

TRUTH FOR THE WORLD
Bible Question and Answer Booklet

SABBATARIANISM

QUESTION: Where in the Bible does it teach that the SDA (Seventh Day Adventist) is the right church?

ANSWER: The Bible does not teach that the SDA is the right church! Clearly this religious organization does not have its foundation in the Bible, since it did not come into existence until the middle 1800's under the misguided leadership of a Mr. Miller. This man was proven to be a false prophet when he predicted that the end of the world would occur in 1843/1844. Upon the failure of his prophecies, Mr. Miller disappeared from the religious scene.

After adding some doctrines to Mr. Miller's teachings, Elder James White, and his wife Ellen, became the leaders of this movement. It was formally recognized in Battle Creek, Michigan (USA) as the SDA Church in 1863. Ellen Miller made the claim that she had a vision in which she went to heaven! While in heaven she claims to have been shown the Ten Commandments and that she saw a bright halo around the fourth commandment. She guessed from this that keeping the Sabbath Day was then necessary for all people. This, of course, directly contradicts the Bible, which clearly teaches that we are no longer under any part of the Old Testament Law (Romans 7:1-7; II Corinthians 2:1-18; Galatians 3:24-25; Ephesians 2:13-16; Colossians 2:14; Hebrews 7:12 & 8:7). As well, the Bible is clear that Christians are to worship on the first day of the week (Acts 20:7; I Corinthians 16:1-2; Revelation 1:10).

Seventh Day Adventists also forbid the eating of certain foods, a doctrine that violates I Timothy 4:1-5! They also deny the biblical doctrine of eternal punishment (Matthew 3:12 & 25:46; Revelation 14:11). Many other anti-scriptural positions are held and taught by this man made organization. It is interesting that the SDA picks and uses only certain Old Testament laws. Why do they not burn incense and offer animal sacrifices? Who gives these people the right of selection? Certainly not the Bible! Note carefully the inspired words of Paul in Galatians 5:4: "Christ is become no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law (Old Testament); ye are fallen from grace."

Jesus Christ established the church of the Bible (Matthew 16:18), not Ellen G. White! The church of the Bible was established in Jerusalem (Acts 1:4 & 8), not in Battle Creek, Michigan! The church of the Bible was established in 30/33 AD (Acts 2:1), not in 1863 AD! The church of the Bible is designated "churches of Christ" (Romans 16:16), not the "SDA!" To which church then should one belong?

There were multitudes of Christians in the church of the Bible (both living and dead) during the many centuries before Ellen G. White made her ungodly claims. Obviously then, there was never a need for anything other than the gospel to save sinners (Romans 1:16). Peter proclaimed in the first century that mankind (long before Ellen G. White lived) had already been given "all things that pertain

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unto life and godliness" (II Peter 1:3). In the same Gospel we continue today to have "all things that pertain into life and godliness" without Ellen G. White! If God has already given "all things" necessary to life and godliness, what need does any have of Mrs. White, or any other false teacher for that matter (Matthew 15:3,6,9,13,14)? To adopt any teaching or practice beyond that which the apostles taught is to invite the condemnation of God (Galatians 1:6-9; Revelation 22:18-19).

QUESTION: The SDA teaches that the fourth beast of Daniel 7:23-25 is Pope Paul of the Roman Catholic Church. Is this true?

ANSWER: No! It is not true! In verse twenty-three of this chapter it says that the "fourth beast shall be the fourth kingdom upon earth". In Daniel 2:36-45, Daniel is interpreting King Nebuchadnezzar's dream (Daniel 2:31-35). Daniel speaks of four kingdoms, the first of which King Nebuchadnezzar is the head (vs.37). This was the Babylonian kingdom! Three other world kingdoms were to come into existence afterwards (vss.39-40). Daniel 5:28 tells us that the second kingdom that came into existence was the Medo-Persian. We learn from history that the third kingdom was the Macedonian kingdom; the fourth kingdom was the Roman Empire under the Caesar's. Daniel tells us in verse forty-four, that during the days of this fourth kingdom that "the God of heaven shall set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed." This prophecy was of the church of Christ and had its fulfillment during the days of the Roman Empire in Acts, the second chapter.

The fourth kingdom designated by the fourth beast in Daniel 7:23-25 is the same kingdom to which reference is made in Daniel 2:36-45. In both places the fourth kingdom (which is the fourth beast) means the Roman Empire, not Pope Paul!

The foolish SDA doctrine that those who keep the first day of the week are under the influence of the "fourth beast" declares their woeful ignorance of God's Word!

QUESTION: The SDA teaches that the "abomination of desolation" of Matthew 24:15 and the "beast" of Revelation 13:1-18 also have reference to Pope Paul and that he will soon go to Jerusalem to exercise his power. Is this true?

ANSWER: No! The "abomination of desolation" and the "beast" in Revelation thirteen have reference solely to the Roman Empire, just as in the book of Daniel. Through Matthew 24:36, Jesus his foretelling of the destruction of Jerusalem by the Roman Empire. Notice that the events foretold by Christ in these verses were to happen during the lifetime (generation) of the people who were alive at that time. All of this came to pass in 70AD, over nineteen hundred years ago. From Matthew 24:36 through Matthew 25:46, Jesus is discussing the end of the world and the final Judgment.

In Revelation thirteen, John is discussing the great persecution by the Roman Empire being brought upon Christian at that time (after the destruction of Jerusalem) and which would continue into the future. This could not have

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reference to Pope Paul, or any other Pope, since the first Pope, as we know him today, was not seated until 606AD. Since there was no Pope at the time of the writing of the book of Revelation (about 96AD), nor was there any for the next five hundred years, the suggestion that reference in this passage is to him is without scripture or logic!

QUESTION: Does Deuteronomy 29:1 teach the Adventist idea of two old laws?

ANSWER: No! The SDA falsely concludes from this passage that there is a Law of God (Ten Commandments- still in effect) and there was a Law of Moses (ceremonial law-taken out of the way). In this passage, the "words of the covenant" and "the covenant which He made with them in Horeb" made up the "Old Covenant," which has been done away with in its totality, having been replaced by the "New Covenant" (Hebrews 8:6-13)!

The Bible does not recognize the distinction between "laws" as concocted by the Adventists. For example: In Nehemiah 8:1, Ezra the scribe read from the "Book of the Law of Moses." In Nehemiah 8:18, we see that from which he read was also called the "Book of the law of God." Luke as well refers to the "Law of Moses" as the "law of the Lord" (Luke 2:22-23). Clearly, the Adventists are in conflict with God's Word on the matter!

QUESTION: Does the New Testament clearly state that Christians are no longer under the Ten Commandments?

ANSWER: Yes! In addition to those passages mentioned heretofore, Paul says in Romans chapter seven, that Christians are "dead to the law" (vs.4) and that they are "delivered (discharged) from the law" (vs.6). In verse seven, he tells us that the law we are "dead to" and "delivered from" is the law that says, "Thou shalt not covet!" The law that says, "Thou shalt not covet" clearly refers to the Ten Commandments! In fact, "Thou shalt not covet" is the tenth Commandment (Exodus 20:17)!

QUESTION: Were the Ten Commandments reinstated under the New Testament?

ANSWER: No! Neither the "Ten Commandment Law," nor any other "Law" was reinstated under the New Testament. The New Testament is a totally "new" law, having replaced totally the "old" law! It is true that the New Testament encompasses and includes the moral principles inherent in "nine" of the "ten" Commandments. However, these principles are applicable to Christians today because they are a part of the New Testament; not because they were a part of the Old Testament! It is very significant that the fourth of the Ten Commandments, "Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy," is strikingly omitted from the New Testament!

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QUESTION: What caused the Sabbath to change from the last day of the week to the first day of the week?

ANSWER: This so-called "change" has occurred only in the mind and vocabulary of man. It is not biblical to refer to the first day of the week as "the Sabbath." People today, under the New Testament, are not directed or authorized to keep the seventh day, but, rather, are directed to worship on the first day of the week (Acts 20:7; I Corinthians 16:1-2). Keeping of the seventh day (the Sabbath) was a part of the Old Testament Law, which was done away with in Christ (II Corinthians 3; Galatians 3:16-19; Ephesians 2:13-14; Hebrews 7:12; Hebrews 8:7). Christians cannot observe any part of the Old Law (including the Sabbath), because to do so is to fall from grace (Galatians 5:4)! Neither may they permit any man to judge them in respect of the Sabbath days (Colossians 2:16).

QUESTION: Why is it not allowable to work on the Sabbath as some teach?

ANSWER: The reason that Israel, under the Old Law, was not to work on the Sabbath (the seventh day of the week, i.e., Saturday) is given in Exodus 20:8-11. We today are no longer under any part of that Old Law, but rather all from the cross until the end of time have been, are, and will be, answerable only to the New Testament. (Please read Romans 7:1-7; II Corinthians 3:1-18; Galatians 3:24-25; Ephesians 2:13-16; Colossians 2:14; Hebrews 7:12 & 8:7).

The Bible is clear that Christians are to worship on the first day of the week (Acts 20:7; I Corinthians 16:1-2; Revelation 1:10; Colossians 2:16).

QUESTION: Should Christians pray on the seventh day (Saturday)?

ANSWER: Christians are to pray consistently (I Thessalonians 5:17), which would include the seventh day. Note that the saved in Acts 2:42 "continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers." In the model prayer (Matthew 6:9-13), Jesus taught us to say, "Give us this day our daily bread." Surely, Christ and His followers prayed without ceasing every day!

QUESTION: Does Hebrews 4:10 teach that we are to keep the Sabbath Day, because God rested on the seventh day?

ANSWER: No! The "rest" promised to the people of God (vss.8-10) has reference to the eternal rest (heaven) and not to the seventh day of the week. As God rested from His labor after the creation, faithful Christians too shall rest, according to His promise, after their labors are over.

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QUESTION: Some say we are to worship on Sundays; some say Saturday. I believe we are to assemble for worship every day of our lives and that we cannot forsake the assembling on Sundays or any other day. Would you please clarify this for me?

ANSWER: Your desire to assemble for worship to God every day is commendable. However, we need to be careful not to bind things where the Bible has not bound. That the saints are to assemble to worship God on Sunday, the first day of the week, is clearly set forth in Acts 20:7 and I Corinthians 16:1-2. On this day only are we to partake of the Lord's Supper and contribute as God has prospered us. The other acts of worship (teaching, singing and praying), which occur on the Lord's Day, may, as well, be engaged in on other days of the week. The frequency of such worship assemblies may scripturally vary from congregation to congregation, depending upon many local factors, such as: the spiritual needs of a congregation; the proximity of members to a place of assembly; transportation issues; the necessity of individual employment to financially support self, family, and the work of the local congregation, etc. A wise eldership or the faithful men of the congregation, if no eldership exists, will consider all such factors before selecting times and dates of assembly. To insist that all members of a congregation must assemble for public assembly each and every day of the week, under any and all conditions, is to go beyond that which is written (I Corinthians 4:6; Revelation 22:18-19).

QUESTION: What is the understanding of Colossians 2:16?

ANSWER: Most of what Paul wrote to the various churches was to warn Christians not to go back under the Old Testament; not be brought in bondage again to it (Galatians 5:1-4); not to accept the binding of the old law of circumcision (Galatians 5:6; Galatians 6:15); and not to allow Judaizing Teachers to insist that Christians keep the Holy Days (including the Sabbaths) of the Old Testament. This is precisely his argument and directive in Colossians 2:16. Note carefully the context of the passage by reference to Colossians 2:14!

QUESTION: Mark 1:21 and Luke 4:31 talk of Jesus going into the synagogues and teaching on the Sabbath Day. If the first day was a commanded day, why didn't He encourage them to assemble on that day?

ANSWER: Jesus lived under the Old Testament and kept its laws perfectly, including worshipping on the Sabbath. The New Testament, under which Christians worship on the first day, did not come into effect until the Old Testament (including Sabbath keeping) was taken out of the way at the cross and death of Christ (Colossians 2:14-16)!

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QUESTION: Acts 17:2 and Acts 18:4 says that Paul went into the synagogues on the Sabbath Day for the purpose of worshipping. This was after Jesus' ascension. Why did Paul not encourage people from worshipping on the Sabbath?

ANSWER: To say that these verses teach that Paul entered the synagogues for the purpose of worshipping is to read something into these passages that is not there. The reasons for Paul going into the synagogues is clearly stated, i.e., (1) that's where the Jews were to whom he wanted to preach and (2) he wanted to preach Christ (New Testament) to them.

Paul encourages people of all time and for all time since the cross to worship on the first day of the week by his example (Acts 20:7) and by commandment (I Corinthians 16:1-2). Some questions need to be asked. Why did these inspired men on a missionary journey wait for seven days (Acts 20:6) to meet and commune on the first day (Acts 20:7) if that was not the appointed day? Why did they not simply abide six days and worship on the Sabbath if that was the appointed today? Why did the apostle Paul direct the Corinthian Christians to lay by in store on the first day of the week if the seventh day was the appointed day of assembling? It is interesting to note that in the original Greek the word "kata" is used (verse two), which means "every" first day of the week. Can any suggest that the early Christians engaged in all items of worship except "giving" on Saturday, and then reassembled on the first day for the purpose of engaging in that particular act of worship? Surely not. But why the first day? Because that was the day on which our Lord conquered death by His resurrection and it was the day that He established His church in which we worship Him!

Not only does the Bible show that we are to meet on the first day, but it is interesting to note that such was the practice on the basis of secular history. In the writings of Justin Martyr (100 A.D. – 167 A.D.) who was a pupil of Polycarp who, in turn, was a pupil of the apostle John, we can read these words: "On Sunday a meeting is held of all who live in the cities and villages, and a section is read from the memoirs of the Apostles and the writings of the Prophets, as long as time permits. When the reading is finished the president, in a discourse, gives the admonition and exhortation to imitate these noble things. After this we all rise and offer a common prayer. At the close of the prayer, as we have before described, bread and wine and thanks for them according to his ability . . ." The writing goes on to talk about the distribution of the bread and wine to the homes of the sick and about the contribution. Clearly then, both the Bible and secular history evidences the fact that worship of the New Testament church was on the first day and not the seventh!