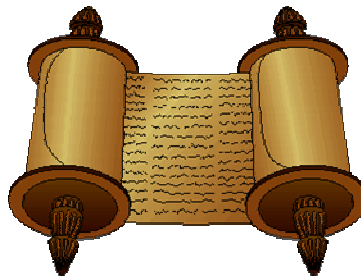


## *Sign of the Covenant*

*"Speak thou also unto the children of Israel, saying, verily my Sabbaths ye shall keep: for it is a sign between me and you throughout your generations; that ye may know that I am YAH that doth sanctify you. Ye shall keep the Sabbath therefore; for it is holy unto you..."*

*Exodus 31:13-14*



- *"And this [shall be] a sign unto you from YAH, and YAH will do this thing that he has spoken," Isaiah 38:7.*
- *"And this [shall be] a sign unto you, saith YAH, that I will punish you in this place, that ye may know that my words shall surely stand against you for evil," Jeremiah 44:29*
- *"Therefore YAH himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive..." Isaiah 7:14*
- *"And as he (Messiah) sat upon the Mount of Olives, the disciples came unto him privately, saying, Tell us, when shall these things be? And what shall be the sign of thy coming, and the end of the world? And YAHshua answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man deceive you. For many shall come in my name, saying, I am the Anointed and shall deceive many," Matthew 24:3-5.*
- *"For their shall arise false Messiahs and false prophets and shall show great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect," Matthew 24:24*

All throughout biblical history, signs have been used to signify warnings, identify nations, serve as a token of promise and distinguish righteous from unrighteous works. Let's look at two of the greatest signs ever proclaimed by YAH - the Bow and the Sign of the Sabbath. First, let's review the origin and purpose of the Bow.

"And Elohim saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. And YAH said, I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth; both man and beast," Genesis 6:5, 7. This occurred around 2353 BCE and some 1500 years had past since the beginning of recorded history. Genesis 6:13 says, "...the earth was filled with violence," so we could easily speculate that there was a substantial number of people on the face of the earth during this time. Although YAH decided to destroy man and beast, the scriptures indicates that YAH remember Noah, "...But Noah found grace in the eyes of YAH," Genesis 6:8, and Noah and his family were saved from the destruction of the flood. How is it that YAH remembered Noah from amongst many? What distinguished Noah from all other flesh on the earth? Let's review another similar incident to assist us in answering these questions.

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The abominations of Sodom and Gomorrah had reached unto the heavens and YAH, once again, decided to destroy man from within these and other surrounding cities. Yah said to Abraham, "If I find in Sodom fifty righteous within the city, then I will spare all the place for their sakes," Genesis 18:26. With this example, we can certainly identify how Noah was saved. Noah's righteous was a SIGN unto YAH and YAH spared him from the destruction of the flood. "By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith," Hebrews 11:7.

*YAH said to Noah:*

- *"Behold, I establish my covenant with you and with your seed after you and with every living creature that is with you..." Genesis 9:9-10*
- *"And the bow shall be in the cloud and I will look upon it that I may remember the everlasting covenant between Elohim and every living creature of all flesh that is upon the earth," Genesis 9:16*

This promise was given 4000 years ago and the evidence of this token still exists today! The covenant of the bow serves as a sign to us that YAH is faithful to His word and will reward man for his righteousness. We should move as Noah with "fear and trembling" [Philippians 2:12] to establish our good works so that our righteousness will also serve as a sign unto YAH that we might be saved during the time of destruction. Now let's correlate the covenant of the bow and Noah's sign of righteousness with the sign of the Sabbath. Before we go into why the Sabbath day is a sign between YAH and his people, let's ensure we understand the purpose of the Sabbath day and how we should honor it.

*Exodus 20:8-11 "Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labor, and do all thy work: But the seventh day is the Sabbath of YAH thy Elohim: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates: For in six days YAH made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore YAH blessed the Sabbath day, and hallowed it."*

YAH requires man to rest from his weekly labor and take time out for a holy convocation unto him. When we consistently focus on personal and professional goals, it is our spiritual development that goes neglected, "And YAHshua answered and spoke unto them again by parables, and said, The kingdom of heaven is like unto a certain king, which made a marriage for his son and sent forth his servants to call them that were bidden to the wedding and they would not come. But they made light of it and went their ways, one to his farm and other to his merchandise," Matthew 22:1-3, 5.

The Sabbath day is simply a day of rest and fellowship with family and friends. YAH asked that we, our family, our servants or our employees not partake in any form of labor on this day but to mediate and learn of Him. Unlike the beliefs of the Scribes and Pharisees, the Sabbath day is not without meeting personal necessities, which can be perceived as a form of voluntary work. YAHshua asked the Pharisees - "What man shall there be among you, that shall have one sheep, and if it fall into a pit on the Sabbath day, will he not lay hold on it, and lift it out?" While this requires labor to lift a sheep out of a pit, YAHshua is clarifying the exception of labor when it is of absolute necessity.

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The Sabbath law is to be held in high regards just as the remainder of the 10 commandments. Ironically, people who keep most of the 10 commandments refuse to keep the Sabbath law! Why? What is so difficult about keeping the Law of the Sabbath? Surprisingly, it is not a matter of rebellion, as much as it is a matter of influence and tradition:

- *Sunday, first day of the week. Its English name is derived from the Latin dies Solis, "Sun's day," the name of a pagan Roman holiday [whose name is Sol]. In the early days of Christianity, Sunday began to replace the Sabbath. Roman emperor Constantine the Great designated Sunday [or Sol's day] as a day of rest. The Encarta® Desk Encyclopedia Copyright © & 1998 Microsoft Corporation*
- *From the Council of Laodicea, A.D. 363, came this decree: "Christians must not Judaize by resting on the Sabbath, but must work on that day, rather than honoring the Lord's day"... The Nicene and Post Nicene Fathers, Vol. XIV:*

The Messiah warned that the whole world lies in wickedness and Satan is the Prince of it. Satan has established his kingdom through deception and the influence of the Roman Catholic Church made it so. Catholicism gave us paganistic holidays, idol worship and has successfully [temporarily] broken the Sabbath, removing it from universal recognition. This influence, however, is not without individual accountability. Every man is responsible to know his Creator and understand the Father's righteous expectations of us, "And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations and then shall the end come," Matthews 24:14.

Over the past 15-20 years, there has been an increase in Sabbath keepers through religious influence such as Judaism, 7-Day Adventists and so on. In today's society, anyone can distinctively recognize the peculiarity of those who keep the Sabbath day. While this may be a growing practice among many, keeping the Sabbath law is not enough to ensure the salvation of man but is only a sign of his righteous works. It is important to read Matthew 7:23 to understand this, "Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? And in thy name have cast out devils? And in thy name done many wonderful works? PRIVATE And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity," Matthew 7:22-23. How is it that the Messiah saw works of righteousness [from false prophets] yet was clearly able to distinguish that their works were done in iniquity? Paul answered this in II Corinthians 11:13-15, "For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of the Anointed. And no marvel, for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light, Therefore it is not great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works." The likelihood is great that these false messiahs and prophets spoken of by YAHshua were also keepers of the Sabbath law. However, YAHshua knew them "...by their fruits..." Matthew 7:20 which means that they were practitioners of lawlessness. Paul said in Romans 2:12, "For as many as have sinned without law shall also perish [immediate damnation] without law and as many as have sinned in the law shall be judged [a measurement of grace] by the law." Keeping the Sabbath law, along with other applicable laws, are all deeds unto salvation. YAH has chosen his people to carry his sign of righteousness with their whole hearts and "be not partial to his law," Malachi 2:9.

It is important for YAH to be able to look upon man and distinguish his people by a sign of righteousness. YAH says to remember the Sabbath day as it is a sign between you and YAH, and in it, he will remember his covenant with us in our day of trouble and salvation. YAH came into a covenant with Noah that he would remember the everlasting token of the

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bow when he "looked upon it." In order for YAH to look upon it, it required a sign, which has already been established as the Bow. The key here is the sign of the covenant. When man comes into covenant with the Laws of YAH and becomes a practitioner of His Word, he, too, becomes an everlasting sign unto YAH. We know this to have also been the case with the children of Israel, "And the children of Israel sighed by reason of the bondage, and they cried, and their cry came up unto Elohim...Elohim heard their groaning and remembered his covenant with Abraham, with Isaac and with Jacob..." Exodus 2:23-24

### ***The Sabbath Switch***



We have already established the necessity of keeping the Sabbath day as a sign unto YAH. Now, let's look at some of the many arguments among theologians today as to what day it should be kept.

Paul said, "One man esteemeth one day above another: and another esteemeth everyday alike," Romans 14:5. Does this statement invite an individual to sanctify a Sabbath day unto themselves? Absolutely not. We still see the Apostle Paul keeping the Sabbath law 70 years AFTER the death of the Messiah: "And when the Jews were gone out of the synagogue, the Gentiles besought (Paul) that these words be preached to them the next Sabbath. Now when the congregation was broken up, many of the Jews and religious proselytes (converts from old covenant to new covenant faith) followed Paul and

Barnabas, who, speaking to them, persuaded them to continue in the grace of God. And the next Sabbath the whole city came together to hear the word of God," Acts 13:42-44. Though Paul's message was preached some 1900 years ago, the Word of YAH has not changed, "Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy. Six days shall you labor and do all your work; But the SEVENTH DAY is the Sabbath of YAH," Exodus 20:9-10.

There are a few things we can establish regarding Paul's statement concerning esteemed days, his audience and his purpose. Let's begin with this scripture, "I speak to them that know the law how that the law has dominion over a man as long as he lives...wherefore my brethren, ye also are become dead to the law by the body of the Christ," Romans 7:1,4. Throughout Paul's ministry, he dealt with spiritual liberality. His message is of the Messiah and how he has become our everlasting atonement - freeing man from the Law of Sacrifice and of old covenant traditions. This explains why Paul states, "Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord [is], there is liberty," II Corinthians 3:17. Paul's overall ministry was to "...teach grace and apostleship for obedience to the faith among ALL nations," Romans 1:5. In doing so, Paul's primary focus was to spiritually educate all nations against (1) unnecessary acts of tradition (2) acts of paganism and (3) acts of judging amongst brethren {which explains Paul's question in I Corinthians 10:29, "...for why is my liberty judged of another man's conscience?"}.

So in Romans 14:5 ["One man esteemeth one day above another: and another esteemeth everyday alike], Paul is dealing with individuals who are "weak in the faith" and who were transitioning out of traditional practices. Whether they were brothers who chose to keep the Adamic ways of a vegetarian diet or those who found memorial or enshrining of certain days by FASTING as it was the custom of the Hebrews to fast. Luke 5:33 - "And they said unto him, Why do the disciples of John fast often, and make prayers, and likewise the disciples of

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the Pharisees; but thine eat and drink"? And let's notice this scripture as well as used in YAHshua's parable Luke 18:10 "Two men went up into the temple to pray; the one a Pharisee, and the other a publican.18:11 The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, Elohim, I thank thee, that I am not as other men are, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican.18:12 I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all that I possess". Christendom typically uses this verse to assist in annulling the 7<sup>th</sup> day Sabbath convocation. However, this scripture has absolutely nothing to do with the Sabbath day being esteemed. This scripture has to do with people eating meat or vegetables and fasting on days set aside by the traditions of men throughout the week or enshrining of a day or days for fasting. Paul is merely saying whether you eat or fast on these days you do it unto YAH. When Paul said that "One man esteemeth one day above another: and another esteemeth EVERY day alike", Paul could not have been talking about the Sabbath day because everyday cannot be a Sabbath. Sabbath means to cease from your labors and rest, and that day was assigned to the 7<sup>th</sup> day called Saturday in the Pagan language by YAH our creator. He added in Romans 14:11-13, "For it is written, as I live saith YAH, every knee shall bow to me and every tongue shall confess to Elohim. So then every one of us shall give account of himself to Elohim. Let us not therefore judge another anymore..." So we can conclude that Paul's statement does not support the changing of the Sabbath or sanctifying everyday as one's Sabbath. He was ministering to members newly added to the faith in abiding in the spirit of peace and the word of YAH.

Let's take a moment to view another piece of scripture which many Christians use to support a Sunday Sabbath. "And upon the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul preached unto them, ready to depart on the morrow; and continued his speech until midnight," Acts 20:7. Here is the argument: Upon the first day of the week. To gain clarity of this phrase, we must first understand when a day begins as YAH has ordained. Let's review Genesis 1:3-5: "And Elohim said, Let there be light and there was light. And Elohim saw the light that it was good; and Elohim divided the light from the darkness. And Elohim called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And the evening and the morning was the first day." Here is the confusion: "Elohim called the light Day". This does not mean that a day begins with light. He makes this clear in verse 3, "And the evening and the morning was the first day;" therefore, an evening begins a day - not dawn. So when Acts 20:7 reads, "Upon the first day of the week," it would have been a new day arising but it was still dark and the Sabbath was coming to an end. Let's confirm this even more:

- *"And there were many lights in the upper chamber where they were gathered. And there sat in a window a certain young man names Eutychus, being fallen into a deep sleep and as Paul was long preaching, he sunk down with sleep and fell," Acts 20:8-9*

There was no such thing as electricity during this time; therefore, the lighting would have come from a burning lamps or torches. The heat from the light more than likely is what made Eutychus sleepy. Here is the point, however; if it were during the day or on Sunday, why would they need burning torches? Here is another confirmation that Paul taught until the end of the 7<sup>th</sup> day (evening) and a new day was dawning:

- *"And Paul went down and fell on him and embracing him said, Trouble not yourselves, for his life is in him. When he therefore was come up again, and had broken bread, and eaten, and talked a long while, **EVEN TILL THE BREAK OF DAY**, so he departed," Acts 20:10-11.*

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Paul obviously continued teaching and instructing the disciples until midnight, which was and still is customary for Jews to attend Sabbath fellowship until sundown. In other words, ending their worship service, "Upon the first day of the week." One additional note on this passage, the fact that Paul was "breaking bread" with his brethren does not support weekly Passover, as many believe, but supports a Sabbath feast since many of the brethren never left the assembly on the Sabbath. Wouldn't they be hungry?

Another scripture often used to support a Sunday Sabbath is the resurrection of the Messiah. "In the end of the Sabbath as it began to dawn toward the first day of the week, came Mary Magdalene and the other Mary to see the sepulcher. And behold there was a great earthquake for the angel of the Master descended from heaven and came and rolled back the stone from the door and sat upon it. ..And the angel answered the woman and said, Fear not for I know that you seek YAHshua which was crucified. He is not here for he is risen," Matthew 28:1-6. The Messiah did not fulfill a new Sabbath on this day but fulfilled the prophecy that he would be in the earth for 3 days and would rise again:

- *"For you will not leave my soul in hell, neither will you suffer thine Holy One to see corruption," Psalm 16:10.*
- *"For he taught his disciples and said unto them, The Son of man is delivered into the hands of men, and they shall kill him; and after that he is killed, he shall rise the third day," Mark 9:31.*

If YAHshua's body would have remained in the earth for more than 3 days, it is likely that the body would have begun to decay or corrupt. If the resurrection of the Messiah on the first day instituted a new Sabbath, why do we see the Apostles keeping the 7<sup>th</sup> day as their Sabbath some 70 years after the death of the Messiah [Acts 13:42-44]? The resurrection did not incorporate a new Sabbath - it simply fulfilled the prophesied days of the death and resurrection YAHshua.

Why has man so freely accepted Sunday as their Sabbath? It is because man has freely accepted Satan as his god. In Isaiah 14:13-14, Lucifer proclaims, "I will ascend into heaven. I will exalt my throne above the stars of YAH. I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation... I will ascend above the heights of the clouds. I will be like the most High." There is only one strategy that Satan can use to accomplish this goal - it is opposition through deception. YAH says the seventh day is my Sabbath; Satan says the first day is mine. YAH says I have sanctified holy days for my people; Satan says I have sanctified holidays for my people. YAH says you shall keep my Laws for your righteousness as a sign to the nations; Satan says you shall keep lawlessness for your unrighteousness as a sign to the nations. YAH says I have chosen man for woman and woman for man; Satan says I have chosen man for man and woman for woman. YAH says love; Satan says hate. YAH says peace; Satan says confusion...and the list goes on.

We must take into account the wisdom given to Satan to understand how he has implemented his plan, "Thus saith YAH, You (Satan) sealed up the sum, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty," Ezekiel 28:12. So we know, Satan is too smart to be obvious. Remember what Paul said in II Corinthians 11:13-15, "For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of the Anointed. And no marvel, for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore, it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works (law)? Here is Satan's deception: Satan says in Luke 4:6, "All this power and the glory of them is delivered unto me and to whomsoever I will, I give it." We

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know this to be true as YAH said unto Lucifer, "You shall not be joined with them in burial because you have destroyed your land and slain your people; the seed of evildoers shall never be renowned." Satan uses man to carry out his plan and man has inherited his greatest flaw - pride, "(Satan) Thine heart was lifted up because of your beauty, you have corrupted your wisdom by reason of your brightness..." Ezekiel 28:17. YAH made man in His own image to worship and serve him. Man has made himself servants of Satan by satisfying their own fleshy desires. Therefore, man believes that he has the ability to sanctify himself.

Man's pride is easily visible in analyzing modern day calendar systems and how they have transgressed YAH's Sabbath. "And YAH said let there be lights in the firmament of the heaven to divide the day from the night and let them be for signs [Jeremiah 33:24-26 - ordinances of heaven and earth as a sign of YAH's covenant with the house of Israel and those who come into covenant with him] and for seasons [Leviticus 23 - Holy days and appointed times unto YAH] and for days and years [Psalms 104:19 - YAH has appointed the moon for seasons]," Gen 1:14. This is a Lunar calendar system. However, there are two principal kinds of calendars in use by most of the civilized world, the Julian and Gregorian. The Julian calendar (established 45 BC) stated that the common year should consist of 365 days and every fourth year 366. The Gregorian calendar (established in 1582) only made minor changes to the Julian calendar; however, both calendar systems are based on a Solar year to worship their highest deity - the god of the sun! At this point, the sabbath day of this sun god should be simple. You guessed it - Sun-day! The day of the Sun! To indicate Satan's greatest deception of this underlying message, the Hebrew name given to Satan is Lucifer which means "light-bringer" - and YAH even speaks of his brightness (read Ezekiel 28:17 again)!

The establishment of these calendar systems are in direct opposition to what the Creator has ordained. This system is designed to honor the god of brightness and the morning star - Lucifer [Revelations 2:28]. The Roman calendar system was built upon solar cycles and the entire pagan tradition was based upon sun worship and fertility rites. After the death of the Apostles, Gentile converts removed the Jews influence by changing the practice of Sabbath worship to Sunday to incorporate the worship of their pagan deity. In an attempt to unite the conflicting interests of the pagan worshippers and the Christians, Constantine issued a decree making Sunday a public festival throughout the Roman Empire. As we read earlier, from the Council of Laodicea came this decree from the Nicene and Post Nicene Fathers: "Christians must not Judaize by resting on the Sabbath but must work on that day, rather than honoring the Lord's day." Constantine and his citizens were sun worshippers and demanded others to do so. We still see this influence and tradition being kept today. The modifications to the calendar system do not change the fact that there has always been 7 days in a week with the Sabbath falling on the 7th day. What do you think the word Sabbath means? It means seven!

Keeping the Sabbath is not the only law unto salvation; however, man will be judged according to his practices of all the applicable laws of today (Dietary, Sabbaths, Holy days and laws of Morality). Paul confirms this in Romans 2:13, "For not the hearers of the law are just before Elohim but the doers of the law shall be justified." If the Sabbath law and all other applicable laws for today have been abolished, what is the need for a judgement? In order to support a new Sabbath, there would have to be a new law given to endorse this change. If you are still searching for that change in the Holy Scriptures, you will never find it. It doesn't exist. As a matter of fact, if the seventh day Sabbath has been fulfilled, why does Hebrew 4:4-5 speak of an eternal SEVENTH DAY REST? "...And Elohim did rest the seventh day from all his works. And in this place again, if they shall enter into my rest." We

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can also confirm a 7<sup>th</sup> day millennial Sabbath in Isaiah 66:23, "And it shall come to pass that from one new moon to another and from one Sabbath to another shall all flesh come to worship me, said YAH." If the Sabbath has been changed to the first day, why do we see a millennial law of a 7<sup>th</sup> day Sabbath? If the Sabbath has been changed to the first day, why does the Book of Hebrews, one of the last books of the New Testament, not speak of this future first day rest?

We hope this information has been a blessing to you and that you were truly edified by its content. Please do not hesitate to call, write or email us with your concerns. We pray the peace and blessings of YAH be upon you.