



The Sabbath Sentinel

Sep-Oct
2024



Obedience the Key to Repentance!

BSA—The Bible Sabbath Association

Jesus said, "I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish..."

The Sabbath Sentinel September-October, 2024

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Obedience—the Key to Repentance

What is the standard that God put into place for mankind to be saved? That seems a very important question since without that salvation we are all walking dead men. If you turn on your television on Sunday mornings you will hear that all you have to do is to accept Jesus as your savior and live a good life to be saved. Their idea of being saved is that when you die you go to heaven. Satan has indeed, as it says in Rev. 12:9, deceived the whole world.

To begin with, bible scholars know that heaven is promised to nobody. Jesus Himself is quoted as saying in John 3:13 that NO man has ascended to heaven. This includes the man after God's own heart, David King of Israel.

But, misunderstanding the gift and rewards of God does not influence our salvation. The ideas that one can just say that Jesus is one's Savior, and the vague notion of being good, are far more insidious, and dangerous to anyone who accepts this satanic "salvational" dogma.

Lip service is often given to the idea of repentance but is usually defined to be generating some "sorrow" for having not done good in our lives. But, is that what God says to us through His Word?

A young man approached Jesus when He walked the earth in human form. He asked Jesus what he had to do to receive eternal life. Jesus did not correct him to remind him that he had an immortal soul, yet another deception found promoted from the Sunday morning pulpits. Instead, Jesus pointed him back to the Commandments of God. We find His answer in Mar 10:19: *You know the commandments: Do not commit adultery, do not kill, do not steal, do not bear false witness, do not defraud, honor your father and your mother.* Those commandments are found in Exodus 20.

Jesus also did NOT tell the young man that He was going to nail those commandments to the cross of His sacrifice. Yet, when we discuss the test commandment, keeping God's Sabbaths, the answer is always that those commandments were nailed to the cross, citing Col 2:13-14: *And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses; Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross.*

It is astounding to me that people can read those scriptures and not see the contradiction between what Jesus told the young man and what Paul wrote to the Corinthi-

ans, and the dogma that proclaims that God's Commandments were nailed to the Cross by Jesus.

Moreover, it stakes that claim on the idea that the commandments were ordinances that are against us. However, Paul puts that statement to the lie also. We read this in Rom 7:7: *What shall we say then? Is the law sin? Let it not be said! But I did not know sin except through the law. For also I did not know lust except the law said, You shall not lust.*

Anyone who actually reads their bible knows that Paul is referring to the commandment against lust in Exo 20:17 *Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor any thing that is thy neighbour's.*

Coveting is defined in Webster's dictionary as "To desire or wish for, with eagerness; to desire earnestly to obtain or possess." Lust is defined in Webster's as "Longing desire; eagerness to possess or enjoy." Lust and covet mean the same thing. When Paul talks about lust he is talking about the command found in Exo 20:17! He is pointing back to God's Commandments!

Returning to Rom 7:7, Paul is saying that the Law is not sin. Instead, he explains that he would not have known what sin was except by the law. Then gives the example that points us back to God's Commandments!

Some seeking to excuse their failure to follow the Commandments of God will state that they keep the Royal Law, claiming that they need merely to love God and their fellow man. But, *does* that excuse their failure? James, the brother of Jesus, proclaims otherwise. We find in Jas 2:8-12 the following: *If you fulfill the royal Law according to the Scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself," you do well. But if you have respect to persons, you commit sin and are convicted by the Law as transgressors. For whoever shall keep the whole Law and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all. For He who said, "Do not commit adultery," also said, "Do not murder." But if you do not commit adultery, yet if you murder, you have become a transgressor of the Law. So speak and do as those who shall be judged by the Law of liberty.*

James is telling us that the Royal Law of love pertains to keeping the Commandments of God as found in Exo 20! James cites the commandments related to adultery and murder as part of that Royal Law. It is clear that those who claim the Royal Law as exempting them from God's

Commandments are not reading their bibles except to justify their sin. Let's make no mistake about it, they are justifying sin!

The Apostle who leaned on Jesus at His last supper had this to say about sin in 1Jn 3:4 *Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law.* John also refers us all back to God's Commandments! He tells us that breaking or transgressing that Law IS sin. If we are going to repent, then we had better know of what we are repenting, shouldn't we?

We will return to this idea of repentance shortly. First, though, the thinking bible student might ask him or herself why anyone would be making the false claims that the law is done away, nailed to the cross or for some reason no longer applicable. None of them would claim that dishonoring one's parents, murder, theft, lying or improper lust are acceptable to God. Likewise, none of them would claim that having idols or taking God's Name in vain are acceptable. What element of those Commandments leads others to claim the demise of the requirement to keep them?

There is only one of the Commandments that people specifically object to; it is the Commandment to keep the Sabbath Day holy. And, yet, we find it is that very Commandment that indicates who are God's people. Notice what we find in Exo 31:13: *Tell the Israelites, 'Surely you must keep My Sabbaths, for this will be a sign between Me and you for the generations to come, so that you may know that I am the LORD who sanctifies you. Keep the Sabbath, for it is holy to you. Anyone who profanes it must surely be put to death. Whoever does any work on that day must be cut off from among his people.*

The Sabbath is a sign that we know who God is. I've heard the response to that in that past. It goes like this, "That only pertained to the Israelites." That's true! But, also notice this. Paul wrote something of vast importance to the Gentiles in Rome that we would do well to understand.

In Rom 11:1, Paul asks whether Israel has been cast away. He goes on to state that he is trying to stir up the Gentile brethren to emulate Israel in vs 14. However, to really drive home the point, Paul goes on to state that the casting away of the Israelites was for the purpose of including the Gentiles in God's plan, vs 15. He compares Israel to an olive plant whose roots are in Christ, who alone, of all the humans who have ever lived, can be called holy. Paul states that the firstfruits are holy, and in another place that Christ IS the firstfruit.

However, notice what Paul goes on to tell the brethren in Rome. Rom 11:17-21 *And if some of the branches (Israel) be broken off, and thou (Gentiles), being a wild olive tree, wert grafted in among them, and with them partakest of the root and fatness of the olive tree; Boast not against the branches. But if thou boast, thou bearest not the root, but the root thee. Thou wilt say then, The*

branches were broken off, that I might be grafted in. Well; because of unbelief they were broken off, and thou standest by faith. Be not highminded, but fear: For if God spared not the natural branches, take heed lest he also spare not thee.

We should not overlook the importance of what Paul is saying. He is saying that Gentiles MUST become part of Israel to be a part of Christ. Becoming part of Israel, and Christ's, necessarily means doing what He commanded. As we have already seen, Christ's command was to keep the Commandments—and those commandments include keeping the Sabbath holy! It is clear then that those who follow Christ must keep God's Commandments. Those refusing to keep God's Commandments are not following Jesus, at least not the Jesus sent by God to be our Savior. They are following a false Jesus promulgated by Satan whose sole desire is to kill the potential children of God.

We return to repentance now that we understand of what we are to repent, that is to say, sin—the breaking of the Commandments of God. As previously mentioned, repentance is not some emotion generated without knowledge of what constitutes sin. John the Baptist gives us a glimpse into what repentance actually is. We read in Mat 3:7-8, *But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees come to his baptism, he said unto them, O generation of vipers, who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bring forth therefore fruits meet for repentance...*

Repentance requires fruit. The fruit of repentance is a changed mind! Indeed, the word repent is from a Greek word that means to have a change of mind or direction. While personal sorrow for sinning against God who has given us life is certainly a part of repentance, standing alone it is worthless. Repentance must be accompanied by a change of mind toward obeying God, and a change of direction toward keeping God's Commandments. As John ordered the Pharisees, to show God our repentant attitude we must DO something! That thing we must do to show repentance is to quit sinning.

The conclusion is clear. God's Commandments are still in force today. Those Commandments define sin for us. Breaking even one Commandment is sin against God and brings with it the death penalty God warned Adam and Eve about in the Garden. But, God sent us His only begotten Son who would present Himself as the Lamb to be sacrificed once and for all time for our sins. He commands all men to repent, and that means to seek the redeeming sacrifice, and to stop sinning. It means to obey the simple Commandments God gave us and stay on His path toward God's Kingdom.

The next step is up to us. God will not force us to repent and obey. He will allow us to choose the death penalty that we have earned. It is past time to make our choice and claim the incredible blessings God has for us.



That's a mistranslation!

Daniel Botkin

One of my pet peeves is people trying to dismiss a Bible truth by repeating the trite, worn out excuse "That's a mistranslation."

No Bible translation is 100% perfect, because the full meaning of any Hebrew or Greek or Aramaic word, and all the nuances of that particular word and its connection to other words, cannot be fully conveyed with a single English word. That is a linguistic fact that exists in the translation of any document from one language to another. But this does not mean that every translation that you do not like is a mistranslation. It only means that every translation has limitations. A translation can convey only a limited amount of all the meaning that is embedded in the text in its original language. Limitation and mistranslation are two entirely different things.

When people say "That's a mistranslation," oftentimes what they really mean is: "That translation contradicts what I want to believe. That translation does not match up with my personal theological preferences and wishes."

They think they can dismiss Bible truth by simply saying "That's a mistranslation." But God is not fooled, and neither am I.

The next time I hear someone say "That's a mistranslation," I want to ask three questions.

QUESTION #1. Do you know Hebrew (or Greek or Aramaic) well enough to explain to me WHY that is a mistranslation? And don't just give me a vocabulary number from the lexicon of Strong's Exhaustive Concordance. Explain to me why that verse is a mistranslation by using your knowledge of Hebrew (or Greek or Aramaic) grammar, morphology, syntax, orthography, semantics, phonology, verb conjugation, case, etc. Use your knowledge of the original language to explain to me in your own words why

that particular verse is a mistranslation. Can you do this?

Check one: Yes No

QUESTION #2. Do you know Hebrew (or Greek or Aramaic) well enough to actually read and understand the text in its original language? And I don't mean just being able to pronounce the words. I mean are you able to understand the words and the reasons those words appear in whatever particular form they appear in this particular verse? Can you do this?

Check one: Yes No

QUESTION #3. Have you read through the entire Bible in its original languages at least one time? This is an important question, because if you have not done this, then you have never truly read through the entire inspired text of the Bible. You have only read through translations of the inspired text. And if you have only read through translations of the inspired text, and not the inspired text itself, then what business do you have claiming "That's a mistranslation"? Have you ever read the entire Bible in its original languages?

Check one: Yes No

If you answered "No" to one or more of those three questions, then please do not tell me "That's a mistranslation." That claim is being made by too many people who know little or nothing about translating the text from the original languages.

If you insist on telling me that something is a mistranslation, at least find someone else who can use their knowledge of the original languages to explain to me why the verse is a mistranslation.

See Daniel Botkin's website at gatesofeden.online.

Make peace with God

Tommy Willis

Make as much peace with God as you can; we don't have much time left.

Over the years, I have heard a few ministers say things like, "Get right with God," or "Make peace with God." They were concerned that the churches to which they were speaking were caught up in the ways of the world, and not seeking God as they should. I remember one saying that he was afraid time was going to run out on them. It made me think of the scripture that says: "*Seek the Lord while he may be found; call on him while he is near.*" (Isa 55:6) niv.

We have limited time on this planet. As the scripture tells us, we are soon gone: "*Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes.*" (James 4:14) niv.

The messages to the churches had a time period also. If we study Revelation chapters two and three, we will see most those seven churches were told to repent—a space of time was given—and if no repentance, there were consequences.

Brethren, those letters are for us today—to help us examine our lives. I share this with you as one who was brought back from drifting from God. God used Rev 3:18-20, that tells us about a lukewarm attitude. I could not see I was lukewarm; God led me to examine myself, and I had to repent and be restored to proper fellowship.

Jesus says: "*Those whom I love I rebuke and discipline. So be earnest and repent. Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me.*" (v19-20) NIV.

Those messages in the Bible are for us today also. We would do well to examine our lives with these messages to the churches. Some had left their first love; and some grew lukewarm.

We need to do as David did: "*Search me, O God, and*

know my heart; Try me, and know my anxieties; And see if there is any wicked way in me, And lead me in the way everlasting." (Ps 139:23-24) nkjv. We need to do this because our hearts are very deceitful (Jer 17:9), and will let too many things go.

Time could be running out for many of us. We would be on much safer ground if we took the time to examine our lives this way. Most of us have drifted from God at times; but keep in mind that each time we allow ourselves to drift, we will find it harder to find our way back.

Therefore, I dread not praying as I should now. I may not find my way back next time. I found it harder to find my way back each time I drifted. Therefore, I now have a healthy fear of not praying as I should. It was a long time in coming; God had to bring me to a place where he showed me I was lukewarm. And I'm not trying to suggest that I still don't struggle and sin, because I do still sin. It seems to be a constant battle, no matter what level of growth we have.

But things are so much better now that I have been resorted to proper fellowship with the Prince of Peace, who gives me peace in my struggles and agony of this life. And now, each time I fall, God picks me back up and I walk towards him and don't drift from Him as before. I thank God for his mercy.

Many are caught up in the rat race, too busy with the cares of this life and this consumer society. Many things can become an idol. It can be the TV, money, politics, fame, the list can be long-- Whatever is distracting you from spending time with God needs to be put away.

Brethren, get out of the rat race, and learn to live as simple a life as possible—it will help your prayer life. Many Christians are caught up in the consumer society. I share the simple life because I know it works through experience. I learned years ago the best way around the hurdle is not making more money, but spending less.

Anxiety, panic, and torment increased across the land with the plague, and the stress left in its wake. People have had a difficult time trying to "get back to normal,"

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the past three years. And many Christians have had increased fear and worry.

I once saw on the news where a tornado ripped off an old man's roof, and threw him around the house. The newsman asked him if he thought he was going to die. And he said, "I'm ready, for I'm right with God," he seemed to be at peace. The man seemed aware of how the Bible tells us we don't know what tomorrow will bring, for we are like a mist soon gone. The thief on the cross made peace with God before he died. I doubt he knew much doctrine; but his heart was right before God. God looks on the heart.

With the peace of God, we can live without the fear of death. It reminds me of what Paul said: "*For to me, living means opportunities for Christ, and dying—well, that's better yet! But if living will give me more opportunities to win people to Christ, then I really don't know which is better, to live or die! Sometimes I want to live, and at other times I don't, for I long to go and be with Christ. How much happier for me than being here!*" (Phil 1:21-23) NLT. This does not mean we should seek death, for life is a blessing, and God has a work for us to finish. Paul loved life; but he realized to depart this life would be "far better" because we get to go be with Christ!

Psalms 23 has sometimes been the last words people uttered on their deathbed. "*Even when walking through the dark valley of death I will not be afraid, for you are close beside me, guarding, guiding all the way.*" (v4). TLB.

God does not promise us tomorrow. I've have known brethren that I've talked with about end time prophecy and they died with cancer at a young age; others in car wrecks. Therefore, even if it's not the End Time, still, the Bible tells us we don't have much time. We are comfortable talking about prophecy; but in our death-denying culture, we avoid talking about death. But the Bible reminds us:

"Seventy years are given to us! Some even live to eighty. But even the best years are filled with pain and trouble; soon they disappear, and we fly away... Teach us to realize the brevity of life, so that we may grow in wisdom." (Ps 90:10, 12) NLT. The psalmist asks to be reminded of the brevity of life. When we are, we will be helped to focus on what's most important, because we don't have much time left.

Now, with all the chaos increasing, many feel the prophecies and birth pains are near...will many die in the near

future. Are you ready like the old man above whom almost died in the tornado who said he was “right with God?” And like the above scripture tells us, we will soon be gone one way or another, for our life is just a mist soon gone. Therefore, we need to make as much peace with God as we can; we don’t have much time left. Don’t procrastinate.

Jesus said it will be like the days of Noah and come suddenly; Noah was a preacher of righteousness, but they did not listen to his warnings. God shut the door of the Ark—the time had run out.

In like manner, Matthew 25 tells about the spiritual preparation to get more oil in our lamp; and those who didn’t prepare found the door closed also: “*The virgins who were ready went in with him to the wedding banquet. And like the days of Noah, the door was shut. ‘Later the others also came. ‘Lord, Lord,’ they said, ‘open the door for us!’ ‘But he replied, ‘Truly I tell you, I don’t know you.’ ‘Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour.’*” (v10-13) niv.

Certainly, these are clear biblical admonishments of time running out in both Noah’s day and in Jesus return. We know how to get more oil in our lamp; but we can make a thousand excuses for not getting in our prayer and Bible study.

He stands at the door and knocks; but we have to open the door (Rev 3:20) for a deeper relationship with Him. Think and pray about these matters. Because he loves us so much. He longs for a closer relationship with us. Don’t let the distractions of the world hinder you from spending time with God.

God loves us and cares so very much. We often fail to see how much he cares; the Bible specifically tells us to go to Him in prayer because he cares:

“*Give all your worries and cares to God, for he cares about you.*” (1 Pet 5:7) NLT.

We will need God’s peace to endure the difficult days ahead. As we learn to do as the scriptures tell us, we can have the peace of God in our daily walk; “*For he is our peace.*” (Eph 2:14) KJV. And God will keep us at peace amidst the chaos of the world. This is true success. Nothing will comfort you more than the peace of God, for it passes human understanding (Phil 4:6-7).



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A SIMPLE, SCRIPTURAL CALENDAR -- IS IT POSSIBLE?

DJ Wellington

In recent years, there have been more and more calendars claiming they are based upon scripture. Most realize the calendar of our Heavenly Father is NOT the one used in the world today (January to December) the same as the scriptural day is not midnight to midnight. Our Heavenly Father's words and instructions are not (or should not) be burdensome (1 John 5:3). The calendar should NOT be difficult!

Most all answers are found in Genesis 1-11 and the calendar is no different:

Genesis 1:14-18: *Then Elohim said, "Let there be lights in the firmament of the heavens to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs and seasons, and for days and years; and let them be for lights in the firmament of the heavens to give light on the earth"; and it was so. Then Elohim made two great lights: the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night. He made the stars also [Psalm 136:9]. Elohim set them in the firmament of the heavens to give light on the earth, and to rule over the day and over the night, and to divide the light from the darkness. And Elohim saw that it was good.*

Whatever calendar someone proposes MUST use the above criteria! What came to me in recent years is the fact that the sun rules the day (by extension, the week), the moon rules the night (by extension, the month) along with the stars and ALL THREE rule the year. Now, there are other criteria, as we will see. However, these are primary, going back to the beginning, Genesis. Practically speaking, the ruling of day and night is rather simple, but how do these pertain to the years?

The day starts when the sun goes down—that timing changes based on what your location is. Since the sun traverses across the sky, the time will be different as it progresses. From Jerusalem to New York City may be an eight or nine hour difference. You observe sunset in your location, not when it sets on the other side of the earth. However, two little known facts are these:

1) The point the sun crosses the equator, changing the seasons, is a moment in time. The exact moment in time ALL OVER THE EARTH, re-

gardless what time zone you live in. Important note here: Scripture only has TWO seasons, summer and winter. Even common sense will say one cannot start one until the other ends—at that moment the sun crosses the equator (twice a year), one season ends and another begins. It is a cycle.

2) The point the moon crosses from one "cycle" to another, called "conjunction" (meaning: "simultaneous occurrence") is also a moment in time ALL OVER THE EARTH, regardless what time zone you live in. —very similar to the sun. Whereas the sun crossing the equator changes the seasons, the moon crossing that invisible line changes the month. Important note here: The day the moon crosses over (i.e., conjunction) would NOT be "new moon day," because a day is a day is a day—24 hours. This also allows for the calendar to set itself up the way it is supposed to be—few hours more or less every month.

Using the above formula, the "season/year" changes when the sun crosses the equator. However, the "beginning of months" (Exodus 12:2) does not start until the next new moon. Likewise, the "month" starts when the moon is totally dark ("conjunction"). However, "new moon day" would not start until sunset that evening. Both of these scenarios could possibly make up for the "extra" days that so many add to their calendar choice as well as being extremely accurate for the set apart days to be in their seasons. It is also a method that would have worked since creation because the "markers" are in the heavens, determined by Yahweh.

I found this to be extremely simple, but let's look at what others have said about it and look at some other more popular calendars in use today.

First of all, it has been said that you must be a mathematician to use the conjunction. A dear lady in the faith once told me (years before I realized it actually relates to this) that when you see a baby moon in the eastern sky in the wee hours of the morning (she was located in Missouri), you knew new moon day was in two or three days. Her assembly uses the visible sighting. If we diligently watch the moon cycles, you actually CAN determine the day of conjunction (the hour would be much more difficult for us today). Our forefathers did that—they diligently watched the signs of the heavens. Most today find it is difficult

because of the areas we live in—we simply don't have an unobstructed view like they did. Saying that, we do have the use of technology to tell us when the conjunction occurs but we should still be watching the heavens ourselves to the best of our ability. There is a 1-3 day difference between conjunction and visible sliver.

Potential scriptural authority for this would be 1 Samuel 20:5,27,34. In verse 5, David knew the new moon was TOMORROW. How could he have known? If he saw a sliver, it would have been already. Note he was hiding himself until the 3rd evening. In verse 27, the second day of the new moon is referenced. If you watch the skies, the "baby moon" is seen in the eastern sky, no moon the following day (day of conjunction), and the crescent is seen either the second or third day. Perhaps they "knew" the new moon was the next day and it was "confirmed" by seeing the sliver?

Several scriptures mention "Abib." "Abib" is Strong's #H24 and merely means month of greening of ears/new corn; new growth. Although it has been used as the name of the first month of Yahweh's new year, it merely signifies what occurs IN that month, not when it occurs. Some of those scriptures are Exodus 13:4; Exodus 23:15; Exodus 34:18.

Many use Deuteronomy 16:1 as the "formula" for determining the new year. It says, "Observe the month of Abib, and keep the Passover to YAHWEH your Elohim, for in the month of Abib YAHWEH your Elohim brought you out of Egypt by night." Now, right off the bat, this scripture is saying, WATCH FOR the start of the month, the month of new growth. Folks use this verse to denote the PRIMARY sign of the beginning of Yahweh's new year/spring season, then they use the observation for the sliver following what appears to be new growth. How are the criteria of Genesis 1:14-18 being used, especially the stars? Following the method proposed, the crops will be in the proper season EVERY YEAR, without fail.

We cannot ignore the stars and we cannot ignore the barley growth. The stars are the heavenly sign and the greater sign (Isaiah 55:9) over the earthly sign of the barley. The stars are of the Father and the barley growth decision is of mankind. The Heavenly Father calls for the start of the day, month and year by method proposed—MAN calls the start of the month and year by mankind's method. Huge difference there as well.

Philo mentions in Moshe's time when the sun was in Aries on March 21...which is about the time of the spring circuit. There are only two circuits in scripture—spring and fall (Psalm 19:6 and Ecclesiastes 1:6). There are astrologers mentioned or referred to

numerous times in scripture—some were not "astrologers" as we note the (of paganism), but were those who watched the heavens. Even Yahweh referenced the Mazzaroth in Job yet so many folks think it is a pagan concept to watch these things (see Job 38:31-33). We are commanded not to WORSHIP the heavenly signs, not to ignore them! Even in Messiah's time, the shepherds watched the heavens (Matthew 2:2).

One verse that must be brought out here is Psalm 81:3-4 which says, "Blow the trumpet at the time of the New Moon, At the full moon, on our solemn feast day. For this is a statute for Israel, A law of the Elohim of Jacob," (King James version). Interestingly, Brenton's Septuagint has, "Blow the trumpet at the new moon, in the glorious day of your feast," which is much clearer. The Feast of Trumpets is the first day of the seventh month, a day for blowing trumpets (Leviticus 23:24; Numbers 29:1). Some have said these verses are pertaining to the Feast of Tabernacles, which occurs at the full moon and is a solemn feast day. The word translated "full moon," also "time appointed" in some versions, is Strong's #H3677. You will note from the Ancient Hebrew Lexicon, the origin of the word points to "concealed" not "full." Of course, the "conjunction" is a "concealed" moon.

Another objection to the method proposed is that Genesis denotes these things in the heavens were a "sign" and that something cannot be a "sign" if you can't see it. First of all, anyone familiar with scriptures will recall that darkness was a sign and part of the plagues put upon Egypt leading up to the exodus. Another example would be on a highway. You see a sign stating your exit is two miles ahead—then it disappears. A bit later, another sign is seen stating your exit is one mile ahead—then it disappears. Suddenly, a sign appears "Exit Now," and you do. So, we are watching the moon (or should be) all month long, then it disappears, only to show up again in a few days. Isn't that an appropriate sign?

Some say how the original calendar consisted of twelve, thirty-day months and, to be honest, that may well be correct. However, due to our sin and the course of events throughout scripture (the flood, and perhaps Joshua 10:13), that calendar does NOT work today without adding days to it. The method proposed here does not add any days by man, though our Father may add or delete days. Another note is the days were given at creation; day one through seven with seven being Sabbath. That order has never changed; the seventh day is always Sabbath yet some calendars have the month starting the sequence anew so the week of the new moon (in their estimation) could have time between



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May our Heavenly Father guide and direct all to draw them closer to Him!

weekly sabbaths as more or less than six days. They also have extra days, called “non-days” in some proposed calendars. These do not make scriptural sense. Even when man’s calendar was “corrected” years ago, it went something like from Tuesday, March 4, to Wednesday, March 11—the order of the days did not change and Wednesday was still day four of the week. The proposed calendar here could have worked from creation.

We cannot leave this study without highlighting differences between observation of a sliver and observation of a dark moon. A special note here is the word “crescent” appears three times in scripture (Isaiah 3:18; Judges 8:21,26) and all denote a pagan concept of moon worship, so we will use sliver/conjunction.

Sliver/Conjunction – the conjunction lasts seconds; the root of the word means repair/renew. To see sliver is 3-5% visibility – 1-3 days after conjunction (Note: ANY visibility means the month had already started) 100% visibility (full moon) – 14.765 days on each side of the conjunction. On the 15th of the month, the moon will ALWAYS be full of light, think Feast of Unleavened Bread and Feast of Tabernacles. (A personal favorite: What is the opposite of a full pie [i.e., moon]? No pie/moon.)

Sliver – 2 people must see – observance determined by mankind based on location. Note that it could be seen on the other side of the globe and no where else. It could be two totally different 24-hour periods (a frequent occurrence).

Conjunction – Day of – Yahweh determines, math or continual observance can calculate. Ancient civilization – no problem for them, they watched the heavens constantly.

As a final note, most everything begins in darkness:

- * Life begins in darkness physically (baby in womb);
- * Life begins in darkness spiritually (John 8:12 and many other places);
- * Existence began in darkness (Genesis 1:2);
- * Israelites had a pattern – darkness, then light (same as man today);
- * Deep things (Job 12:22);
- * Moon (dark) reflects light (sun) – believers reflect Messiah’s light;
- * Yahushua returns at the dark of the moon (i.e., “Trumpets”) – Matthew 24:29.

May Yahweh guide the sincere seeker of truth and, if one sees something incorrect, please feel free to contact me.



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END TIME SPECULATION – OR IS IT?

The Temple of God

Darl Arbogast

In the Bible we read about the spiritual Temple of God in various places and in depth. Hopefully this article will peak your interest and that you will want to study to know more.

A person who has been called, repented, baptized and has received God's Holy Spirit is a part of the spiritual temple of God as written in 1 Corinthians 3:16,17 NKJ - *Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? If anyone defiles the temple of God, God will destroy him. For the temple of God is holy, which temple you are.* 1 Corinthians 6:19,20 NKJ - *Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit which is in you, which you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.* 2 Corinthians 6:16 NKJ tells us more - *And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said: "I will dwell in them and walk among them. I will be their God, and they shall be My people."* (The body of the Church of God had been the spiritual temple from Acts 2:1 thru 4 until 325 A.D. and that is when Satan took charge through the Popes.)

Let's be clear; the Church is the Temple of God—not a building but the people. The 'man of sin', the 'lawless one' invaded and polluted the temple of God in 325 A.D., it was then later a segment of the temple that broke away and fought 131 years for this freedom from that hierarchy.

Considering the fact that we are the spiritual temple the house of Christ, what is the spiritual sanctuary? Hebrews 3:4 thru 6 NKJ - *For every house is built by someone, but He who built all things is God. And Moses indeed was faithful in all His house as a servant, for a testimony of those things which would be spoken afterward, but Christ as a Son over His own house, whose house we are if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm to the end.* The brotherhood of all Christians, their love for Christ and toward one another, provides the sanctuary as we read in Hebrews 9:1,2 NKJ - *Then indeed, even the first covenant had ordinances of divine service and the earthly sanctuary. For a tabernacle was prepared: the first part, in*

which was the lampstand, the table, and the showbread, which is called the sanctuary. If the sanctuary is to be cleansed as it was in ancient Israel and atonement made for the tabernacle (us), the tribulation and how well we handle it may be the cleansing of the spiritual sanctuary.

In Daniel 12:1 thru 3 and 8:14 writing about the end of the age NKJ - *"At that time Michael shall stand up, the great prince who stands watch over the sons of your people; and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation, even to that time. And at that time your people shall be delivered, every one who is found written in the book. And many of those who sleep (died) in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, some to shame and everlasting contempt. Those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the firmament, and those who turn many to righteousness like the stars forever and ever. 14 And he said to me, "For two thousand three hundred days; then the sanctuary shall be cleansed."*

Christ will suddenly appear before His temple as told us in Malachi 3:1 NKJ – *"Behold, I send My messenger, and he will prepare the way before Me. And the Lord, whom you seek, will suddenly come to His temple, even the Messenger of the covenant, in whom you delight. Behold, He is coming, (Jesus) is coming for us "says the LORD of hosts.* Titus 3:5 NKJ - *not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us...* (We will wait and watch for His return as His presence God's Holy Spirit is within us.)

Falling away

2 Thessalonians 2:1-11 NIKJ - *Now, brethren, concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, we ask you, not to be soon shaken in mind or troubled, either by spirit or by word or by letter, as if from us, as though the day of Christ had come. Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first (the falling away has already occurred), and the man of sin has been revealed, the son of perdition, who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God. Do you not*

remember that when I (Jesus) was still with you I told you these things? And now you know what is restraining, that he may be revealed in his own time. For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only He (Christ) Who now restrains will do so until he is taken out of the way. And then the lawless one (the Pope) will be revealed, whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth and destroy with the brightness of His coming. The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie.

When the Pope installed himself as the ‘Vicar of Christ’ the man of sin was revealed, the ‘falling away’ from God’s true Church had begun; read 2 Thessalonians verses 2 and 3 again. Spiritually the Pope invaded God’s Church, God’s temple and assumed God’s level of authority over the brethren as we read in verse 4 as though he was Christ. The ‘falling away’ we either have not focused on this correctly or God has not yet revealed that it is an event of the past.

The Popes have changed the calendar several times over the years regarding the days, months and seasons—while omitting God—making it easier to deceive the people, demanding worship on Sunday instead of worshipping on God’s Sabbath. Galatians 4:10,11 NKJ – *You observe days and months and seasons and years. I am afraid for you, lest I have labored for you in vain.*

God’s holy days including the Passover were thrown out making a mockery of the bread and wine with the Eucharist and transubstantiation, bringing in sun god worship from January 6 to December 25 calling it Christ-mass honoring falsely the Son of God. Pope Gregory changed the calendar to the Gregorian calendar which we use today. The Popes from 325 A.D. and successive Popes assumed the title ‘Vicar of Christ’ and did what they wanted to do, claiming to be higher in authority than even the Prime Minister of Germany, Henry IV. This was the great apostasy (falling away) as those Christians caved in and became a part of the Roman Catholic Church system, bringing their children up under this counterfeit system and most of them calling themselves Catholic, living a big lie and protesting nothing until the Protestant Reformation. Since then they are called Protestants; even Sabbath keepers are Protestants.

The great ‘falling away’ has already occurred, the mystery of lawlessness is revealed and has been doing mischief for a

long, long time. God’s laws, the knowledge of God’s truth has been shut down by the Popes.

It is clear that the ‘falling away’ is a past event meaning that lawless Sunday keepers are the ‘falling away’ as we are told in 2 Thessalonians 2:3 NKJ - *Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition (the Pope). If this is so the ‘Day of the Lord’ should and could come at any time.*

Taking inventory, most Protestants do not keep God’s holy days (the Passover, Atonement, Trumpets, Feast of Tabernacles, Unleavened Bread, Pentecost, the Last Great Day) while some are also ignoring the weekly Sabbath, His appointed day. These people claim to be Christian while keeping all the pagan holidays chosen by the Pope(s); obeying the lawless one; which means they are not obeying God’s laws. Matthew 6:24, Luke 16:13 NKJ – (Jesus said), *"No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon". 13 No servant can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon".*

We conclude that the Protestant Reformation has turned out to be largely an exercise in futility; except for a few Sabbatarian Church congregations. This is a horrific problem as God does not listen to man. Is God not the Creator, the Potter and not the clay, does God change to satisfy the hearts of men? No! Man is born with sin and death inside of him/her.

Genesis 2:15-17 NKJ – *Then the LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to tend and keep it. And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, "Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."* Romans 5:12,13 NKJ - *Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned-- (For until the law sin was in the world, but sin is not imputed (charged) when there is no law.) Deuteronomy 13:4 NKJ - You shall walk after the LORD your God and fear Him, and keep His commandments and obey His voice, and you shall serve Him and hold fast to Him.*

Sunday Christians have the deception of unrighteousness within them but they do not realize they are perishing; they have not received the love of the truth to be saved. The Bi-

ble was written to mankind to direct his path in truth therefore study the Word of God for yourself.

Great damage to the truth—and what was put into the minds of the people—had been done as they were indoctrinated with heathen customs in their worship and the pagan belief system is still with most professing Christians to this day. The lawless one is the Pope read 2 Thessalonians 2:7 NKJ - *For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only He who now restrains will do so until he is taken out of the way.*

As written in Matthew 7:23 NKJ, professing Christians who believe they don't have to keep God's law will have to face Christ – (Jesus said), *And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'*

God's laws are the 'Ten Commandments', God wrote these laws with His own finger, those not keeping the laws are making a serious mistake. The Sabbath day is #4 of the 'Ten Commandments' a law Jesus spoke about in Mark 2:27, Luke 23:56 NKJ - *And He said to them, "The Sabbath was made for man, and not man for the Sabbath. 56 ... And they rested on the Sabbath according to the commandment. (Those not obeying do not believe God!) Why? Romans 8:7 NKJ - Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be. So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God.*

END OF PART 1



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TRACING KNOWLEDGE OF THE SABBATH

John Lemley

The Bible Story

God instituted the Sabbath at the end of the creation week, rested on it, blessed it and sanctified it. Adam and Eve taught their family both truths: (1) a week consists of seven days and (2) the seventh day is to be observed as a holy day. The phrase “in process of time” (Genesis 4:3) is understood to be referring to the seventh-day Sabbath by many Bible scholars.

Knowledge of the seven-day week occurs next some sixteen hundred years later in the account of the Flood. Whether as written records or verbally, Noah and his family brought knowledge of the seventh-day Sabbath with them and passed it on to their descendants. As a “preacher of righteousness” (2 Peter 2:5) he believed in, practiced and taught observance of the Sabbath. In addition, the fact that Noah sent a dove out of the ark at seven day intervals is compelling evidence that the seven day week continued to be a well-established practice (Genesis 8:8-12).

Dividing of languages at the Tower of Babel (Genesis 11:1-9) is the next main event in tracing the spread of the knowledge of the seventh day week concluding with the Sabbath. As will be indicated, these people groups, regardless of how paganized they became, took awareness of both truths with them while dispersing throughout the world. See Genesis 29:26-28 and 50:10 for evidence of the continuation of a seven-day week.

Supportive extra-biblical evidence

Linguistic anthropological research has discovered that dividing time into seven-day segments was as predominant in the cultures of the ancient world as it is today .

Extra-biblical evidence of the seventh-day of the week being the day of rest is supported by the science of philology. Philology studies the structure, historical development and relationships between languages. These scientists look for a common sound (phonology), a common meaning (lexicology) or both in the vocabulary of different languages. They have determined that many of

the languages of the world, both ancient and modern, show a connection between the day of rest and the seventh day of the week.

Author William Jones created a chart listing 160 languages and how the days of the week were spoken in those languages. It is notable how frequently the word for the seventh day means rest . The numbers in the chart below add up to more than 160 because the word for the seventh-day of the week in some languages is a combination of English words. In other words, the ideas for both the number seven and for rest are combined into one word in some languages.

Language	rest	chief or day seven	Saturn	other
ancient	63	12	35	12
modern	31	7	8	5

Additional evidence for ancient knowledge of the seventh-day Sabbath is how the same sound for the name of the seventh-day of the week has been retained and is spread over three continents. The following chart lists the number of languages whose name for the seventh-day of the week sounds similar to the word Sabbath.

continent	Africa	Asia	Europe
ancient languages	28	71	6
modern languages	8	22	25

The foremost Seventh Day Baptist scholar and author during the 19th century, Abram H. Lewis (1832-1908), wrote extensively on the seventh-day Sabbath. In *The Sabbath and Sunday – Biblical Teachings* he devotes fifty pages discussing the Sabbath’s extra-biblical evidences. He divided some of the ancient languages in Mr. Jones’ chart according to where the descendants of Noah’s three sons settled.

	sounds like Sabbath	rest	chief /day 7	Saturn	other
Shem	11				
Ham	1		1		1
Japheth	34		3	11	10

Author Eviatar Zeruvabel, writing in 1985, makes a similar observation. He writes, “For most of us, ‘week’ is synonymous with ‘seven days.’ In fact in many languages, the word ‘week’ is either identical to, or directly derives from, the word ‘seven.’” He, then, lists ten mid-eastern languages and six Latin-based European languages where ‘week’ and ‘seven days’ are the same, or nearly the same, word.

My Question

A.H. Lewis found a source which includes the Americas in its list. He wrote, “The Israelites, Assyrians, Egyptians, Indians, Arabians, and, in a word, all the nations of the Orient, have, in all ages made use of a week of seven days. We find the same custom among the ancient Romans, Gauls, Britons, Germans and the nations of the North and America.” I have not found where Mr. Lewis got his information and would like to find verification for it.

The languages listed in this article clearly include three continents. Have any of you readers found evidence that the original inhabitants of North and South America and Australia brought an understanding of the seven-day week and/or a sacred seventh-day with them?

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THE BIBLICAL WEEK VERSUS THE PLANETARY WEEK (PART 1)

Kelly McDonald, Jr.

Have you ever wondered where the modern names for the days of the week came from? Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday. None of these names are found in the Bible. The only day named by God was the seventh-day Sabbath.

Did you know that the pagans in the first century had an alternative seven-day weekly cycle? It was based upon certain planets. For this reason, it has been called the planetary week. In this article, we will compare it to the Biblical week!

The Biblical Week

In the beginning of the Bible, we learn about creation and the establishment of the seven-day week. The first six days God created everything. On the seventh day, He rested. The day was blessed and set apart from the other six days.

Genesis 2:1-3 reads: *“And the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. And on the seventh day God finished his work which he had made; and he rested on the seventh day from all his work which he had made. And God blessed the seventh day, and hallowed it; because that in it he rested from all his work which God had created and made”* (ASV).

Knowledge of the seven-day weekly cycle continued after that time. It was understood in the days of Noah. This detail is explained in Genesis chapter 8.

“And he stayed yet other seven days; and again he sent forth the dove out of the ark; and the dove came in to him at eventide; and, lo, in her mouth an olive-leaf plucked off: so Noah knew that the waters were abated from off the earth. And he stayed yet other seven days, and sent forth the dove; and she returned not again unto him any more” (Gen 8:10-12, ASV).

Many years later, the children of Israel moved to Egypt where they were enslaved. During their captivity, they lost the knowledge of the Sabbath. Historical records show that the Egyptians had a ten-day weekly cycle (Fagan, 476). One of God’s first acts when they left

Egypt was to remind them of the original creation week.

In Exodus chapter 16, we learn about a narrative familiar to many Jewish people and Christians – the story of the manna. What many people do not realize is that the main goal of the manna was to teach the Israelites which day of the week was the Sabbath. Through it, he restored to them the knowledge of the original seven-day cycle.

“Then said the LORD unto Moses, Behold, I will rain bread from heaven for you; and the people shall go out and gather a day’s portion every day, that I may prove them, whether they will walk in my law, or not. And it shall come to pass on the sixth day, that they shall prepare that which they bring in, and it shall be twice as much as they gather daily. ... And it came to pass, that on the sixth day they gathered twice as much bread, two omers for each one: and all the rulers of the congregation came and told Moses. And he said unto them, This is that which the LORD hath spoken, Tomorrow is a solemn rest, a holy sabbath unto the LORD: bake that which ye will bake, and boil that which ye will boil; and all that remaineth over lay up for you to be kept until the morning... Six days ye shall gather it; but on the seventh day is the sabbath, in it there shall be none...” (Ex. 16:4-5, 22-23, 26, ASV).

Notice in this passage that God never ascribed a name to any day of the week except the Sabbath. This is one practice that helped the children of Israel maintain the seven-day week through the centuries. The first six days of the week are as follows: first day, second day, third day, fourth day, fifth day, and sixth day. The seventh day of the week was named Sabbath or in Hebrew shabbat.

The Sabbath was one of the chief ways that time was reckoned in the Bible. This day is mentioned in dozens of verses in the Old Testament. It is the weekly regular of time (Ex. 20:8-11, 23:12, 2 Kings 11:5-9) and has special blessings and promises for all people (Is. 56:1-7, 66:22-23).

Other days of the week only receive a sparse mention in the Bible. The first day of the week is inferred in the giving of the manna (Ex. 16:11-21). It is also alluded to in a

few other verses (Lev. 23:11, 15-16). It is simply called “the day after the Sabbath.” In the New Testament, it receives several mentions. The sixth day is mentioned in the manna story (Ex. 16:5, 22, 29). There may be some other days of the week inferred from context of various Scriptures. However, the other days of the week are only referenced in relationship to the Sabbath (the weekly regulator).

By the first century AD, the Jewish people called the sixth day ‘preparation day’ because they prepared for the Sabbath on it. The earliest Christians seemed to continue this practice.

The Planetary Week

At some point in the century or so before Christ, another seven-day week developed in the Greco-Roman culture. Each day of this week was named after a heavenly body. It also had a different order than the Biblical week.

Some ancient cultures considered there to be seven planets, which means wanderers in Greek. This is much different than our modern conception of a planet. They thought that the planets were stars because they could be seen in the night sky (see Pliny, Natural History, 2.4; Cicero, The Republic, 6.17). These heavenly bodies also corresponded to deities that the Greeks and Romans worshiped.

The names ascribed to each day of the planetary week and their order were as follows:

Greek: Kronos, Helios, Selena, Aires, Hermes, Zeus, Aphrodite;

Latin: Saturn, Sun, Moon, Mars, Mercury, Jove, Venus.

Utilizing our modern vernacular, the planetary week was ordered to start with the day we call Saturday and end with the day we call Friday. Archaeological evidence has been found to confirm these details. Below, we will look at a few inscriptions pertaining to this subject.

Pompeii, mid-first century AD

In Pompeii, an inscription was found on a wall which listed in a column the deities over each day in the planetary week. It was written in Greek and the heading of it reads: “Days of the gods.” It lists them in a specific order (original found in CIL 4: 5202). Below, we have provided the information from the inscription with the English translation in brackets.

Greek Inscription

THEON HAMERAS [Days of the gods]

Kronou [Kronos]

Heliou [Helios]

Selenes [Selena]

Areos [Aires]

Hermou [Hermes]

Dios [Zeus]

Aphrodeites [Aphrodite]

Two more inscriptions were found near Pompeii. They showed the order of the days of the planetary week in Latin (CIL 4:6779). I have placed the English translation beside them in brackets. In the first inscription, one name was missing from the original inscription: Mercury. However, this name is supplied by other findings. The second inscription lists the days of the planetary week in shorthand (Notizie degli Scavi, p 98 and CIL 4: 8863).

Latin Inscription #1

SATVRNI [Saturn]

SOLIS [Sol or Sun]

LVNAII [Lunas or Moon]

MARTIS [Mars]

_____ [Mercury]

IOVIS [Jupiter or Jove]

VENERIS [Venus]

Latin Inscription #2

DIES [Days]

SAT [Saturn]

SOL [Sol or Sun]

LVN [Lunas or Moon]

MAR [Mars]

MERC [Mercury]

IOV [Jupiter or Iovi]

VEN [Venus]

While both weekly cycles have seven days, significant differences exist between them. In the Biblical week, the True God only ascribed a name to one day, which is the

name Sabbath for the seventh day. Moreover, the Sabbath was the only day in the week dedicated to the True God; this makes sense because there is only one True God. The Creator’s design for this day reflects monotheistic worship. On the other hand, the planetary week names every day after a heavenly body which corresponds to a god or goddess. This reflects a polytheistic mindset. Lastly, the Biblical week starts with the day commonly called Sunday and ends with the day commonly called Saturday. On the other hand, the planetary week began with Saturday and ended with Friday.

In part two of this series, we will look at how these two weekly cycles affected Christian writers and the impact that the planetary week had on the weekly Sabbath.

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What is the difference between your soul and spirit?

John Packer

The difference between soul and spirit is like the difference between the physical and spiritual.

Nearly every religion and society believes that the real man is not the body, but an invisible immortal soul that lives on. But is this so? What exactly is man? What exactly is the soul? What exactly is spirit? And what exactly is “the spirit in man” as mentioned in the Bible in Job 32:8? Is this the immortal soul that lives on?

Let’s start with spirit. Spirit is invisible, not subject to the physical laws. God is spirit (John 2:24). Satan and his demons are spirit. The righteous angels are also spirit. Spirit is also immortal. A spirit being lives forever and cannot die.

Man is physical, formed from the dust of the ground. He was made in the shape and image of God. He was not made as spirit—but of the dust of the ground, which God caused to become flesh.

The soul is also physical.

Genesis 2:7 states: “*And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.*” The Hebrew word translated soul here is *nephesh*. This word is translated elsewhere within the Bible as creature; sometimes referring to animals. Man and animals have a similar, fleshly existence.

God told Adam and Eve that if they took of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil they would die. Elsewhere in the Bible it says: “*The soul that sins dies.*” (Ezekiel 18:4 and 20.) If the soul can die then it is not immortal. The soul is physical. Man is a soul. Thus the expression: “He’s a jolly old soul.” Man has the same physical existence as animals. Man and animals are both souls. The same source of life that is in animals is in man. Just as animals die, so does man. And, the dead know nothing (Ecclesiastes 9:5).

Of, course there is something different about man that distinguishes him from the animals. Man has intellect. Animals have instinct. Man can think, reason, and philosophize. Man can appreciate art, has the ability to make choices and decisions, is capable of forming ethical and moral attitudes. Animals only do what they are “programmed” to do. Though, they can learn within certain limitations; they work on instinct. Birds build nests—certain birds build certain kinds of nests. That is what is programmed into them. Does one type of bird who sees the nest of another type of bird think: “Oh, how interesting; I think I will build my nest like that also?” No. Animals are unable to reason in the sense that man reasons.

So, what causes this difference in Man and animal? Science has shown that the brains of man and animal are very similar. Some animal brains are bigger than man’s brain. So, is it the brain that makes the difference? Or is it something else.

In his book [The Brain: The Last Frontier](#), Richard M. Restak, M.D. points out that there is a difference between brain and mind. “The question ‘Is the brain a sufficient explanation for the mind?’ was anticipated by biologist Sir Julian Huxley: ‘The brain alone is not responsible for mind, even though it is a necessary organ for its manifestation. Indeed, an isolated brain is a piece of biological nonsense as meaningless as an isolated individual.’”

So, the mind is different from the brain. What is the mind in man?

Job said: “*There is a spirit in man: and the inspiration of the Almighty gives them understanding?*” (Job 32:8). So what is this spirit in man?

In his booklet [What Science Can’t Discover About the Human Mind](#), Herbert W. Armstrong wrote: “It is the nonphysical component in the human brain that does not exist in the brain of animals.”

It is this “human” spirit that is the mind in man. It is the

brain that thinks, however, it is the spirit that imparts the power to think. Animal brains, without this spirit, cannot think, except in the most elementary manner.

This spirit is not the man. It is not another person inside the man. It is not something that makes the man immortal enabling him to go from being to being or from being to animals as some religions think. It is not an immortal soul that lives forever. Ecclesiastes 12:7 states that this human spirit returns to God upon a man's death. But, it does not have life. This human spirit is more of a depository—like a computer disk holding the files on a hard drive after a computer has been destroyed—it holds the memories of the man's character—which God uses later to implant back into the man at the resurrection.

So, from birth, God gives man this “human” spirit. The spirit gives man the mind power which is not in animals.

This spirit is given to man to aid in God’s plan for man-

kind. Unlike animals, man was made in the shape and image of God to have a special relationship with God. He was made to ultimately be born into the Family of God, which right now is only composed of God the Father and Jesus Christ, but in the future will include all of mankind.

"The real value of a human life, then, lies solely within the human spirit combined with the human brain," Herbert W. Armstrong states in Mystery of the Ages.

He continued: "Man was created to have a relationship with his Maker. Therefore, he was made in his Maker's form and shape, with contact and relationship made possible by the presence within him of the human spirit."

So, the difference between soul and spirit is like the difference between the physical and spiritual.



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