

HAS
SABBATH TIME
BEEN *Lost*



KNOW THE

TRUTH...

HAS SABBATH TIME BEEN LOST?

By Joseph M. McGuire

Who in the sinless, joyful Paradise of Eden told the first great LIE to reach the ears of our ancestors Adam and Eve (Genesis 3:4)? Yes, dear reader, it was our adversary Satan as the crafty serpent. He has been lying to mankind ever since. Some diligent Truth-seeker correctly said, "For every commandment of God Satan has a counterfeit; for every truth of God he has a lie." Christ called Satan "a liar and the father of it" (John 8:44).

May this humble tract help open the eyes of many to Satan's condemning lies—and to God's live-giving eternal Truth! It is God's will that we love Him enough to keep ALL His Commandments of Life—even the seventh-day Sabbath one—through the grace of Jesus Christ, our Saviour (John 14:15, Revelation 22:14, 1 John 1:9). Did you know the seventh-day Sabbath is the ONLY day in the week we can, by the authority of God's Word, the Holy Bible, correctly call "the Lord's Day?" (See Isaiah 58:13 and Mark 2:28).

Let us consider the arch-deceiver's lies against the Fourth Commandment of God, the SEVENTH-DAY SABBATH COMMANDMENT, Satan says (and many heed), "You need not keep the Sabbath on the SEVENTH day, Saturday, because TIME HAS BEEN LOST, the CALENDAR HAS BEEN CHANGED and *days dropped from it*. Why, people are not even using the same calendar today used during the days of Christ and the apostles! Then too, HOW can you keep the Sabbath on a ROUND WORLD? One loses a

day when traveling westward and gains a day when traveling eastward. Thus no one can prove which day is the seventh-day Sabbath today!" The enemy of Truth continues this hypothetical discourse: "Why not just go along with the crowd and keep Sunday as the Sabbath? What difference does it make anyway? If you're a Christian, doesn't God expect you to keep EVERY DAY HOLY?"

As we shall see, the arch-deceiver is extremely busy these days with his deceptions, prevarications, innuendos, and half-truths and is thusly trying to lead many away from complete obedience to God.

GOD, whose "word is TRUTH" (John 17:17. Stress sometimes indicated throughout), says, "Remember the Sabbath day, to keep IT holy the SEVENTH day is the Sabbath of the LORD THY GOD" (Exodus 20:8, 10). CHRIST says, "It is lawful to do well on the Sabbath . . ." (Matthew 12:12).

Dear reader, does it seem reasonable that the great God of all Creation would command us to DO something we were NOT to do (or COULD NOT do)—to keep holy a certain day we were NOT to (or COULD NOT) keep holy? Please read on for proof Sabbath time has NOT been lost!

JOSHUA'S LONG DAY

Many believe the deception "time has been lost," and thus Sabbath time confounded, because they fail to rightly divide the word of TRUTH (II Timothy 2:15) as they read in Joshua 10 that the Lord, at the request of Joshua, made "the sun stand still . . . and haste not to go down about a whole day" (Joshua

10:13. Change of tense). One might hurriedly comment, "See! That long day of Joshua's interrupted the normal flow of days through the weekly cycle, didn't it? Now we don't know WHICH day is the seventh-day Sabbath, do we?"

Yes, dear reader, we do. Notice, please, that even with this ONE day being some thirty-six hours in length, still THE CYCLE OF DAYS IN THE WEEK WAS INTERRUPTED, UNCHANGED by its occurrence—still 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7 (Sabbath). Remember, God reckons a "day" as being "from evening to evening" (Genesis 1:5, Leviticus 23:32) regardless of how many HOURS (man's time) are in between "evening to evening." And the Bible calls this long day ONE DAY—just ONE DAY (Joshua 10:14). The histories of many peoples show it was customary to end and begin the day at sunset until a few hundred years after Christ. Even today holy time is kept "from evening to evening" by a large number of Christian groups (see The Bible Sabbath Association book *Directory of Sabbath-Observing Groups*).

THE SABBATH CHRIST KEPT

But now, to prove this whole matter, let us remember that we really need go back no further than the time of CHRIST'S earthly ministry. For if Joshua's long day did not alter the weekly cycle, then Jesus observed—correctly observed, of course—the seventh day of the week. Jesus *knew* which was the right day. HE kept the TRUE SABBATH, and our calendar record *proves* that the Saturday of

today is the very same seventh day Jesus Christ kept!" Notice that the day which Jesus kept "AS HIS CUSTOM WAS" (Luke 4:16) was the same day that all the Jews kept, for they were then holding their religious service in the synagogue (verses 17, 20). Ask any orthodox Jew—or any truly Messianic Jew—TODAY if he has lost the Sabbath. Such an idea would be nonsense to him. The Jew is not in doubt and *never has been!* Neither was the Lord Jesus Christ in doubt!

Moreover, lest someone say the Saviour kept the Sabbath simply because He was a Jew, consider two points: (1) Jesus said, "The Sabbath was made for MAN . . ." (Mark 2:27. "Mankind," not just the Jew) and (2) His prophecy in Matthew 24:20 in which He asked His faithful followers, because of future troubles, to "pray that your flight be NOT . . . ON THE SABBATH DAY." Many believe this prophecy was fulfilled some forty years after His Crucifixion, when the Romans besieged Jerusalem (70 A.D.—long after the sealing of the New Covenant by the Saviour's death on the Cross!). If the seventh-day Sabbath had been changed in the New Covenant, then the Saviour surely would not have asked that the Sabbath be KEPT years after His Crucifixion!

We can also see by the facts mentioned before and following the answer to the last question of the arch-deceiver Satan, that EVERY day of the week is NOT equally holy to God (Genesis 2:1-3). There is just ONE special day in the week MADE HOLY by God, the day of His choice, the day having HIS special blessing, the SEVENTH DAY SABBATH (in

fact, we are commanded to WORK the *other* six days—but NOT on the Sabbath! Exodus 20:9, 10)! Let us follow, like Paul, the example of CHRIST our great Teacher (I Corinthians 11:1)!

THOSE CALENDAR CHANGES

Since we have shown that the weekly cycle of days, the seven-day rota of the week, was *unchanged* by Joshua's long day, that Christ kept what we today called Saturday, and that every day is NOT equally holy to God, let us now proceed to *prove* that the changes in the *calendar* did *not* affect the timing of God's holy day, the seventh-day Sabbath, today.

Today we live under what is called the Gregorian calendar. It was given this name because of the calendar reform in 1582 authorized by Pope Gregory XIII. Today's calendar is in reality a revision of the Julian calendar authorized by Julius Caesar in 46 B.C. The Julian calendar was in use until 1582 A.D.

Because by the time of Pope Gregory the Julian calendar had drifted TEN DAYS away from the seasons, the spring equinox falling on March 11 instead of March 21, it was decided to DROP TEN DAYS from the calendar. This was accomplished in October of 1582 at the direction of Pope Gregory. But THE ORDER OF DAYS IN THE WEEK WAS NOT INTERRUPTED by dropping the ten days! This happened: people went to bed on the night of Thursday, October 4, 1582, but when they awoke the next day the DATE was October 15. But the DAY was, as usual, *Friday*. NO DAY HAD BEEN LOST AT ALL, just the DATE had been changed!

In September, 1752, after a long delay, the British countries also dropped days from the calendar. They had not gone along with dropping ten days from the calendar in 1582 because they had refused to change the calendar when the pope in Rome ordered it. By September, 1752, however, it had become necessary for the British countries to drop days also—*eleven* days—in order to rectify the calendar with the seasons. **STILL THE WEEKLY CYCLE—THE ORDER OF DAYS IN THE WEEK—REMAINED THE SAME, WITHOUT INTERRUPTION, AS GOD ORDAINED IT IN THE BEGINNING!**

In the *Catholic Encyclopedia*, Volume 3, page 740, article “Chronology,” we read: “It is to be noted that in the Christian period, the order of days in the week has never been interrupted. Thus when Gregory XIII reformed the calendar in 1582, Thursday, 4 October was followed by Friday, 15 October. So in England in 1752, Wednesday, 2 September was followed by Thursday, 14 September.

TESTIMONY OF ASTRONOMERS

Astronomers both past and present testify to the **UNINTERRUPTED WEEKLY CYCLE OF SEVEN DAYS.**

“. . . the division of the week . . . has been followed for thousands of years, and therefore has been hallowed by immemorial use.”—M. Anders Donner, professor of astronomy at the University of Helsingfors.

“. . . we have had occasion to investigate the results of the works of specialists in chronology and we have never found one of them that has ever had the slightest doubt

about the continuity of the weekly cycle since long before the Christian era There has been no change in our calendar in past centuries that has affected in any way the cycle of the week"—James Robertson, former Director American Ephemeris, U. S. Naval Observatory, Washington, D. C.

"As far as I know, in the various changes of the Calendar there has been no change in the seven-day rota of the week, which has come down from very early times"—F. W. Dyson, former Astronomer Royal, Royal Observatory, Greenwich, London:

"The continuity of the week . . . has crossed the centuries, and all known calendars still intact"—Professor D. Eginitis, director of the Observatory of Athens.

We could list many more testimonies of outstanding astronomers that THE WEEKLY CYCLE OF SEVEN DAYS IN THE WEEK HAS NEVER BEEN BROKEN!

GAINING OR LOSING A DAY TRAVELING AROUND THE WORLD

The hypothetical statement of the arch-deceiver the devil that we "lose" or "gain" a day depending upon which way we travel around our round world also has an answer.

It might seem to some, who do not stop to think very deeply, that one loses a day if he travels westward around the world—or gains a day if he travels eastward. But this loss of gain is *apparent, not real*. Let us illustrate.

Think of what would happen if this were true. Imagine twin brothers, one traveling westward around the world, the other traveling eastward. If one brother *actually* lost a day,

while the other gained a day, then after seven such journeys, one would become *fourteen days older* than his twin brother. If they took enough trips, one brother would in time become enough older to be the “father” of his own twin brother! This is ridiculous, but it illustrates the point.

When a person *travels*, his days are not of equal length. If a man travels by plane from New York to San Francisco, he'll pass over several time belts, and he might set his watch *back* one hour for each time belt he passes into, finally finding his day is computed as 27 hours, not 24 hours. In *San Francisco* his watch will then be correct, but *not* in New York. On the way back to New York he'll again adjust his watch, this time *forward* one hour for each time belt passed into.

Thus we see that “gaining” or “losing” either days or hours is *apparent* and not real.

There are many more tricky *arguments*—but *all* having truthful *answers*—the arch-fiend Satan uses to confuse people, and seemingly to “justify” them in disobeying the Commandments of God. But we must always be aware of Satan's deceptions and remember the Holy Scriptures, our standard of right doing (righteousness), teach “the devil is a LIAR and the father of it”; also the Scriptures reveal “. . . SIN is the TRANSGRESSION of the LAW [of God]” (1 John 3:4). In Romans 6:1, 2 we are told the CHRISTIAN must NOT CONTINUE IN SIN, in transgressing the Law of God. (See also Hebrews 10:26, 27).

Dear reader, do not willfully transgress even one Commandment of God, for the Scriptures say that the wages of *wilful, unforgiven sin* is

death (Ezekiel 18:24, Romans 6:23). Let us rather be obedient Christians, obey God and live (John 3:36, Revelation 22:14). Even if we disobey God in only one point of His holy Law, we become guilty of breaking all of it (James 2:10-12). The Lord Jesus Christ says, "If ye LOVE me, KEEP My Commandments" (John 14:15). May every true Christian answer, "Amen, Lord Jesus! Because of my TRUE LOVE for YOU, and always remembering the great price You paid for my transgressions and eternal salvation on the cruel Cross of Calvary, I'll henceforth willingly OBEY AND TEACH OTHERS YOUR EVERY COMMANDMENT!" (See Matthew 5:19 and John 1:1-3).

Truth crushed to earth shall rise again;
The eternal years of God are hers;
But Error, wounded, writhes in pain,
And dies amid her worshippers.

—William Cullen Bryant

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