

# 14 THE WORST FALSIFICATION IN HISTORY

Falsification abounds in every aspect of society. We find it in science, the economics of art, literature, and more. Unfortunately, there are also falsifications in religious matters. The worst falsification of all ages is that of pagan rites of sun worship that have been subtly introduced in Christianity, to the point of substituting sun worship for one of the Ten Commandments.

Sun worship is the oldest. Mithras, Aurora, Marduk, Baal, Ra, Osiris and Shamash were gods that represented the sun.



## **DISGUISED SUN WORSHIP**

### **1. What abomination did the prophet Ezekiel see in vision? Ezekiel 8:15-18.**

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God pronounced a very severe sentence against sun worshipers (Ezekiel 6:4-6).

### **2. Who tried to introduce pagan customs into Christianity? Why?**

*Emperor Constantine (280-337 A.D.) noticed that Rome's political power was weakening due to the differences existing between pagan worshipers and Christians. He then attempted to bring these two large ideological groups together. In 313 A.D., he published the Edict of Milan, in which he granted religious tolerance and complete freedom to Christians.*

*As a result, they showed great admiration for the Emperor. Pagans worshiped many gods, Mithras being one of the main sun gods.*

*Mithras was worshiped on Sunday. Even today, the first day of the week in English is Sunday and in German is Sonntag; both mean day of the sun when translated.*

*To fulfill his political agenda, Constantine himself became a Christian and established Sunday, the day of the sun, as a day of rest, in place of the Sabbath kept by faithful Christians, thus maintaining a link with sun worshipers.*

*Many became "Christians" and introduced a great number of pagan customs into Christianity. Cardinal John Henry Newman in his book "Development of Christian Doctrine", p. 373, declares: "Eusebius tells us that Constantine, when recommending the new religion to the heathen, transferred to it the external ornaments to which the heathen were accustomed in their own cult: the use of temples which were dedicated to special saints, ornaments made occasionally out of branches of tree, incense, lamps, candles, votive offerings for the healing of the sick, holy water, seasonal festivities, the use of the calendar, processions, the blessing of the fields, priestly garments, the wedding ring, the custom of facing the east, and later icons, maybe ecclesiastical chanting and the "Kyrie Eleison", all these customs having their origin in paganism and being sanctified when adopted by the church."*

*The Encyclopedia Britannica (9th version), in the article "Sunday" states: "The earliest recognition of the observance of Sunday as a legal duty is a constitution of Constantine in 321 A.D. (March 7) enacting that all courts of justice, inhabitants of towns, and workshops were to be at rest on Sunday (venerably die soils) with an exception in favor of those engaged in agricultural labor."*

**3. Constantine was just an emperor, so how was the observance of Sunday introduced into the church?**

*The change of the rest day was accepted by the Church of Rome. A catechism that received the apostolic blessing of Pope Pius X (on January 25, 1910) clarifies it:*

- Question: What is the day of rest?
- Answer: Saturday is the day of rest.
- Question: Why do we observe Sunday instead of Saturday?
- Answer: We observe Sunday instead of Saturday because the Catholic Church, in the Synod of Laodicea (336 A.D.), transferred the solemnity from Saturday to Sunday. Peter Geiermann, *The Convert's Catechism of Catholic Doctrine*, 1946 ed., p. 50.

***DOES GOD ALLOW HIS LAW TO BE CHANGED?***

**4. What will happen to anyone who attempts to change God's law? Revelation 22:19.**

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**5. What is not permitted to be done with God's Holy Law? Ecclesiastes 3:14.**

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- a) God cannot change His law. Malachi 3:6; James 1:17.
- b) God's law is valid for a thousand generations. Deuteronomy 7:9.
- c) The fact that the Ten Commandments were written by God's own finger on two tables of stone (Exodus 20:8-11) reveals its importance and its immutability.
- d) The commandment that tells us to keep the Sabbath as the day of rest is the fourth commandment of the Holy Law. Exodus 20:8-11.

**6. Did Jesus change the law of God or the day of rest? Matthew 5:17, 18.**

*Jesus said:* \_\_\_\_\_

**7. According to Daniel's prophecies, what would a human power try to do with the law of God? Daniel 7:25.** \_\_\_\_\_

*The church believes it has that authority to do so. A Catholic priest, Stephen Keenan, wrote: "Had she (the church) not such power, she could not have done that in which all modern religionists agree with her; she could not have substituted the observance of Sunday - the first day of the week, for the observance of Saturday - the seventh day, a change for which there is no Scriptural authority." - A Doctrinal Catechism, p. 74.*

***DO THE EIGHT BIBLE TEXTS THAT MENTION THE FIRST DAY OF THE WEEK MENTION A CHANGE IN THE DAY OF REST?***

**8. Do the five texts regarding the resurrection, which took place on the first day of the week, mention any change of the day of rest? Matthew 28:1; Mark 16:1, 2; 26:9; Luke 24:1; John 20:1.** \_\_\_\_\_

**9. Why did the disciples gather on the first day of the week? John 20:19.**

*Because they were afraid of the* \_\_\_\_\_

*More evidence that they did not gather to keep Sunday in honor of the resurrection is that they did not even believe that Christ had risen. Mark 16:12-14.*

**10. Why did Paul extend a service at Troas, on the night of the first day of the week? What did he do the next day at dawn? Acts 20:7, 11.** \_\_\_\_\_

- a) In the Bible, a new day began at sunset, not midnight, and thus this was after the Sabbath. Many verses show that Paul worshiped on Sabbath; but on this particular occasion, since he had to leave at daybreak, he prolonged his speech until midnight.
- b) If Paul kept Sunday, he would not have undertaken such a long trip that day. A change of the day of rest is not mentioned.
- c) They broke bread every day (Acts 2:46).

**11. In advising to set aside an offering for the poor in Jerusalem, did Paul tell the brethren to gather or simply to set the money aside? 1 Corinthians 16:2.**

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*It does not speak of a change of the day of rest.*

***THERE IS NOT ONE SINGLE BIBLE TEXT THAT SHOWS THAT THE FIRST DAY OF THE WEEK SHOULD BE OBSERVED***

Let us look at some official quotations:

- Cardinal Gibbons wrote: “You may read the Bible from Genesis to Revelation, and YOU WILL NOT FIND A SINGLE LINE AUTHORIZING THE SANCTIFICATION OF SUNDAY. The Scriptures enforce the religious observance of Saturday, a day which we never sanctify.” *The Faith of Our Fathers*, 1917 ed.; pp. 72, 73.
- “The concept of a formal substitution of the first day for the seventh day of the week and the transference, maybe in a spiritual way, of the Sabbath rest established in the fourth commandment IS NOT BASED EITHER IN THE HOLY SCRIPTURES OR IN ANCIENT CHRISTIANITY.” Smith and Cheatham, *Dictionary of Christian Antiquities*, article on the Sabbath.
- Dr. Edward T. Hiscox, author of the Baptist Manual made the following declaration before a group of pastors: “There was and there is a commandment to be observed as holy: the Sabbath, but that day is Saturday and not Sunday. It could be said, therefore, that the Sabbath was transferred from the seventh to the first day. Where can the registration of such a change be found? Not in the New Testament since there is absolutely nothing regarding it.” From an article read at the Conference of Ministers in New York, on November 13, 1893.

***SOME QUESTIONS REGARDING THE SABBATH***

**12. How do we know that today’s Sabbath is the same that God sanctified in creation? Haven’t there been changes to the calendar?**

- a) If we look at a Christian, Oriental, Muslim, Coptic or Jewish calendar we see that the years change, but the Sabbath remains the same. In the Jewish calendar, the year 5778 is equivalent to our year 2018.
- b) The Julian calendar dates to the year 46 B.C., and it was corrected in 1582 and renamed the Gregorian calendar; that is the calendar we use today.

When astronomers discovered that spring began at a different time; the calendar dates were moved 10 days forward. On Thursday, October 4, 1582, people went to bed at night and woke up on Friday, October 15. The weekly cycle remained unchanged.

- c) There are two pieces of evidence showing the Sabbath as the same day mentioned in the creation:

1. The miracle of the manna in the desert. God knew the day He had sanctified. God gave a double portion of manna on Friday and none on Sabbath (Exodus 16:4-35). God performed this miracle in the desert about 2000 times.
2. Christ and His disciples kept the Sabbath (Luke 4:16; 23:54-56). Did the Son of God keep a false day for 33 years?

**13. What kind of Sabbaths did Paul refer to in Colossians 2:16, 17: the ceremonial rest days, which were a shadow of Christ, or the seventh day?**

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*In the ceremonial law, written by Moses in a book (Deuteronomy 31:24-26), there are seven annual feasts, which took place the first and seventh month. These feasts (Passover, the feast of unleavened bread, First Fruits, Pentecost, Feast of Trumpets, Day of Atonement, and the Feast of Tabernacles) were also called Sabbaths or days of rest. They had nothing to do with the fourth commandment (Leviticus 23:38, 39). They were a shadow or symbol of Christ.*

**14. Is this issue so important? Is it not the same to keep another day? Can we trust our opinion? Proverbs 16:25.**

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**15. Most people observe Sunday; can so many people be wrong? Who will be lost? Matthew 7:13, 14.**

- a) It is not about taking sides of the majority or the minority but about being on Jesus' side.
- b) Many people say: "My parents and grandparents always observed Sunday, and I do not want to do differently." Who will God judge and condemn: those who sinned in ignorance or those who sin consciously? Acts 17:30; James 4:17.

**CONCLUSION**

**16. What does the Bible call those who restored the Sabbath as the day of rest? Isaiah 58:12, 13.**

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**17. What does the Lord call the Sabbath and what blessings do we receive on that day? Isaiah 58:13, 14.**

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*My decision: I accept that the Sabbath of God has been falsified by Sunday, a day both of pagan worship and origin.*     Yes     No

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