

The Sabbath Sentinel

MARCH, 1981

"Go set a watchman,
Let him declare what he seeth."
ISAIAH 21:6



An Open Letter to You—Mother

BY J. ROYALTY

Dear Mother,

I love you very much. I want only the best for you, as you have shown the same feelings for me. You are the only one who has loved me enough to stand by me through good times and bad; the only one who has always tried to understand me, to feel my feelings; perhaps the only one to know the sincere, loving *me* inside—the me who never before really understood why those who try so hard to be good must suffer such pain from the insensitiveness of others.

If it had not been for the love you gave and taught me, I'm not sure that I could have made it this far. But my forty-plus years of physical and emotional pain is not why I'm writing this to you. Rather, I write concerning our potential for eternal life as part of God's glorious kingdom. I tell you again, because I love you, that I have found the truth, or at the very least, the edge of truth. My journey so far has taken many years and a great deal of "growing up." I am writing this in hope of sparing you that same long length of time, as I seriously question how much longer the angels will hold back the climax of Satan's powerful destruction.

I know you realize that world events indicate the return of our Lord: The H bomb, the neutron bomb, germ and chemical warfare, oil and fuel shortage, water pollution and drought, food shortages and starvation, economic recession, depressions and inflation, earthquakes all over, and volcanos erupting here and there—one of which you personally saw turn a sunny Sunday into darkest night, while thousands were in morning church.

I need say no more—we agree. But we do not agree yet on observance of the Sabbath, although you seem to have given up going to church at any time.

But before I get into that issue, I feel that there is one very important problem you must be warned of: If you come to know and understand our Eternal God's truth in your heart, but refuse to acknowledge it by your actions; He will have less mercy for you than if you had never known about His truth: Not unlike any good parent!

I suppose I could "trap" you by asking to disprove Sabbath-keeping by any version of the Holy Scriptures you desire. But at this point I don't think you are ready to spend the time to do so. So, for the

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sake of our eternal life, let us assume that my Sabbathkeeping is in error, and that your Sundaykeeping is correct. So let me go back to the Bible and quote the Fourth Commandment, so that we both get off to the same start. I am going to give you a head start by assuming that the word Sabbath means today's "Sunday." O.K.?

In fact, as I quote the Bible, I will even go so far as to substitute the word *Sunday* for the word *Sabbath*. Fair enough? All right—here we go!

In Exodus 20:8-11 "Remember the Sunday* day, to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work: (10.) But the seventh day is the Sunday* of the Lord thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy man servant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor the stranger that is within thy gates. For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and [He] rested the seventh day: wherefore the Lord blessed the Sunday day, and hallowed it."

So far, so good, if we "forget" that any calendar will show; any dictionary, any encyclopedia, will tell you that the seventh day is either Saturday or Friday sunset to Saturday sunset. But let's "forget" that—as I agreed at the beginning.

Now maybe Moses got carried away, or maybe that particular scripture was written in error, so let's go to Deuteronomy, where God saw that it was recorded a second time. (Didn't know that, did you?)

Anyway, this time I am going to give you a double head start and allow even more leeway for interpretation. Without any Biblical authority or historical authority, I will substitute the words "first day" for seventh day" in addition to "Sunday" for "Sabbath." O,K.—here goes.

In Deuteronomy 5:12-15 we read, "Keep the Sunday* day to sanctify it [make it holy], as the Lord, your God hath commanded thee, Six days thou shalt labour, and do all thy work: but the first** day is the Sunday* of the Lord thy God: In it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, nor thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, [employees], not thine ox, nor thine ass, nor any of thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates; that thy manservant and thy maidservant may rest as well as thou. And remember that thou wast a servant[slave] in the land of Egypt, and that the Lord thy God brought thee out thence through a mighty hand and by a stretched out arm [miracles]: therefore the Lord thy God commanded thee to keep the Sunday* day."

Now, we have heard the Creation Story enough to know that the Lord God did the whole creation bit in six days and rested on the seventh; we know from the first five books of the Bible that every seventh year was a year of fallow earth and for debt write-off; that there were seven weeks between Passover and Pentecost; that Passover lasted seven days; and that seven lambs were to be offered at Pentecost. We also know that in Revelation (the book that foretells the latter days of our earth) there are seven letters to seven churches, seven seals, seven trumpets, seven bowls, seven candlesticks, seven angels, seven stars, seven thunders; and thousands believe the millennium to be the seventh onethousand year period after creation.

But let's "forget" that the number seven means something special to our Eternal God and Creator. Let us assume that something was omitted or made void; after all, the New Testament

supersedes and overrides the Old Testament—right?

O.K. Go with me to Matthew 5:17, where Jesus Christ Himself says, "Don't misunderstand why I have come it isn't to cancel the laws of Moses and the warnings of the prophets. No, I came to fulfill them, and make them all come true" (The Living Bible).¹

But the law - the Ten Commandments, were done away by the blood of Christ; so as long as I'm "saved," and "know" Jesus, I must be OK. That's true, isn't it?

Well, in his letter to the Romans (3:31), the apostle Paul wrote; "Well then, if we are saved by faith, does this mean that we no longer need obey God's laws? Just the opposite!" (Living Bible), the King James Version says, "God forbid."

Interesting, but Jesus doesn't have anything to do with the Sabbath, does He?

He surely does if you believe what Mark quoted Jesus as saying in chapter 3, verse 28, "And I, the Messiah [Son of Man] have authority even to decide what men can do on Sabbath days!" (Living Bible).

That's all well and good, but if Jesus went to church on Sunday, it's good enough for me. I'll follow His example, as He said to do!

Did He? Will you? Luke (4:16) wrote this account: "When he [Jesus] came to the village of Nazareth, his boyhood home, he went as usual to the synagogue on Saturday, and stood up to read the Scriptures" (Living Bible). The King James Version reads "as his custom was" and "Sabbath."

Well, dearest Mother, I've quoted the Commandment and changed its meaning and truth to read "Sunday" (the ancient day of sun worship) instead of the Eternal God's sanctified Sabbath. I've

played the devil's advocate for you and replied with the Eternal's Holy Word. "for I [Jesus] assure you, while heaven and earth endure, not one iota or one projection of a letter will be dropped from the Law until all is accomplished. Whoever, therefore, abolished the least significant of these commands and so teaches the people, he shall be of least significance in heaven; but whoever shall observe and teach them shall be prominent in the kingdom of heaven" (Matthew 5:18, 19; The New Berkeley Version).²

So this is my challenge to you: If you *really* believe the Law of our Eternal God, but still really believe Sunday to be the Lord's day, then follow your decision and keep Sunday as God commanded the Sabbath to be kept by you!

Do that, and you'll add respect to my deep love for you. Better yet, prove me wrong—prove to yourself the truth of the "real" Sabbath of our Lord God.

"Do not scoff at those who prophesy [teach], but test everything that is said to be sure it is true, and if it is, then accept it" I Thessalonians 5:20, 21 (The Living Bible).

Mom, we both have a fair chance of seeing our Christ return. Will you want to face Him—if you're wrong?

Sincerely with deepest love,
Your Daughter

*Reads "Sabbath" in Bible.

**Reads "seventh" in Bible.

¹From The Living Bible Paraphrased. Copyright © 1971 by Tyndale House Publishers.

²The Berkeley Version of the New Testament, copyright © 1945, by Gerrit Verkuyl. Assigned 1958 to Zondervan Publishing House. Revised edition copyright © 1969 by the Zondervan Publishing House.

A Note From the Editor

A New Era Begins



SINCE moving to the Washington, D.C., area, we have seen countless thrilling events.

Take the presidential inauguration, for instance.

Last Tuesday (this is being written weeks before you read it) I saw my first one in person. Perhaps the word **saw** is too strong, since the "action" was a thousand or so feet away and people in front blocked the view at times.

But to think that I was a part of it—though admittedly an insignificant part—made the standing seem worthwhile.

Other spectators spoke of "a change" and of "a new era." Generally speaking, hope and optimism prevailed. Then came the news that the hostages were free.

Four days later, in a worship service, I witnessed another inauguration service as the Savior was enthroned anew in the hearts of those present. Again, optimism. Again, hostages of a tyrant were freed by the Ruler of the universe.

The one on Tuesday was interesting, but I wouldn't have missed the one on Sabbath for anything!

Eugene Lincoln

THE SABBATH SENTINEL

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EDITOR Eugene Lincoln
CONTRIBUTING EDITOR Gilbert Sanford



The object of this non-sectarian, nondenominational association is to bring together into one strong organization all believers in the Biblical seventh-day Sabbath (Saturday) regardless of sect, creed, or denomination, for the sole purpose of spreading knowledge of, belief in, and observance of the Creator's Holy Day. The only qualification is belief in the seventh-day Sabbath.

Annual member contribution: Regular or subscribing members \$10.00; family membership \$10.00 (individual certificates issued but only one set of records maintained and only one copy of the Sentinel and other mailings sent); supporting members \$10.00-\$24.99; sustaining members \$25.00-\$99.00; life members, \$100.00 or more during any one year.

WRITERS: Please type manuscripts double spaced and leave wide margins on all sides. Use only one side of paper. If you wish your manuscripts returned, include stamped, addressed envelope. Address to the editor, 1109 Holton Lane, Takoma Park, Md. 20012. We invite manuscripts on various aspects of the Sabbath, but cannot pay for them.

Opinions in articles are those of the writers and not necessarily endorsed by the Bible Sabbath Association.

LETTERS

The December and January issues of the SENTINEL arrived yesterday, and I read them with interest.

You are to be commended for the journal. I know just a little of the challenges and effort put into work of this kind. Our Lord will grant you the wisdom and other attributes it takes to carry on in this program, for He has a real interest in it.

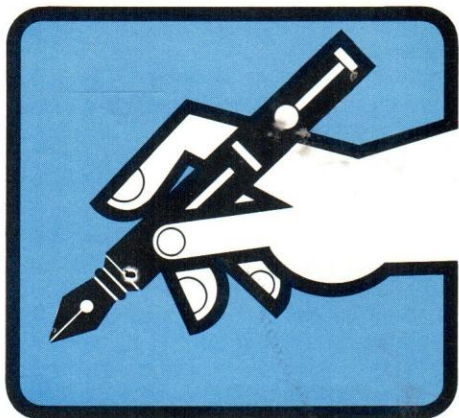
I'm writing because I feel compelled to make a suggestion. As much as we love the Sabbath and all that it stands for, we love the Lord Jesus Christ even more. If He, and not simply His day, could be more lifted up, exalted, and spoken of—would it not thus tend to draw more people?

Certainly all doctrine centers in Him whom we love and who loves us. I wish somehow all Sabbathkeepers could be guided into speaking of their love for Him, primarily, and then show the relationship of the Sabbath to their experience with Him. By doing this, people would be drawn to His wonderful day, rather than tending to be repelled by it as is often the case when it is presented as simply a requirement of Yahweh or Yahshua.

I for one would like to see the name and perhaps even a picture of Jesus more often displayed in our publications. Jesus saves; the Sabbath, by itself, doesn't.

Much success in your work. May the Lord we mutually love continue to guide and use you.

Michael Petricko
Woodland, WA 98674



I have enjoyed reading THE SABBATH SENTINEL for the past year and wish to renew my subscription, beginning with the February issue. I have been a Sabbathkeeper since 1961. I was a member of the Worldwide (formerly Radio) Church of God from 1962 until 1979 when I became affiliated with the Church of God, International, of Tyler, Texas.

Though we may not agree on some matters of doctrine, we are all fervent believers that the seventh day is God's Sabbath, and I commend your efforts to promote it, and as well, to campaign against proSunday, or "blue laws". May God bless your efforts to promote His law.

R. Lawrence Evans
Bloomington, IL 61701

Please find enclosed \$10 for my 1981 dues in the Bible Sabbath Association. I certainly enjoy receiving THE SABBATH SENTINEL, and I appreciate the good work of the Association.

Dr. E. Harold Roy
Springfield, OH 45503

The Sabbath of History, Part IV The Christians at Pella



BY KRISTIAN KRISTIANSEN

THE DESTRUCTION of Jerusalem in Ad 70 has been called "probably the next most crucial event for Christianity after the Resurrection experiences."¹

Looking into the future, Jesus Christ realized the tumultuous times ahead and urged His disciples to take precautions. "But pray ye that your flight be not in the winter, neither on the sabbath day" (Matthew 24:20). The last part of this verse provides an important clue: This was a prophecy of Jerusalem's destruction because of Sabbath desecration. The implication is clear: Christ intended

the Sabbath to be kept even at that time—more than 35 years following his death. (Also, as we understand it, that destruction was only a type. The antitype is to follow soon in this end time. Again, the implication is obvious: As His disciples were expected to keep the Sabbath in AD 70, so are we today).

It is remarkable, indeed, to note the sense of urgency that suddenly beset the apostolic church. Just before His ascension to heaven, it had received His personal and final instruction—the giving of the great commission: "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations . . . teaching them

to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world" (Matthew 28:19, 20).

After Acts 15, we read only of Paul's ministry to the Gentiles, the original apostles vanishing from view. Their wanderings are not dealt with directly in the Bible, but church history has preserved the facts. Two valuable source collections are Nicephorus Callistus' *Ecclesiasticae Historiae* and William Cave's *Antiquitates Apostolicae* (summarized in Foxe's *Book of Martyrs*).

We find the apostles evangelizing in Upper Asia, Parthia, Ethiopia, India, Egypt, Great Britain, and Ireland, to name just some of the places. At the time of the fall of Jerusalem several of them had already suffered a martyr's death.²

Our two main sources on the flight to Pella are Eusebius and Epiphanius. Says the former: "But the people of the Church at Jerusalem were commanded by an oracle given out by revelation before the war to esteemed men there to depart from the city and to inhabit a city of Peraea which they called Pella."³ It is situated in northern Peraea, beyond the Jordan and was part of the Decapolis (see Matthew 4:25).

Further details are given by Josephus who relates in his *Wars of the Jews* as follows:

"Moreover, at that feast which we call Pentecost, as the priests are going by night into the inner court of the temple, . . . they said that, in the first place, they felt a quaking, and heard a great noise, and after that they heard a sound as of a great multitude, saying, 'Let us remove hence!'"⁴ This was in AD 69.

Those fleeing Christians have been positively identified in church history as a group, called by the world Nazarenes (see Matthew 2:23 and Acts 24:5). The *Encyclopedia*

Britannica describes them as "an obscure Jewish-Christian sect. . . . They dated their settlement in Pella from the time of the flight of the Jewish Christians from Jerusalem, immediately before the siege in A.D. 70; . . . Jerome (Ep. 79, to Augustine) says that they believed in Christ the son of God, born of the Virgin Mary, who suffered under Pontius Pilate, and rose again, but adds that, 'desiring to be both Jews and Christians, they are neither the one nor the other. . . . While adhering as far as possible to the Mosaic economy as regarded circumcision, sabbaths, foods and the like, they did not refuse to recognize the apostolicity of Paul or the rights of heathen Christians'" (Jer., Comm. in Isa., ix, 1)."⁵

In the 1880's the site was visited by German archaeologist Gottlieb Schumacher. "On a steep northern ascent," he says, "I discovered one out of the numerous caves, the interior of which . . . was yet well preserved . . . The cave interior and the tunnels are carefully worked . . . It may be accepted as beyond doubt that we here have a cave, once inhabited by those Christian anchorites who, in the beginning of Christian era and during the Jewish wars, found a refuge at Pella."⁶

Eusebius, Origen, and Irenaeus give details on other Judeo-Christian group, called the Ebionites. They, like the Nazarenes, held to a strict observance of the law; but they denied the deity of Christ as well as His virgin birth, and they rejected the apostleship of Paul. "They observed the Sabbath and the rest of the discipline of the Jews just like them, but on Sundays they performed ceremonies like ours in commemoration of the Lord's Resurrection," says Eusebius.⁷ However, Irenaeus (ca. AD 130-200), our earliest source, does not mention Sunday keeping, though his report in other aspects is virtually identical with Eusebius."

How is that?

Says one scholar, Roy J. Deferrari of the Catholic University of America: "It has been maintained rather reasonably by some that originally the term [Ebionites] was not applied to any heretical sect but only to the orthodox Jewish Christians of Palestine who continued to observe the Mosaic Law. Since these were not in close touch with the rest of the Christian world, they gradually drifted away from the standard of orthodoxy and became formal heretics."⁸

REFERENCES

¹S.G.F. Brandon, *"The Fall of Jerusalem and the Christian Church,"* P. xix. London, 1957.

²Compare Acts 8:1.

³Eusebius' *Ecclesiastical History*, trans. by Roy J. Deferrari in *The Fathers of the Church*, Vol. 19, p. 145. Washington, DC, 1965.

⁴Bk. VI, ch. V, sec. 3, Whiston translation.

⁵*Ency. Brit.*, 11th ed., Vol. 19, P. 319.

⁶G. Schumacher, *"Pella,"* pp. 37-8. London, 1888.

⁷Deferrari translation, p. 184.

⁸*Ibid.*, footnote p. 183.

Sabbath Advertisement Brings Results in Oklahoma City

Featured on the centerspread (printed sideways on two pages so it will not have to be reduced as much) is an ad that appeared in an Oklahoma newspaper.

Perhaps your group can adapt it to your needs.

New Jersey Voters Defeat Bill to Legalize Sunday Races

New Jersey voters last November 4 defeated, by a vote of 1,285,074 to 996,006, a referendum question that would have made horse racing and parimutual wagering on Sunday afternoons legal.

News From Sabbathkeeping Churches

BY GILBERT SANFORD

On Sabbath, January 17, I visited with a Sabbathkeeper of over fifty years who lives in Bethalto, Ill. Mrs. Alma Borum and I were invited to attend Sabbath services at a small church in East St. Louis, Ill., that we had not heard of before. They have taken the name of Bethlehem Temple Church.

About three years ago they were keeping Sunday, but after studying about the Sabbath for some time and the help of other Sabbathkeepers they decided to keep the Sabbath. The whole church except two families are now worshipping on Sabbath and have accepted other doctrines that most Sabbathkeepers believe in.



They have about forty members and are really interested in Bible study and following the Lord in His word. It was a pleasure to worship with this fine group and to notice their brotherly love and friendship.

The church is located a few blocks west of Highway 111 near Summit Street in East St. Louis, Ill.

Reflection on the Sabbath

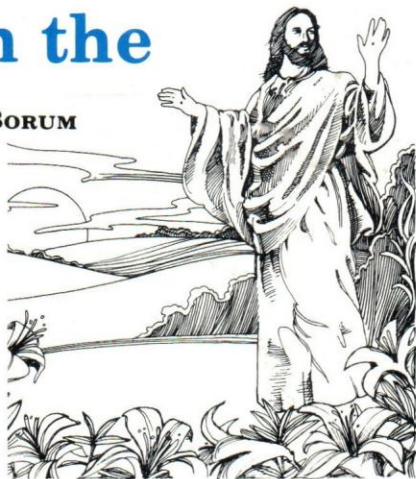
BY ALMA BORUM

As I see all the things in the religious world today and as I read through God's Word searching and studying, it astonishes me to realize how far we have walked from God's Word.

I also realize that history repeats itself. We must realize, though, that people make history, and people also repeat it. The recorded Word is what you and I must hold to, accept, and practice throughout our Christian life if we wish to meet Jesus in peace when He returns.

One thing that people have done is to disregard God's Ten Commandments. This is true mainly of the Fourth Commandment, which says, "Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy," the word *holy* means to be set apart for sacred use. We read in Genesis 2:2, 3 that the Sabbath was set apart by God at the time of Creation. The Sabbath commandment is the one of the ten that contains the seal, or stamp of the God who created all things that exist. When we do not remember the seventh-day Sabbath to keep it holy, then we dishonor God as our Creator and the all-powerful One of the universe. We also then forget to honor no other God beside Him. In Ecclesiastes 12:13, 14 God says that He "will bring every work into judgment." In Deuteronomy 6:4, 5 and 10:12, 13 we are commanded to love God.

Also when we turn to John 14:21 we find we must keep the Ten Commandments if we love God and are to be loved by Him. Many more scriptures show what God expects of us. But it will do no good and bring no glory to God unless we begin to obey what we read in searching out His Word. Our God is a God who



loves us, and He expects us to love Him in return.

Some say that the seventh-day Sabbath is Jewish. We read in Genesis 2:2, 3 that God made the Sabbath on the seventh day of creation. But if we search a little more, we will find that there was not a Jew or an Israelite until after Genesis 32:28, when God spoke to Jacob and said, "Thy name shall be called no more Jacob, but Israel."

So let us be honest before God and man. We should begin to search God's Word to see where we are missing His will in obedience. Many people today are searching the Bible to find something that they can use to prove that their ways and ideas are right. In doing this they put the wrong meaning on words and texts of Scripture, and others they take out of context. Just remember as you are searching that it is good to follow Ecclesiastes 12:13: "Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man." Also in Revelation 22:14 we see that we must keep the commandments in order to enter into the Holy City. This includes keeping the Fourth Commandment and the seventh day as the Sabbath.

Let all who read this make a new commitment of our life to God to obey His Word.

It is because . . .

**Seventh-day Adventists Love Their Saviour,
The Lord Jesus Christ
That They Follow His Example . . .**

In Observing The Lord's Day—



The Seventh-day Sabbath

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

**Instead of Sunday
(The First Day)**

1. Jesus Gave His Special Day To Man at Creation

As Co-creator with God He made it in the beginning. John 1:1-3, 10, 11. "And when he ended his work . . . he rested on the seventh day . . . and blessed the seventh day and sanctified it." Gen. 2:1-3.

2. This Is Why He Could Call Himself Lord of the Sabbath

"For the Son of man is Lord even of the sabbath day." Matthew 12:8. (He had made the day, along with everything else)

3. He Later Wrote in the Ten Commandments:

"Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work: But the seventh day is the sabbath of the Lord thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work . . . For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth . . . and rested the seventh day: wherefore the Lord blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it." Exodus 20:8-11.

4. When on Earth as a Man, Our Saviour Gave Us This Example:

"He came to Nazareth . . . and, as his custom was, he went into the synagogue on the sabbath day, and stood up for to read." Luke 4:16.

5. His Followers Kept His Day Too

After His death on Friday "they returned, and prepared spices and ointments: and rested the sabbath day according to the commandment." Luke 23:56.

6. Years Later, the Apostles Continued the Practice

Paul, preaching in Antioch, held services for Jews and Gentiles. "And the next Sabbath day came almost the whole city together to hear the word of God." Acts 13:42-44.

7. Paul, Like Jesus, Had the Sabbath Custom Everywhere He Traveled

"And on the sabbath we went out of the city by a river side, where prayer was . . . made." Acts 16:13. "Paul, as his manner was, went . . . and three sabbath days reasoned with them out of the scriptures." Acts 17:2.

8. Jesus Said He Did Not Come To Destroy the Law

"Think not that I am come to destroy the law . . . Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law . . . whosoever shall do and teach them, (the commandments) shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven." Matt. 5:17-19.

As your friends, the Seventh-day Adventists would like to share with you, FREE, BY MAIL, information about the Saviour, His great love for you, and His special day—the Sabbath. Also—important information on how His day of worship was changed. Find out how history recorded the amazing change in the Biblical day of worship. Mail this coupon:

9. Our Saviour Taught Us to Do Good on His Day

"And they asked him, saying Is it lawful to heal on the sabbath days? . . . and he said . . . Wherefore it is lawful to do well on the sabbath days." Matthew 12:1-12.

10. As Christians, Who Love Their Saviour, We Follow Him

"If ye love me, keep my commandments." John 14:15. Christ left an example, that we should all "follow his steps." 1 Peter 2:21.

"He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked." 1 John 2:3-6.

11. By Following Him Here, We Prepare to Follow Him in the Hereafter

In "the new heavens and the new earth, which I will make, saith the Lord . . . it shall come to pass, that . . . from one sabbath to another, shall all flesh come to worship me." Isaiah 66:22-23.

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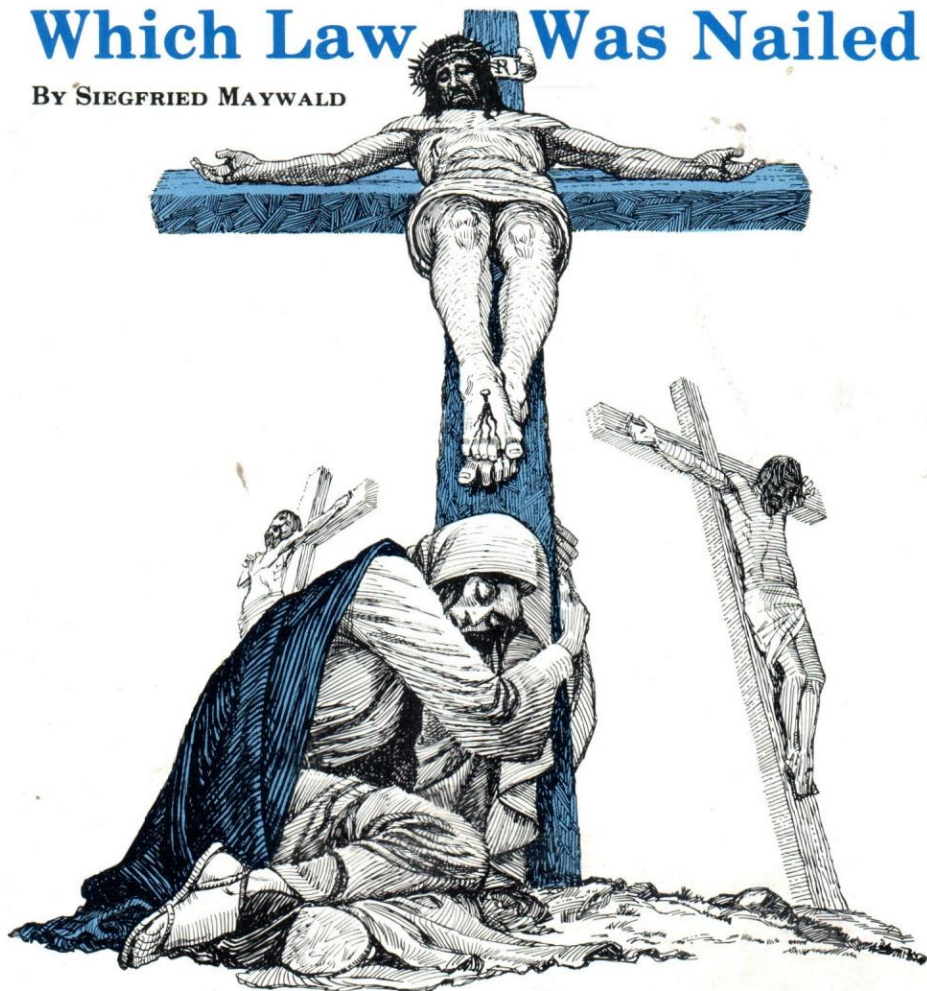
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Which Law Was Nailed

By SIEGFRIED MAYWALD



“But in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him” (Acts 10:35).

“Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people” (Proverbs 14:34).

“For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows. But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness. Fight the good fight of

faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses” (1 Timothy 6:10-12).

“Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled” (Matthew 5:6).

“For the wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God. Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls. But be ye doers of the word,

To The Cross?

and not hears only, deceiving your own selves" (James 1:20-22).

What is the engrafted word?

"And Moses turned, and went down from the mount, and the two tables of the testimony were in his hand: the tables were written on both their sides; on the one side and on the other were they written. and the tables were the work of God, and the writing was the writing of God, graven upon the tables" (Exodus 32:15, 16).

"And the Lord said unto Moses, Hew thee two tables of stone like unto the first: and I will write upon these tables the words that were in the first tables, which thou brakest" (Exodus 34:1).

These words written with the finger of God into these two tables of stone were God's Ten Commandments, also mentioned in Romans 13:9:

"For this, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not kill, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness, Thou shalt not covet; and if there be any other commandment, it is briefly comprehended in this saying, namely Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself."

How does this law once engraven in stones remain with us today?

Forasmuch as you are manifestly declared to be the epistle of Christ ministered by us, written not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God: not in tables of stone, but in fleshly tables of the heart" (2 Corinthians 3:3).

"For by one offering he hath perfected forever them that are sanctified. Whereof the Holy Ghost also is a witness to us: for after that

he had said before, This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, saith the Lord, I will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them; and their sins and iniquities will I remember no more. Now where remission of these is, there is no more offering for sin. Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh; and having an high priest over the house of God; let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water" (Hebrews 10:14-22).

What law was abolished?

"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" (Colossians 2:14).

"Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances: for to make in himself of twain one new man, so making peace; and that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby" (Ephesians 2:15, 16).

What does that teach?

Wherefore then serveth the law? It was added because of transgressions, till the seed should come to whom the promise was made; and it was ordained by angels in the hand of a mediator" (Galatians 3:19).

"Wherefore if ye be dead with Christ from the rudiments of the

world, why, as though living in the world, are ye subject to ordinances (Touch not; taste not; handle not; which all are to perish with the using;) after the commandments and doctrines of men?" (Colossians 2:20-22).

Are men cursed when they follow commandments and doctrines of men?

"For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse: for it is written, cursed is envery one that continueth not in all things which are written in the book of the law to do them (Galatians 3:10).

By whom was the book of the law written?

For the law was given by Moses but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ" (John 1:17).

"Because they had not executed my judgments, but had despised my statutes, and had polluted my sabbaths, and their eyes were after their father's idols. Wherefore I gave them also statutes that were not good, and judgments whereby they should not live" (Ezekiel 20:24, 25).

"And Moses wrote this law, and delivered it unto the priests the sons of Levi, which bare the ark of the covenant of the Lord, and unto all the elders of Israel." "And it came to pass, when Moses had made an end of writing the words of this law in a book, until they were finished, that Moses commanded the Levites, which bare the ark of the covenant of the Lord, saying, Take this book of the law, and put it in the side of the ark of the covenant of the Lord your God, that it may be there for a witness against thee" (Deuteronomy 31:9, 24-26).

Have Christians to obey this yoke of bondage?

"Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage" (Galatians 5:1).

"And be not conformed to this world; but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God" (Romans 12:2).

"And be renewed in the spirit of your mind; and that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness" (Ephesians 4:23, 24).

"Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith" (Galatians 3:24).

"For there is verily a disannulling of the commandment going before for the weakness and unprofitableness thereof. For the law made nothing perfect, but the bringing in of a better hope did; by the which we draw nigh unto God" (Hebrews 7:18, 19).

"For the law having a shadow of good things to come, and not the very image of the things, can never with those sacrifices which they offered year by year continually make the comers thereunto perfect" (Hebrews 10:1).

"For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh: that the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit" (Romans 8:3-5).

"For when Moses had spoken every precept to all the people according to the law, he took the blood of calves and of goats, with water, and scarlet wool, and hyssop, and sprinkled both the book, and all the people, saying, this is the blood of the testament which God hath enjoined unto you. Moreover he sprinkled with blood both the tabernacle, and all the vessels of the ministry. And almost all things are

by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission. It was therefore necessary that the patterns of things in the heavens should be purified with these; but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these. For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are the figures of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us: nor yet that he should offer himself often, as the high priest entereth into the holy place every year with blood of others; for then must he often have suffered since the foundation of the world; but now once in the end of the world hath he appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself. And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment: so Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation" (Hebrews 9:19-28).

Was this law of bondage given to the Gentiles?

"And they wrote letters by them after this manner: The apostles and elders and brethren send greetings unto the brethren which are of the Gentiles in Antioch and Syria and Cilicia: Forasmuch as we have heard, that certain which went out from us have troubled you with words, subverting your souls, saying: Ye must be circumcised, and keep the law: to whom we gave no such commandment" (Acts 15:23, 24).

What is this liberty Christ has given to men?

"Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness" (Romans 6:18).

"And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free" (John 8:32).

"Let him that is taught in the word communicate unto him that

teacheth in all good things. Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting. And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not. As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith" (Galatians 6:6-10).

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household of faith" (Galatians 6:610).

"Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new" (2 Corinthians 5:17).

—Adapted from *The Advocate of Truth*



Rev. D. L. Sanders, Sr., BSA Member, Dies December 9

Rev. Dewey Lee Sanders, age 56, a faithful Bible Sabbath Association member, died December 9, 1980, at Ward, Ark. Rev. Sanders was state director for Missionary Dispensary Bible Research. Cause of death was diagnosed as congestive heart failure.

We offer our sympathy to Edith, his wife, and to his other relatives and friends.

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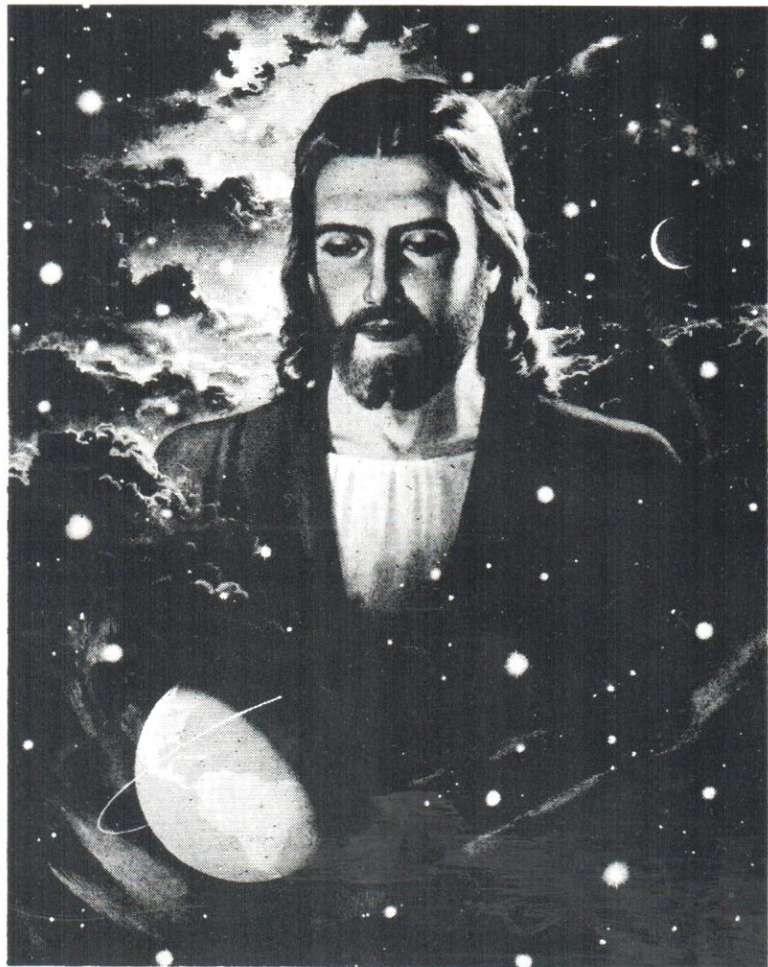
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The Laws of God

BY R. EUGENE STERNER

IF YOU GO outside on a clear night and look up, you can hardly help being impressed—even overwhelmed—by the magnificence and order of the universe. The words of the psalmist spring unbidden to your lips and ring in your heart: "The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork." For whether you look into the sky with a telescope or into the minutest particle of matter with

a microscope, you see basic laws of nature at work. Perhaps that is why the psalmist went on quickly to talk about the laws of God. Here's what he said:

"The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul: the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple. The statutes of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart: the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes. The fear of

the Lord is clean, enduring forever: the judgments of the Lord are true, and righteous altogether" (Psalm 19:7-9).

Now there you have such words, as *law*, *commandment*, and *ordinance*. They all mean basically the same thing; the repetition gives emphasis. Law is basic. Actually the word *law* means that which is "laid," or "fixed." So here the psalmist recognized that there are basic principles, written into the very structure of the universe. He perhaps had in mind also the written laws revered so highly by the Hebrew people. But in any case, the very strong emphasis is upon the enlightening, correcting, cleansing, liberating effect of knowing and obeying the laws of God.

Look first at the laws that are a part of nature. We need only to remember the space flights and landings on the moon, and now the unmanned trips to other planets, to see that we can do such things only by knowing the laws of nature and by having the discipline to obey them with the greatest diligence. All of our science is based on knowing and respecting the laws of the physical world. These are not laws passed by a congress or parliament. They are simply there; they are *laid* and *fixed*. A simple story will illustrate:

The little boy and his father were sitting under an apple tree when an apple fell and hit the boy on the head. Having an inquiring mind, he asked his father, "What made that apple fall?"

His father answered, "The law of gravity, Son."

And the little fellow, still rubbing his head, inquired, "What did apples do before that law was passed?"

Some laws are not "passed" by human beings. The laws of nature do not change. The law of gravity cannot be broken. If you step out of a

fourth-story window, do you break the law of gravity? No! But you're very likely to break your neck! We ignore basic laws at our own peril. Many people ignore the laws of their own physical bodies, filling them with poison, overtaxing their strength, and otherwise violating what nature gave them. No wonder they're sick!

But there are moral laws as well as physical. These are built into the very structure of life and society. Some things are basically, inherently wrong. They *violate* life. They violate the natural rights of others. Instinctively we know that murder is wrong, that stealing is wrong, that slander (which robs others of their good name) is wrong. We know that reverence for God and his creation is inherently right; that respect for other persons is inherently right.

It is these great moral laws that are written into the Ten Commandments, sometimes called the Decalogue. Those commandments, given to Moses by divine inspiration, are not shortsighted or temporary; they are basic for all ages and all cultures. They are great, broad principles that are important in every generation. They set the proper relationship to a sovereign God and to our fellow human beings. Turn in your Bible to Exodus 20 and read them over carefully and thoughtfully. You will find them amazingly comprehensive, even for a society as complex as ours.

But of course these broad principles had to be detailed in more specific commandments. There were many, many commandments given in the code of instructions for the Hebrews. Besides that, there were many commandments regarding ceremonial procedures. It was by religious ceremony that the teachings and beliefs were kept alive. Therefore, ceremony was important. The exactness of its

performance was important. These many rules and regulations amounted to a tremendous body of laws governing every aspect of their lives. It governed both their religious and their civil life.

But to them that still seemed not enough. The scribes and teachers of the law developed still further commandments, which were known as "oral laws." That is, they were not written but simply passed on through their teaching as requirements. Later they were put into a systematic code, but for many years they existed in only oral form, passed on by word of mouth. At the time of Jesus this body of written and nonwritten commandments was so great that the average person could not possibly even remember them. And many of the ceremonial laws could not possibly be carried out by people living in the fields with their flocks, or indeed by any of the common people. Only those who were officially associated with the temple had much of a chance to really take all the commandments seriously.

Across the years, then, the sheer number and volume of commandments or laws had built up. Legalism—the meticulous—applicatin of all these regulations—had become deeply embedded. The Pharisees, a minority group at the time of Jesus, were devoted to strict and careful observance of all these laws.

Time after time in Israel, the people and their leaders had seemed to lose sight of the great broad principles expressed in the Ten Commandments and had been content to carry out mere ceremony, or they had been misled by pagan teachings and its immoral practices. It was this that the great prophets of Israel warned against, crying out for truth and justice, fair play, proper treatment of the poor, and so on. They often cried out against the empty forms of worship,

calling the people back to fundamental moral laws.

Jesus did this. Time after time He was accused of violating the law, but what He did was to ignore the trivial oral and ceremonial rules and call the people to the principles of justice and love. They accused him of violating their Sabbath laws by healing the sick, forgetting that human life was more important than their oral laws. You see, the specific laws ought to express the great moral laws. If they don't, they get in the way, obstructing justice and righteousness instead of implementing it.

Even our civil laws are supposed to apply the principles of justice and fairness. But these regulations have to be constantly studied and adapted to the needs and conditions. Some of them get out of date. Great moral laws never change, but specific regulations do, and should. Changes have to be introduced by an orderly and constructive process.

The sad mistake is that so often when specific regulations are challenged, the great moral laws are violated. Protests over an unjust housing law, for instance, can quickly lead to violence, looting, burning, and so on. The result is negative and destructive. In challenging a temporary situation, we are likely to violate what is always basic. The very word *law* sometimes takes on the meaning of something unjust, rigid, and insensitive to human rights. I believe that is what has happened in our society in recent years. The result is a lawlessness that holds real danger for all of us.

It's curious that in a time of great emphasis upon science and the great respect we have for the laws of science, we are most prone to disregard moral laws. It's supposed to be sophisticated these days to sneer at laws of morality regarding marriage and sex, fidelity and

honor. But it is not sophisticated; it is not smart. As a matter of fact, it is just plain stupid! You can't disregard moral laws without paying the price, any more than you can defy the law of gravity without paying the price. In this basic sense, law is that which is "laid down." It is fixed and permanent.

The apostle Paul wrote to the Romans, saying he recognized that many among them were not acquainted with the law:

"For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and wickedness of men who by their wickedness suppress the truth. For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. Ever since the creation of the world his invisible nature, namely, his eternal power and diety, has been clearly perceived in the things that have been made. So they are without

excuse; for although they knew God they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking and their senseless minds were darkened" (Romans 1:18-20, RSV).

You see, even in people who do not know all the laws there is evidence of God's great law written in nature, and *we are accountable*.

The psalmist spoke eternal truth. In the Living Bible his words come through this way: "God's laws are perfect. They protect us, make us wise, and give us joy and light. God's laws are pure, eternal, just. . . They warn us away from harm and give success to those who obey them."*

You can't escape God's laws. They are written into nature, into human tissue, and into society.

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