

SABBATARIANISM

By Kent A. Field

Sabbatarians often try to make an argument for worshipping on Saturday from the Old Testament Scriptures. The Sabbatarians say that though Jesus fulfilled Moses Law and nailed it to the cross, the Ten Commandment Law is something different from the Law Of Moses, and is still in force to this day. Therefore, they argue, we must still obey all of the Ten Commandments today, including the 3rd commandment which regards the Sabbath Day. They also argue that there are at least 2 and as many as three Old Testament Laws, and that they are all different. They say that the Ten Commandments was just that, ten commandments, and no more. They say that the Law of Moses was just that, not the Law of God, but the Law of Moses, They go on to say that the Law engraved on stone was a different law from the one written on the scrolls. They say that the law inside the Ark Of The Covenant was different from the one written on the outside of the covenant.

It is this Bible student's firm belief, based upon the following many passages that the name, "Ten Commandments" was just that, a name for the entire Law of Moses, or of God, which represented the remaining scores of commandments. The Ten Commandments was merely a "nickname" or abbreviation for the whole law of God. This we will surely see.

It should also be noted that some religious groups refer to the "christian Sabbath", and that this is Sunday. This is not, nor was it ever true according to the Scriptures. The Sabbath ("rest" in Hebrew) was the 7th day of the week. The "Lord's Day" of the New Testament is the 1st day of the week, and was never referred to as a "sabbath" of any kind!

Let us review the following list of passages and consider the points that they make with regards to this discussion. Remember that the only way to effectively use this study is with an open Bible, eyes, mind, and heart.

1. Gen.2:2-3 This is NOT the first reference of God commanding that the Sabbath day be observed. Rather it is the often biblical use of "elipsis", that is, "a person narrating an account from past as though he were there and then making a remark concerning the present or future with regards to the past from which that remark was made".
In verse 3 Moses, the writer of Genesis, is making reference to Exodus 16, the first time the Sabbath was commanded to be remembered and observed.
Note that there was also no mentioned of the whole creation being commanded to observe this Sabbath or of them breaking it! Not until Ex. 16! And then, only Israel was commanded.
2. Gen. 3:20 This is another example of Moses using "elipsis". At the time Gen.3:20 was happening, Eve was not yet "the mother of all the living", but by the time Moses was writing Genesis (approx. 1,500 BC) she was!
3. Mt.10:4 The writer, Matthew, uses "elipsis" when referring to the betrayal of Jesus by Judas. Matthew 26:14 tells us when this

actually happened. Not back on the same day that he was called to be an apostle!

4. Gen.1:27 Here "elipsis" is used to describe the creation of the woman even though it doesn't actually occur until Gen.2:18-25.
5. Neh.9:5-15 Lays out the whole chronology of events from creation, to the giving of the Sabbath! Notice that the giving of the Sabbath was NOT back in Genesis!
6. Ex.16:4-30 This is the first recorded commanding, disobedience, and observance of the Sabbath.(cf. v's.23-30).
7. Ex.19:3 The covenant or commandments were to be told ONLY to the house of Jacob and the sons of Israel! (Israel!).
8. Ex.20:2-11 The people to whom the commandments were given were the ones who were freed from Egyptian slavery...Israel alone were the ones who were given the commandments in this chapter, including the Sabbath commandment of verses 8 through 11, as Israel is identified in verse 2!
9. Ex.31:12-17 The Sabbath was given to Israel alone and not all nations, as a sign between God and Israel.
10. Ez.20:10-13 God gave the Sabbath only to Israel, and only after He had taken them out of Egyptian slavery. God also only gave Israel His statutes and ordinances.
11. Dt.5:1-5 The covenant of statutes and ordinances made at Mt. Horeb (Sinai) was only made with Israel, and was never made with anyone before that time; not with their fathers, not even Abraham.
12. Dt.5:6ff God only gave His covenant to Israel, ("out of Egyptian slavery").
13. Ex.20:11;Dt.5:15 The two reasons for the Sabbath given to Israel, and not all nations were: 1. God rested from creation on the seventh day. 2. Israel rested from Egyptian slavery and were to be caused to remember this by observing the Sabbath weekly.
14. Ex.24:12 God gave Moses the first set of stone tablets on which the covenant was written.
15. Ex.31:18 The covenant (testimony), was written on two tablets of stone (the 1st set) written by the very "finger of God".
16. Ex.25:16,21,22 This "testimony was to be placed inside the Ark of the "covenant". Hence testimony=covenant.
17. Heb.9:4 The tablets of the covenant were placed inside the ark of the covenant.
18. Ex.32:15 There was so much writing on the tablets of stone that they were written on both sides, front and back.
19. Ex.32:15-16 The 1st set of stone tablets were God's work with God's writing on them.
20. Ex.32:19 Moses breaks the first set of stones which were God's work, written with God's finger.
21. Ex.34:1-4 Moses had to cut out the 2nd set of stone tablets himself and bring them up onto the mountain with him. On these tablets were to be written the very same words that were written on the first set. Though God here states that He will write upon the stones, we will later see that He will write upon the stones through the hands of Moses, and not with His own finger, as He did before.
22. Ex.34:27-29 God told Moses to write down on the 2nd set of stones the same words as were on the 1st set of stones. Hence the covenant did not change at all.
23. Dt.9:9-11 Tablets of stone = tablets of the covenant = those written with the finger of God, (the 1st set).
24. Dt.10:1-4 Moses cut out a 2nd set of stones and God wrote (through Moses

- not "with His own finger") all the writing just as it was on the 1st set of stone tablets.
24. Dt.10:1-4 The writing on the stone tablets was also known as the Ten Commandments.
 25. Dt.31:24-26 Moses also re-wrote God's Law in a book (scroll) to be kept beside the Ark of the Covenant.
 26. Dt.27:1-10 The Israelites were also to cut out two large stone tablets, coat them with lime and write on them all the law that had been given by Moses. Verse 10 makes it clear that these were not just Moses's law, but they were God's commandments, and NOT a "separate law of Moses."
 27. 1Kgs.8:9,21 The tablets of stone (covenant), were in the Ark of the covenant, and the covenant was made at Horeb with Israel alone.
 28. Ex.34:28-29 The "words of the covenant" = "the Ten Commandments" = "the testimony" = "written on the tablets of stone". Hence, they are all the same thing, and not 3 different things as some Sabbatarianians suppose. Hence the "Ten Commandments" is only an abbreviation or nickname with the first ten of scores of commandments, standing for or representing all of the commandments, the entire covenant with Israel.
 29. Dt.4:1-8-13 The "whole law" = "His (God's) covenant" = "Ten Commandments" = "the tablets of stone", and was made only with Israel!
 30. Mal.4:4 The Law of Moses = the statutes and ordinances that God commanded and gave at Mt. Horeb(Sinai) for all Israel.
 31. 2Cor.3:1-16 The tablets of stone = letters engraved on stone = the old covenant = the letter that kills, all contrasted with the New Testament given by the Spirit that gives life!
 32. Hos.2:11,23;Ro.9:25 The Sabbath was to cease and be done away with when the Gentiles were to be saved in the church!
 33. Gal.4:9-11 The Apostle Paul feared that his work in preaching the Gospel was for nothing involving those who would subject themselves to the observance of special or holy days (sabbaths).
 34. Col.2:14-23 The entire law was fulfilled, taken out of the way, and nailed to the cross. And we are to let no one (not even Seventh Day Adventists) judge us in respect to Sabbath days, etc. which were only and merely a shadow of the good things to come, which was Christ and the New covenant Christian system.
 35. NO WHERE in Scripture is Sunday referred to as the so-called "christian sabbath" as some have erroneously supposed. This is man-made!

Hence, the Ten Commandments = the testimony = the 1st set of stone tablets = the 2nd set of stone tablets = the covenant = the whole law = the law of Moses = the statutes and ordinances. And therefore there are actually a lot more than just 10 commandments in the abbreviated name known as the Ten Commandments, but there was really only one Old Covenant or Law. Therefore the Sabbatarianians are wrong for believing that they or any other Gentile should have ever kept the Sabbath, since it was only given to Israel and NO OTHER

WHAT IS THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE FIRST DAY OF THE WEEK?

1. Mt.1ff;Mk.16:9;Lk.24:1,13,21,46 - It was the day that Jesus was raised from the dead.
2. Rom.1:3,4 Therefore, through the resurrection, it was the day on which Jesus was declared to be the Son of God.
3. Acts 2:1-47;Lv.23:15 Since Pentecost was on the first day of the week, the Lord's true church was started upon the first day of the week. Therefore the first Gospel sermon was preached upon the first

day of the week.

4. Acts 2:14-21; Joel 2:28-32 The pouring forth of the Holy Spirit was fulfilled on the first day of the week.
5. Acts 20:7; 1Cor. 10:16ff; 11:18-34 The church gathered together upon the first day of the week for the express purpose of taking the Lord's Supper.
6. 1Cor. 16:1,2 The contribution or weekly collection was taken up upon the first day of the week!, while the disciples gathered.
7. Therefore, all true New Testament Christians worship the Lord upon the first day of the week!