

SIGNS *of the Times*

WHAT IN THE WORLD IS GOING ON?

The Sign that you are safe

Did you ever wonder where our seven-day week came from? Years, days, hours, minutes, and seconds are all based on the time it takes the earth to revolve around the sun and on its own axis. Months are related to the cycles of the moon. Nothing in nature marks off a seven-day week, yet it is firmly in place everywhere around the world.

Where did the seven-day week originate?

THE BIRTHDAY OF THE WORLD

1. How many days did God use in creating our world?
(**Genesis 1:31–2:1**)

At the end of the sixth day of creation week, God saw that everything He had made was “very good.” But God wasn’t quite finished.

2. What happened on the seventh day of creation week? (**Genesis 2:2, 3**)

God instituted the Sabbath as a memorial of creation. The Sabbath is essentially the birthday of the world. Just as your birthday commemorates the day you were born, so the Sabbath is a memorial to the creation of the world.

3. What three things did God do when He instituted the seventh-day Sabbath? (**Genesis 2:2, 3**)

(a) _____

(b) _____

(c) _____



God didn't rest because He was tired! He rested as an example for us. He gave the Sabbath to us as a day to rest from all our usual daily activities and to spend time with Him. He blessed the seventh day and sanctified it—set it apart for a holy use—as a gift to us and as a reminder that He is the God who created us.

THE SEVENTH-DAY SABBATH IS A LASTING MEMORIAL

4. What reason does God give for asking us to keep the seventh-day Sabbath holy? (**Exodus 20:8-11**)

God enshrined the seventh-day Sabbath in the heart of His Ten Commandments. He commands us to keep it holy because He created the earth and every living thing. The Sabbath is a lasting memorial to God's creative and redemptive power. (Ezekiel 20:12)

5. Who did God make the Sabbath for? (**Mark 2:27**)

Jesus didn't say the Sabbath was made for the Jews; He said that it was made for all of us. He's in complete agreement with the book of Genesis: the Sabbath is a gift for the whole human race.

IS THE SABBATH STILL IMPORTANT FOR CHRISTIANS TODAY?

6. What was Jesus' custom regarding worship while He was on earth? (**Luke 4:16**)
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If Jesus intended to change the day of worship, He never said a word about it! When He died, His followers were still keeping the seventh-day Sabbath “according to the commandment.” (Luke 23:54–24:1)

7. Did the apostles continue to keep the seventh-day Sabbath following Jesus’ death and resurrection? (**Acts 13:14, 42-44; 16:13; 18:4**)

Neither Jesus nor his apostles said anything about changing the day of worship from the seventh day to the first day of the week. The consistent record of the New Testament is that they kept the seventh-day Sabbath of God’s Ten Commandments. Jesus said that God’s law will remain as long as heaven and earth continue. (Matthew 5:17-19)

SOME QUESTIONS ANSWERED

8. Doesn’t the New Testament call Sunday the “Lord’s Day”? (**Revelation 1:10; Matthew 12:8**)

The Apostle John states that he was in vision on “the Lord’s Day.” John doesn’t specify which day of the week he is referring to as the “Lord’s Day.” But the rest of the Bible is clear that the Lord’s Day is the seventh-day Sabbath. (Matthew 12:8)

9. What does the Sabbath signify (2) according to scripture? (**Ezekiel 20:12,20**)

A sign conveys a meaning. When we see road signs they communicate to us sometimes without using words. Signs can be symbols of important meanings. One of the greatest signs revealed to God’s people is the Seventh-day. A memorial to remind us that the Lord is our God, creator of Heaven and earth and the Lord is the one that Sanctifies us which is another way of saying makes us Holy. (Philippians 1:6)

10. Is it ok to keep the whole law except one? (**James 2:10-11**)

James is clearly talking about the Ten Commandments, and he says very clearly that you can’t remove a part of the law. Because you love God you will desire to keep the whole thing.

Hasn't the calendar been changed through the centuries so that we can't be certain which day is the seventh day of Bible times?

Ten days were dropped out of the calendar in 1582 to correct some discrepancies that had built up over the years. But the weekly cycle has never changed. In 1582, Thursday, October 4, was followed by Friday, October 15. The seventh-day Sabbath today is the same seventh-day Sabbath it was in Jesus' day.

THE SABBATH: AN ISSUE OF ALLEGIANCE AND LOVE

11. In vision, the Apostle John saw three angels, each with a message to proclaim to the world. What command did he hear the first angel announce? (**Revelation 14:6, 7**)

In the last days, renewed attention will be given to worshipping God as the Creator and to keeping His seventh-day Sabbath as a memorial to His creative power. Satan rebelled against God in heaven, because he wanted to be like God, sit on his own throne, and be worshipped. (Isaiah 14:12-14) The Sabbath commandment shows that Satan is not the true god. That is why Satan hates the Sabbath so much.

The issue is one of allegiance and love. "If you love Me," said Jesus, "keep My commandments." (John 14:15)

MY DECISION

- I want to keep all of God's commandments, including the fourth, by keeping His seventh-day Sabbath holy.

MY PRAYER

Father, thank You for the gift of the Sabbath. I look forward to spending special time with You on the Sabbath each week. Keep me close to You. In Jesus' name, I pray, Amen.

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