

# Daniel



## Lesson 11-The Bible Sabbath

**Focus:** The Sabbath

- ❖ **What was one of the reasons for which Israel was taken into captivity in Babylon? (Ezekiel 22:26; 23:38)** This is basically the same combination of sins for which Israel had to wander in the wilderness, at an earlier time in their history (Ezekiel 20:13). **Idolatry and total disregard for the Holy Sabbath were going hand in hand.** When people had forgotten about the Weekly Memorial of Creation, they began to worship idols—the works of men’s hands, instead of the Creator who made man.
- ❖ **When did the Sabbath get created? When did God bless and make holy this special day? (Genesis 2:1-3). For what purpose did God bless the Sabbath day? What did this day MEMORIALIZE? [serve to remind people of]**
  - Do you think that God himself needed to rest so much? **Who was the Sabbath made for? Jesus said, “The Sabbath was made for man...” (Mark 2:27).** The Sabbath day was the first whole day of mankind’s life. It was a day of rest they could spend with God; the work was already done by God himself! (The Sabbath is a weekly holy day for our rest and to focus on our relationship with God—all relationships take time!! God is not too busy for us! Are you too busy for Him?)
  - Was the Sabbath made for the Jews only, or was it for all mankind? (Adam and Eve were not Jewish—they were the parents of all mankind—the Sabbath existed before there was even sin in the world. Jesus says it was “made for man...”)
- ❖ **What do the Ten Commandments tell us about this Holy Day? (Exodus 20:8-11)**
  - We should **remember to keep** the Sabbath the way God made it—Holy (v.8)
  - **How should it be observed?** (v.9,10) It is to be celebrated from “evening unto evening...” Leviticus 23:32). The Bible describes a whole day as the “evening and the morning...”.
  - **What does the day Memorialize? Why did God bless it and make it Holy? (v.11)**
  - Jesus himself created the Sabbath (John 1:1-3, 14).
  - **Does God call the entire world today to come back and to worship the Creator God? (Revelation 14:6,7).** –this includes His Holy day of worship!!
  - **The 7<sup>th</sup> Day Bible Sabbath is the True “Lord’s Day”** which the Bible speaks of and mentions in **Revelation 1:10**. It is the “...Sabbath of the Lord thy God” (Exod. 20:10). God calls it, “...My Holy Day...the holy of the Lord...” for us to “delight [ourselves] in the Lord...” (Isaiah 58:13,14). **Jesus said, “...the Son of Man is Lord also of the Sabbath” (Mark 2:28).** It is a day to know better and be sanctified by Him (Ezekiel 20:20).
  - **Jesus taught about the Sabbath many times. He never broke it** because that would be sin—Jesus did not ever sin. He only broke the Pharisees’ man-made rules about the Sabbath—He taught people about the true way of keeping and the meaning of the Sabbath (for example, see Mark 3:1-5).

- ❖ **What day is the Bible Sabbath on?** “...The Seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord your God” (Exodus 20:10). We can be absolutely sure this is actually on Saturday. How so...? See...
  - If you look at a **standard wall calendar** you will see that **Saturday** is the seventh day of the week. (Wasn’t the calendar changed? Yes, in 1582 the calendar was changed from the standard Julian calendar to the Gregorian calendar which we use today. At this time some dates were adjusted. Ten days were dropped from the calendar. The calendar went from Thursday, October 4, to Friday the 15<sup>th</sup>, 1582. The weekly cycle has never changed—It runs independent of the dates. That’s why your birthday falls on a different day of the week every year.)
  - Any **standard English dictionary** will tell you “Saturday” is the “seventh-day” of the week. “Sunday” is the “first day of the week.”
  - **Languages:** In over 108 languages of the world the word for the seventh day of the week is “Sabbath.” In Spanish and Pilipino the word is *Sabbado*. In Russian, it is *Subota*. In Arabic it is *As Sabt*.
  - **Ask the Jewish people:** They certainly haven’t forgotten which day of the week is Sabbath. It has been Saturday since even before the time of Jesus.
  - **Does it really matter which day, you wonder? Yes.** *Imagine if you set a date with someone. You agreed it should be on Thursday at 7pm. But, then, at that date and time, they never showed up! You wait two days. Finally you call them, “What happened to you?!” “Oh, I came on Friday at 7pm,” they say, “What difference does a day make?”*
- ❖ **Jesus went to synagogue (church) every Sabbath day? (Luke 4:16)** –He sets the perfect example that every Christian (follower of Christ) should follow!
  - **Jesus’ closest disciples** all kept the 7<sup>th</sup> day Bible Sabbath (**Luke 23:54-24:1**)
  - **The Early Christian Church** kept the 7<sup>th</sup> day Sabbath (**Acts 13:42,44; 16:13; 17:2; 18:4**)
  - **Jesus expected His followers** to be keeping it as late as AD 70 when Jerusalem was destroyed by the Roman armies (See his warning to Christians: **Matthew 24:20**)
  - **The worshippers of God in Heaven and the New Earth will be keeping the 7<sup>th</sup> day Sabbath (Isaiah 66:22,23)** Don’t you think we should still be keeping it now?
  - **There are only 8 texts in the New Testament that even mention the “first day” of the week (Sunday).** Five of them are in the Four Gospels. They simply tell us of Jesus’ resurrection and appearance on that day. None of them ever say the first day was “blessed” or “made holy”—not even one. There is no writing in the New Testament that ever says we should change God’s day of worship. Yes, Christ was resurrected on a Sunday, but He also RESTED in the grave on Sabbath! (We can thank Jesus for both)
- ❖ **What about all of those loving and spirit-filled Christians who worshiped God on the “first day” without knowing better? Are they lost? Certainly not! (See Acts 17:30).** But, we are not in ignorance, therefore the Lord wants us to uphold His truth (James 4:17). Perhaps you wonder how, when, and why so many Christians began worshiping on Sunday? Don’t miss our next lesson!

*Question (s) for the Heart:*

Aren’t you glad Jesus is our Creator and he loves us so much that he wants to spend time with us? \_\_\_\_