

with Dr. Greg Evans

9. *What Nature Says About Changing Times.*

- What can we learn from the times when it was believed that: spiders had 6 legs; the earth was flat; and the earth is the centre of the solar system?
- Simply this: **Things are not always as they seem.**

- Today, millions of Christians hold a belief that the 7th day Sabbath is no longer God's holy day of worship.
- There are 4 main claims that have led to this belief:
 1. Sabbath was created at Mt. Sinai for the Jews.
 - **Q: When was the Sabbath created? Genesis 2:1-3 A:** At creation
 - Pre-dated Mt. Sinai by thousands of years, and it pre-dated sin.
 - **Q: For whom was the Sabbath made? Mark 2:27**
 - **A:** Us; It's God's present of time to us, for us. It predated sin, Sinai, and Jews.
 - **Q: Was the Law of God in effect before Mt. Sinai? Genesis 26:5**
 - **A:** Yes, Abraham was blessed for keeping the Law. .
 - **Q: Is there an example of Sabbath-keeping before Mt. Sinai? Exodus 16:23a,26 referring to collect the manna in the wilderness, before Mt. Sinai. A:** Yes
 2. The holy day of worship was changed in NT times.
 - **Q: Did Jesus change the Law? Matthew 5:17,18 A:** No, quite the opposite.
 - The 8 N.T. Sunday texts verify this. **Matthew 28:1, Mark 16:2,9, Luke 24:1, John 20:1** all relate to resurrection Sunday, and have nothing to do with worship.
 - **John 20:19** – not a worship meeting to celebrate Jesus' resurrection.
 - **Acts 20:7** – a meeting to farewell Paul. "To break bread" refers to eating a meal (Lk. 24:30,35; Acts 2:42,46; 27:35) or the Lord's supper which was first held on Thursday
 - **1 Corinthians 16:2** – a private laying aside of money at home to help the Christians suffering in Jerusalem from the drought. Not a worship service.
- "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, ..." (James Cardinal Gibbons, Roman Catholic, *The Faith of Our Fathers*, 92d ed., p.89.)
- **William E. Gladstone, a Church of England** author, "The seventh day of the week has been deposed from its title to obligatory religious observance, and its prerogative has been carried over to the first, under no direct precept of Scripture." (*Later Gleanings*, p.342.)
- **Dr. Edward T. Hiscox, a Baptist** author, "There is no such Scriptural evidence of the change of the Sabbath institution from the seventh to the first day of the week." (*The Baptist Manual* quoted in *The New York Examiner*, Nov. 16, 1893.)
- **Dr. Amos Binney, a Methodist** author, "It is true there is no positive command for infant baptism."... "Nor is there any for keeping the first day of the week. Many believe Messiah changed the Sabbath. He came for no such purpose. Those that believe this base it on supposition." (*Theological Compendium*, pp.180,181)

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- **Dr. Archibald Hodges, a Presbyterian** author, “God instituted the Sabbath at the creation of man, setting apart the seventh day for that purpose, and imposed its observance as an universal and perpetual moral obligation upon the race.” (Tract No.175 of the Presbyterian Board of Publication, pp.3,4.)
 - *The Convert's Catechism of Catholic Doctrine*, (1977) answers our question:
 - “Q. Which is the Sabbath day? A. Saturday is the Sabbath day.
 - Q. Why do we observe Sunday instead of Saturday? A. We observe Sunday instead of Saturday because the Catholic Church transferred the solemnity from Saturday to Sunday.”
 - The **Roman Catholic priest John O'Brien** writes, “ ... [Sunday observance] rests upon the authority of the Catholic Church and not upon an explicit text in the Bible.”
 - **Q: Do men have the authority to change God's word? Rev.22:18,19 A:** No.
 - **Q: What does Jesus think of tradition? Mark 7:5-8 A:** If it conflicts with His word, He is against it.
3. It doesn't matter which day one keeps as the holy day of worship.
- **Q: How does John refer to one particular day of the week in the last book of the Bible? Revelation 1:10**
 - **A:** The Lord's day. 60 years after Jesus walked the earth, John uses an expression that infers that there is a special day with the Lord's name on it. It's a special day.
 - Q: Which day is it? **Matthew 12:8 (Isaiah 58:13) A:** The Sabbath
4. The Ten Commandments are no longer applicable for Christians.
- **Q: Are the 10 Commandments still valid, applicable, in effect? Revelation 12:17; 22:14; Matthew 5:17; Hebrews 4:9 A:** Yes. **A:** “There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God.” A Sabbath rest remains.
 - **Q: What law of nature did God institute for the land? Leviticus 25:4**
 - **A:** God directed His people to rest the land 1 year in 7.
 - We need the Sabbath for: Rest; Revitalization; Receipt; Release; Refocus
 1. The devil is attempting to destroy the 2 oldest institutions that God ordained for relationships: 1. Marriage – with each other 2. Sabbath – relationship with Jesus.
 - If the devil can destroy the 2nd, both will be adversely affected. You see, one needs the vertical, a healthy relationship with Jesus, to have the best relationships with each other, the horizontal.
 - This is why 1 of the last messages that God gave His people in the Bible exhorts us to establish and uphold our relationship with the Creator.
 - **Q: What message did God give in Revelation to remind us to sabbath with Him? Revelation 14:6,7,12**
 - **A:** Worship God, and it refers to the same image as we see in the 4th Commandment. Keep the Sabbath.
 - **NEXT: What Nature Says About Footprints Of The Future**