



AWR360°
BROADCAST TO BAPTISM



THE NEW TESTAMENT SABBATH

Is it valid?

Introduction

This tract addresses questions from non-Adventists concerning Sabbath observance by non-Jews, Greeks and Christians in the New Testament.

It's a valid matter to address, as most churches have been observing Sunday as a day of rest, as well as for church attendance.

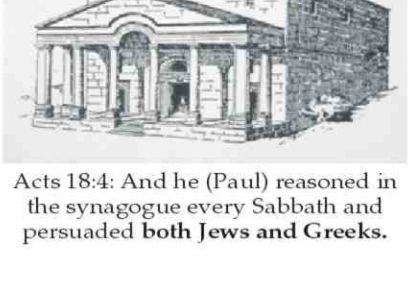
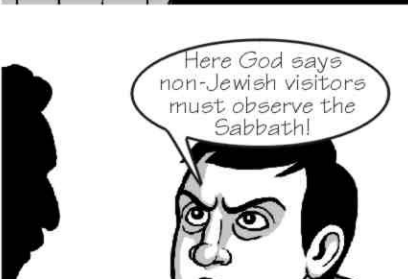
However 'non-Jews' did in fact observe the Sabbath in the New Testament.

George Ross

Question from a non-Adventist:

Please explain when or where Jesus, or any Bible writer, indicated that non-Jews or Christians observed the Jewish Sabbath in the New Testament?

We don't want to argue, just chapter and verse, please!



This Jesus is the Messiah!

Acts 18:4: And he (Paul) reasoned in the synagogue every Sabbath and persuaded both Jews and Greeks.

Acts 17 verses 2-4: As was his custom, Paul went into the synagogue, and on three Sabbath days he reasoned with them from the Scriptures, explaining and proving that the Messiah had to suffer and rise from the dead. "This Jesus I am proclaiming to you is the Messiah," he said.



As Paul and Barnabas were leaving the synagogue, the people invited them to speak further about these things on the next Sabbath. When the congregation was dismissed, many of the Jews and devout converts to Judaism followed Paul and Barnabas, who talked with them and urged them to continue in the grace of God. On the next Sabbath almost the whole city gathered to hear the Word of the Lord. When the Jews saw the crowds, they were filled with jealousy. They began to contradict what Paul was saying and heaped abuse on him.

Mark 2:27, KJV: "And He said unto them, the Sabbath was made for man, and not man for the Sabbath."

Jesus clearly stated that the Sabbath was made for man. Do you claim that 'man' as mentioned here refers to Jews only and gentiles are excluded?

If so, how would you arrive at such a conclusion? The word 'man' after all is a general word for humankind!

Exodus 20:10: "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 maid servant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates."

Surely a **stranger** in this context could be a human being of any persuasion?



"Some of the Jews were persuaded and joined Paul and Silas, as did many God-fearing Greeks and quite a few prominent women." Acts 17:4

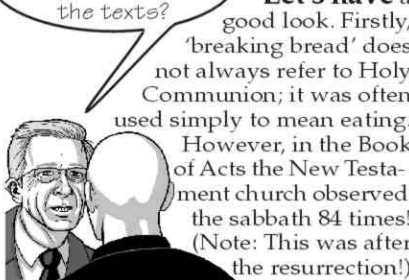
I notice that in your opening address you referred to the 'Jewish Sabbath'.

The term 'the Jewish...' is used when referring to 'their' land or other possessions.

However the term 'Jewish Sabbath' or 'Sabbath of the Jews' does not appear in the Bible.

✱ Read Acts 13:42-45 in the next panel.

According to this text there appears to be little doubt that the Sabbath was used in these early times for assembling the Christian church. Of course, the Bible and the truth have never changed, only man's ideas!



Let's have a good look. Firstly, 'breaking bread' does not always refer to Holy Communion; it was often used simply to mean eating. However, in the Book of Acts the New Testament church observed the sabbath 84 times! (Note: This was after the resurrection!)

I state categorically that there is not a single text in the Bible that indicates or states that the Sabbath was changed to Sunday, and there is also no text that indicates or states that Christians worshipped or used Sunday as a sabbath replacement during these early times.

That's why it wasn't necessary to emphasise what was standard practice

I don't know where you get your information, as to what we do or don't believe, but what you say we believe is not what we believe at all. We don't dispute that Sunday was maintained after the New Testament time. This was because the Jews were persecuted. Anyone that kept the sabbath was considered Jewish and persecuted. To save their lives, the Jews started keeping both Sabbath and Sunday as holy. Persecution later worsened, so they continued with Sunday worship just to stay alive.

From the foregoing we understand that Christian folk after the NT period observed Sunday worship. **However, here comes the crunch!**

History tells us that the change from Sabbath to Sunday came in the 4th century. Many Romans worshipped the sun (this is in fact the origin of the name Sunday), so when Emperor Constantine became a Christian in 321 AD, on 7 March, he declared Sunday the official day of worship, as a compromise.

Four years later, in the year 325, Sylvester, the Bishop of Rome, enacted a law concerning the observance of Sunday as the sabbath. He changed the name of Sunday, calling it 'the Lord's Day'.

In doing so, he took a stand against what the Bible teaches!

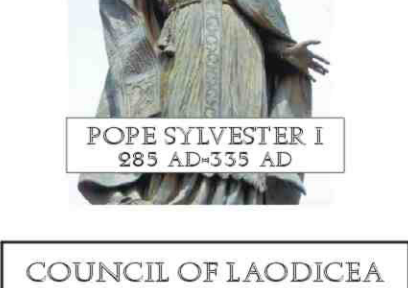
Sylvester was the 33rd Pope of the Catholic Church.

If the Sabbath observance and church assembly were so important, why did the apostles and elders hold church and breaking bread on the first day of the week? (Acts 20:7) Church history does not agree with your standpoint.

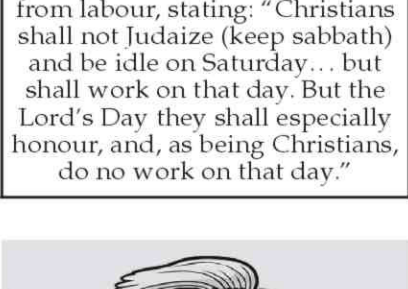


The Sabbath was so strictly managed that it was actually policed! The pharisees employed people to warn anyone guilty of breaking their rules... They charged even Jesus for this!

Your church claims the Sabbath was changed in Constantine's time, in the fourth Century. How do you explain that the Church Fathers, in the first three centuries after the Crucifixion, refer to the first day of the week as the day that Christians gathered following the example of the Apostles? Again church history disagrees with your standpoint!



EMPEROR CONSTANTINE
AD 280-337



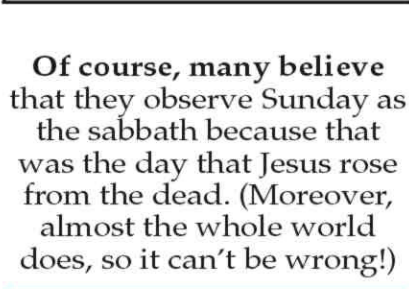
POPE SYLVESTER I
285 AD-335 AD

COUNCIL OF LAODICEA 363-364 AD

On 7 March 321, Emperor Constantine issued a civil decree making Sunday a day of rest from labour, stating: "Christians shall not Judaize (keep sabbath) and be idle on Saturday... but shall work on that day. But the Lord's Day they shall especially honour, and, as being Christians, do no work on that day."

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"Sunday is our mark of authority... The Church is above the Bible and this transference of sabbath observance is proof of that fact."



As we know, most churches keep the Sunday as a day of rest and worship. I am reminded of the words of Jesus in Matthew 15:3:

"But He answered and said unto them, why do ye also transgress the commandment of God by your tradition?"

Of course, many believe that they observe Sunday as the sabbath because that was the day that Jesus rose from the dead. (Moreover, almost the whole world does, so it can't be wrong!)

Just because it was so for centuries, doesn't make it the truth!

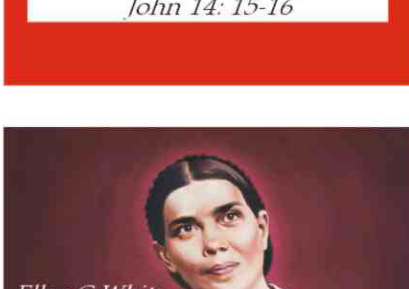
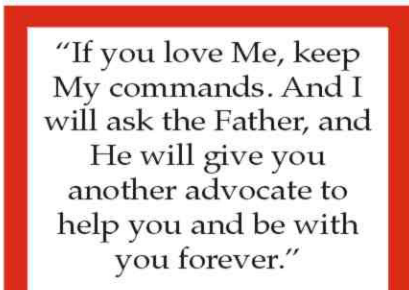


For the mouth of the LORD has spoken. Isaiah 58:13-14

"As the new heaven and the new earth that I make will endure before me," declares the LORD, "so will your name and descendants endure. From one New Moon to another and from one Sabbath to another, all mankind will come and bow down before me," says the LORD.

Isaiah 66 verse 22

Not my words, but God's Word, and it explains itself.



Ellen G White

More than 1 500 years have passed since 325 AD and the moment in time is **20 November 1855**.

"While in prayer, the Spirit of the Lord came suddenly and powerfully upon me, and I was taken off in vision... I saw that it is even so:

'From even unto even, shall ye celebrate your Sabbath,'" said the angel. "Take the Word of God, read it, understand, and ye cannot err. Read carefully, and ye shall then find what even is, and when it is."



It is true that the disciples came together to worship on the first day of the week. Eight texts refer to this.

This we'll happily address in the tracts to follow!



World Cellphone Evangelising, Bible Studies and Sermons

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