

Study Four

The Sabbath Day—Did God change it?



Read the following Bible story:
Mark 2:23-28; 3:1-6 (The Sabbath was made for man)

The story's lesson for us today:
The Sabbath is not only a day for rest and doing good unto others, but is the only weekly day set aside and

made holy by God for our communion and delight in him as the Creator.

What Jesus said: “Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me, for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.” Matthew 11:28-29

Study Note: Read each question, and then look up the corresponding text(s) for the Bible's answer.

1) What is the memorial day of creation? (Genesis 2:1-3)

2) Are we told to remember the Sabbath or memorial day of creation? (Exodus 20:8-11)

3) How long was the sign or covenant between God and all flesh to remain? (Genesis 8:20-22; 9:13-17)

4) How long is the memorial-day sabbath to be a sign or covenant between God and man?
(Exodus 31:16-17; Isaiah 66:22-23)

5) When is a covenant in effect or enforceable?
(Hebrews 9:16-18)

6) Who is the Lord of the Sabbath? (Matthew 12:8)

7) Does the Lord or His law (The Decalogue) change?
(Malachi 3:6; Hebrews 13:8; Matthew 5:18)

8) Did the Sabbath day, which is part of God's Decalogue, change with the Lord's death?

There is no scriptural basis or evidence to suggest that the Lord's day or seventh-day Sabbath was changed or replaced with a new covenant between Jesus and His disci-

ples. If the Lord's Memorial Day of creation, which is fixed in the weekly cycle of time, was changed or set aside, then the New Testament scriptures would have most assuredly made mention of it. On the contrary, the scriptures explicitly tell us to worship the Lord God our Creator-Redeemer (read Revelation 14:7).

Furthermore, Paul points out in the book of Hebrews that there is, was, and will always be a sanctified *Sabbath* rest for those who enter into the seventh day of rest as God Himself did (read Hebrews 4:1-5).

Study Commentary:

The Sabbath day not only marks the end of the weekly work cycle in memorial to Creation week, but reveals God's intentions and loving desire for mankind (created in the image of God himself) to commune with him on his blessed and sanctified day of rest. Over the centuries, the early Christian Church moved away from honoring the seventh-day Sabbath to worshipping on Sunday—a tradition sanctified by the Church itself.

For further thought:

“The law of God, being a revelation of His will, a transcript of His character, must forever endure, ‘as a faithful witness in heaven.’ Not one command has been annulled; not a jot or tittle has changed. Says the psalmist: ‘Forever, O Lord, Thy word is settled in heaven.’ ‘All His commandments are sure. They stand fast for ever and ever.’ (Psalms 119:89; 111:7-8).” Ellen White, *The Great Controversy*, p. 434

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