

SOME BIBLE FACTS ABOUT THE SABBATH

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- A. **The “Sabbath” was the seventh day of the week, never the first:** Exodus 20:9-11; 31:15; 34:21; Deuteronomy 5:12-15
- B. **The Sabbath was very restrictive:**
- a. No ordinary work was to be done: Exodus 31:13-17; 20:8-11; 23:9-12; 34:21
 - b. No food was to be gathered, baked, or boiled: Exodus 16:23-26
 - c. No fire was to be kindled, or sticks gathered: Exodus 35:1-3; Numbers 16:32-35
 - d. No buying or selling was to be done: Nehemiah 13:15-21
 - e. No burden could be carried: Jeremiah 17:21-22
 - f. No one could travel more than a “Sabbath day’s journey” (2000 cubits, or a little more than half a mile): Exodus 16:29; Numbers 35:5; Acts 1:12
 - g. No one was supposed to leave his place of abode: Exodus 16:27-29; Leviticus 23:3
 - h. No one was to pass out of the city gates: Nehemiah 10:31; 13:15-19
 - i. There was to be a holy convocation where Levitical priests sacrificed a burnt offering of two lambs; Leviticus 23:3; Numbers 28:9-10
 - j. The penalty for violating the Sabbath was death: Exodus 31:14-15; 35:2; Numbers 15:32-36
2. **The Sabbath was given to the nation of Israel only:**
- a. *It was part of the national covenant God made with Israel and given to Israel as a memorial after God delivered her from the bondage of Egypt:* Deuteronomy 5:15; Exodus 20:1-2, 8-12, Ezekiel 20:10-12, 20
 - b. *It was a sign between God and Israel:* Exodus 16:23-31; 31:12-18
 - c. *It was made known to Israel by the hand of Moses:* Deuteronomy 4:13; Nehemiah 9:12-14
 - d. *It was given to Israel and her fleshly descendants only:* Deuteronomy 5:1-3, 12-15
 - e. *Its keeping was unknown before Moses told Israel of it:* Exodus 16:4-5, 22-23
 - f. *It was a ceremonial feast day for Israel:* Leviticus 23:2-3
 - g. God finished His work of creating and rested on the seventh day (Genesis 2:3); but it was not until 2,500 years later that God sanctified the day for the children of Israel after their deliverance from the slavery of Egypt (Deuteronomy 5:15).

3. **We are not under the “Sabbath law” today:**

- a. *No one is to judge another with regard to the Sabbath:* Colossians 2:16. WHY NOT?
- b. *God said He would cause the Sabbath to cease:* Hosea 2:11; Amos 8:5-10; cf. Matthew 27:45, 51; Luke 23:44-45; Ephesians 2:15 (note: the Sabbath was “perpetual,” throughout the generations of Israel, Exodus 31:16-17 - but the nation of Israel ceased to exist in 70 AD, see Matthew 24; compare also Leviticus 16:34; etc.); the feast days, Sabbaths, etc., were nailed to the cross (Colossians 2:13-17).
- c. *Today, we are under the New Covenant of Jesus Christ:* Jeremiah 31:31-34; Romans 7:4-12; Galatians 3:23-24; Colossians 2:14; Hebrews 7:12, 18; 8:6-13; 9:11-18; 10:1, 9; also compare carefully Deuteronomy 4:13 with 2 Corinthians 3:5-14
- d. *Jesus promised to “fulfill” the law* (Matthew 5:17; cf. Luke 24:44) and brought it to an end (Romans 10:4); today we’re under His law (1 Corinthians 9:21; Galatians 6:2).
- e. *The New Testament firmly rebukes those who would seek to bind the Jewish law on Gentile converts:* Acts 15:1-3; Galatians 4:10-11, 21-31; 5:4; Romans 3:19
- f. *There was no command to “keep the Sabbath” before the Law of Moses; there is no command to “keep the Sabbath” in the New Covenant of Jesus Christ!*
- g. *There is no Biblical distinction between “the law of God” and “the law of Moses” – the law given to Moses was the law of God (2 Chronicles 31:3; 34:14; Ezra 7:6; Nehemiah 8:18; 10:29; Malachi 4:4; Luke 2:22-24; etc.). – Moses was God’s spokesman and mediator between Himself and the people, but it was God’s Law!*

4. The Christian’s day of worship is the **first day of the week – on the first day of the week...**

- a. Jesus was raised from the dead: Matthew 28:1; Mark 16:1; Luke 24:1; John 20:1
- b. Jesus appeared to His disciples: Mark 16:9; Luke 24:13, 36; John 20:19-23, 26
- c. The Holy Spirit came: Luke 24:49; Acts 1:4-8; Acts 2:1-4, 33 (Leviticus 23:15-16).
- d. The Gospel was preached in its fullness: Luke 24:46-49; Acts 2:38-39; Acts 11:15
- e. The church began: Matthew 16:18; Acts 2:22-30, 47
- f. Christian’s assembled: Acts 2:42; 20:7; 1 Corinthians 16:2; see also 1 Corinthians 11:18-20; 14:23; 16:1-2
- g. The Lord’s Supper is to be observed: Acts 20:7; 1 Corinthians 11:18, 26, 33