



Bible Prophecy Guide

The Issue that Divides the World

Summary 8

Daniel 7:25 – The church of the dark ages (the little horn) would think to change times and law.

In our studies thus far, we have talked about the key issues before us at the time of the end. We have seen that worship, faith, and His law are special objects of attack by the enemy. (See Gen 4:1-8, Daniel 3, 5, 6, 7, & Revelation 14:6-12) We have repeatedly reviewed that for faith to exist, a relationship must exist, that worship may naturally pour forth as His law is written in our hearts under the promise of the new covenant. (See Hebrews 8:10) Given all this, and how we have noted that Babylon invites people into fornication which we learned was mixing true worship with false (see Dan 5:3-4) then we must consider, how has the church been impacted given the prophecy of the little horn? This blending of truth and error worked for Satan at the tree in the garden and based on prophecy will work in the last days to deceive many. In this study, we want to consider the Christian Sabbath and how the little horn has influenced its observance. To begin, let us consider a few basic questions regarding the Christian Sabbath.

WHAT is the Christian Sabbath?

Exodus 20:8-11 – Is the only law amongst the Ten Commandments that deals with time and interestingly enough it starts with the word “remember.” The Sabbath is for the purpose of resting from our physical labor as a sign of our spiritual rest in Christ. It is also a reminder that God is the Creator of heaven and earth.

Psalms 46:10a – Sabbath provides time for us to respond to His invitation to slow down so as to know Him better. Jesus wants a relationship with us.

Luke 4:16 – Jesus kept the Sabbath and this same Jesus bids us follow Him.

Acts 16:13 – Sabbath is a day for prayer for God's believers.

Isaiah 58:13 - We are called to do God's pleasure on the Sabbath.

Nehemiah 13:15-22 – Business and shopping are not appropriate on this day for it is a rest day with God.

WHERE is the Christian Sabbath kept?

Genesis 2:1-3 – God created the Sabbath for a perfect world.

Acts 13:14, 42, 44 – The early believers, both Jews & Gentiles had a habit of worshipping together on Sabbath.

Matthew 24:20 – Jesus expects that His people will be keeping the Sabbath during the time of the end.

Isaiah 66:22-23 - We will worship from month to month and from Sabbath to Sabbath in the new earth to Worship God!

WHO is the Christian Sabbath for?

Genesis 2:1-3 – God created the Sabbath at Creation before man had sinned. It could not have been just for the Jewish people since the Jewish people weren't around yet at creation. The Sabbath was created on day 7 and is as important and vital as anything else created during creation week. God set this day aside as special and made it holy during the creation week. Notice Jesus did not create the Sabbath until He had rested with Adam & Eve. In other words, after spending the day in relationship with us, God made the day Holy.

Mark 2:7 – God created man and then created the Sabbath to enjoy man. Sabbath was a gift to us, not us for the Sabbath.

Acts 11:26 & 26:28 – The disciples were called Christians according to Scripture.

Acts 17:1-2 – Paul's custom was to worship on Sabbath in the synagogue. As a Christian, Paul worshipped on Sabbath.

Acts 18:1, 4, 11 - Here we have an example of where Paul worshiped with the Jews & Greeks every Sabbath for a year and a half. Indeed, Paul was in the habit of worshipping on Sabbath.

WHY keep the Christian Sabbath?

Ezekiel 20:12 – The Sabbath is a sign that Jesus sanctifies us. He makes us holy.

Matthew 4:19 – Jesus invited His disciples to follow Him and He would make them fishers of men. The way He did this was through a daily relationship with them. He calls us to follow Him and He will grant us Salvation by making us Holy through the same process, a relationship. Relationships take time however, and Satan knows this. That is why he attacked the 4th commandment, because it dealt with our time with God. Remember, we can do nothing unless we abide in Him -John 15.

Exodus 16:28-30 – Before the law was articulated at Sinai, the Sabbath existed as we see in the story of the manna falling from heaven. God wanted His people to rest on this day. They had likely forgotten the Sabbath during their slavery in Egypt and perhaps this was why God said "remember" when He gave the 4th commandment in Exodus 20. So God gave them a two day supply of manna on Friday so they wouldn't need to gather it on Sabbath. Why? So they could be reminded each Sabbath that God is the one that supplies all our needs. We

rest in His power and provision. In fact, this principle was so foundational that we see that Moses was instructed to place a pot of manna inside the ark of the covenant which served as his throne in the earthly sanctuary. Thus we see that just as His law is eternal (see the study on the blue stone) so is His promise to provide for all our needs. The Sabbath represents this truth.

John 5:39, 46-47 - Jesus is at the center of the writings of Moses.

Deuteronomy 8:3 - God gave the manna that we might know that man shall not live by bread alone but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God. Again, God is the supplier of all our needs.

John 1:14 - Jesus is the Word of God! Thus the manna teaches us about Jesus.

John 6:48-50 - Jesus is the bread of life. See also 1 Corinthians 10:1-4

John 6:51 - Manna represents specifically, Jesus' flesh, that is His righteous life.

Exodus 16:19-20 - It bred worms and stank if they left the bread to the next day.

Exodus 16:23-24 - It could only be saved on Friday to have on Sabbath. The manna would not fall on Sabbath.

Psalms 16:8-10 - The body of Christ rested in the tomb on Sabbath. The manna was as fresh on Sabbath as it was on Friday. So it was that Jesus' body did not see corruption.

Acts 2:25-27; 31-32 - Peter quotes Psalm 16 and applies it to Jesus. In other words, throughout the week we must seek His face, study and glean from the Word of God and thus Sabbath becomes a time of rejoicing! But if the only time we study is on Sabbath, we are shortchanging our worship experience. The Sabbath is a culmination, not a destination. We are to rest in His power and provision.

Luke 23:46 - Jesus said before He breathed His last breath, "Into Thy hands I commit my Spirit."

John 19:30 - Jesus said upon the cross before He died, "It is finished."

Genesis 2:1-3 - Jesus rested at Creation after His work was finished.

Hebrews 12:2 - Jesus also wishes to be the finisher of our faith.

2 Timothy 4:7 - Then we like Paul can say, "I have finished the race, I have kept the faith."

Hebrews 4:9-10 - The Sabbath is a symbol of our rest in Christ. We cannot save ourselves no matter how good our works. Each week when we celebrate the Sabbath, we remind ourselves that we are called to rest in Him, for He is our Salvation. Thus the Sabbath is a sign of the new covenant. **See Heb 8:17.**

WHEN is the Christian Sabbath to be kept?

Given that most of the Christian world worships on Sunday, the 1st day of the week, then we must ask, is Sunday, the new Christian Sabbath? Let's consider all the scriptures that mention the 1st day of the week to see if we see instruction on the matter.

Matthew 28:1 – Here we see mention of the first day of the week but no instruction is given with regards to worship on that day.

Mark 16:1, 2, 9 – Again, nothing is mentioned with regards to worship on Sunday.

Luke 23:56 & 24:1 – Again, there is nothing mentioned with regards to worship on Sunday. In fact, the scripture states that they waited for the Sabbath to end before attempting to embalm Jesus body. Many might reason that Jesus, being God, should have been embalmed right away, even if it was Sabbath. But the servants of God were faithful in following God's law, even if it meant waiting to prepare the body of Jesus.

John 20:1, 19 – Some suggest that this was a religious meeting and that the disciples were worshipping on the first day of the week. But there is nothing that suggests such. In fact, the Bible says they were hiding out for fear of the Jews. Hardly can we deduct from this that they were gathered for worship.

1 Corinthians 16:1-2 – Paul was simply instructing the believers as to the need to gather their offerings in advance of His coming. Again, there is nothing said about worship here.

Acts 20:7 - Remember that a day in Scripture begins at sunset. See Gen 1. So if they gathered for a meal that evening on the first day of the week, it must have been a Saturday night according to our reckoning. As the story reads, Paul preached a long time and Eutychus fell out the window around midnight because he fell asleep. Paul healed him and then it says they went up and ate together. This was a late night meeting. Then that morning, which would have been a Sunday morning, Paul leaves for Troas. Why would Paul travel on Sunday if that was the day for worship? Again, there is nothing here with regards to worship. It appears to be a case where Paul wanted to spend as much time as he could with his friends and fellow believers before leaving.

Romans 6:3-5 – Some suggest that Sunday is the Christian Sabbath because Jesus arose on that day but nowhere in Scripture do you find a command to celebrate Sunday in honor of this event. Scripture does instruct us that baptism is a symbol and means of celebrating the good news of Jesus' death and resurrection.

Colossians 2:14-17 – Contrary to what many might say, this text does not suggest that God's Ten Commandments were nailed to the cross. When one looks closely, they notice that the handwriting of ordinances were nailed to the cross which were against them. When you see the list given in vs. 16, you notice that the items listed are referring to the ceremonial laws found in the Old Testament. These included many annual Sabbaths (Leviticus 25:2-4) that were celebrated once a year but not the weekly Sabbath. This is further clarified by verse 17 when it reads that these ordinances were a shadow of things to come. This phrase, "a shadow of things to come" refers to the fact that the ordinances, otherwise known as the ceremonial laws, that God gave pointed forward to the cross and that when Jesus died, He nailed them to the cross. A prime example would be the sacrificing of a lamb. When Jesus died, this requirement was no longer needed for the true Lamb of God had died for us. However the weekly Sabbath didn't point forward to the cross, it pointed and still points us back to the creation account. Indeed, the moral law (God's Ten Commandments) which includes the Sabbath commandment was not nailed to the cross.

Romans 14:3-5 – Like with Colossians, a careful look at the context reveals that this is talking about fast days and not the Sabbath day. In the early church, a controversy had arisen over which day was the appropriate date to fast and since God never instructed us as to when or how often to fast, Paul rebukes the Christians for judging each other in such matters. The context is clearly dealing with eating and not worship.

Some suggest that Sunday is actually the 7th day. But in reality, thoughtful reflection suggests this isn't the case.

In an effort to bring the calendar back in line with the seasons, there was a change made to the calendar in 1582. However this change did not affect the weekly cycle. The October calendar that year looked like the one shown to the right. Clearly, the weekly cycle was maintained.



OCTOBER 1582						
sun	mon	tue	wed	thu	fri	sat
	1	2	3	4	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

Jesus died on Friday and resurrected on Sunday, the 1st day of the week. He rested in the tomb on Saturday, the Sabbath. We still understand this as a people by the fact that we celebrate Good Friday as the day Jesus died and Sunday as the day he resurrected. Jesus rested on the 7th day Sabbath at creation and on the 7th day Sabbath at our recreation.

The last words of Jesus before He died were, "It is finished" reminding us that we can't add anything to His perfect life. Even our righteousness is as filthy rags according to Isaiah 64:9. We must accept His perfect life for our old life will never be good enough. Thus The Sabbath is a sign and symbol of our creation as well as a sign and symbol of our salvation.

The church of the dark ages began to try and change God's law when it tried to win the hearts of the pagans and at the same time separate itself from the Jews who were being persecuted. To do this they made Sunday a special day of feasting since it was the day the pagans worshipped the Sun God. They reasoned that since God made light on that day, it could be a time for celebration.

John Eadie, D.D., LL.D. writes in the Bible Encyclopedia page 561, "Sabbath . . . A Hebrew word signifying rest . . . Sunday was a name given by the heathens to the first day of the week, because it was the day on which they worshipped the sun."

Constantine in 321 A.D. stated, "On the venerable Day of the Sun let the magistrates and people residing in cities rest, and let all the workshops be closed."

At the Council of Laodicea in 325 A.D. it was stated that "Christians shall not Judaize and be idle on Saturday, but shall work on that day; but the Lord's day they shall especially honor, and as being Christians, shall, if possible, do no work on that day. If, however, they are found Judaizing, they shall be shut out from Christ."

This change originated in Rome as history attests.

"Although almost all churches throughout the world celebrate the sacred mysteries on the Sabbath (Saturday) of every week, yet the Christians of Alexandria and Rome, on account of some ancient tradition, have ceased to do this." - Socrates Schutasticus (5th century AD)

Over time, most of the Christian world followed Rome.

The Roman Catholic Church does not negate this fact. In their 1951 edition of "The Convert's Catechism of Catholic Church" by Peter Geierman they clearly state the facts. Page 50 states: "**Question:** What is the Third Commandment? **Answer:** The Third Commandment is: Remember that though keep holy the Sabbath Day. **Question:** Which is the Sabbath day? **Answer:** Saturday is the Sabbath day. **Question:** Why do we observe Sunday instead of Saturday? **Answer:** We observe Sunday instead of Saturday because the Catholic Church transferred the solemnity from Saturday to Sunday."

Revelation 1:10 – John was in the Spirit on the Lord's day which some suggest was Sunday. But as we have already noted, Jesus, our Lord, worshipped on Sabbath! God refers to the Sabbath as His. **Notice Exodus 20:12, 31:13, and Ezekiel 20:20.**

The term Lord's day is often associated today with Sunday but history suggests it's likely an idea we inherited from Paganism.

"As a solar festival, Sunday was the sacred day of Mithra, and it is interesting to notice that since Mithra was addressed as Dominus, 'Lord,' Sunday must have been the 'Lord's Day' long before Christian times." - A. Wiegall, "The Paganism in Our Christianity." p. 145

Just because everyone seems to agree on a certain point does not make it truth. History demonstrates how the little horn tried to change God's law. But regardless of how many believe it was changed by God, that doesn't mean He changed it. Remember that this same horn in Daniel 7 is accused of warring against the saints and of blaspheming God. There is a great controversy between God and Satan and Daniel & Revelation suggest the point of contention involves worship. With whom will you take your stand?

Many question why the Christian Church would ever try to change God's law in the first place. There were numerous reasons for the change. Here are 4 significant ones:

- There was a desire to distant themselves from the Jewish believers who were facing persecution.
- The Church in Rome & Alexandria tried to make the Christian faith more palatable for the pagans of the day.
- Mithraism, a dominant pagan faith, played a heavy role in this change with its worship of the sun god on the 1st day of the week, Sunday.
- Emperor Constantine wanted to unite his kingdom by uniting both Christians and pagans.

While the Roman Church clearly states the change was made by their own authority, many Protestants have tried to use Scripture to suggest the change. As we have noted, there is no Scriptural basis for a change.

Mark 7:7, 9, 13 – When we take man's doctrines and put them in place of God's law, we worship God in vain. God asks us to keep His commandments, not man's traditions.

Revelation 14:8 – Says that Babylon is guilty of (fornication) mixing true worship with false worship. See Daniel 5.

Gen 4:1-8 – Cain tampered with the symbol by offering up the fruits of his own labor instead of the lamb as instructed. **His offering was rejected, because if you change the symbol, you change the meaning, and if you change the meaning, you change the message.** God does not change. (Heb 13:8) Cain's jealousy led him to slay his brother. So we should expect persecution for being faithful to the symbol of the Sabbath and its meaning.

Luke 12:51 – Following God while here on earth may cause division at home or at work but God warned that He didn't come to bring peace on earth but division. The Bible says the day is coming when He will separate the sheep (righteous) from the goats (wicked.) What side will you be on?

Daniel 3, 5, & 6 – We are reminded that the stories of Daniel clue us in to the issues of the last days. The stories of Daniel center around worship and the theme of worship is a prominent one in the book of Revelation.

John 15:10 – If we love Jesus, we will abide in Him and keep His commandments, not in order to be saved, but because we are saved.

Revelation 14:6-7 – Part of the gospel message involves worship. We are called in earth's final hour to worship the Creator. Revelation uses the word "Worship" more than any other book of the Bible. It is clear (we will see this more clearly in a future presentation) that worship is to be a key issue at the end time. **Exodus 20:11** appears to be quoted here in Rev 14:7. But notice the last words have been changed from "all that in them is" to "fountains of waters." Here we see an allusion to the judgment for we didn't see fountains of waters until the flood. See **Genesis 7:11**. This was in many ways an undoing of the 2nd day of creation. See **Genesis 1:6-8**. So it is that the earth is reserved for fire, not rain today. See **2nd Peter 3:6-7**. So it is that the reminder to remember the Sabbath is given in **Revelation 14:7** for the last day people who are living in the time of the judgment leading up to the 2nd coming.

Revelation 12:9 – Satan deceives the whole world. Should we be shocked if most of the world is deceived?

Matthew 24:24-25 – Satan will if possible deceive even the very elect. Deception involves folks unknowingly

You may feel betrayed in that no one has explained this to you before. But lest we blame our church or pastor, let us remember that there are numerous well-meaning Christians in the world today who simply do not know the truth and beauty of the 7th day Sabbath but are living up to all the light they have. So let us not judge our neighbor but rather share with our neighbor the good news of Jesus and the Sabbath rest He longs to give all of us. For by not knowing the beauty of the Sabbath, many are missing out on the strength and blessing that this gift offers the followers of God. If salvation is embraced through a relationship with Jesus, then

Satan will do all in His power to hinder us from having a successful relationship. As we enter the last day of earth's history, we will only be able to stand if we are experiencing a close and intimate walk with Jesus.

Matthew 11:28-29 – Jesus invites us to rest in Him. Will you take your stand, amidst all the confusion of these last days? There is no safer place to be than to be found resting in the presence of Jesus. We must walk by faith and not by sight. If Jesus said it, that's enough for me. He invites you to enter this rest and to celebrate it through His 7th day Sabbath. Will you?

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