).....	\$8.00
Book, <i>Divine Rest For Human Restlessness</i> (Bacchiocchi).....	\$8.00
SABBATH DIRECTORY.....	\$4.95
Back issues of <i>Sabbath Sentinel</i> (1980-81).....	50 for \$5.00
<i>Bible on Cassette</i> (loan-postage only)	
Book, <i>Right Face</i> (Lincoln).....	2 for \$1.00
Tracts and leaflets (some 20 titles)	Samples free

(Note: Cost of literature is so uncertain because of continuing inflation that we have discontinued pricing the tracts and leaflets. A contribution in the amount of FIVE DOLLARS or more per pound of literature desired would be most appropriate and deeply appreciated.)

THE BIBLE SABBATH ASSOCIATION
Fairview, Oklahoma 73737

do you transgress the commandment of God for the sake of your tradition?...For the sake of your tradition, you have made void the word of God" (Matthew 15:3, 6, RSV). Today by human authority and tradition the Sabbath has been picked apart, so that only a vague principle remains, which has been transferred to the first day of the week (Sunday) and renamed "the

specifically devoted to attending church. In this way many Christians today have unknowingly "made void the word of God."

The Biblical Sabbath has been spiritualized by those who say that it is really just a "principle" of rest, which is either (say some) carried over into the observance of the first day (i.e. Sunday as the "Christian" Sabbath), or (say others) is fulfilled in the idea of "rest from selfjustifying works" when a person trusts Christ as Savior. Scripture never speaks of a Sabbath "principle" of rest. It always speaks of a Sabbath "day" of rest, and that Sabbath day is not just any day of the week, but is "the seventh day" by virtue of God's express designation and its inherent symbolism (Exodus 20:10f.) Even the period of the Sabbath is specified as a full sunset-to-sunset day (Nehemiah 13:19; Genesis 1:5; Leviticus 23:32), not a few hours of a day, or a whole lifetime of "rest from self-justifying works" or "age of grace." Of course Sabbath rest itself is always described as physical rest from physical labor, not rest in some abstract sense ("you shall not do any work," Exodus 20:10 and examples in Nehemiah 13:15 and Jeremiah 17:21-22). The New Testament does not depart from this understanding (when Hebrews 4

**You can never
return to the
Garden of Eden,
but you can spend
a Sabbath with
God.**

Lord's day." This constitutes a spiritualization of the simple and straightforward teaching of Scripture, which, as is usual with such a method, results in an impoverished shadow of the Biblical concept. Thus the Biblical day of delight in the Lord (Isaiah 58:13) has dwindled into a purely secular day of recreation for much of the church and for all but a few hours of that day, which are those

**THE SEVENTH DAY IS THE SABBATH
OF THE LORD THY GOD. • REMEMBER
THE SABBATH DAY TO KEEP IT HOLY.**

Gen. 2, 3. Exodus - 20:7-11. 31:13-18.

A PERPETUAL COVENANT

SUN.	MON.	TUE.	WED.	THU.	FRI.	SAT.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7

**BACK TO THE BIBLE SABBATH •
RESTORE THE SABBATH OF GOD.
CHRIST AND APOSTOLIC CHURCH.**

Luke - 4:16 - Acts 5:29 - 1 John 5:2,3.

**THE WORLD'S GREAT NEED
THE BIBLE SABBATH ASSOCIATION**

FAIRVIEW, OKLAHOMA 73737

**SHARE THE
SABBATH**

With These Sabbath
Stamps (actual size)

12 for \$1.00

Order From:

**Bible Sabbath Association
Fairview, OK 73737**

speaks of Sabbath rest as an illustration of heaven, it is again on the basis of rest from the Genesis 3 curse of physical labor—see Hebrews 4:10).

The idea that Christians should observe the first day of the week to commemorate Jesus' resurrection receives as little support from Scripture as the idea that Sabbath rest is an abstract and "transferable" principle. Neither Jesus nor His disciples ever taught such a practice. When we would most expect to hear them speak about it—at times when they are expressly teaching the significance of the resurrection—it is conspicuously absent. What is important to them about the day of the resurrection is the fact that it would come after Jesus had lain in the grave for three days (fulfilling a sign—Matthew 12:39-40—and proving His physical death), not that it would be any particular day of the week (Matthew 16:21; 17:23; Mark 8:31; Luke 18:33; Acts 10:40, I Corinthians 15:4).

There are a few references in the New Testament to meetings of the disciples on the first day of the week, but they are not said to be their regular weekly gatherings for worship, and we might assume they got together on other days of the week as well (in Acts 2:46 we find them meeting "every day," NIV). The name "Lord's day," which human tradition has assigned to Sunday, is never used of the first day of the week in the New Testament. It occurs only once in the New Testament (Revelation 1:10), where it is neither identified as referring to the first day nor described as a day for Christian gatherings (and if it refers to the day when Jesus' resurrection was celebrated, which again is not stated, it might as easily be an annual celebration day as a weekly one). With such shaky Scriptural

support, is it right for us to abandon the only day specifically identified by the Old Testament as "the Lord's holy day" (Isaiah 58:13), and the only day in the New Testament of which Jesus claimed to be Lord (Mark 2:27), the seventh-day Sabbath?

We have not shared this information about the Sabbath with you in order to vilify the probably well-intentioned (though misguided) motives of other church groups. If Christ is their Savior and Lord, as He is ours, then they are our brethren, regardless. But we do feel that you should have enough Scriptural information to decide for yourself what your practice will be. We hope you will choose the Word of God over the traditions of men and join us in observing the Biblical Sabbath. We believe (from Isaiah 58:13-14) that, "if you honor it...you will find your joy in the Lord." You can never return to the Garden of Eden, but you can spend a Sabbath with God. May it be the blessing to you which He intended!

—From the Sabbath Recorder

Yarns, Not Yams, Please!

In the Letter column of the April issue (page 19) you may have noticed a misprint that left you wondering. Rahya Montuori's letter stated that she would be grateful "for donation of leftover yams of any kind for my RSVP group's work with institutional retarded children." We hope none of you sent sweet potatoes left over from meals. The request should have said, "left-over *yarns* of any kind." Rahya Montuori's address is 633 Lake Dot Cir., Orlando, FL 32801.



Love the Unlovely

By rahya montuori

Friend, love the unlovely; they too
are God's children.
They too have salvation by the same
risen Lord,
He loves them, protects them, and
answers their prayers,
The message for them is in the same
Holy Word!

They sin no—or sin and know not
that they sin,
But the same Holy Spirit fills their
cup, dwells within,
Oh, love the unlovely; they too are
His creatures,

For the "least of these" also He
suffered and died!
They come to the Father in humble
acceptance,
In their innocent trust they are
never denied!

If you meet the unlovely, let them
know you're a friend,
They have fragile emotions and on
your kindness depends!
Someday the unlovely will walk
streets of gold,
At last they'll be lovely, and more
precious than gold!

It appears that Mr. Huber (January "Orchids and Onions") is saying that since the Passover and the days of unleavened bread were given as "ordinances," they are not to be observed, and he references Exodus 12:14,17.

What some fail to notice as they get so particular is that perhaps they are 'straining out the gnat, but swallowing the camel.'

After all, Jesus clearly said to keep the Passover (the wine and the bread) in remembrance of Him.

Also, two very important words complete the original instruction in both of verses 14 and 17 of Exodus 12. They are: "for ever."

Why do so many look for excuses to set aside the commandments of God, instead of just doing them?

—Jeremy Myer,
Huntington Beach, CA

Yesterday, at the Anderson library, I read the latest SABBATH SENTINEL. The article on the blue laws was very interesting. Was surprised to learn that Oklahoma was among the eight states having the strictest Sunday laws. It has been 15 years or more, since I bought an Oklahoma City paper. If I recall correctly, it had ads showing that beer, autos, and items from discount stores were for sale on Sundays at that time. I also recall that a referendum was held several years ago, and a Sunday proposal was narrowly defeated.

Orchids and Onions

The *New York Times* claims that three stores in New Jersey have filed a suit alleging that the blue law discriminates against them.

One other thing on the article. At last report I had, only 16 of 115 counties in Missouri had repealed their blue laws.

There surely are more than five states banning Sunday booze and/or car sales. Indiana, Ohio, and Michigan are three I know of that ban such sales.

I agree 100 percent with the writer who said Reagan's deal with the pope is bad news for Sabbathkeepers. The Catholic Church has always backed Sunday legislation.

—Name Withheld
Alexandria, IN

May the association and its officers continue to spread the word of God's kingdom and His Sabbath.

—Clara L. Beebe,
Ormond Beach, FL



A World of Satisfaction

We humans make it a point never to be satisfied. But those who are Sabbathkeepers do get a lot of satisfaction from . . .

- Knowing that we are observing the only day that the Creator blessed and set apart as a holy day immediately after Creation.
- Knowing that the Jews have preserved the exact “seventh day” of Creation for the benefit and blessings of all mankind today.
- Knowing that our Savior knew what day is the true Sabbath, and He set us an example by observing it.
- Knowing that Paul, a minister of the “New Covenant,” was a Sabbathkeeper and taught the early church that Sabbathkeeping remains for the people of God.

All that adds up to a world of satisfaction. We welcome you into the membership of several hundreds of other satisfied Sabbathkeepers.

THE BIBLE SABBATH ASSOCIATION
Fairview, Oklahoma 73737

Classified Ads

Watch Garner Ted Armstrong every Sabbath morning on SPN Cable Network. (6,7,8).

For sale—one almost-new tent (seats 100). Cost me \$2,000. One piano, small, easy to move, \$250; 60 chairs, some in cartons, \$360. I have slides for about 25 sermons. Bell Howell projector, cost \$75. The slides which I have accumulated over the years are not replaceable, at no cost; they are 3 1/4 x 4-inch slides. The price is negotiable on them. Two boxes of songs in these. Elder D. E. Skaggs, 39 Mount Drive, Greenbrier, AR 72050. (7,8)

LOAN LIBRARY

1. Some 50 books on the Sabbath, Creation and related books.

2. The Bible on Cassette popular narrators — 2 or 4 tapes each mailing.

3. Tapes on miscellaneous religious subjects by various speakers.

Complete listings sent on request.

Only cost payment of postage both ways.

Please send self-addressed, stamped envelope for reply and state which category you desire. Contributions (cash, books, tapes, etc.) to facilitate or improve the service of this library are most welcome. THE BIBLE SABBATH ASSOCIATION, FAIRVIEW, OKLAHOMA 73737.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS????

By all means notify us in advance. Failure to do so will result in a 25¢ charge to our account by the post office and also the chance you will miss an issue of the SENTINEL.

THE BIBLE SABBATH ASSOCIATION
Fairview, OK. 73737

Bible Sabbath Association

Board of Directors

1984-1987

1. Leroy Bass, President
1743 Park Street
Middleton, WI. 53562
2. Recording Secretary
Mrs. Violet Rodgers
Route 1, Box 163A
Hatfield, AR. 71945
3. Secretary-Treasurer
Lawrence Burrell
Route 1, Box 222
Fairview, OK. 73737
4. 1st Vice-president
Eugene Lincoln, Editor
1228 Wayne Avenue
Hagerstown, MD 21740
5. 2nd Vice-president
Calvin Burrell
640 East 78th Place
Denver, CO. 80229
6. 3rd Vice-president
John Bevis
2301 Wadsworth Blvd.
Denver, CO. 80215
7. Jerome Boyd
New Enterprise, PA.
1664
8. M. O. Flanery,
403 Hawthorne Drive
Warsaw, MO. 66355
9. Eugene Rodgers
Route 1, Box 163A
Hatfield, AR. 71945
10. John Kiesz
820 Woodlawn
Canon City, CO. 81212
11. John Bennett
6603-4001 Mt. Seymour
Parkway
North Vancouver, B.C.
Canada V7G 1C2
12. Gilbert Sanford
995 S. Hopewell Road
Hopewell, OH. 43746



Men, what becomes of your estate if you die without a will and you have no living children or grandchildren?

Your wife? Guess again.

Depending on the state in which you live—and the laws of descent and distribution—your wife may get less than half of your estate. It's best to check with your attorney and make a LEGAL WILL.

REMEMBER, the greatest benefits from this service comes with thorough planning long before illness or death is imminent.

And when you do, remember that the Bible Sabbath Association headquarters appreciates bequests and puts them to careful use.

If we can help you with your plans for a will let us know.

THE BIBLE SABBATH ASSOCIATION
Fairview, Oklahoma 73737

It's ready for you!

Directory of Sabbath- Observing Groups

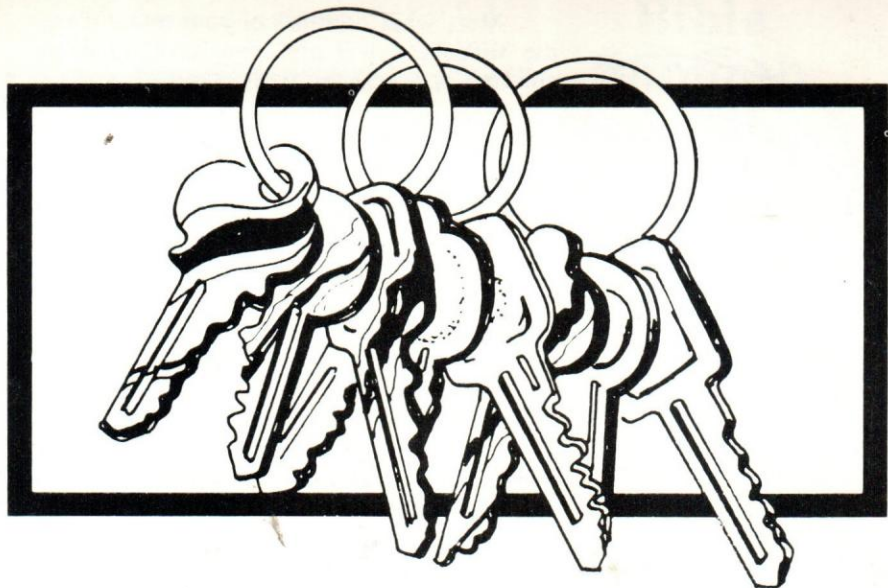
(The first revision since 1974)

This 147-page book lists alphabetically over one hundred Sabbath-observing groups throughout the world, gives a brief summary of their beliefs, and tells you where to get more information about them.

Get your copy now of this valuable reference book. It is only \$4.95 a copy.

Order From
**THE BIBLE SABBATH
ASSOCIATION INTL.**

Fairview, Oklahoma 73737



Here are your keys to more effective witnessing.

BIBLE SABBATH ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP.

\$20 or more per year; family membership, \$25; life, \$500 or more during one year.

THE SABBATH SENTINEL.

The world's only magazine devoted to promoting the Sabbath from a nondenominational standpoint and furthering fellowship among Sabbathkeepers.

VARIED TRACTS AND CALENDARS.

Write for samples and prices.

**THE BIBLE SABBATH ASSOCIATION
INTERNATIONAL**

