

### 113. TABLE OF CONTENTS (SDA)

- 1) **Three Basic Positions** on the Christian Day of Worship. (p.746).
- 2) **7 Errors** in the '27 Fundamental Beliefs of SDAs.' (p.747).
- 3) **13 Official SDA Baptismal Vows.** (p.748).
- 4) **12 SDA Statements** that Ellen White was God's Inspired Prophet. (p.748).
- 5) **5 Failed Prophecies** of Ellen White. (p.749).
- 6) **12 Unbiblical Statements** of Ellen White. (p.750).
- 7) **7 Contradictions** of Ellen White. (p.751).
- 8) **Challenge To SDAs:** Show Us One NT Verse that tells Christians to keep the Sabbath holy. (p.751).
- 9) SDAs claim Sunday Keeping is Following an **Image of the Beast.** (p.752).
- 10) Most SDAs **Break** the Sabbath they claim to Keep. (p.752).
- 11) Saturday (Sabbath) or Sunday? On Which Day Did **Early Christians Worship?** (p.752).
- 12) **Four Real Reasons** Why SDAs Keep the Sabbath. (p.754).
- 13) **The Danger of Sabbath Keeping.** (p.754) i) A Change of the Law. (SDA Objections 1-5). ii) When did Sabbath law commence? iii) Real meaning of the Sabbath. iv) Some were exempt from the Sabbath law. v) How Sabbath should be Observed. vi) Danger of Sabbath keeping. vii) Apostles met on the first day.
- 14) Background of **Hebrews 4** (p.760). Three Rests of Hebrews 4 (p.761). [viii] Does God change His laws?
- 15) **Debate** Between a Christian and an SDA. (p.762-765).
- 16) **SABBATARIAN ARGUMENTS REFUTED** (p.766).
  - 1) **SDA:** 10 Commandments are not in the Old Mosaic Covenant. (p.766).
  - 2) **SDA:** Sabbath day in Colossians 2:16 is not the weekly Sabbath, but monthly or yearly Sabbaths. (p.767)
  - 3) **SDA:** The Sabbath law is a moral law because it is in the 10 Commandments. (p.768).
  - 4) **SDA:** 10 Commandments and Sabbath existed from the Garden of Eden. (p.769).
  - 5) **SDA:** Christ came to fulfil the law, not to destroy it (Matthew 5:17-18). (p.771).
  - 6) **SDA:** The 10 Commandments are for all mankind for all time. (p.772).
  - 7) **SDA:** If the 10 Commandments were abolished, we could murder, steal, and commit adultery. (p.773).
  - 8) **SDA:** The Royal law of James 2:8-12 is the 10 Commandments law. (p.774).
  - 9) **SDA:** Jesus said "Keep my commandments." John 14:15 (SDA read this as 10 commandments). (p.774).
  - 10) **SDA:** The NT quotes several of the 10 Commandments proving that all 10 are binding today. (p.775)
  - 11) **SDA:** The 10 Commandments contain all we need to know about perfect moral living. (p.775).
  - 12) **SDA:** God does not change, therefore neither does His law. (p.776).
  - 13) **SDA:** The Sabbath must be kept today because God blessed it and made it holy. (p.776).
  - 14) **SDA:** The "Lord's Day" is the Sabbath because Jesus said He was Lord of the Sabbath. (p.778).
  - 15) **SDA:** John foresaw 21<sup>st</sup> Century Christians keeping the Sabbath day. (Matthew 24:20). (p.778).
  - 16) **SDA:** "The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath." (Mark 2:27). (p.778).
  - 17) **SDA:** The Sabbath is eternal and endures forever, therefore we must keep it today. (p.779).
  - 18) **SDA:** As the Sabbath was a memorial to a 6-day creation, this proves Sabbath will last forever. p.779
  - 19) **SDA:** Since the Sabbath will be kept in the Millennium (Isaiah 66:23) we should keep it now. (p.779).
  - 20) **SDA:** The Sabbath is God's special law above all laws. (p.780).
  - 21) **SDA:** The Sabbath is a sign between God and Christians. (p.780).
  - 22) **SDA:** Hebrew 4:9 proves we must keep the Sabbath. "There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God."
  - 23) **SDA:** The Sabbath is not nailed to the Cross because the Holy Spirit still refers to the Sabbath day after Christ's death, when the New Covenant had replaced the Old Covenant. (p.781).
  - 24) **SDA:** The Sabbath was not a shadow, because the Sabbath was given before the Fall. (p.781).
  - 25) **SDA:** The Sabbath is the way we know God sanctifies us. Ezekiel 20:12,20; Exodus 31:13. (p.781).
  - 26) **SDA:** Christ our example kept the Sabbath. (p.781).
  - 27) **SDA:** The disciples kept the Sabbath one day after Christ's death. (p.782).
  - 28) **SDA:** Paul preaching on the Sabbath after the Cross proves we must keep the Sabbath today. (p.782).
  - 29) **SDA:** Sunday is worshipping Sun. 30) **SDA:** Ananias, a devout Christian, kept 10 Commandments.
  - 31) **SDA:** History shows that the very earliest Christians kept the Sabbath. (p.783).
  - 32) **SDA:** Christians copied Sunday keeping off the pagan religion of Mithraism. (p.783).
  - 33) **SDA:** The Pope changed the Sabbath from Saturday to Sunday. (p.784).
  - 34) **SDA:** Constantine changed Sabbath to Sunday. 35) **SDA:** "First day of week" is mistranslated. (p.784).
  - 36) **SDA:** Evening meeting in Acts 20:7 was on a Sabbath. (p.785).

### 113. SEVENTH DAY ADVENTISM REFUTED

- 1) **Three Basic Positions on The Christian Day of Worship**
  - a) **Seventh Day Adventist Position**
    - i) SDAs claim that Christians kept the Sabbath from 33-320AD, but due to the devil, Christians went into apostasy until Ellen White, the SDA prophetess, claimed to have a vision that the Sabbath law was not nailed to the cross. This is contrary to Colossians 2:14.
    - ii) In 1844 the first Adventists (known as Millerites) started keeping the Sabbath day. This was because a Seventh Day Baptist convinced his Methodist Minister that the Bible teaches us to keep the Sabbath.
    - iii) Only in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century did God, through Ellen White and the modern SDA Movement, restore by direct revelation the 'truth' that the day of Christian worship should be Saturday.
    - iv) SDAs claim that Christians around 140AD borrowed Sunday worship from the pagan religion of Mithraism.
    - v) Gradually, SDAs claim, Sunday worship replaced Saturday worship.
    - vi) SDAs interpret the 'Seal of God' to be 'Saturday Sabbath keeping'. They claim that 'the mark of the beast is 'Sunday Sabbath keeping', not now, but after some presumed future Sunday keeping law is passed.
  - b) **The Bible's Position (the TRUTH)**
    - i) The 10 Commandments Law (including the requirement to keep the Sabbath day), along with all the laws of Moses, were abolished at the cross. (II Cor. 3:7-11; Ephesians 2:15).
    - ii) God gave the Old Mosaic Covenant at Mt Sinai through Moses, only to the Jews. The 10 Commandments are the foremost representation of this Old Covenant, which was replaced with the New Covenant, called the 'Law of Christ.' (Romans 8:2; Galatians 6:2; I Cor. 9:21).
    - iii) 100% of the Old Mosaic Covenant was abolished at the cross. (Col. 2:14; Ephesians 2:15).
    - iv) No one before Moses (such as Adam, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Job) ever heard of the Sabbath Law. Nor did they ever keep it. ("madest known" Nehemiah 9:13,14; Deut.5:2,3; Eze.20:12).
    - v) The very first time anyone was commanded to keep the Sabbath was in Exodus 16:23-30. Genesis 2:2-3 was written by Moses to tell Jews at Sinai WHY they were to keep the Sabbath, NOT to teach WHEN the Sabbath was instituted.
    - vi) The universal meeting day of Christians after Christ's resurrection was Sunday, and so it has been to today (Acts 20:7; I Cor. 16:1,2).
    - vii) Sunday is not a Christian Sabbath, or a day of rest to be kept. It is the day God requires all Christians to meet together to worship God (Acts 20:7) and to provoke each other to love and good works. (Hebrews 10:24,25).
    - viii) Christians do not keep the 10 Commandments Law of Moses. This does not mean that Christians are free to steal, murder and commit adultery just because the 10 Commandments are abolished. No! Christians are under a new and better law which is the Law of Christ (Galatians 3:24-25; 6:2; I Corinthians 9:20,21; Romans 8:2; Hebrews 7:12) and a new and better covenant (Hebrews 8:6-13).
    - ix) We listen to Christ in all things, as our Head, and not to Moses. This is New Testament Christianity.
      - (1) Paul said, 'If any man think himself to be a prophet, or spiritual, let him acknowledge that the things that I write unto you are the Lord's Commandments.' (I Cor. 14:37).
      - (2) Peter quoted Moses, 'A prophet shall the Lord your God raise up unto you of your brethren, like unto me; him shall ye hear in all things whatsoever he shall say unto you'. (Acts 3:22).
  - c) **The General Protestant Position** (vulnerable to SDA deception).

Protestants generally claim that the meaning of the Sabbath was transferred to Sunday to commemorate Christ's resurrection. They are doing the right thing (commemorating Christ's resurrection) but for the wrong reason (keeping the 4<sup>th</sup> Commandment).

    - i) When Christians wrongly apply the 4<sup>th</sup> Commandment as the reason why they worship on Sunday, they are 1) Mistaken; 2) Opening themselves to manipulation by SDAs.
    - ii) If a Christian justifies Sunday keeping by quoting the fourth Commandment ("Six days shalt thou labour, . . . but the seventh is the Sabbath"), all that an SDA needs to convert him to become an SDA is a calendar showing that if Saturday is the 7<sup>th</sup> day Sabbath, then ask, 'Why aren't you keeping it?'

## 2) 7 Errors in the “27 Fundamental Beliefs of SDAs”

- a) They deny that man has a **spirit**. ‘Though created free beings, each person is an indivisible unity of **body, mind and soul**’. (Clause 7: *The Nature of Man*).  
**Bible refutation:** ‘. . . I pray God your whole **spirit, and soul and body** be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.’ (I Thessalonians 5:23).  
Man’s makeup is spirit, soul (mind, emotions, will) and body. Not as SDAs think: ‘body, mind and soul.’ (Soul = mind, emotions, will).
- b) They claim that the ‘**SDA church** is the **only true remnant church** that keep God’s commandments. ‘The **universal church** (WRONG. Because it has not met yet) is composed of all who truly believe in Christ, but in the last days, a time of widespread apostasy, a **remnant** has been called out to **keep the commandments of God** (WRONG: No-one fully keeps the Commandments) and the faith of Jesus. This **remnant announces the arrival of the judgment hour** (WRONG: **because SDAs invent an Investigative Judgment which is supposed to be now occurring in heaven.**) This proclamation coincides with the work of judgment in heaven.’ (WRONG: because judgment occurs after Christ’s return, not before. See II Corinthians 5:10). (Clause 12: *The Remnant and Its Mission*).
- c) They claim **Ellen White** had the spiritual **gift of prophecy**: ‘One of the gifts of the Holy Spirit is prophecy.’ (WRONG: Prophecy as new revelations from God ceased with the completion of the NT in 96AD. (I Corinthians 13:8-13). ‘This gift is an identifying mark of the remnant church’ (WRONG: No Bible proof), ‘and was manifested in the ministry of Ellen G White.’ (WRONG: She was a false prophet because of her many false prophecies. (Deuteronomy 18:20-22). Joel 2:28,29 is fulfilled AFTER Christ’s 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming, not before. (Clause 17: *The Gift of Prophecy*).
- d) They claim that **Christians must keep the Jewish Sabbath**: ‘The beneficent Creator, after six days of Creation, rested on the seventh day and instituted the Sabbath for all people’ (WRONG: Only as a sign between God and the Jews – Exodus 31:13) ‘as a memorial of creation. The fourth commandment of God’s unchangeable law.’ (WRONG: Many of God’s laws have changed, eg circumcision, animal sacrifices, etc.) ‘requires the observance of this seventh day Sabbath. . . . The Sabbath is God’s perpetual sign of His eternal covenant between Him and His people’ (WRONG: It is not perpetual because it finished when Christ died. It was only between God and the Jews). ‘Joyful observance of this holy time is from sunset to sunset.’ (Clause 19: *The Sabbath*).
- e) They claim **Christ began an Investigative Judgment in 1844**.  
‘In 1844 at the end of the prophetic period of 2300 days (error 1) He entered the **second** and **last phase** of His **atonement** ministry (error 2). It is a work of **investigative judgment** which is part of the ultimate disposition of all **sin** (error 3).  
The investigative judgment reveals to heavenly intelligences who among the dead are asleep in Christ and therefore, in Him, are deemed worthy (error 4) to have part in the first resurrection. . . . This judgment vindicates the justice of God in saving those who believe in Jesus. It declares that those who have remained loyal to God (error 5) shall receive the Kingdom.’ (Clause 23: *Christ’s Ministry in the Heavenly Sanctuary*).  
**Error 1 corrected:** 2300 days are ‘days’ from 6 September 171BC to 25 December 165 BC (Daniel 8:14) from when Antiochus IV Epiphanes desecrated the Temple up to its cleansing 2300 days later.  
**Error 2,3 corrected:** Christ’s atonement for our sins was fully completed on the cross. (Romans 5:11) ‘we have **now** received the atonement’. There is no such thing as a **second phase** of Christ’s atonement. SDAs say that Christ’s sacrifice is insufficient to fully atone or take away our sins.  
**Error 4 corrected:** To say who among the dead are ‘**deemed worthy**’ to have part in the first resurrection, is to claim **works** for salvation.  
**Error 5 corrected:** To say that only those who **remain loyal to God** receive the Kingdom, denies Christ’s ability to keep us saved. This teaches loss of salvation. Hence NO SDA can be sure of eternal life. God says: ‘that ye may **know** that ye have eternal life.’ (I John 5:13).
- f) They claim that **nobody now has eternal life**. ‘But God, who alone is immortal, **will grant** eternal life to His redeemed.’ (Clause 25: *Death and Resurrection*).  
**Error 6 corrected:** ‘He that has the Son, has life.’ (present tense NOW). (I John 5:12; 2:25).  
They deny that believers go to **heaven at death**. They believe in **soul sleep**: ‘Until that day, death is an **unconscious state** for all people.’ (Clause 25: *Death & Resurrection*).  
**Error 7 corrected:** ‘The mighty shall **speak** to him out of the midst of hell.’ Ezekiel 32:21.

- h) They are very confused about the **Millennium**: ‘The millennium is the 1000 year reign of Christ with His saints **in heaven**.’ (WRONG: It is on earth – Zechariah 14:1-5; 8-21) between the first and second resurrections. ‘**During** this time the wicked dead will be judged.’ (WRONG: the wicked dead will be judged **after** the 1000 years – Revelation 20:7-15: ‘And **when** the thousand years are **expired**, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison. . .’) ‘the earth will be **utterly desolate**’ (WRONG: ‘the desert shall rejoice and blossom as the rose’ (Isaiah 35:1), ‘**without living human inhabitants**’ (WRONG: ‘the inhabitants of the earth are burned, and **few** men left.’ Isaiah 24:6).

## 3) Thirteen Official SDA Baptismal Vows

In order to be baptised, SDAs must agree to 13 vows. The ones that are false are:

6. ‘I accept the 10 Commandments as **still binding** upon Christians, and it is my purpose by the power of the indwelling Christ, to keep this law, including the 4<sup>th</sup> Commandment, which requires the **observance of the seventh day** of the week as the Sabbath of the Lord.’

8. ‘I accept the Biblical teaching of spiritual gifts, and believe that the **gift of prophecy** is one of the **identifying marks** of the **remnant church**.’

11. ‘I know and understand the fundamental Bible principles as taught by the Seventh Day Adventist Church. It is my purpose, by the grace of God, to order my life in harmony with these principles.’

13. ‘I accept that the Seventh Day Adventist Church is the **remnant church** of **Bible prophecy**.’

## 4) SDA Statements that Ellen White was God’s Inspired Prophet

Before 1980 all SDAs viewed Ellen White as an inspired prophet. In 1980 Walter Rea proved and published that 80-90% of her ‘inspired writings and visions’ were plagiarised or **copied** from James White who copied them from J N Andrews. Now, modern SDA leaders are watering down their church’s stand on White’s inspiration, saying things like, ‘White’s writings are not a replacement of the Bible’.

Note that Adventists, Mormons and Jehovah’s Witnesses share these qualities:

a) All were born in the **1800s**;

b) All claimed to have **direct inspiration** from God at their founding;

c) All claimed to have the gift or spirit of **prophecy**.

Consider these SDA claims that White was **God’s prophet**:

a) **Clause 17 of SDA Creed**: ‘This gift (of prophecy) is an identifying mark of the remnant church and was manifested in the ministry of **Ellen G White**.’

As the Lord’s messenger, her writings are a continuing and authoritative source of truth which provide for the church comfort, guidance, instruction and correction.’

b) **Back cover of The Great Controversy**, 1975 edition claims that:

‘Ellen G White (1827-1915) . . . is considered to have been inspired by God.

Many of her prophecies about world events and the modern day condition of man have already been dramatically fulfilled.’

c) In 1876 she wrote: ‘In ancient times God spoke to men by the mouth of prophets and apostles. In these days He speaks to them by the **Testimonies of His Spirit**’ (ie White’s writings). (EGW, *Testimonies for the Church*, Vol. 4, p. 147-8, **Testimony 27**:1876).

d) In 1882 she wrote: ‘If you lessen the confidence of God’s people in the **testimonies** He has sent them, you are rebelling against God as certainly as were Korah, Dathan and Abiram.’ (EGW, *Testimonies for the Church*, Vol. 5, p. 66, **Testimony 31**, 1882).

e) In 1882 she wrote: ‘When I was in Colorado . . . I wrote many pages to be read at your camp meeting. God was speaking through clay. I am presenting to you what the Lord has presented to me. They are what God has opened before me in vision – the precious rays of light shining from the throne.’ (EGW, *Selected Messages*, Book 1, p 27).

Consider these official SDA statements of **inspiration** for Ellen G White:

f) *SDA Sabbath School Quarterly, Teachers Edition*, p 112, Feb 11, 1978:

‘The Bible and the writings of Ellen White are **inerrant**.’

g) Official SDA position, in *The Advent Review and Herald*, 4 Oct 1928:

‘Her writings should be received the same as were the messages of the prophets of old. As Samuel was a prophet of Israel for his day; as Jeremiah was a prophet of Israel for the days of captivity; as John the Baptist came as a special messenger of the Lord to prepare the way for Christ’s Coming, so we believe that Mrs White was a prophet to the Church of Christ today.’

h) Louis Venden quoted on the cassette tape, The Wilson Committee, Rea on Ellen G White:

‘I believe that The Desire of Ages (White’s book), for example, is just as high in quality of degree of inspiration as the Gospel according to Luke.’

- i) Kenneth Wood, Editor of Review, as quoted in RH 4 Sept 1980, p15: 'Ellen G White was inspired in the same sense as were the Bible prophets.'
- j) Ron Graybill, Assoc Sec, EGW Estate, in a talk at Southern Missionary College on 27 Sep 80: 'The quality of inspiration of Ellen White is equal to that of Bible writers.'
- k) Philip Follett, tape, 'What Happened at Glacier View', PUC, 23 Aug 1980: 'The writings of Ellen White are inspired in the same sense as the Bible is inspired.'
- l) Moving Out, Unit 4, p.115: 'Ellen received a second vision in which God called her formally to work for Him as a prophet'.

#### 5) 5 Failed Prophecies of Ellen White

The Bible test of a false prophet is given in Deuteronomy 18:20-22 as follows:

'But the prophet which shall presume to speak a word in my name, which I have not commanded him to speak . . . even that prophet shall die.' (v.20).

Question: 'If thou say in thine heart, How shall we know the word which the Lord hath not spoken?'

Answer: 'When a prophet speaketh in the name of the Lord, if the thing **follow not**, nor come to pass, that is the thing which the Lord hath not spoken, but the prophet hath spoken it presumptuously: thou shalt not be afraid of him.' (v.22).

Some of Ellen White's many false and failed prophecies showing her to be a false prophet are:

- a) White falsely predicted that some living in 1856 would live to see Christ return:  
'I was shown the **company present at the Conference**.  
Said the angel: 'Some food for worms, some subjects of the 7 last plagues, **some will be alive and remain upon the earth to be translated at the coming of Jesus.**' Vol. 1, **p.131,132**, *Testimonies for the Church*. This statement was made in 1856 and everyone present in that meeting is now dead. None lived to see Christ return. This is clearly a false prophecy. White made no conditions for the fulfilment of this prophecy.
- b) White falsely prophesied that England would declare war on the USA about the time of the Civil War: 'This nation will yet be humbled into the dust. England is studying whether . . . to make war on her. **When England does declare war**, . . . there will be general war.'  
*Testimonies for the Church*, Vol. 1, **p.259**.  
This was a false prophecy, England did not declare war on the USA during the Civil War, and the USA was not humbled into the dust.
- c) White falsely prophesied in 1850 that Old Jerusalem would never be built up. In 1850 Bible scholars were teaching about Jews returning to Palestine and the restoration of Jerusalem. White stated, 'I also saw that **Old Jerusalem would never be built up**.' *Early Writings*, **p.75**.  
However, since Israel's rebirth in 1948 and the *Six Day War* of 1967, 'Old Jerusalem' has been greatly built up.
- d) White falsely prophesied that the time for salvation for sinners had passed in July 1844:  
'The "**midnight cry**" was finished at the seventh month 1844 (**page 43**);' *Early Writings*, p.42-45.
- e) White prophesied the world would end in 1843, 1844, 1845 and 1851.  
'the believers explained their mistake & gave reasons why they expected their Lord in 1844.'  
*Early Wr.* **p.237**

#### 6) 12 UNBIBLICAL STATEMENTS OF ELLEN WHITE:

- 1) White falsely taught that the Tower of Babel was built before the Flood:  
'The Lord first established the system of sacrificial offerings with Adam after his fall, which he taught to his descendants. This system was corrupted **before the Flood** by those who separated themselves from the faithful followers of God, and engaged in the building of the **Tower of Babel**.'  
*Spiritual Gifts*, Vol. 3, p.301, 1864 edition.  
This mistake was later taken out of the 1870 edition of *Spirit of Prophecy*, Vol. 1, p 266.
- 2) White falsely taught that we should never say we are saved:  
'Those who accept the Saviour, however sincere their conversion, should never be taught to say or to feel that they are saved.'  
*Christ's Object Lessons*, p 155. Yet the Bible says, 'He that has the Son has life . . . that ye may **know** that ye have eternal life.' (I John 5:12,13).
- 3) White falsely taught that the seal of God is the Sabbath:  
'The sign, or seal of God is revealed in the observance of the seventh-day Sabbath.'  
*Testimonies for the Church*, Vol. 8, **p.117**; and TGC p 640.  
But the Bible states that it is the indwelling Holy Spirit: 'after ye believed, ye were **sealed** with that Holy Spirit of promise.' (Ephesians 1:13).

'Grieve not the Holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are **sealed**.' (Ephesians 4:30).  
'God, who hath sealed us, and given us the earnest of the Spirit in our hearts.' (II Cor. 1:21,22).

- 4) White taught that there was only one Herod, who tried Christ and executed James: 'Herod's heart had grown still harder; and when he heard that Christ had risen, he was not much troubled. He took the life of James.'  
(*Early Writings*, **p.185,186**).  
However, Bible scholars and historians have proven that Herod Antipas tried Jesus and that Herod Agrippa executed James the Apostle.
- 5) White falsely taught that Satan will bear our sins:  
'the scapegoat typified Satan, the author of sin, upon whom the sins of the truly penitent will finally be placed.'  
TGC, p 422.  
'As the priest, in removing the sins from the sanctuary, confessed them upon the head of the scapegoat, so Christ will place all these sins upon Satan, the originator and instigator of sin.'  
TGC,485.  
'Their sins are transferred to the originator of sin.'  
*Testimonies for the Church*, Vol 5, **p.475**.  
The Bible says, 'the Lord hath laid on him (Christ) the iniquity of us all.' (Isaiah 53:6).  
'Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree.' (I Peter 2:24).
- 6) White falsely taught that Christ's Atonement was not finished at the cross:  
'instead of coming to the earth at the termination of the 2300 days in 1844, Christ then entered the most holy place of the heavenly sanctuary to perform the closing work of the atonement preparatory to His coming.'  
TGC, p 422.  
But the Bible says: 'but now **once** in the end of the world hath he appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself.'  
(Hebrews 9:26). "we have **now** received the atonement."  
(Romans 5:11).  
'after he had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down on the right hand of God.'  
(Heb. 10:12).  
Christ said on the cross, "It is finished."  
(John 19:30).
- 7) White falsely taught that we can be sinless:  
'Those only who through faith in Christ, obey all of God's commandments, will reach the condition of sinlessness in which Adam lived before his transgression.'  
*SDA Bible Commentary*, Vol. 6, p 1118.  
'In order to let Jesus into our hearts, we must stop sinning.'  
*Signs of the Times*, 3 March 1898.  
But the Bible says: 'If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.'  
(I John 1:8,10).
- 8) White falsely taught that a Christian's sins are pardoned, but not yet forgiven or blotted out.  
She taught that one's eternal destiny will be ultimately determined by weighing a believer's good works and bad works in the Investigative Judgment.  
'All who have truly repented of sin, and by faith claimed the blood of Christ as their atoning sacrifice, have had pardon entered against their names in the books of heaven as they have become partakers of the righteousness of Christ, and their characters are found to be in harmony with the law of God, their sins will be blotted out, and they themselves will be accounted worthy of eternal life.'  
TGC, p483.  
'The work of the investigative judgment and the blotting out of sin is to be accomplished before the second advent of our Lord.'  
TGC, p 485.  
'In 1844 egan the work of investigation and blotting out of sins.'  
*Christ in His Sanctuary*, p122.  
However, the Bible says: 'I, even I, am he that blotteth out thy transgressions for mine own sake, and will not remember thy sins.'  
(Isaiah 43:25).  
'I have blotted out, as a thick cloud, thy transgressions, and as a cloud, thy sins.'  
(Isaiah 44:22).  
'If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.'  
(I John 1:9).

Note: The Investigative Judgment heresy:

- a) Has never been taught by anyone else in history;
- b) Has no Bible support;
- c) Is the excuse for SDA's existence as a separate church.

Noted SDA historian and theologian, Leroy E Froom, states that this teaching is the SDA church's only reason for existence:

Indeed, if there is <sup>1</sup>no actual Sanctuary in heaven, and <sup>2</sup>no ministering Great High Priest serving therein; and <sup>3</sup>if there is **no judgment hour message** to herald from God to mankind at this time, then **we have no justifiable place in the religious world**, no distinctive denominational mission and message, and **no excuse for functioning** as a separate church entity today.' *Movement of Destiny*, p 542 (emphasis added). 'Any deviation from (the sanctuary truth) strikes at the heart of Adventism, and challenges its very integrity.' p 542.

- 9) White falsely claimed that in a vision **she heard the day and hour of Christ's return**: 'Soon we heard the voice of God like many waters, which gave us the **day** and **hour** of Jesus' Coming.' *Early Writings*, p 15. Yet the Bible says, 'But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no not the angels of heaven, but my Father only.' (Matthew 24:36).
- 10) White falsely claims that **God had to consult others about man's fall**: She thus suggests that **God did not expect it** and didn't know what to do about it. 'The news of man's fall spread through Heaven – every harp was hushed. . . . A council was held to decide what must be done with the guilty pair.' *Spiritual Gifts*, Vol. 3, p 44.
- 11) White falsely claims that **Adam kept the Sabbath**: 'The Sabbath was observed **before** the fall. Because Adam and Eve disobeyed God's command, and ate of the forbidden fruit, they were expelled from Eden; but they observed the Sabbath **after** their fall.' *Spiritual Gifts*, Vol. 3, p 52.
- 12) White falsely claims that **angels have a gold card**: 'There is perfect order and harmony in the Holy City. All the angels that are commissioned to visit the earth hold a golden card, which they present to angels at the gates of the city as they pass in and out.' *Early Writings*, p 39.

#### 7) **CONTRADICTIONS OF ELLEN WHITE**

- a) Deity '**did**' and '**did not**' sink and die:  
'Men need to understand that Deity **suffered** and **sank** under the agonies of Calvary.' *Manuscript* 153, 1898 (BC, Vol. 7, p 907).  
'The Deity **did not sink** under the agonizing torture of Calvary.' *Manuscript* 140, 1903 (BC, Vol. 5, p 1129).
- b) There **is** consciousness after death, and **there is no** consciousness after death:  
'I saw that some were quickly destroyed, while others suffered longer. They were punished according to the deeds done in the body. Some were many days consuming, and just as long as there was a **portion of them unconsumed, all the sense of suffering remained.**' *Early Writings*, p 294.  
'Upon the fundamental error of natural immortality, rests the doctrine of **consciousness in death** – a doctrine, like eternal torment, opposed to the teaching of the Scriptures, to the dictates of reason, and to our feelings of humanity.' TGC, p 545.
- 8) **Challenge to SDAs: Show us one New Testament verse that:**  
a) Quotes the fourth Commandment, or  
b) Tells Christians to keep the Sabbath holy.

#### 9) **SDAs CLAIM SUNDAY KEEPING IS FOLLOWING AN IMAGE OF THE BEAST.**

The SDA church's official doctrine is that the Mark of the Beast is received by those who worship on Sunday. Some SDAs don't know the official teaching of their own church.  
'False teachings like the immortal soul, **Sunday worship**, eternal hell fire, etc are all from the **Beast**. If we choose to worship in a church that follows these teachings, we are simply following an image of the Beast. Because of their wilful decision to follow the Beast, its false teachings and practices, the beast's name is in their forehead and **they are lost**, having **received the Mark of the Beast**.' From *Prophecy Seminar* Lesson 18, 'The Mark of the Beast and the Seal of God' from SDA Pastor Leo Schreven's book, *Now That's Clear*.  
Leo Schreven is a certified official evangelist for the SDA church. *Now That's Clear* is an official textbook of *It is Written* Prophecy Seminars sponsored by the SDA church.  
"The mark of the Beast is the opposite of this – the **observance of the first day of the week.**" *Testimonies for the Church*, White, Vol.8, p.117.

#### 10) **MOST SDAs BREAK THE SABBATH THEY CLAIM TO KEEP.**

God commanded that the Sabbath be kept as follows.  
Do Sabbatarians (and SDAs) keep all these laws?

	<b>Sabbath Law Regulations</b>	<b>Meaning Today For Sabbatarians</b>
1	No work to be done (Exodus 31:15).	No shift work or Saturday work. No Police, Fire, Ambulance, Hospital workers.
2	Kindle no fire (Exodus 35:3).	No gas heating in winter. No gas cooking. No starting a motor car (internal combustion).
3	Stay in one place (Exodus 16:29). 'abide ye every man in his place, let no man go out of his place on the seventh day.'	Park the car and stay at home or in the hotel.
4	Gather no sticks for fuel. (Numbers 15:32).	No putting fuel in the car on Saturday.
5	Buy no goods (Nehemiah 10:31). 'We would not buy it of them on the Sabbath.'	No eating out on Saturday. No buying a Saturday newspaper. No buying petrol on Saturday.
6	Carry no burdens (Jeremiah 17:21:22). 'bear no burdens on the Sabbath day.'	No gardening or carrying on Saturday.
7	Strangers within their gates forced to keep these regulations. (Exodus 20:10).	Guests within your house forced to keep these regulations.
8	Death to violators. (Ex 31:15; Num. 15:32-36).	Stone to death other SDAs who break Sabbath.

Question: Did God ever relax **ANY** of these Sabbath day restrictions? NO!

#### 11) **SATURDAY (SABBATH) OR SUNDAY?**

##### **ON WHICH DAY DID EARLY CHRISTIANS WORSHIP?**

- 74AD The Letter of Barnabas** (15:6-8): 'We keep the eighth day (**Sunday**) with joyfulness, the day also on which Jesus rose from the dead.'
- 90AD The Didache 14**: 'But every **Lord's Day**... gather yourselves together and break bread.'
- 107AD Ignatius**: 'Those . . . possessing a new hope, **no longer observing the Sabbath**, but living in the observance of the Lord's Day.'  
(Ignatius, *Epistle to the Magnesians*, Chap 9, *Ante-Nicene Fathers*, Vol. 1, p 62-63).
- 150AD Justin**: 'the Gentiles, who have believed on Him, . . . even although they neither keep the Sabbath, nor are circumcised, nor observe the feasts. Assuredly they shall receive the holy inheritance of God.' (*Dialogue with Trypho*, *Ante-Nicene Fathers*, Vol. 1, p 267).
  - 150AD Justin: '**Sunday** is the day on which we hold our common assembly' (*First Apology of Justin*, Chap 68).
  - 150AD Justin: 'If there was no need of circumcision before Abraham, or of the observance of **Sabbaths**, of feasts and sacrifices **before Moses; no more need is there of them now** . . . after Jesus Christ.' (*Dialogue with Trypho*, *Ante-Nicene Fathers*, Vol. 1, p 206.)
- 180AD Acts of Peter**: 'He (Christ) abolished their **Sabbath** and fasts and festivals & circumcision.' (1.1-2).
- 190AD Clement of Alexandria**: commenting on the 10 Commandments and their Christian meaning: 'The seventh day is proclaimed a day of rest, preparing by abstention from evil for the **Primal** day (first day) **our true rest**.' (Vol. 7, xvi, 138.1.)
- 200AD Bardaisan** (born 154AD):  
'On one day, the **first** of the week, we assemble ourselves together.' (*On Fate*) 5.
- 200AD Tertullian**: 'We solemnize **the day after Saturday** in contradistinction to those who call this day their Sabbath.'  
'As the abolition of carnal **circumcision** and of the **old law** has been consummated, so also the observance of the **Sabbath** is demonstrated to have been temporary.'  
(*Ante-Nicene Fathers*, Vol. 3, p 155). 'To us **Sabbaths** are foreign.' (*On Idolatry*, 14:6).
- 220AD Origen**: 'On **Sunday** none of the actions of the world should be done. Keep yourself free for spiritual things, go to church, listen to the readings and divine homilies, meditate on heavenly things.' (*Homil. 23 in Numeros* 4, p 12:749).
- 225AD The Didascalia**: 'The Apostles further appointed: On the **first day** of the week let there be service, and the reading of the Holy Scriptures, and the oblation, because on the first day of the week our Lord rose from the dead.' (*Didascalia* 2).
- 250AD Cyprian**: 'The eighth day, that is the first day after the Sabbath, and the **Lord's Day**.' (*Epistle* 58, Section 4).

12. **300AD Victorinus:** 'Lest we should appear to observe any Sabbath with the Jews . . . which Sabbath he (Christ) in his body **abolished**.' (*The Creation of the World*).
13. **300AD Eusebius:** 'They did not regard circumcision, nor observe the **Sabbath**; neither do we . . . because such things as these do not belong to Christians.' (*Ecclesiastical History*, Book 1, Chap 4).  
'They (the early saints of the Old Testament) did not care about circumcision of the body, neither do we (Christians). They did not care about observing **Sabbaths**, nor do we.' (*Church History* 1:4:8.)
14. **345AD Athanasius:** 'The Sabbath was the end of the first creation, and the Lord's Day was the beginning of the second. He (God) prescribed that they (Jews) should **formerly** observe the Sabbath as a memorial of the end of the first things, so we honour the **Lord's day** as being the memorial of the new creation.' (*On Sabbath and Circumcision* 3).
15. **350AD Cyril of Jerusalem:** 'Stand aloof from all observance of **Sabbaths**.' (*Catechetical Lectures* 4:37).
16. *Encyclopaedia Britannica:* '**Sunday, first day of the week**; in Christianity, the Lord's Day, the weekly memorial of Jesus Christ's resurrection from the dead. The practice of Christians gathering together for worship on Sunday **dates back to apostolic times**, but details of the actual development of the custom are not clear. Before the end of the first Century AD, the author of Revelation gave the first day its name of the 'Lord's Day' (Revelation 1:10). Saint **Justin Martyr** (c.100 - c.165), philosopher and defender of the Christian faith, in his writings described the Christians gathered together for worship on the Lord's Day. The gospels or the Old Testament was read, the presiding minister preached a sermon, and the group prayed together and celebrated the Lord's Supper. The emperor Constantine (d. 337), a convert to Christianity, introduced the first civil legislation concerning Sunday in 321, when he decreed that all work should cease on Sunday, except that farmers could work if necessary. This law, aimed at providing time for worship, was followed later in the same century and in subsequent centuries by further restrictions on Sunday activities.' (15<sup>th</sup> edition, vol. 11, p.392).
17. *History of the Christian Church:* 'Celebration of the Lord's Day in memory of the resurrection of Christ dates **undoubtedly** from the apostolic age. Nothing short of apostolic precedent can account for the universal religious observance in the churches of the second century. **There is no dissenting voice**. This custom was confirmed by the earliest post-apostolic writers, such as Barnabus, Ignatius and Justin Martyr.' (*Philip Schaff*, vol.1, p 201-202).  
'The first day was already in the apostolic age designated as 'the Lord's Day.' It appears therefore, from the NT itself, that Sunday was observed as a day of worship, and in special commemoration of the Resurrection, whereby the work of redemption was finished. The **universal** and **uncontradicted** Sunday observance in the second century can only be explained by the fact that it has its roots in apostolic practice.' (*Philip Schaff*, vol.1, p 478-479).

## 12) **FOUR REAL REASONS WHY SDAs KEEP THE SABBATH**

- 1) SDAs **ignore** NT verses on Sunday worship. (Acts 20:7; I Corinthians 16:1,2; John 20:19,26; Romans 14:5,6; and Colossians 2:14. They also ignore Exodus 31:13).
- 2) SDAs must **vow** Ellen White as a **prophet** at their baptism. Having done this, **Ellen White** and the **SDA church** become their basis for decision making.  
**Key:** The Word of God becomes a **secondary authority** only as interpreted by White's 'prophecies' and the SDA church. Check SDA Baptismal Vows Number 8, 11, 13.
- 3) SDAs must **vow to follow** the official '27 Fundamental Beliefs' of the SDA Church, clause 17 of which says: 'The Gift of Prophecy: One of the gifts of the Holy Spirit, is prophecy. This gift is an identifying **mark** of the **remnant church** and was manifested in the **ministry** of **Ellen G White**. As the **Lord's messenger**, her writings are a continuing and authoritative source of truth, which provide for the church comfort, guidance, instruction and correction.'
- 4) SDAs **believe** (without proof) that Ellen White went to heaven to learn that, contrary to the Bible, **the Sabbath law was not nailed to the cross**.
  - Ellen White wrote under 'inspiration' the following:  
'The Lord gave me a view of the heavenly sanctuary. . . . Jesus raised the cover of the ark, and I beheld the tables of stone on which the 10 Commandments were written. I was amazed as I saw the 4<sup>th</sup> Commandment with a soft halo of light encircling it. Said the angel: "It is the only one of the ten which defines the living God".'  
(*Life Sketches of Ellen G White*, p 95,96).
  - Also, in *Early Writings of Ellen G White*, p 33 she records under 'inspiration':  
'But the fourth, the Sabbath commandment, shone above them all, for the Sabbath was

set apart to be kept in honour of God's holy name. The Holy Sabbath looked glorious – a halo of glory was all around it. **I saw that the Sabbath commandment was not nailed to the cross**. If it was, the other nine commandments were, and we are at liberty to break them all as well as to break the fourth. I saw that God had not changed the Sabbath, for he never changes. But the **pope** had changed it from the seventh day to the first day of the week; for he was to change times and laws.'

**Conclusion:** No matter what the Bible says about the Sabbath being nailed to the cross, SDAs won't believe what the Bible says if it contradicts their 'inspired prophet' Ellen G White. SDAs prefer to follow **White's vision** and the **SDA church** than the Bible.

## 13) **THE DANGER OF SABBATH KEEPING**

'Why do you compel the Gentiles to live as do the Jews?' (Galatians 2:14).

SDAs teach that Saturday should be observed as a holy day unto the Lord. Let us study what the Bible has to say about this.

The word 'Sabbath' means 'rest.' Under Moses' Law, Israel was required to keep the 'seventh day' as the 'Sabbath of the Lord'. (Deuteronomy 5:13,14). By law, the people were required to rest from their normal labour on this day, and consecrate the time to the will of God. (Numbers 15:32-36). Death by stoning was the penalty if anybody profaned it.

As important as it was to the Jews, seventh day observance has **no present claim on Christians**.

Instead, the spirit of the law will be fulfilled in our daily lives as we:

- a) continually rest from our own works; that we might,
- b) consecrate our time to God.

**Sabbath day** observance was part of the **Mosaic Covenant** which was 'done away with' in Christ.

Notice the following about Sabbath keeping:

1. **A Change of the Law.** God made two main covenants:

- a) The **Mosaic Covenant** with the nation Israel;
- b) The **Abrahamic Covenant** with Abraham (Galatians 3:8,9) but confirmed by Christ (Romans 15:8) as the **New Covenant**.

Because the New Covenant replaced the Mosaic Covenant, 'there is made of necessity a **change** also of the **law**.' (Hebrews 7:12). This change involved both the priesthood and seventh day observance.

SDAs admit that the Mosaic Covenant has been taken away.

'He hath made the first (covenant) old.' (Hebrews 8:13). (correct).

SDAs claim that the **Mosaic Covenant excludes the 10 Commandments** (false), and

that the 4<sup>th</sup> Commandment is therefore **still binding today** (false).

SDAs claim that Sabbath keeping is **essential to salvation** (false).

**Note:** Paul links the **first Mosaic Covenant** (Hebrews 9:1) with the **10 Commandments** describing them as the **tables of the covenant**. (Hebrews 9:4).

'Then verily the **first covenant** had also ordinances of divine service, and a worldly sanctuary.

For there was a tabernacle made . . . which had the **tables of the covenant**;' (Hebrews 9:1-4).

The **10 Commandments** were the basis of the Mosaic Covenant, which Paul said was '**ready to vanish away**.' (Hebrews 8:13). This occurred with the Temple's destruction in 70AD.

**Note:** Paul's teaching that the old Mosaic Covenant included the 10 Commandments, is proven by the Law itself: The Lord said unto Moses:

a) 'I have made a **covenant** with thee and with Israel (v.27). And he wrote upon the tables the **words of the covenant**, the **ten Commandments**.' (Exodus 34:28).

b) 'And he wrote upon the tables the **words of the covenant**, the **10 Commandments**.' (Deuteronomy 4:13).

**Key:** The identification of the 'Ten Commandments' with the **Mosaic Covenant**, which was 'done away' (2 Corinthians 3:7,11) in Christ, is **fatal** to SDA Sabbath keeping.

**SDA Objection No.1:** They deny this truth by dividing the Mosaic Law into two parts:

- a) The **Ceremonial** – which they claim was the **Law of Moses** and was abolished;
- b) The **Moral** – which they claim was the **Law of God** and still binding.

**Answer:** The Bible refutes this by using the terms 'law of Moses' and 'law of God' interchangeably for both the ceremonial and moral parts of the law. For example:

- a) **Ceremonial:** 'He appointed also the King's portion of his substance for the **burnt offerings**, for the **morning and evening burnt offerings**, and the **burnt offerings** for the **sabbaths**, and for the new moons, and for the **set feasts**, as it is written in the **Law of the Lord**.' (II Chronicles 31:3).  
Here **ceremonial** offerings, Sabbaths and feasts are part of the **Law of the Lord**.

- b) **Moral:** 'Be very courageous to keep and to do all that is written in the book of the **Law of Moses** . . . that ye not make mention of the name of their gods, nor cause to swear by them, neither serve them, nor bow yourselves unto them.' (Joshua 23:6,7).  
Here, serving false gods, which is morally wrong, is part of the Law of Moses.

**SDA Objection No.2:** SDAs teach that the Law of Moses was written in a book (now abolished), and the Ten Commandments written on stone are still binding.

**Answer:** Paul refutes this in II Corinthians 3:7-11 by describing the 10 Commandments as being:

- the ministration of death;
- written and engraven in stones, and
- glorious,
- done away. 'But if the ministration of death, written and engraven in stones, was glorious, . . . .that which is done away (Mosaic Covenant including the 10 Commandments) was glorious, much more that which remaineth (New Covenant in Christ) is glorious.' II Corinthians 3:11.

Here Paul identifies the 10 Commandments (engraven in stones) with the Mosaic Covenant that was 'done away in Christ.'

**SDA Objection No.3:** Why should the Ten Commandments be described as 'the ministration of death' if they teach eternal truths? (such as Commandments 1-3 and 5-10).

**Answer:** It is because they were set before Israel with the words: '**Cursed** is every one that continueth not in all things which are written in the book of the law to do them.' (Galatians 3:10; Deuteronomy 27:26).

In the Mosaic Covenant, there was no hope of eternal life for anybody who broke any of its laws.

The 'Law of Christ' (I Corinthians 9:21), also called the 'perfect law of liberty' (James 2:8-12)

(in contrast to the death dealing Mosaic Covenant of the 10 Commandments) can release us from sin and death, which the Mosaic Covenant never could. The 'Law of Christ' reaffirms 9 out of the 10 Commandments and gives new meaning to the 4<sup>th</sup>.

**SDA Objection No.4:** Does this mean that all the 10 Commandments are out-of-date, and we can steal, kill and commit adultery as much as we want?

**Answer:** No. Nine of the Commandments teach eternal truths that Christ and the Apostles endorsed, but the 4<sup>th</sup> Commandment was never imposed on the churches. These 9 were expanded and transferred into the Law of Christ. Where does the NT instruct Christians in the Church Age to observe the Sabbath? Nowhere.

## 2. When did the Sabbath Law Commence?

**SDA Objection No.5:** SDAs claim that the Sabbath Law was given before the Law of Moses, and was known and obeyed from Adam, to Noah, to Abraham and to Moses.

We agree that animal sacrifice was given by God before the Law of Moses.

We agree that circumcision was given by God to Abraham. (Genesis 17:9-14).

But SDAs admit that animal sacrifice and circumcision are not binding on us today.

**Answer:** The Bible student will not find a Sabbath Law given to man before Moses.

- True, we read in Genesis 2:3 'God blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it; because that in it he had rested from all his work which God created and made'.

These words do not constitute a command for man to observe this day. Remember that Genesis was written by Moses for the Jewish people, AFTER giving them the Law.

Moses included this explanatory note to explain the significance of the Law he had given to Israel.

Speaking of the Sabbath, God declared:

'It is a sign between Me and the children of Israel forever, for in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, and on the seventh day he rested, and was refreshed.' (Exodus 31:17).

- The evidence shows that it was impossible for the Sabbath law to be practiced before Moses.

God instructed Moses to change the Jewish calendar, making the departure from Egypt

'the beginning of months: it shall be the first month of the year to you.' (Exodus 12:2).

From this new date, commenced the Sabbath day observance.

On this point Moses himself needed instruction, which he passed on to the people.

'This is that which the Lord hath said, Tomorrow is the rest of the holy Sabbath unto the Lord. . . (v.23).

Eat that today; for today is a Sabbath unto the Lord: today ye shall not find it in the field.' (Exodus 16:23,25).

- Question to ask SDAs:** If the Sabbath law was so well known, why the need of such instruction to Moses and the Israelites?

**Answer:** Because:

- This was a new law, just then set before Israel for the first time.

Moses said to the people: 'See, for that the LORD hath given you the Sabbath, therefore, he giveth you on the sixth day the bread of two days; abide ye every man in his place, let no man go out of his place on the seventh day. So the people rested on the seventh day.' (Exodus 16:29,30).

- The Bible plainly declares that God made known 'the holy Sabbath . . . by the hand of Moses thy servant' at Mount Sinai: 'Thou camest down also upon Mount Sinai . . . and MADEST KNOWN unto them thy holy sabbath . . . by the hand of Moses thy servant.' (Nehemiah 9:13,14).

This passage fixes beyond all doubt the time when the Sabbath was given, or 'made known' to man. It was not in Eden, but to Moses on Mount Sinai.

- In Numbers 15:32-36 further instruction was given to Moses and Aaron concerning the Sabbath, because 'it was not declared what should be done' to the Sabbath breaker who gathered sticks on the Sabbath day. (v.34).

## 3. The Real Meaning of the Sabbath

The Mosaic Law demanded that on every seventh day, Jews should rest from their labour and devote the day to meditating on the things of God. A true Israelite, however, did not limit his meditation only to the Sabbath day. It was 'his delight to meditate in the law of the Lord. . . day and night' continually. (Psalm 1:2). He observed not merely the letter of this law, but the spirit of it. He daily tried to rest from the things of the flesh, and devoted his time to God.

The Sabbath rest was a type, to remind the people of the correct spiritual attitude that should characterise their actions every day. For true Christians, keeping this Sabbath type is not necessary, because in Christ this Sabbath type is done away. (2 Corinthians 3:7,11).

Christ gave a spiritual significance to aspects of the Mosaic Law:

- Instead of animal sacrifices, he presented Himself as the 'Lamb of God' to take away the sin of the world. (John 1:29).
- Instead of literal circumcision, He set forth the principle of repudiating the flesh, a circumcision 'that is of the heart, in the spirit, and not in the letter.' (Romans 2:28,29).
- Instead of Sabbath keeping, He taught a daily rest from the works of sin, and a daily faith rest and belief in God's promises. (Hebrews 4:1-11). Christ taught the spiritual significance of the Sabbath when He said, 'Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.' (Greek: anapauso). (Matthew 11:28).  
Greek: 'Anapauso' means 'Sabbath rest' in the Septuagint.

Christ continuously condemned the Jewish leaders for formalistic Sabbath keeping.

He deliberately allowed His disciples to do what 'was not lawful to do upon the Sabbath day'

(Matthew 12:1,2), because He was 'Lord even of the Sabbath day.' (Matthew 12:8), and therefore

had power to change its observance.

## 4. Some were Exempt from the Sabbath Law

Jesus showed that some Israelites were exempt from keeping the Sabbath as a day of rest:

- For the Priests, instead of the Sabbath being a day of rest, their work was doubled (Numbers 28:9,10).

Jesus asked the Jews, 'Have ye not read in the law, how that on the Sabbath days the priests in the temple profane the Sabbath, and are blameless.' (Matthew 12:5).

The priests did not observe the Sabbath. It was no rest to them. Their whole life was devoted to the Lord's service. Christ's words apply to true Christians today, who also are priests devoted to the Lord's work. Peter said, 'Ye are a . . . royal priesthood' (I Peter 2:9) to the Christians of his day.

**As NT priests, we are exempt from the Sabbath rest**, because our whole lives should be dedicated to God's work as NT priests. Those who insist on a rigid Mosaic Law Sabbath keeping, imply that they exclude themselves from Christ's own priestly class of believers today.

- Circumcision. On another occasion, the Lord refuted the Jews' formal Sabbath keeping, by showing that there were other laws (such as circumcision) that took precedence over the Sabbath. The Law required that on the eighth day, a Jewish boy should be circumcised.

Sometimes the eighth day of a boy's life fell on the Sabbath day. Here then were two laws: one demanding circumcision work, and the other law of the Sabbath, demanding no work.

**Question:** Which law was to be broken? Which law was more important?

**Answer:** The circumcision law was more important than the Sabbath law, because unless a boy was circumcised, he could not keep the law as a covenant member.

Jesus said, 'Ye on the Sabbath day, circumcise a man that the law should not be broken.' (John

7:22,23). Since circumcision is a **greater law than the Sabbath**, this forces SDAs to give priority to a **ceremonial law** (circumcision) which they say is obsolete, over the Sabbath law which they say is **moral**.

**Question:** Why did the circumcision law take precedence over the Sabbath law?

**Answer:** Circumcision was the sign of the Abrahamic Covenant (Genesis 17:10-14) that was confirmed by Christ (Romans 15:8), whereas the Sabbath was the sign of the Mosaic Covenant. As the Abrahamic Covenant, confirmed by Christ, superseded the Mosaic Covenant (Hebrews 8:8), so the Law showed circumcision taking precedence over the Sabbath. **One was broken (Sabbath keeping) so that the other might prevail (circumcision)**. This was the case with the two covenants: the Mosaic Covenant was taken away, so that the Abrahamic / New Covenant might prevail. SDAs must realise that if the Sabbath law is still binding, so also is circumcision. But strangely enough SDAs reject circumcision.

## 5. **How the Sabbath Should be Observed**

a) **Spiritual circumcision** is still as binding on a Christian as spiritual **Sabbath keeping**.

Paul explained the spiritual meaning of **circumcision**:

'In whom (Christ) also ye are circumcised with the **circumcision** made without hands, in **putting off the body of the sins of the flesh** by the circumcision of Christ: buried with him in baptism, wherein ye also are risen with him through faith.....' (Colossians 2:11,12).

Here circumcision is spiritual, not the Jewish cutting rite, but in the **cutting off** the sins of the flesh, and showing Christ's righteousness in our new life, of which **baptism** is the first act of obedience.

b) **Question:** If circumcision has a NT spiritual fulfilment, what about the **Sabbath**?

**Answer:** Paul showed that the Sabbath was a **shadow** of something to be revealed in Christ.

'Let no man judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holyday, or of the new moon, or of the **Sabbath days, which are a shadow of things to come**, but the body is of Christ.' (Colossians 2:16,17).

**Question:** What did the Sabbath shadow reveal or point to?

**Answer:** 'There remaineth therefore a rest (Sabbath meaning in Greek: '**Sabbatismos**', not 'sabbaton' meaning 'sabbath day') to the people of God. For he that hath entered into his rest, he also hath **ceased from his own works**, as God did from His. Let us labour therefore to enter into **THAT REST**, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief.' (Hebrews 4:8-11).

A true follower of Jesus Christ observes the spiritual Sabbath when he **daily ceases from his own works and desires**. We are exhorted to '**labour to enter into that rest**, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief.' **This is how we should observe the spiritual Sabbath today**. If we live each day as Christ would have us to, believing His promises, each day will be holy to the Lord.

We will enjoy a daily pilgrimage which will be revealed in a **denial of the flesh**, and of **service to God**.

## 6. **The Danger of Sabbath Keeping**

Insisting that we must observe the Sabbath day as Jews did, **turns our minds away** from the **spiritual lessons it was meant to teach us**. The first heresy introduced into Christian churches was an attempt to super-impose the Jewish law onto Christianity. These heretics taught that:

a) 'Except ye be **circumcised** after the manner of Moses, ye cannot be saved.' (Acts 15:1,5).

b) 'It was needful to command them (Gentiles) to **keep the law of Moses**.' (Acts 15:5).

This heresy was strongly rejected by the Apostles. They instructed Gentile believers:

'We have heard that certain....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 15:24).

The Apostles advised the Gentile believers in Acts 15:29 to:

a) abstain from meats offered to idols;

b) abstain from blood;

c) abstain from things strangled;

d) abstain from fornication.

**Question:** Why did the **Apostles say nothing** about commanding Gentile believers to observe the Sabbath? (v 29).

**Answer:** Because the **law was 'fulfilled' by Christ**, and the **Sabbath**, being a part of the Mosaic Law, was **done away with**. 'For Christ is the **end of the law** for righteousness to every one that believeth.' (Rom 10:4) 'If ye be led of the Spirit, ye are **not under the law**.' (Galatians 5:18).

**Note:** Paul taught that the observance of one day above another was a matter for **individual preference**: 'One man esteemeth one day above another: another esteemeth every day alike. Let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind.' (Romans 14:5).

The Jewish Christians wished to continue observing the Sabbath.

There was no harm in this, so long as:

a) They did not try to impose Sabbath restrictions on their fellow Gentile believers; or

b) They did not assume that their seventh day observance permitted them to avoid regular meetings established by the Apostles. (Acts 2:42).

It seems that some Jewish Christians were doing this, and elevating the Sabbath above the first day meeting established by Christ. This may have prompted Paul to rebuke the Hebrews to 'Forsake not the assembling of yourselves together as the manner of some is.' (Hebrews 10:25).

It was the idea of **adding the Mosaic Law with its Sabbath keeping** to the Gospel of faith in Christ, that started the Galatian apostasy rebuked by Paul:

'Ye **observe days**, and months, and times, and years. I am afraid of you, lest I have bestowed upon you labour in vain.' (Galatians 4:10,11).

The 'days' referred to the Jewish Sabbath, which some Jewish Christians were trying to introduce.

Paul told the Christians at Rome that they were free to set aside a day to God, so long as they didn't go beyond that by:

a) Demanding that **all** Christians should **keep the Sabbath** or **Mosaic Laws**, or

b) Teaching that **Sabbath keeping** and **Mosaic Law** keeping were **essential to salvation**.

Paul's sharp rebuke applies to both first century sabbatarians, and to modern SDAs.

## 7. **The Apostles Met Together on the First Day**

First century Christians met on the **first day** of the week (Sunday), not the **7th day** (Saturday):

a) 'Upon the **first day** of the week, when the disciples **came together** to break bread.' Acts 20:7.

b) 'Concerning the collection for the saints . . . upon the **first day** of the week let every one lay by him in store . . . that there be no gatherings when I come.' (I Corinthians 16:2).

This first day worship is fatal to SDA's Sabbath worship claim.

First day worship was to commemorate the day that Jesus rose from the grave. (John 20:1).

**Question:** What did the Apostles do on the seventh day?

**Answer:** They attended the synagogue to proclaim the risen Christ as Saviour to the Jews:

a) 'They came to Antioch in **Pisidia**, and went into the synagogue on the **Sabbath** day.' Acts 13:14.

b) 'They came to **Thessalonica**, where was a synagogue of the Jews: And Paul, as his manner was, went in unto them, and **three Sabbath days** reasoned with them.' (Acts 17:1,2).

c) 'Paul came to **Corinth**, . . . And he reasoned in the synagogue every Sabbath....' (Acts 18:1,4).

d) 'Paul . . . came to **Ephesus** . . . and he went into the synagogue, and spake boldly for the space of three months . . .' (Acts 19:1,8).

**Key Question:** Since the seventh day was given over to disputing with the Jews in the synagogue, on what day did the Apostles meet with believers for the Lord's Supper?

**Answer:** On the first day of the week.

**Note:** SDAs have completely **reversed** the Apostles' custom:

a) The **Apostles** used the **seventh** day rest by Jews to proclaim Christ to them.

On the **first** day they gathered with believers to remember the Lord and enjoy the Lord's Supper.

b) SDAs meet on the **seventh** day to strengthen each other in their beliefs.

They use the **first** day to proclaim their message to the world.

**SDA Objection:**

SDAs claim that Sunday worship came from Roman Catholicism when Constantine, the Roman Emperor, in 328AD passed a law commanding that the first day of the week should be kept as a holy day for all Christians.

**Answer:** In teaching this, they are either ignorant of history, or prejudice has blinded them to the facts:

a) Why was there **no protest** in 328AD to this supposed change by Constantine?

Because Christians had been keeping Sunday ever since the Apostles.

b) The early church writers (over 15) clearly show that since the Apostles, Christians always and only met on Sunday. For example:

i) **Ignatius**, a disciple of John (100AD): 'Those have come to newness of confidence, **no longer keeping Sabbaths**, but living according to the Lord's day.'

ii) **Justin Martyr** (140AD): 'Sunday is the day on which we all hold our common assembly.'

Hence, **Sunday assembling** dates back to Apostolic times, and was not instituted by Constantine, but he merely confirmed an existing practice.

## 8. Does God Change His Laws?

**SDA Objection:** SDAs claim that God does not change His laws, and that having laid down the Sabbath law, it is still binding today.

**Answer:** God has changed, removed or given new meaning to many of His laws, such as:

- The law of circumcision has been changed;
- He commanded animal sacrifices shortly after creation;
- He commanded yearly worship at the Temple of Jerusalem. (Exodus 34:21-23).

As these laws have been changed or given a new meaning, so has the Sabbath law.

### **Conclusion:**

- 'The law was our schoolmaster to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith. But after that faith is come, we are no longer under a schoolmaster.' (Galatians 3:24-25).
- Now that Christ has come, 'What purpose is the law?'  
**Answer:** 'Wherefore then serveth the law? It was added because of transgressions, TILL the seed (Christ) should come . . . ' (Galatians 3:19).
- Christ having come, has delivered us from the curse of the law (Galatians 3:13), and has brought us under his own glorious law ('not being without law to God, but under the law to Christ). ' (I Corinthians 9:21).
- This 'law of Christ' demands of us:
  - 'This is his commandment, That we should believe on the name of his Son Jesus Christ, and
  - love one another, as he gave us commandment.' (I John 3:23).

## 14. BACKGROUND OF HEBREWS 4:

### Israel's Exodus and Unbelief in the Wilderness

Hebrews 4 explains the danger of doubting and disbelieving God's Word, because of a hard heart that is insensitive to God's Word and work.

Four spiritual lessons are seen in Israel's journey to Canaan:

- Israel's bondage in Egypt illustrates a sinner's bondage to Satan and to this world.
- Israel's deliverance from Egypt by the blood of lambs and by God's power illustrates a sinner being saved from sin by the blood of the 'Lamb of God.'
- Israel's refusal to enter Canaan because they doubted God's promises (Numbers 13,14) illustrates some Christians missing God's best because they refuse to walk by faith in God's promises.
- Israel's entry to Canaan by crossing the Jordan, illustrates a believer dying to self and the world (Romans 6), and living by God's promises and claiming spiritual victories and inheritance in Christ (Ephesians 1:3,11,8-23).

Now we can understand what the wilderness wanderings represent.

**Key:** They illustrate the experiences of believers who will not claim their spiritual inheritance in Christ, who doubt God's Word, and live in restless unbelief. They don't enjoy God's best blessings. They are 'out of Egypt', but not yet 'in Canaan.'

The word 'rest' is mentioned in Hebrews 3:11,18; 4:1,3-5,8-11.

Two OT rests stated here are: first, the rest of salvation; then secondly the rest of submission.

**SDA Objection:** SDAs say that 'rest' (Greek: sabbatismos) in Hebrew 4:9 means 'keeping of a Sabbath' and that this proves we must keep the Saturday Sabbath.

'There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God.' (Hebrews 4:9).

**Answer:** The word 'rest' (Greek sabbatismos) in Hebrews 4:9 meaning 'keeping of a Sabbath' is different from the Greek word for 'Sabbath' being 'sabbaton.'

This word 'sabbatismos' occurs nowhere else in the NT.

'Sabbatismos' differs from the word 'Sabbath' or Greek word 'sabbaton' as follows:

	'Sabbaton' (Sabbath)	'Sabbatismos' (rest)
1	The time – sabbath day	The keeping or observance of it, the festival
2		It means a resting, heaven, a place of eternal rest with God

**Key:** "Sabbatismos" cannot mean the seventh day sabbath, because the writer would have used the usual word for 'sabbath' which is 'sabbaton.'

## THREE RESTS OF HEBREWS 4

The wilderness wanderings represent the experiences of believers who will not claim their spiritual inheritance in Christ, who doubt God's Word, and who live in restless unbelief.

Hebrews mentions three rests: two in the Old Testament; one in the New Testament:

- God's Sabbath Rest, when He ceased from His creation activities** (Genesis 2:2; Hebrews 4:4).  
'God did rest the seventh day from all His works.' (Hebrews 4:4). (**Salvation** rest).  
This Sabbath rest is a picture of our rest in Christ through salvation as we cease trusting our works to save us: 'For we which have believed do enter into rest.' (*katapausin*) (Hebrews 4:3).  
'Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.' (*anapauso*) (Matthew 11:28).  
When we come to Christ by faith, we find salvation rest. (Matthew 11:28).  
This is 'peace with God.' (Romans 5:1).
- Israel's Rest in Canaan** (Deuteronomy 12:9, Joshua 21:43-45; Hebrews 3:11). 'I was grieved with that generation ..so I swore in my wrath, they shall not enter into my rest.' (Hebrews 3:10,11).  
This Canaan rest is a picture of our present rest as we claim our inheritance in Christ through faith in God's Word as emphasised in Hebrews 4:11-13. It is living the faith-rest life by believing and resting in the promises in God's Word to handle all situations of life. It is the rest of submission.  
'Let us labour therefore to enter into that rest (*katapausin*) lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief. For the Word of God is . . . ' (Hebrews 4:11-13).  
The Canaan rest for Israel is a picture of the spiritual rest we find in Christ when we surrender to Him. When we yield to Christ, learn of Him and obey Him by faith, we enjoy submission rest. (Matthew 11:29-30).  
'Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest (*anapausin*) unto your souls.' (Matthew 11:29,30).  
This is the 'peace of God' in Philippians 4:6-8 'which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.'  
**Note:** It is by believing in Christ for salvation that we enter into rest. (Hebrews 4:3).  
It is by submitting to God in obedience and faith, and by surrendering to His will that God's rest enters into us.
- The Future Rest:** (*sabbatismos*<sup>4520</sup>) that all believers will enjoy with God. (**Eternal** rest).  
'There remaineth, therefore, a rest to the people of God.' (Hebrews 4:9).  
The Greek word for 'rest' here is '*sabbatismos*', meaning 'a keeping of a Sabbath.'  
This is the only place it occurs in the New Testament.  
It is definitely not referring to the weekly Sabbath because this word is '*sabbaton*' in Greek.  
When believers enter heaven, it will be a sharing of God's great eternal Sabbath rest, when all our labours and battles are ended:  
'Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth . . . that they may rest (*anapausontai*) from their labours; and their works do follow them.' (Revelation 14:13).  
Hence the '*sabbatismos*' rest (Hebrews 4:9) is a 'Sabbath keeping' used here to indicate the continual Sabbath-rest believers enjoy with the Father and the Son in the New Covenant, in contrast to the weekly Sabbath under the Mosaic Law Covenant.  
It is a divine rest that believers enter in their relationship with God on earth and in eternity future.  
**Key:** This is the rest believers will enjoy with God forever when our earthly work is finished.  
Therefore, the weekly Sabbath (*sabbaton*) is a symbol of that eternal rest (sabbatismos) we will enjoy at the completion of God's work and our work.  
(Source: *The Complete NT Word Study Dictionary*, S.Zodhiates, p.1268-70, 'sabbatismos' 4520).

## 15. DEBATE BETWEEN A CHRISTIAN AND AN SDA THAT:

'The New Testament teaches that the first day of the week (Sunday) as a day of worship is enforced upon God's people in the church age.'

**Christian 1:** Jesus nailed the Old Mosaic Law to the cross (Colossians 2:14). I do not believe that God changed the Sabbath from the seventh day to the first day. Sunday was never a Sabbath. It is simply the day of worship appointed by God for Christians in the Church Age.

Allow me to clarify what the issue is NOT:

- It is not whether Jesus observed the Sabbath. I agree that He did, because He lived under the Old Mosaic Law.
- It is not whether Paul preached on the Sabbath. Showing that someone preached on a particular day does not prove that this is the day that God wants His people to assemble for worship.
- It is not whether OT Jews observed the Sabbath. I agree that they did.  
The issue is whether the NT tells us that WE should observe the Sabbath day in this Church Age.
- It is not whether we are under 'law' today. I agree that Christians are under God's law.



Question: But which law are they under?

Answer: I contend that Christians are under **Christ's law**, not the law of Moses in any way whatsoever.

My **first argument** in defence of Sunday worship is found in I Corinthians 16:1,2.

Note here that the Corinthians were commanded to give on the '**first day** of the week.'

The Greek indicates that Paul is saying that they should give on 'the first day of **every** week.'

**Question 1:** Why would Paul instruct the Corinthians to give offerings on the first day of every week, unless the first day was to be devoted to God?

**Question 2:** If SDAs could find a Bible verse which says that Christians should take up a collection on the Sabbath day, would they use it as an argument to prove Sabbath day worship? Yes, surely. Would you use this? But Paul tells us to give on Sundays.

**Question 3:**

- Is giving to the church an act of worship? Yes.
- Could giving be done on Saturdays? If yes, then:
- Why did Paul give specific orders for giving to be done on the '**first day of the week**'?

(Answer: Because that was the only day the church met, and this proves that Sunday worship was commanded by Paul.)

'Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given **order** to the churches of Galatia, even so do ye. Upon the **first day** of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come.' (I Corinthians 16:1,2).

Notice this Sunday offering command of Paul's was an 'ORDER.'

Paul had also given this same order to all the churches of Galatia. (16:1).

Paul said that which he 'wrote' were the 'Commandments of God.' (I Corinthians 14:37).

There is only one day on which the NT commands Christians to give offerings, and that is Sunday, 'the first day of the week.'

**Question 4:**

- SDAs, do you lay by in store on the first day of every week?
- Upon which day of the week do SDAs give to their church?  
Answer: According to the *SDA Manual*, it is done on the seventh day of the week. (p108, 1951 edition).
- By what authority does the SDA church do this? Is there some passage I have overlooked which commands offerings to be made on the 7th day, Saturday? The SDA church gives offerings on the **last day** of the week. Paul said to give on the **first day** of the week.  
The SDA church has missed the day of worship by six days.
- The SDA Manual* says that: 'The offering is a vital part of the worship hour.' (p 102).  
**Note: If the offering is a part of worship, and if the offering was on Sunday, then worship also took place on Sunday.**
- Question:** Which will you deny: the inspired pen of Paul, or the *SDA Manual*?

**SDA Objection 1:** Paul is not discussing a public offering when the church assembled, but he is commanding a laying by in store at home, may be in cookie jars.

Answer: Paul said he wanted them to give, so that there would be no collections when he came.

The SDA objection is false, because, if they were storing up their offerings at home, then, when Paul came, the offerings would need to be collected from people's homes.

This would disobey Paul's command. Only if people gave weekly into a central treasury, would it be possible to obey Paul's command of 'no gatherings when I come.' (I Corinthians 16:2).

**Summary:**

- Paul gave '**ORDERS**' that a collection should be made on the **first day** of every week (Sunday). (I Corinthians 16:1,2).
- Offerings are a part of worship.
- Hence worship must take place on the **first day of the week**, Sunday not Saturday.

**Christian 2:** Mr SDA, you may say that Paul commanded this giving at home so that there would be an efficient collection when he arrived.

**Question:** Did you read what Paul said? Paul ordered them to lay by in store so that there would be **NO COLLECTIONS** when he came. You are saying that Paul ordered this so that there WOULD be a collection when he came.

If I Corinthians 16:1-3 is instructing them to lay by in store AT HOME, then there would be a collection when Paul came, because the offerings would need to be collected from people's homes. Since Paul wants **NO COLLECTIONS when he came**, it is obviously talking about an offering into one central treasury on each Sunday. This necessitated that they come together to give their offerings.

**Conclusion:** This proves that 1<sup>st</sup> Century Christians met on the first day of the week to give their offerings into one central treasury. Therefore, if giving is worship (as the *SDA Manual* teaches) and giving took place on Sundays, then meeting to worship took place on Sundays.

(If giving = worship, and giving is on Sundays, then worship was on Sundays).

**SDA Objection 2:** In 'lay by him in store', the word '**storing up**' (Greek: *thesaurizon*) refers to people laying money aside 'in each individual house until Paul came for it.'

Answer:

- Malachi 3:10 proves that 'storing up' was by weekly offerings into a central treasury.  
'Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house . . .'  
'Storehouse' is here defined as 'to store, lay up' (verb) or 'treasure, treasury, storehouse' (noun form) (*Theological Wordbook of OT*, 1:68). This is an exact parallel to Paul's usage in I Cor 16:2. The Jews of Malachi's time were to store up in one central 'treasury' (ie: God's house or temple). This was NOT a storing up at home, but in the temple treasury.
- II Corinthians 8,9 and I Corinthians 16:1-2 discuss the same collection.  
The *SDA Church Manual* uses II Corinthians 8,9 to prove regular contributions to the church (p 34, 181) which is a 'vital part of worship.' (p 108).  
If II Corinthians 8,9 and I Corinthians 16:1-2 refer to the same offerings, and if 2 Corinthians 8,9 is an act of worship, then the I Corinthians 16:1,2 offering also refers to worship.  
This day of worship is ordered to be on Sunday, the first day of the week.

**SDA Objection 3:** Some SDAs claim that 'by him' in 'every one of you lay by him' means giving 'at home by himself.'

Let us see what the passage really says:

- 'Upon the **first** day of the week' = Sunday. (Greek:  $\mu\iota\alpha\nu$  = one (3391)).
- 'Let **every** one of you' = giving was the common and universal duty of all believers, be they rich or poor.
- 'lay **by him**' = 'by himself' means that each person should decide to give a certain portion of money, when he is at home alone by himself, when he can calmly look at how God has prospered him. Let him decide how much to give, away from the influence of emotional appeals, or group pressure, or for public display, but prayerfully between him and God at home.
- 'in store' = let each give a designated amount into the common storehouse treasury each Sunday.
- 'as God hath prospered him' = according to his wealth.
- 'that there be no gatherings when I come' = give this money each Sunday, so it won't need to be collected off them when Paul comes. This proves that they didn't store it up at home, then give when Paul came.

The only way 'the first day of the week' could apply to EVERY person in EVERY church would be because Paul knew that Sunday was the day when EVERY person in EVERY church assembled together to worship God. 'As I have given **order** to the churches of Galatia, even so do ye.' (v.1).

**SDA Objection 4:** If Paul promoted Sunday keeping, why was there **no controversy** or **protest** between Paul and his Jerusalem brethren over Paul's abandonment of the Sabbath?

Answer: There was some controversy over the abandonment of the Sabbath by the Jews, as seen in 'let no man therefore judge you in . . . Sabbath days, which are a shadow of things to come.' (Colossians 2:16,17). Paul is saying, 'Don't let people judge you for not keeping Sabbath days, because the Sabbath is a shadow and you have been freed from observing the Mosaic law, now that you are under the law of Christ.'

### Questions to ask SDAs:

**Question 1:** If Christians must keep the Sabbath, why do we have **no example in the NT** where any church ever assembled on the Sabbath for worship? If there is such a case, please show me. You know that the Bible teaches by: a) direct command; b) example; c) implication. You won't allow God to teach us by the example of the churches at Troas, Galatia, Jerusalem and Corinth that God endorses Sunday worship (Acts 20:7; I Corinthians 16:1,2; John 20:19,26). You try to put God in a box when you demand a direct statement for Sunday keeping, yet you ignore the example of four churches that met for Sunday worship.

**Question 2:** If you found a NT passage which read like this: 'Upon the seventh day of the week, let every one of you lay by him in store', would you use this as proof of Sabbath day worship? SDAs would love to find such a passage. Sunday is the only day on which the NT orders the setting aside of money.

**Question 3:** Do you give money to the SDA church on Sunday, the first day of the week? No.

**Question 4:** On which day of the week do SDAs give to their church? Saturday.

**Question 5:** By what authority does the SDA church give on the 7<sup>th</sup> day of the week (Saturday)? Paul gave these 'orders' to the Galatian churches as well as to the Corinthian church. I Corinthians was written to all Christians. (1:2).

**Question 6:** How can this offering be a collection at people's homes, when Paul clearly said that he wanted them to give each Sunday, so there would be no collections when he came? If offerings were stored at people's homes, wouldn't they need to be collected when Paul came? Wouldn't this break his command of 'no gatherings when I come'?

**Question 7:** Is giving to the church an act of worship? Yes. What day did this take place? Sunday. Then doesn't this mean that Christians should meet for worship on Sunday as Paul commanded?

**Question 8:** Why did Paul command them to give on Sundays? Because that was the day when the first Century churches met for worship.

### Christian 3: SDA Objection 5:

Colossians 2:14 states that the Mosaic law was nailed to the cross. '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). SDAs dispute that 'ordinances' means 'Mosaic commandments.' Instead, they claim it refers to the 'written record of our sins', because they claim that neither the word 'law' nor its concept are found in Colossians.

**Answer:** The immediate and remote context show that Paul is discussing the Mosaic law in Coloss. 2:14.

- a) The immediate context mentions elements of the Mosaic law such as circumcision and uncircumcision (Colossians 2:11-13). It mentions 'festivals', 'new moons', 'Sabbaths', (Col. 2:16).
- 'Let no man judge you in meat, or in drink.' Jewish teachers tried to bind the Mosaic laws on them.
  - 'or in respect of an holyday.' Holyday is a Jewish feast or festival. No one had a right to impose Jewish feast observance on Christians, or to condemn them if they did not keep them. They had been delivered from that obligation by Christ's death.
  - 'or of the new moon': on the appearance of the new moon, Israel was required to offer to God 2 bullocks, 1 ram, 7 sheep and 1 meat offering (Numbers 10:10; 28:11-14), as well as the daily sacrifices. The new moon in the beginning of the month Tisri (October) was the beginning of the Jewish Civil year, and was commanded to be observed as a festival. (Leviticus 23:24,25).
  - 'or of Sabbath days'. The word 'Sabbath' in the OT, is applied not only to the seventh day, but to all the days of holy rest and festivals observed by Jews. This sounds like the Law of Moses language to me.
- b) He says 'festivals', 'new moons' and 'Sabbaths' (2:16) which are a 'shadow of things to come' (2:17). **Note:** 'Shadow' is used two other times in the book of Hebrews, and in each case it refers to the Law of Moses.

i) Hebrews 8:5 'every high priest is ordained to offer gifts and sacrifices . . . who serve unto the example and shadow of heavenly things, as Moses was admonished of God.'

ii) **Hebrews 10:1** 'For the law having a shadow of good things to come, and not the very image of the things, can never with those sacrifices make the comers thereunto perfect.'

Therefore the immediate context of Colossians 2:14 shows that Paul is discussing the Law of Moses being nailed to the cross.

- c) The remote context shows that Colossians 2:14 speaks of the Law of Moses being nailed to the cross. Ephesians 2:15 states that what was 'abolished in his flesh' was the 'law of commandments', which clearly refers to the Law of Moses. (Romans 7:8-13). 'Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances.' (Ephesians 2:15). Here in Ephesians 2:15 the 'Law of Moses commandments' is referred to as 'ordinances', which is the same word 'ordinances' used in Colossians 2:14. 'Ordinances' means 'decree, edict, law'. The 'enmity' means that Jesus Christ by His blood sacrifice has removed the enmity between Jews and Gentiles, as well as between the sinner and God, thus removing all obstacles to reconciliation between God and man. Here in Colossians 2:14 Paul discusses both the law and the penalty of the law being nailed to the cross.

The theme of this section is that Christians 'are "complete" in him'. (Colossians 2:10).

Jesus Christ is all that we need to:

- 1) be saved from sin and be justified in God's sight;
- 2) have wisdom to guide us;
- 3) give us grace to sustain us in trials and to fulfil our duties in life.

People need not go back to the Law of Moses, because Christ has nailed it to the cross. Therefore, why do we allow people to tell us we should observe Jewish festivals, new moons or Sabbaths? We are no longer under Moses' laws, but under the law of Christ.

Jesus said in Matthew 5:17,18 'Think not that I am come to destroy the law or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil . . . Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law till all be fulfilled'.

- This means that the Law of Moses would last up until its fulfilment. Christ fulfilled the law of Moses, therefore it has passed away.
- Christianity was not a continuation of Judaism. Jeremiah says, 'Behold the days come, saith the Lord, that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah: not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt.' (Jeremiah 31:31,32).

**Question:** Which covenant did God make with Israel when He led them out of Egypt?

**Answer:** I Kings 8:9 'There was nothing in the ark save the two tables of stone, which Moses put there at Horeb, when the Lord made a covenant with the children of Israel, when they came out of the land of Egypt'. The 10 Commandments were part of the Mosaic covenant.

**Key:** Jeremiah says that the new covenant would be 'NOT according' to the Mosaic Covenant.

Hebrews 8:7-13 clearly shows that Jeremiah 31:31-34 has been fulfilled in the first Century. Hebrews 8:13 says that the Old Mosaic Covenant, which includes the 10 Commandments, were made obsolete. 'A new covenant, he hath made the first old. Now that which decayeth and waxeth old is ready to vanish away.' Just as British laws' control over Australia and USA ceased at Independence, so Moses' laws control over mankind ceased when Christ fulfilled them on the cross.

**16. SABBATARIAN ARGUMENTS REFUTED**

1) True Proposition	SDA Argument
10 Commandments <b>are in</b> the old covenant.	10 Commandments are <b>not in</b> the old covenant
The 10 Commandments & the entire old covenant <b>were all abolished</b> when Christ died on the cross.	SDAs say, 'The old covenant that was abolished was <b>not</b> the 10 Commandments, and the 10 Commandments are still binding.'

I. **The following verses teach the above true proposition:**

- a) Hebrews 9:1,4 'Then verily the first covenant had . . . the tables of the covenant'.
- b) Deuteronomy 4:13 'And he declared unto you his covenant, which he commanded you to perform, even ten commandments; and he wrote them upon two tables of stone.'
- c) Deuteronomy 9:9 'When I was gone up into the mount to receive the tables of stone, even the tables of the covenant which the Lord made with you . . .'
- d) I Kings 8:9,21 'There was nothing in the ark save the two tables of stone, which Moses put there at Horeb, when the Lord made a covenant with the children of Israel . . .' (v 9). 'And I have set there a place for the ark, wherein is the covenant of the Lord, which he made with our fathers.' (v 21).
- e) II Chronicles 6:11 'in it I have put the ark, wherein is the covenant of the Lord, that he made with the children of Israel.'
- f) Exodus 34:28 'He wrote upon the tables the words of the covenant, the ten commandments.' Since the 10 Commandments are in the ark, and the covenant is in the ark, this equates the 10 Commandments with the old covenant.

II. The **Old Covenant** at Sinai included these parts:

- 1) Ark of the covenant: 'the tribe of Levi, to bear the ark of the covenant of the Lord.' (Deut. 10:8).
- 2) Tables of the covenant: 'to receive the tables of stone, even the tables of the covenant.' (Deut. 9:9)
- 3) Book of the covenant: 'keep the passover...as it is written in the book of this covenant.' (II Kings 23:21; Exodus 24:7).
- 4) Curses of the covenant: 'according to all the curses of the covenant . . .' (Deuteronomy 29:21).
- 5) Blood of the covenant: 'Behold the blood of the covenant, which the Lord hath made with you concerning all these words.' (Exodus 24:8).  
These were all abolished at the cross, including the tablets of stone, the Ten Commandments.

III. The **Old Covenant** that was abolished is called:

- 1) **The First Covenant** (Hebrews 8:7).
  - 2) **The Old Testament** (II Cor. 3:14) 'the old testament; which veil is done away in Christ.'
  - 3) **The Law** (Galatians 3:17) 'the covenant, that was confirmed before of God in Christ, the law, which was 430 years after, cannot disannul that it should make the promise of none effect.' This means, the Mosaic law cannot disannul the Abrahamic Covenant.
  - 4) **The Middle wall of partition** (Ephesians 2:14) 'hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us.'
  - 5) **The enmity** (Ephesians 2:15) 'Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments.'
  - 6) **The law of commandments** (Ephesians 2:15).
  - 7) **The handwriting of ordinances** (Colossians 2:14) 'Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross.'
  - 8) **The shadow of things to come** (Colossians 2:17).
  - 9) **The yoke of bondage** (Galatians 5:1) 'be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage.'
  - 10) **The ministration of death** (II Corinthians 3:7).
  - 11) **The ministration of condemnation** (II Corinthians 3:9).
  - 12) **Mount Sinai** (Galatians 4:25) 'which gendereth to bondage.'
  - 13) **The Ten Commandments** (Exodus 34:28) 'the words of the covenant, the ten commandments.'
  - 14) **The Law of Moses**.
- IV. The **New Covenant** that replaced the Old Covenant is called:
- 1) **The New Testament** (Mark 14:24) 'This is my blood of the new testament.'
  - 2) **The Better Covenant** (Hebrews 8:6) 'he is the mediator of a better covenant.'
  - 3) **The New Covenant** (Hebrews 8:8) 'I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel.'

- 4) **The Second Covenant** (Hebrews 8:7) 'if that first covenant had been faultless, then should no place have been sought for the second.'
- 5) **The Everlasting Covenant** (Hebrews 13:20) 'the blood of the everlasting covenant.'
- 6) **The Law of Faith** (Romans 3:27) 'By what law? Of works? Nay: but by the law of faith.'
- 7) **The Faith** (Galatians 3:23) 'But before faith came, we were kept under the law, shut up unto the faith which should afterwards be revealed.'
- 8) **A Covenant of Peace** (Ezekiel 34:25) 'I will make with them a covenant of peace . . .'

2) True Proposition	SDA Argument
Colossians 2:14-16 shows that the weekly Sabbath day <b>is</b> taken away and nailed to the cross.	The Sabbath day in Colossians 2:16 is <b>not</b> the weekly Sabbath day, but the monthly or yearly Sabbaths.

**Answer:** The **Sabbath day** in Colossians 2:16 **is** the weekly Sabbath that was **nailed to the cross** because:

- I. The **'handwriting of ordinances'** in Colossians 2:14 refers to the **10 Commandments**, including the **Sabbath day** because **'contrary to us'** here means the same as **'ministration of death'** in II Cor 3:7.

Colossians 2:14	II Corinthians 3:7
'Blotting out the <u>handwriting of ordinances</u> (10 Commandments), that was against us, which was <b>contrary to us</b> , and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross.'	'But if the <u>ministration of death</u> , written and <u>graven in stones</u> (10 Commandments) was glorious.'

SDAs have overlooked the fact that the 10 Commandments were called a 'ministration of death.'

**Question:** What is the difference between 'contrary to us' and 'ministration of death'?

**Answer:** They mean essentially the **same thing**: 'contrary' in Greek means 'an adversary opposed against us.' (5227 in Strong's Concordance).

- II. The **Year, Month, Day progression in Colossians 2:16** proves it refers to a **seventh day Sabbath** because of similar expressions used elsewhere which also mean seventh day Sabbath, as seen below:

Weekly Sabbath Day in Colossians 2:16 is nailed to the cross				
	Yearly	Monthly	Weekly	
Colossians 2:16	Holy day	New moon	Sabbath days	'Let no man judge you . . . in respect of an <u>holyday</u> (yearly) or of the <u>new moon</u> or of the <u>Sabbath days</u> .'
Galatians 4:10	Years	Months	Days	'Ye observe <u>days, months &amp; times &amp; years</u> '
I Chronicles 23:31	Set feasts	New moons	Sabbaths	'to offer all burnt sacrifices..in the <u>Sabbaths</u> , in the <u>new moons</u> , and on the <u>set feasts</u> .'
II Chronicles 31:3	Set feasts	New moons	Sabbaths	'burnt offerings for the <u>Sabbaths</u> , the <u>new moons</u> , and the <u>set feasts</u> . . .'
II Chronicles 2:4	Solemn feasts	New moons	Sabbaths	'for the burnt offerings morning & evening, on the <u>Sabbaths</u> , and on the <u>new moons</u> , and on the <u>solemn feasts</u> of the Lord our God.'
II Chronicles 8:13	Solemn feasts	New moons	Sabbaths	'offering according to the commandment of Moses, on the <u>Sabbaths</u> , and on the <u>new moons</u> , and on the <u>solemn feasts</u> , three times in the year, even in the feast of unleavened bread, . . .weeks.. tabernacles.'
Nehemiah 10:33	Set feasts	New moons	Sabbaths	'for the continual burnt offering, of the <u>Sabbaths</u> , of the <u>new moons</u> , for the <u>set feasts</u>
Ezekiel 45:17	Feasts	New moons	Sabbaths	'it shall be the prince's part to give burnt offerings, & meat offerings, & drink offerings, in the <u>feasts</u> , & in the <u>new moons</u> , & in the <u>Sabbaths</u>
Hosea 2:11	Feast days	New moons	Sabbaths	'I will cause all her mirth to cease, her <u>feast days</u> , her <u>new moons</u> , her <u>Sabbaths</u> .'

III. The Greek plural '**sabbaton**' in Colossians 2:16 refers to the **Sabbath**, in the same way that the same Greek word 'sabbaton' refers to the **weekly Sabbath** in these other references:

Text	'Sabbaton' plural in Greek
Colossians 2:16	'Let no man judge you in . . . Sabbath days' (sabbaton).
Matthew 28:1	'In the end of the Sabbath (sabbaton), . . .'
Luke 4:16	'he went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day (sabbaton) . . .'
Acts 16:13	'And on the Sabbath (sabbaton) we went out of the city.'
Exodus 20:8 (Septuagint)	'Remember the Sabbath day (sabbaton) . . .'

IV. The lack of the Greek definite article before 'Sabbath' in Colossians 2:16 refers to the Sabbath, just as the lack of the Greek definite article in these verses refers to the weekly Sabbath:

Text	Seventh Day Sabbath Lacks Greek Definite Article
Matthew 28:1	'In the end of the Sabbath'
John 5:9	'On the same day was the Sabbath'
John 5:10	'The Jews said, It is the Sabbath day'
John 5:16	'he had done these things on the Sabbath day'

3) True Proposition	SDA Argument
The Sabbath law is <b>not</b> a moral law. The other 9 commandments are moral laws.	The Sabbath law <b>is</b> a moral law because it is in the 10 Commandments.

Answer: The Sabbath law is **not a moral law** because:

- I. If the Sabbath law is moral, then **why were the priests allowed to profane it?**  
'Have ye not read in the law, how that on the Sabbath days the priests in the temple profane the Sabbath, and are blameless?' (Matthew 12:5; Numbers 28:9,10).  
'on the seventh day, they compassed the city after the same manner seven times.' Joshua 6:15.  
This journey around Jericho seven times, was more than a Sabbath day's journey.  
This was commanded by God.
- II. If the Sabbath is moral, then **why did God grow weary of them keeping it?**
  - God never said he was weary of them 'NOT stealing' or 'NOT committing adultery.'
  - But God could not bear their keeping the Sabbath:  
'the new moons and Sabbaths, the calling of the assemblies, I cannot (endure) away with; it is iniquity, even the solemn meeting. Your new moons and your appointed feasts my soul hateth, they are a trouble unto me; I am weary to bear them.' (Isaiah 1:13,14).  
This is never said of any moral command anywhere in the Bible!  
Think about it. Consider this simple logic:
    - a) God **NEVER** grows weary of men keeping moral laws;
    - b) God **DID** grow weary of men keeping the 4<sup>th</sup> Commandment (Sabbath law);
    - c) Therefore the Sabbath is **not** a moral law!
- III. If the Sabbath law was a **moral law intended for all mankind**, then **why did God NEVER charge the Gentiles with breaking it?** God charges the Gentiles many times for breaking all the 9 moral commandments on the tablets of stone (eg: idolatry, baby murder), but **NEVER ONCE** says anything about them breaking the Sabbath. This proves that the Sabbath is not inherently moral, but just another ceremonial law given **ONLY** to the Jews.

#### Sabbatarian Arguments

The Sabbath law is moral because:

1. Violation was punishable by death. (Exodus 31:15; 35:2).

Answer: All the following ceremonial or non-moral infractions brought death.

Hence the **Sabbath law is ceremonial** as well because:

- 1) Aaron's sons (**Nadab** and **Abihu**) were killed for violating a ceremonial law when offering incense to Jehovah. (Leviticus 10:1-5).

- 2) For disobeying ceremonial commands of any priest 'the man that will do presumptuously, and will not hearken to the priest, or unto the judge, even that man shall die.' Deuteronomy 17:12.
- 3) For touching Mount Horeb 'whosoever toucheth the mount shall be surely put to death.' (Exodus 19:12)
- 4) For unauthorized entry by Aaron into the holy place of the tabernacle.  
'Speak unto Aaron thy brother, that he come not at all times into the holy place within the veil before the mercy seat, which is upon the ark, that he die not . . . ' (Leviticus 16:2).
- 5) For looking into the Ark. 'And he smote the men of Bethshemesh, because they had looked into the ark of the Lord . . . ' (1 Samuel 6:19).
- 6) For not keeping the Sabbath day. 'Ye shall keep the Sabbath; for it is holy unto you: every one that defileth it shall surely be put to death.' (Exodus 31:14).

2. The Sabbath law is moral because it was spoken by God personally.

Answer: This is false because God spoke personally on many other issues which are no longer binding on Christians, such as:

- 1) God spoke personally to many such as Adam, Cain, Noah, Abraham, Jacob and Moses regarding burnt offerings, yet these are not binding on Christians today.
- 2) God personally spoke many altar, sacrifice and offering laws to Moses at the same time that He gave the 10 Commandments. (Exodus 20:21-26).
- 3) God spoke personally to Abram about the law of circumcision, yet this is not binding on Christians today.  
The Bible nowhere teaches that things spoken or written personally by God are binding on all people for all time.

3. The Sabbath is inherently moral and sacred of itself.

Answer: This is false because the Sabbath was sanctified only because God rested on that day, not because it was inherently moral or sacred. The day itself did not make it holy. Resting on it did not make it holy. But God blessing and hallowing it did make it holy. The Sabbath day's holiness did not come from its own nature. It was no more inherently holy than any other Jewish holy day that God blessed and set apart in the Law of Moses. Since other Jewish holy days that God blessed and set apart, are not binding on Christians, neither is the Sabbath.

4) True Proposition	SDA Argument
10 Commandments and the Sabbath law <u>did not exist</u> before Moses.	10 Commandments <u>existed</u> from the Garden of Eden.

Answer:

- I. Even if the Sabbath was given to Adam, this does not mean Christians must keep it, because God also gave sacrificial offering laws to Adam (after expulsion from Eden).  
This SDA argument proves nothing.
- II. The 10 Commandments or Sabbath law did not exist before Moses, because of these reasons:
  - 1) God **revealed** or **made known** the Sabbath law and 10 Commandments to Israel at Mount Sinai. He did not remind them:  
'Thou **made known** unto them thy holy Sabbath, and commanded them precepts, statutes and laws, by the hand of Moses thy servant.' (Nehemiah 9:13,14). This verse is bad news for SDA's.
  - 2) **Israelite leaders before Moses did not keep the Sabbath.**  
'The Lord our God **made** a covenant with us in Horeb. (1491BC).  
The Lord made **not** this covenant with our fathers, but with us, even us, who are all of us here alive this day.' (Deuteronomy 5:2,3). (1451BC).  
Adam, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and Joseph knew nothing about Sabbath keeping.
  - 3) The Sabbath law came 430 years after the Abrahamic Covenant:  
'the law, which was 430 years **after** (Abraham).' (Galatians 3:17).  
This shows that Abraham never knew about the Sabbath law.
  - 4) No-one before the Exodus (Exodus 16) ever knew about the Sabbath law.  
'I caused them to go forth out of the land of Egypt . . .  
I gave them my Sabbaths, to be a sign between me and them...' (Ezekiel 20:10,12).
  - 5) The word 'Sabbath' is not found in the book of Genesis.

- 6) The word 'Sabbath' is first mentioned in Exodus 16:22-23. Exodus 16:23-30 indicate that Israel was not used to keeping the Sabbath day before this time. It was a new experience for them: 'And it came to pass, that on the sixth day they gathered twice as much **bread**...and all the rulers of the congregation came and told Moses. (v 22). And he said unto them, this is that which the Lord hath said, Tomorrow is the rest of the holy Sabbath unto the Lord: bake that which ye will bake today, and see that which ye will see; that which remaineth over lay up for you to be kept until the morning.' (Exodus 16:22,23).  
**Question:** If God's people had kept the Sabbath since Adam, why did Moses here need to tell the rulers that tomorrow was the Sabbath and how they should keep it? **Answer:** Because the Israelites here were equally unfamiliar with BOTH manna and with the Sabbath.
- 7) **Question:** SDAs argue that since 'Sabbaths' in Ezekiel 20:10-12 ('I gave them my Sabbaths') is plural it cannot refer to the weekly Sabbath.  
**Answer:** This SDA view is **WRONG** because:  
 a) The weekly Sabbath is plural in Exodus 31:13,17, 'Verily **my Sabbaths** ye shall keep . . . for in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, . . .'  
 b) Both singular and plural are used for the weekly Sabbath in:
- **Leviticus 19:3** ' . . . keep my Sabbaths.'
  - **Leviticus 23:38** 'beside the Sabbaths of the Lord.'
  - **Isaiah 56:2,4** 'that keepeth the Sabbaths from polluting it . . . unto the eunuchs that keep my Sabbaths . . .'
  - **Matthew 12:5** 'on the Sabbath days the priests in the temple profane the Sabbath, and are blameless?'
  - **Matthew 12:10** 'Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath days?'
  - **Acts 17:2** 'Paul . . . three Sabbath days reasoned with them.'

III. There is no record or hint that anyone before Exodus Chapter 16 kept the Sabbath.

**Question:** If God instructed the Patriarchs concerning:

- Offerings (Genesis 4:3-4);
- Altars (Genesis 8:20),
- Priests (Genesis 8:20),
- Tithes (Genesis 14:20),
- Circumcision (Genesis 17:10),
- Marriage (Genesis 2:24; 34:9).

Why would He omit mentioning the 'all important' Sabbath command?

IV. The Sabbath was not a part of God's eternal law in heaven before creation, because the time that God sanctified it was AFTER the creation week.

**Note:** God rested on the 7<sup>th</sup> day, then AFTER His 7<sup>th</sup> day rest, God sanctified it, not before in heaven. 'God rested on the seventh day, God blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it.' (Genesis 2:2,3).

- a) Genesis was written during the time of Moses, not before. Neither Adam, nor Abraham had the book of Genesis. The Israelites in the wilderness were the first people God told about the Sabbath day. Genesis 2:2 tells us the reason, not the time that God sanctified the Sabbath.  
 b) Another example like this is that Christ was chosen as the sacrificial lamb before the foundation of the world (I Peter 1:20; II Timothy 1:4), but specific details were not revealed until 4000 years later when Christ was born. The Father set Jesus apart as the sacrifice long before He actually gave Him to die on Calvary.

V. The Sabbath would be inappropriate for Adam while in the Garden of Eden, because:

- 1) There was no weariness, sickness, or death in Eden before the Fall. Hard labour that required rest only existed after Adam sinned, not before. (Genesis 3:19).
- 2) The only two commandments that God gave Adam before the Fall were to:  
 a) Dress and keep the Garden (Gen 2:15). b) Not eat of the fruit of the tree of knowledge (Gen. 2:16,17).
- 3) 'servants and strangers within thy gates' (Exodus 20:10) would make no sense to Adam in Eden regarding the Sabbath, because he had no servants or strangers. Hence the 4<sup>th</sup> Commandment would not be given to Adam.

VI...The Sabbath was not sanctified on Day 6, but is an example of '**Prolepsis**'.

**Definition:** 'the representation of something in the future as if it already existed or had occurred.' (*Webster's Dictionary*); 'assumption that something is done or true before it is so.' (*Oxford Dictionary*). When Moses wrote Genesis to the Jews, He stated the reason for Jews keeping the Sabbath is in Genesis 2:2,3. This reason was only revealed to the Exodus generation of Israel in 1491BC (Exodus 20:8,11): 'Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the Lord blessed the seventh day and hallowed it.' Examples of prolepsis are as follows:

- 1) 'Adam called his wife's name Eve; because she was the mother of all living.' (Genesis 3:20). (This is said before Cain's birth).
- 2) 'Adah bare Jabal. He was the father of such as dwell in tents, and of such as have cattle.' (Genesis 4:20). (This was before he had tents or cattle).
- 3) 'His brother's name was Jubal: he was the father of all such as handle the harp and organ.' (Genesis 4:21). (Those handling harp and organ had not been born at that time).
- 4) 'Judas Iscariot, who also betrayed him.' (Matthew 10:4). (The betrayal did not occur until three years later.)
- 5) 'It was that Mary which anointed the Lord with ointment.' (John 11:1,2). (Mary's anointing did not take place until later in John 12:3).
- 6) 'Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife.' (Genesis 2:24). (There were no fathers or mothers at that time.)

5) True Proposition	SDA Argument
Matthew 5:17,18 is fulfilled by Christ <u>fulfilling the OT prophecies</u> and <u>offerings</u> about the Messiah.	Christ came to fulfil the law, <u>not to destroy it</u> . (Matthew 5:17-18).

Matthew 5:17-18 'Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil. For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.'

**Actual Sabbatarian Argument** 'Because heaven and earth are still here, so God's laws (meaning the 10 Commandments) are still binding.'

An SDA preacher actually wrote the following about a talk he had with a Christian minister: 'I remember talking to a preacher about this. He was getting more and more angry as we discussed this issue. For some reason this topic conjures up some strange emotions! Must be because some people know they're not teaching all the truth! At any rate I had given over 40 verses establishing God's law and the preacher clung to his two or three verses trying to say the law was abolished. Then I said, "Okay preacher, I'll tell you what, stomp your foot on the ground." As he did I asked, "Is the earth still beneath you?" "Yes of course it is," he replied. "Now look out the window, is the sun shining?" "Yes", he said. "At night do the moon and stars still come out?" "Of course they do," he said. "Then read Matthew 5:17-19. Jesus said till heaven and earth pass away not even a jot or tittle could pass from the law. You just told me heaven and earth were still here so God's law is still binding!" (*Revelation Seminar* book).

**Answers:**

1. Jesus did not say that the '10 Commandments' would endure forever, but that the 'Law and the Prophets' would endure forever, as a record that Christ fulfilled their Messianic prophecies.

**Question:** What does this verse mean?

We must also define the terms 'law', 'prophets', and 'fulfil.'

- **The Law:** To the Jews, this was the first division of the OT, known as the 5 books of Moses.
- **The Prophets:** This was the second and largest part of the Hebrew Scriptures.
- **To fulfil:** To fill up or accomplish what was predicted in the OT.

**Answer:** As Christ was starting His public ministry, He needed to state what He came to do. By setting up as a teacher in opposition to the Scribes and Pharisees, some might charge Him with intending to destroy their law, and abolishing Israel's customs.

Jesus was saying that He did not come to do away with or destroy the authority of the OT.

- a) The Law of Moses contained many sacrifices, rites and types that spoke of the Messiah's life, person and work. These were fulfilled during Christ's life, ministry, sacrificial death, burial and resurrection.

b) The Prophets contained many prophecies of His life and death, which were fulfilled and accomplished during His time on earth. Hence Christ fulfilled the Law by obeying it perfectly, and by fulfilling the Prophets' prophecies of the Messiah.

2. 'JOT and TITTLE' indicate much **more than** the 10 Commandments.

The smallest jot and tittle of the law and prophets refer to the entire OT law, including all the ceremonial laws. According to SDA logic, this verse proves that we must still keep the ceremonial jots and tittles.

**Question:** Would SDAs want us to keep all the ceremonial laws?

**SDA reply:** No because they've all passed away.

**You:** So have the 10 Commandments been replaced by the law of Christ in the New Covenant.

3. Christ said, 'I came to fulfil'; He did not say 'I came to perpetuate.'

**Questions for SDAs:**

- i) Did Jesus come to fulfil the Law of Moses? (They will say 'Yes').
- ii) Was the Law of Moses abolished when Jesus fulfilled it? (They will say 'Yes').
- iii) Did Jesus fulfil the law and the prophets? (Yes).
- iv) Then doesn't this mean that the Mosaic laws have passed away because they have been fulfilled in Jesus Christ?

**Note:** Christ clearly did change the 'Law and the Prophets.'

'For the priesthood being changed, there is made of necessity a **change also of the law**.'

(Hebrews 7:12). (See Galatians 3:23-24).

4. **SDA Objection:** It is easier for heaven and earth to pass, than one tittle of the law to fail.' Luke 16:17

**Answer:** None of the law of Moses did fail. Christ fulfilled it 100%.

5. **Questions for SDAs:**

- i) Why did Jesus come? (To fulfil the law and the prophets).
- ii) Was Jesus successful in His mission to fulfil the law? (Yes).
- iii) What happens when Jesus fulfils the law and the prophets? (Only then will the law be destroyed).

6. SDAs argue that 'fulfil' (4137 in Strong's) does not mean 'end' in Matthew 5:17,18, because 'fulfil' does not mean 'end' in Matthew 3:15 'thus it becometh us to fulfil all righteousness'. SDAs say 'See! Righteousness did not end when Jesus was baptised.'

**Answer:** The verses are not parallel to each other. Compare them:

'One jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.' (Matthew 5:18).

Jesus did not say in Matthew 3:15 that: 'all righteousness shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.' But He did say that the law would pass when it was fulfilled by using the phrase 'TILL all be fulfilled.' The word 'TILL' means that the law would pass when it was fulfilled, which occurred by Christ's death, burial, resurrection and ascension.

**Note:** The word 'fulfil' in Matthew 5:18 is used in the same sense in Matthew 24:34.

'This generation shall not pass, till all these things be fulfilled.'

6) True Proposition	SDA Argument
The 10 Commandments are <u>only for Israel</u> .	The 10 Commandments are <u>for all mankind forever</u>

I. If the Sabbath law was a moral law intended for all mankind, then:

**Question:** Why did God NEVER charge the Gentiles with breaking it?

God often charges the Gentiles with breaking all of the 9 moral commandments (eg: Romans 1:29 covet, murder, false witness, haters of God, disobedient to parents), but never once charges them with breaking the Sabbath. Why? This proves the Sabbath law is just another ceremonial law given only to the Jews.

II. How could people living in the Arctic Circle keep the Sabbath from sunset to sunset, when these regions have six months of the year daylight and the next six months of darkness? (See *World Book Encyclopedia* under 'Day'.)

III. The very words of the 10 Commandments show that they were meant **ONLY for the Jews:**

1. God didn't bring my ancestors out of Egyptian bondage. 'I am the Lord thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.' Exodus 20:2.
2. Since the Sabbath is a sign between God and Israel, non-Jews are not required to keep it.
3. God has not given me the promised land of Canaan. 'Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee.' Exodus 20:12.

7) True Proposition	SDA Argument
We are <u>now under a different law</u> , the law of Christ.	If the 10 Commandments were abolished, we could murder, steal and commit adultery.

**SDA Argument:** 'If a preacher tells you the law is done away, go to his church, break the 8<sup>th</sup> Commandment and steal his offering. You'll quickly find out that the law is not done away.'

**Answers:**

1. This favourite SDA argument is deceptive and false by implying that if we don't listen to Moses, then there are **no other laws** to guide us.

**Illustration:** A country may change its laws over time. Also, as you travel from one country to another, you find yourself living under different laws. For example:

Examples	Obsolete Law	Present Law
Australia	Colonial days living under British laws.	After Independence and Federation (1901) living under Australia's own laws.
USA	Confederation of 1781-87	Constitution of 1787 to today.
Canada	Constitution of 1867-1981	Constitution of 1981 to today.
Bible	Law of Moses/10 Commandments from Mount Sinai to the Cross.	Law of Christ/New Covenant from Cross to 2 <sup>nd</sup> Coming.

Just because the Mosaic Law is obsolete and abolished, does not mean that we are without law.

**We now live under a new and better law, the Law of Christ** contained in the New Covenant. (Gal. 6:2).

2. Also, **all the moral laws** in the 10 Commandments and the Old Covenant are **brought over** and expanded in the New Covenant Law of Christ.

3.

	The Old Covenant. 10 Commandments. (Done away, nailed to the cross)	The New Covenant. The Law of Christ.
1	No other gods beside me.	Brought forward into New Covenant (I Thess. 1:9). 'Ye turned to God from idols to <b>serve</b> the living & true God
2	No graven images.	Brought forward into New Covenant (Galatians 5:20). 'works of flesh . . . idolatory.'
3	Don't take God's name in vain.	Brought forward into New Covenant (I Timothy 1:20). 'That they may learn not to blaspheme.'
4	Six days shall you work, but the 7 <sup>th</sup> day is the Sabbath.	<b>Still nailed to the cross (Colossians 2:14-17). Never brought forward. No NT command to keep Sabbath.</b>
5	Honour your father and mother.	Brought forward into New Covenant (Ephesians 6:1-3). 'Honour thy father and mother.'
6	Don't kill.	Brought forward into New Covenant. (Galatians 5:21). 'Works of flesh . . . murders.'
7	Don't commit adultery.	Brought forward into New Covenant. (Galatians 5:19). 'works of flesh . . . adultery.'
8	Don't steal.	Brought forward into New Covenant. (Ephesians 4:28). 'Let him that stole <b>steal no more, let him work to give</b> .'
9	Don't bear false witness.	Brought forward into New Covenant. (Ephesian 4:25). 'Putting away lying, <b>speaking every man the truth</b> .'
10	Don't covet.	Brought forward into New Covenant. (Ephesians 5:5). 'Nor covetous man who is an idolator.'

8) True Proposition	SDA Argument
The <b>Royal law</b> is stated in James 2:8 'Thou shalt <b>love thy neighbour as thyself</b> .' (Leviticus 19:18).	The <b>Royal law</b> of James 2:8-12 is the <b>10 Commandments law</b> .

<sup>8</sup>If ye fulfil the royal law according to the Scripture, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself, ye do well:

<sup>9</sup>But if ye have respect to persons, ye commit sin, and are convicted of the law as transgressors.

<sup>10</sup>For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all.

<sup>11</sup>For he that said 'Do not commit adultery', said also 'Do not kill'.

Now if thou commit no adultery, yet if thou kill, thou art become a transgressor of the law.

<sup>12</sup>So speak ye, and do, as they that shall be judged by the law of liberty.' (James 2:8-12).

#### Answer:

The Royal law is royal because it is considered to be the King of Laws, and because it is important among other laws, as a King is prominent among other men. This law should govern human affairs, as a king rules his subjects. We must regard all people as our neighbours and treat them fairly as we ourselves want to be treated. The commandments against adultery and killing were violations of our neighbour's worth, which supported James' rebuke of those showing favouritism due to rank, birth or wealth.

v.10: Guilty of the whole law means far more than just the 10 Commandments; it means all the law of God, all that God requires, including all NT laws not contained in the 10 Commandments (eg: not suing other Christians, homosexuality, etc). James is saying in v.10 'he is guilty of all', that one act of disobedience, makes it impossible to be saved by the law. His acts of obedience in other areas will not offset or screen him from the penalty of violating one law.

The 'law of liberty' is not the 10 Commandments because the 10 Commandments are called:

- a 'yoke of bondage' or slavery. (Galatians 5:1).
- b) 'yoke . . . which neither our fathers nor we were able to bear.' (Acts 15:10).

Only SDAs could call the 10 Commandments a 'Law of Liberty', where other NT verses describe them as 'a schoolmaster', a 'prison' that shuts people up (Galatians 2:23,24), a yoke of slavery (Galatians 5:1) and an unbearable yoke. (Acts 15:10).

The law of liberty comes from the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus, which makes us free from the law of sin and death. (Romans 8:2-4). This liberty comes as we 'walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit' by yielding to the Holy Spirit daily. James states that he who habitually feels that he will be judged by a law where he can be and should be free from the bondage of sin, has one of the strongest inducements to lead a holy life. (v.12).

9) True Proposition	SDA Argument
a) Jesus did <b>NOT</b> say, 'Keep the 10 Commandments.' b) Jesus' commandments are <b>NOT</b> Moses' 10 Commandments.	Jesus said, ' <b>Keep my Commandments</b> '. (SDAs read this as the 10 Commandments of Moses, especially keep the Saturday Sabbath).

Some verses that SDAs use to teach that we must keep the 10 Commandments are:

1. **John 14:15** 'If ye love me, keep my commandments.'
2. **John 14:21** 'He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me.'
3. **I John 2:3** 'And hereby do we know that we know him, if we keep his commandments.'
4. **I John 5:2** 'By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God, and keep his commandments.'
5. **II John 6** 'And this is love, that we walk after his commandments.'
6. **Revelation 12:17** 'The dragon . . . went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God . . .'
7. **Revelation 14:12** 'here are they that keep the commandments of God . . .'

#### Answer:

1. Jesus did **NOT** say 'Keep the 10 Commandments.'  
a) He said, 'Keep **MY** commandments', which **far exceed** the 10 Commandments.  
b) John said, 'Keep his commandments', which are explained in I John 3:23,24.  
'And this is his commandment, That we should **believe** on the name of his Son Jesus Christ, and **love one another** as he gave us commandment.'

- c) He said, 'Keep the commandments,' which includes the NT commandments, not Moses' commandments.
2. **Jesus' Commandments are NOT Moses' 10 Commandments.**  
**Question:** What are Jesus' commandments?  
a) 'If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love . . . This is my commandment, That ye **love one another**, as I have loved you.' (John 15:10-12).  
b) Jesus' commandments are **Paul's writings**: 'If any man think himself to be a prophet or spiritual, let him acknowledge that the **things that I write unto you** are the commandments of the Lord.' (I Corinthians 14:37).  
c) Jesus' teachings in the Gospels: 'Teaching them to observe **all things whatsoever I have commanded you**.' (Matthew 28:20).  
d) The **Apostles' commandments**: 'That ye may be mindful of . . . the commandments of **us** the apostles of the Lord and Saviour.' (2 Peter 3:2).

10) True Proposition	SDA Argument
The <b>Sabbath law is never quoted in the NT</b> . Colossians 2:14-16 says it is to be abolished after the cross.	The <b>NT quotes several of the 10 Commandments</b> proving that <b>all 10 are binding today</b> , including the Sabbath.

#### Key Answer:

**The 10 Commandments are discussed in Hebrews 9:1-4 and in II Corinthians 3:2-11.**

- They are said to be **part of the first covenant**, which was **abolished** and replaced by the new covenant.
- a) II Corinthians 3:3,7,11 'Ye are the epistle of Christ . . . written . . . not in tables of stone, but in fleshly tables of the heart. (v.3). 'But if the ministration of death, written and **engraven in stones**, was glorious . . . which glory was to be **done away**.' (v.7).  
'For if that which is **done away** is glorious, much more that which remaineth is glorious.'
  - b) Hebrews 9:1-4 'Then verily the **first covenant** had . . . the **tables of the covenant**.'  
Hebrews 10:9 'He **taketh away the first** (Mosaic Covenant including the 10 Commandments), that he may establish the second (New Covenant with the Law of Christ).
  - c) Hebrews 8:13 'In that he saith, A new covenant, he hath made the **first old**.  
Now that which decayeth and waxeth old, is **ready to vanish away**.'  
(by the destruction of the Temple in 70AD).

11) True Proposition	SDA Argument
The 10 Commandments <b>do not contain</b> the whole duty of man.	The 10 Commandments are God's perfect law. It contains <b>all we need to know about moral living</b> . Man needs <b>nothing else</b> to live perfectly.

#### Answer:

The 10 Commandments are not perfect and complete, because God has **added** many other laws not covered by them. The 10 Commandments do not mention the following:

1. It does not condemn: (a) drunkenness; (b) pornography; (c) pride; (d) pre-marital sex; (e) homosexuality; (f); obscene language, and (g) Christians suing Christians.
2. It does not command: (a) forgiveness; (b) repentance; (c) baptism; (d) Lord's Supper; (e) helping the poor; (f) thoughts.
3. It does not tell us how to enter heaven.
4. It does not tell us how to be forgiven of our sins.
5. It does not discuss the four important commands of the Apostles in Acts 15:28-29: 'For it seemed good to the Holy Ghost and to us, to lay upon you no greater burden than these necessary things; that ye abstain from meats offered to idols, and from blood, and from things strangled, and from fornication . . .'

**Question:** Will you believe Jesus Christ or SDAs on Matthew 22:36-40?

**Jesus:** 'On these two commandments (love God and love your neighbour) hang all the law (10 commandments included) and the prophets.' (Matthew 22:36-40).

<b>12) True Proposition</b>	<b>SDA Argument</b>
God's nature does not change, but His <b>Laws</b> and <b>human requirements in different time periods</b> have <b>changed</b> a lot.	God does not change, therefore <b>neither does His Law.</b>

This SDA argument was one of Ellen White's original arguments. White said, 'I saw that God had not changed the Sabbath, for he never changes.' (*Early Writings of EGW*, p.33).

**Answer:** Since God gave the **law of animal sacrifices** and then **abolished it**, does this prove that God changes? No. God's laws given to man have **changed a lot**.

There are three basic periods of earth's history:

(1) Adam to Moses; (2) Moses to Christ; (3) Christ to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming.

God's nature does not change just because His laws have changed in different times of history.

<b>13) True Proposition</b>	<b>SDA Argument</b>
This proves nothing because <b>many other things that God said were holy, have been abolished.</b>	The Sabbath must be kept today because God blessed it, hallowed it, and made it <b>holy.</b>

**Answer:**

- Other holy days** in the **Old Covenant** have been **done away**, so has the Sabbath. Some are:
  - Passover:** 'Seven days shall ye eat unleavened bread; in the first day there shall be an **holy** convocation.' (Exodus 12:13-16).
  - Feast of Trumpets:** 'In the seventh month, in the first day of the month, shall ye have a Sabbath, a memorial of blowing of trumpets, an **holy** convocation. Ye shall do no servile work therein...' (Leviticus 23:24,25; Nehemiah 8:1,2,9,11). This states that the 1<sup>st</sup> day of the 7<sup>th</sup> month is holy.'
  - Feast of Tabernacles:** 'The fifteenth day of this seventh month shall be a feast of Tabernacles for seven days unto the Lord.<sup>34</sup> On the first day shall be an **holy** convocation...On the eighth day shall be an **holy** convocation unto you.' (Leviticus 23:34,36). The 15<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> were holydays of 7<sup>th</sup> month.
  - Unleavened Bread Feast:** 'Seven days shall ye eat unleavened bread<sup>15</sup> . . . And in the first day there shall be an **holy** convocation, and in the seventh day there shall be an **holy** convocation to you<sup>16</sup>....' (Exodus 12:15,16,18). The 14<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> days of the 1<sup>st</sup> month were holy.
  - Day of Atonement:** 'Also on the **tenth day** of this **seventh** month there shall be a day of atonement: it shall be an **holy** convocation unto you<sup>27</sup> . . . It shall be unto you a Sabbath of rest . . .' (Leviticus 23:27,32).
  - Weekly Sabbath day:** 'Wherefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day & **hallowed** it.' Exodus 20:11
- Some things were **more holy** than the **weekly Sabbath**. Each of these have been **abolished**.
  - The **most holy place** in the tabernacle: 'the veil shall divide unto you between the holy place and the **most holy.**' (Exodus 26:33).
  - The **most holy altar:** 'It shall be an altar **most holy.**' (Exodus 29:37).
  - The **most holy atonement:** 'an atonement...it is **most holy** unto the Lord.' (Exodus 30:10).
  - The **tabernacle furniture:** 'the table,...the candlestick,...the altar of incense, . the altar of burnt offerings,...the laver...thus shalt thou sanctify them, that they may be **most holy.**' Exodus 30:26-39
  - The **tabernacle perfume:** 'Take unto thee sweet spices, stacte, and onycha, and galbanum; with pure frankincense...thou shalt make it a perfume...it shall be unto you **most holy.**' Exod 30:34,36
  - The **remnant of the meat offering**...it is a thing **most holy** of the offerings of the Lord. Lev. 2:3
  - The **most holy house** (Solomon's temple): 'he made the **most holy house.**' II Chronicles 3:8.
- If the Sabbath day must be kept because God blessed it, hallowed it, and made it holy, **then we must keep these things also** because the same is said of them:
  - Hallowed tabernacle** and holy **vessels:** (Exodus 40:9).
  - Holy water** mixed with floor dust to be drunk by a woman accused of adultery. Numbers 5:17.
  - Solomon's **hallowed temple:** 'I have hallowed this house.' (I Kings 9:3). 'thy holy temple.' (Psalm 65:4).
  - Aaronic high priestly order:** 'shall be hallowed' by sprinkling blood on the garments of Aaron and his sons. (Exodus 29:21).
  - Holy Levites:** 'The Levites that taught all Israel, which were **holy** unto the Lord.' (II Chronicles 35:3).
  - Holy Ark** of the Covenant: 'put the **holy** ark in the house. . .' (II Chronicles 35:3).

- Israel's firstborn **hallowed:** 'I hallowed unto me all the firstborn in Israel both man and beast.' (Numbers 3:13).
- Aaron's **holy garments:** 'thou shalt make **holy** garments for Aaron.' (Exodus 28:2).
- High priest's **holy crown:** 'put the **holy** crown upon the mitre.' (Exodus 29:6).
- Holy** flesh of the **ram:** 'the ram of consecration.. they are **holy.**' (Exodus 29:31-33).
- Holy anointment** to make **holy oil:** 'make it an oil of **holy** anointment . . . it shall be a **holy** anointing oil.' (Exodus 30:25).
- Holy fruit:** 'in the fourth year all the fruit thereof shall be **holy.**' (Leviticus 19:24).

The **first time something is mentioned**, it is introduced with the **indefinite article 'a'** or '**an**', but **never introduced** with the **definite article 'the'**. This shows that the Sabbath was first introduced in Exodus 16:23, and that nobody before this time kept it.

	<b>First Time Instituted</b>	<b>After it was Instituted</b>
1	Today is <b>a</b> Sabbath. (Exodus 16:25).	The Lord hath given you <b>the</b> Sabbath. (Exodus 16:29).
2	Noah builded <b>an</b> altar. (Genesis 8:20).	Offered burnt offerings on <b>the</b> altar. (Genesis 8:20).
3	This day (passover) shall be unto you for <b>a</b> memorial. (Exodus 12:14).	Kill <b>the</b> passover (Exodus 12:21). 'It is the sacrifice of <b>the</b> Lord's passover. (Exodus 12:27).
4	Feast of Unleavened bread: 'ye shall keep it <b>a</b> feast by an ordinance forever. Seven days shall ye eat unleavened bread.' (Exodus 12:14,15).	'Ye shall observe <b>the</b> feast of unleavened bread.' (Exodus 12:17).
5	<b>Day of Atonement:</b> 'On the tenth day of this seventh month there shall be <b>a</b> day of atonement'. Leviticus 23:27	'in <b>the</b> day of atonement shall ye make the trumpet sound.' (Leviticus 25:9).
6	<b>Feast of Pentecost:</b> 'ye shall number 50 days; and ye shall offer <b>a</b> new meat offering, unto the Lord.' Lev23:16	'And when <b>the</b> day of Pentecost was fully come.' (Acts 2:1).
7	<b>New Covenant:</b> 'Behold the days come, saith the Lord, when I will make <b>a</b> new covenant with the house of Israel and Judah . . .' (Hebrews 8:8).	'For this cause he is the mediator of <b>the</b> new testament...' (Hebrews 9:15).
<b>Note:</b> The definite article ' <b>the</b> ' is never used the first time something is introduced, because ' <b>the</b> ' is only used <b>after</b> people know about it. The indefinite article ' <b>a</b> ' is used both before and after something has been instituted.		

4. The same arguments used for continuance of the **Sabbath** can be made for the **Passover Feast**.

	<b>Sabbath and Passover</b>	<b>Passover Reference</b>	<b>True of Sabbath</b>
i)	Both spoken by the Lord.	Exodus 12:1,3.	Yes
ii)	Both 'it is the Lords . . .'	Exodus 12:11. 'It is the Lord's Passover'	Yes. (Ex 20:10) 'Seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord thy God.'
iii)	Both 'a memorial.'	Exodus 12:14	Yes
iv)	Both to be kept forever.	Exodus 12:14	Yes
v)	Death penalty or cut off for violating both.	Exodus 12:12-15	Yes
vi)	Both a 'Holy day.'	Exodus 12:16	Yes
vii)	Both 'rest days.'	Exodus 12:16	Yes (Exodus 20:10).
viii)	Both connected with deliverance from Egypt.	Exodus 12:17	Yes. (Exodus 20:2).
ix)	Strangers must keep both.	Exodus 12:19	Yes (Exodus 20:10).

<b>14) True Proposition</b>	<b>SDA Argument</b>
The <b>Lord's Day is Sunday.</b> (Revelation 1:10).	SDAs claim the ' <b>Lord's Day is the Sabbath</b> , because Jesus said He was Lord of the Sabbath.

**Answer:** The Lord's Day is Sunday because:

- Jesus **rose** on Sunday. (John 20:1).
- The **Holy Spirit** came on Pentecost (Acts 2:1) which always falls **on a Sunday**.
- Christians practiced the **Lord's Supper** on **Sunday**. (Acts 20:7).



- iv) **Early Christians** from 30-300AD referred to Sunday as the Lord's Day. 'I was in the Spirit on the Lord's Day . . .' (Revelation 1:10). 'The Lord's Day' means a day pertaining to the Lord because we **commemorate important events concerning Him**. If the Jewish Sabbath were intended, then the word 'Sabbath' would have been used. **Chrysostom** said, 'It was called the Lord's Day because the Lord rose from the dead on that day.' **Theodoret** speaking of the Ebionites says, 'They keep the Sabbath according to the Jewish law, and sanctify the Lord's Day in like manner as we do.'
- v) Since Revelation was written by John, the observance of Sunday as a day of worship for Christians had Apostolic sanction. John, in accordance with a prevailing custom, had set apart this day in honour of the Lord Jesus.

15) True Proposition	SDA Argument
SDAs completely miss the context of <b>when this happens</b> and <b>to whom</b> this happens, and the <b>place</b> . This refers to <b>Jews living in Jerusalem</b> in the middle of the <b>future 7 year Tribulation</b> when the Antichrist begins to persecute them.	Jesus foresaw the Sabbath being kept by <b>Christians</b> in the 20 <sup>th</sup> Century. 'But pray ye that your flight be not in the winter, neither on the Sabbath day.' (Matthew 24:20)

The reason Jesus gave to Jews to pray that Jerusalem would not be destroyed beginning on a Sabbath day, is because the **city gates would be closed** on the Sabbath day (Nehemiah 13:15-22) and this would hinder them obeying Jesus' instruction to leave the city.

16) True Proposition	SDA Argument
The laws of keeping it <b>must not oppose</b> man's real welfare.	'The <b>Sabbath was made for man</b> , and not man for the Sabbath.' (Mark 2:27). Therefore all mankind must keep it.

**Answer:**  
The idea of this passage is **not** that all mankind must keep the Sabbath. Instead it means that because the Sabbath was created as a day of rest and worship for man's good, then the laws of keeping it **must not be interpreted** or applied to **oppose man's real welfare**, as the Pharisees did by attempting to stop Jesus' disciples satisfying their hunger. Man was made first, and then the Sabbath was appointed for his welfare. The Sabbath was not first made, and then the man.

	True Proposition	SDA Argument
1	In the beginning the Word <b>made all things</b> .	In the beginning the Word <b>made all things</b> . John 1:1-3; Colossians 1:16.
2	God did <b>ALL</b> His work in six days. (Genesis 2:1-3; Exodus 20:11).	The <b>Sabbath Day was made</b> for man. (Mark 2:27).
3	The Sabbath day was not made till <b>AFTER</b> God rested on the seventh day. Therefore the Sabbath day is <b>not</b> part of 'all things' of the original creation.	Therefore the Sabbath day was <b>made in the beginning</b> . Therefore Adam had to keep it.
4	The Sabbath did <b>NOT</b> exist in the Garden of Eden until <b>AFTER</b> God rested on the 7 <sup>th</sup> day.	

Note: The issue is not when God rested, but **when** He first commanded man to keep the Sabbath.

17) True Proposition	SDA Argument
If the Sabbath is eternal, then so too are <b>all the other Jewish holidays</b>	The Sabbath is eternal and <b>endures forever</b> , therefore we must keep it today.

- If the Sabbath is eternal, enduring forever, then so too are all the other Jewish holy days. **Question:** Do we keep the following commandments today? **Answer:** No. They are **only given to Israel**.
  - Sabbath Day:** 'Therefore the **children of Israel** shall keep the Sabbath, to observe the Sabbath throughout their generations, **for a perpetual covenant**. It is a sign between me and the children of Israel **forever** . . .' (Exodus 31:16,17).
  - Feast of Unleavened Bread:** 'So shall you observe the Feast of Unleavened Bread. Therefore you shall observe this day throughout your generations as an **everlasting ordinance**.' Exodus 12:17

- Day of Atonement:** 'You shall do no work on that same day, for it is the **Day of Atonement** . . . Any person who does any work on that same day, that person will I **destroy** from among his people. . . it shall be a statute **forever** throughout your generations . . .' (Leviticus 23:28-31).
- Feast of Tabernacles:** 'Speak unto the **children of Israel** saying, the 15<sup>th</sup> day of the 7<sup>th</sup> month shall be the **feast of Tabernacles** . . . (v.34). It shall be a **statute forever** in your generations. (v.41). (Leviticus 23:34,41).
- Feast of Passover:** 'This day shall be unto **you** for a memorial . . . ye shall keep it a feast by an ordinance **for ever**.' (Exodus 12:14).

2. If the **Sabbath** is eternal and must be kept today, then so must the **death penalty** for working on the Sabbath. No SDAs enforce or think this valid today. Do SDAs kill Sabbath workers? No. 'Whosoever doeth any work in the Sabbath day, he shall surely be put to death.' (Exodus 31:15).

18) True Proposition	SDA Argument
The present heavens and earth will be completely destroyed and replaced by a <b>new heavens</b> and <b>earth</b> . Therefore the Sabbath will pass if it is a memorial to the first heavens and earth which will pass away.	SDAs claim that since the Sabbath was a memorial to a <b>six day creation</b> , then this proves that the <b>Sabbath will endure forever</b> .

- 'I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea.' (Revelation 21:21).
  - 'the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.' (II Peter 3:10).
- Note:** SDAs love to quote Matthew 5:17-18 to teach that the Sabbath is binding as long as heaven and earth remain. 'Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.' From this, SDAs must admit that **Sabbath keeping is not forever**, because according to their claim, the law and Sabbath keeping will be abolished when the heaven and earth pass away at the end of the 1000 year rule of Christ on earth.

19) True Proposition	SDA Argument
If the <b>Feast of Tabernacles</b> will be kept in the Millennium, then should we keep this feast now? (Zechariah 14:16-19). (No) Then why <b>don't</b> SDAs keep the Feast of Tabernacles now? Because it is not relevant to the Church Age. Neither is Sabbath keeping.	SDAs use <b>Isaiah 66:23</b> to prove that if the Sabbath will be kept in the Millennium, then we should keep it now.

'And it shall come to pass, that from one **new moon** to another and from one **Sabbath** to another, shall all flesh come to worship before me, saith the Lord.' (Isaiah 66:23). **Question:** Should we keep **new moon feasts** now? No! Should we keep the **Feast of Tabernacles** now? No! Then neither should we keep the **Sabbath** now either.

20) True Proposition	SDA Argument
<b>How can the Sabbath commandment be more important than what Jesus called the first and great commandment?</b> 'Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. On these two commandments hang <b>ALL the LAW</b> (including Sabbath) and the prophets.' (Matthew 22:37,38,40).	The Sabbath is God's <b>special law above all laws</b> .

- SDAs get this idea from **Ellen White**, their false prophet who said, contrary to Scripture and Jesus Christ that: 'I beheld the Tables of stone on which the 10 Commandments were written. I was amazed as I saw the **fourth commandment** in the very centre of the 10 precepts with a soft halo of light encircling it. Said the angel, 'It is the only one of the 10 which defines the living God who created the heavens and the earth and all things that are therein.'" (*Life Sketches of Ellen G White*, p.95,96).
- Question 1:** Do SDAs really believe that God would make any law **more important** than the very first commandment to 'have no other Gods before me' and 'to love God'? **Question 2:** Do SDAs really believe that God would make the 4<sup>th</sup> Commandment **glow brighter** than the 1<sup>st</sup> Commandment?

**Question 3:** Do you think God would contradict Paul rebuking Sabbath keepers in Galatians 4:10,11 'Ye observe days, and months, and times, and years. I am afraid of you, lest I have bestowed upon you labour in vain.' (Galatians 4:10,11).

Paul calls people like Ellen White a false prophet in Colossians 2:18: 'Let no man beguile you of your reward in a voluntary humility and worshipping of angels, intruding into those things which he (or she) hath **NOT** seen, vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind'.

Paul said that White never really saw a vision from God, but that she was lying through pride.

**Question 4:** Where is the Sabbath elevated above other feast days in Leviticus 23:1-7?

- Weekly Sabbath: 'Seventh day is . . . a holy convocation.'
- Passover: 'holy convocation . . . is the Lord's Passover.'
- Feast of Unleavened Bread: 'the feast of unleavened bread is . . . a holy convocation.'

21) True Proposition	SDA Argument
The Sabbath is a sign between <b>God &amp; ISRAEL</b> only.	The Sabbath is a sign between <b>God &amp; Christians</b> .

- Sabbath is a sign between God and Israel ONLY because God said:
  - 'Speak unto the children of Israel, saying: Verily my Sabbaths ye shall keep: for it is a sign between me and you throughout your generations.' (Exodus 31:13).
  - Sabbath... 'it is a sign between me and the **children of Israel** for ever.' (Exodus 31:16).
  - I gave them my Sabbaths, to be a sign between me and **them**, . . . ' (Ezekiel 20:12).
- Questions: a) Why did God **never command any Gentiles** to keep the Sabbath in the OT or NT?
  - Why do SDAs **NOT keep the sign of CIRCUMCISION?** (Genesis 17:11).  
(SDA answer: 'because it was a sign only to Abraham and the Jews, and not Christians.')
  - Why do SDAs **NOT keep the sign of PASSOVER BLOOD?** (Exodus 12:13).  
(SDA answer: 'because it was a sign only for Jews in Egypt and not for Christians.')
  - Why should Christians **NOT keep the sign of the SABBATH?** (Our answer to SDAs: 'because it was a sign **ONLY** for Jews and not for NT Christians in the Church Age.)

Hence, each of circumcision, Passover Blood and Sabbath are signs **only** between God and the Jews.
- Keeping the Saturday Sabbath was the sign of the Mosaic Covenant between God and Jews only.** (Exodus 31:13,14,16,17).
  - 'Speak thou also unto the **children of Israel**, saying, Verily my Sabbaths ye shall keep; for it is a sign between me and you throughout your generations.' (Exodus 31:13).
  - 'Wherefore the **children of Israel** shall keep the Sabbath, to observe the Sabbath throughout their generations, for a perpetual covenant.' (Exodus 31:16).
  - 'Moreover also I gave them my Sabbaths, to be a sign between me and **them**.' (Ezekiel 20:12).
  - 'It is a sign between **ME** and the **children of Israel** forever: for in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, and on the seventh day he rested, and was refreshed.' (Exodus 31:17).  
Also God reiterates this command in Ezekiel 20:12,20.  
Notice that God says on five occasions that Sabbath keeping is a sign between God and Israel, and that the Sabbath is to be kept throughout their generations, forever.  
'Who are Israelites; to whom pertaineth . . . the giving of the law.' (Romans 9:4).

22) True Proposition	SDA Argument
<b>See p. 761.</b> The Hebrews 4:9 rest is <b>heaven</b> .	Hebrews 4:9 proves we must keep the weekly Jewish Sabbath: 'There remaineth therefore a <b>rest</b> to the people of God.'

23) True Proposition	SDA Argument
If that is true, then SDAs had better <b>start keeping other Jewish days</b> and rituals mentioned after the cross.	The Sabbath is <b>not nailed to the cross</b> because the Holy Spirit still refers to the Sabbath day <u>after</u> the death of Christ when the New Covenant had replaced the Old Covenant.

Examples of Jewish days kept after the cross are:

- The Day of Pentecost (Acts 2:1).
- The Days of Unleavened Bread (Acts 12:3; 20:6).
- The Days of Purification (Acts 21:26).
- Animal Sacrifices (Acts 21:26).
- Circumcision (Acts 16:3).

24) True Proposition	SDA Argument
Paul says Sabbath <b>is a shadow</b> : 'the Sabbath days; which are a shadow of things to come.' (Colossians 2:16,17)	SDAs say the Sabbath was <b>not a shadow</b> because: 'The Sabbath was given <u>before</u> the fall of Adam, and cannot be a shadow because all types and shadows were given <u>after</u> the fall.'

There were types before the Fall. See two examples when Adam married Eve:

- Eve was a type of the church;
- Their marriage was a type of the marriage of the Lamb between Christ and the church.

25) True Proposition	SDA Argument
This expression 'that they might know that I am the Lord that sanctify them,' is <b>NOT found in the NT</b> , nor is there any NT commandment for <u>Christian believers after Pentecost</u> to keep the Sabbath.	The Sabbath is the way <u>we know God sanctifies us</u> . See Exodus 31:13; Ezekiel 20:12,20: 'I gave them my Sabbaths to be a sign between me and them, that they might know that I am the Lord <u>that sanctify them</u> .' (Ezekiel 20:12).

26) True Proposition	SDA Argument
<b>Jesus kept</b> the Passover, <b>every other Jewish Feast</b> day, animal sacrifices, and all the ceremonial laws of Moses. Why don't SDAs keep these as well?	<b>Christ our Example</b> kept the Sabbath.

- SDAs break Jesus' example of keeping the Passover and every other Jewish Feast day. 'I will keep the Passover at thy house with my disciples.' (Matthew 26:18).
- SDAs break Jesus' command to keep all the Ceremonial Laws of Moses: 'The scribes and Pharisees sit in Moses' seat; All therefore whatsoever they bid you observe, that observe and do;' Matt. 23:2,3.
- SDAs break Jesus' command to offer animal sacrifices: 'Go, and shew thyself to the priest, and offer for thy cleansing, according as Moses commanded.' (Luke 5:14).

**Question to SDAs:** Why don't you follow Jesus' commands to:

- Keep the Passover,
- Keep all Moses Ceremonial Laws,
- Offer animal sacrifices?

**Answer:** Because Jesus lived under the Old Covenant and Jewish law. 'God sent forth His Son, made of a woman, made under the law.' (Galatians 4:4).

**Conclusion:** This is the reason Christians don't need to keep the Sabbath day, because 'after that faith is come, we are no longer under a schoolmaster (the law).' (Galatians 3:24,25).

27) True Proposition	SDA Argument
They kept this Sabbath day, because <u>they didn't yet understand that ALL of the Law of Moses would be abolished</u> .	<u>The disciples kept the Sabbath, one day after Christ's death</u> : 'They returned, and . . . rested the Sabbath day according to the commandment.' (Luke 23:56). Sunday keepers say that the Sabbath was abolished when it was nailed to the cross. Here we see the disciples keeping the Sabbath 'according to the commandment' after Christ died on the cross.

- We agree that the disciples kept the Sabbath Law according to the 4<sup>th</sup> Commandment (out of habit), but **this proves nothing**, because:
  - They didn't understand that all the Mosaic Law was abolished from when Christ died.
  - They didn't understand Christ's death. (Matthew 16:21,22).
  - They didn't understand Christ's crucifixion. (Luke 18:31-34).
  - They didn't understand that Christ would rise from the dead. (John 20:9).
  - They didn't understand Christ's Second Coming. (John 13:36-37).
  - They didn't understand that Christ was going to heaven. (John 14:2-5).
- This is the only time after the cross, that the disciples ever kept the Sabbath day.
 

**Question:** Why is there no other clear place in the New Testament where Christians are said to 'keep the Sabbath according to the commandment'?

**Note:** This was the very last Sabbath day that NT Christians ever kept, because the next Sunday, Jesus rose from the dead. Christians now had a basis for meeting on Sunday, namely to celebrate Christ's resurrection from the dead.
- The disciples met together on three Sundays after the resurrection:
  - The Sunday of Jesus' resurrection (John 20:19),
  - Eight days later, on the Sunday AFTER Jesus' resurrection (John 20:26),
  - On Pentecost Sunday, they all met in one place before the Holy Spirit came. (Acts 2:1).

28) True Proposition	SDA Argument
<p>a) Paul preached to unsaved Jews in their synagogues on the Sabbath day, that they needed to be saved.</p> <p>b) <b>Question:</b> Do SDA pastors 'keep Sunday' if they preach in a Sunday keeping church on Sunday? (No). Then neither did Paul keep the Sabbath in these verses.</p> <p>c) <b>Question:</b> Does a SDA pastor 'keep Monday' if he preaches to Muslims in their mosque on Monday, that they are lost without Christ? (No).</p> <p>d) <u>No NT passage</u> ever speaks of Christians worshipping on the Sabbath day.</p> <p>e) Just because Peter preached on the day of <u>Pentecost</u>, does this mean that all Christians must keep the day of Pentecost? (No)</p> <p><b>Conclusion:</b> Pentecost and Sabbath days just provided an opportunity to preach to an interested audience.</p>	<p><b>Paul's preaching on the Sabbath,</b> after the cross, proves we must keep the Sabbath today. (Acts 13:14; 16:12; 17:2; 18:4,11) 'And he reasoned in the synagogue <u>every Sabbath.</u>' (Acts 18:4).</p>

29) True Proposition	SDA Argument
Ridiculous! If so, then Saturday keeping is <u>worshipping the Roman god Saturn</u> – 'SATURN'S day.'	Sunday keeping is <u>worshipping the sun</u> – 'SUN day'

30) True Proposition	SDA Argument
<p>Just because a Jew kept the Mosaic Law, does not prove that we must keep it, because:</p> <p>1) The law included <u>circumcision</u> (Acts 21:20-24).</p> <p>2) The Apostles <u>never commanded Christians to keep the law:</u> 'have troubled you with words, subverting your souls, saying ye must be circumcised, and <u>keep the law:</u> to whom <u>we gave no such commandment.</u>' (Acts 15:24).</p>	<p>Ananias, a Christian, kept the 10 Commandments: 'Ananias, a <u>devout man according to the Law,</u> having a good report of all the Jews which dwelt there.' (Acts 22:12). So should we keep Sabbath Law today.</p>

31) True Proposition	SDA Argument
<p>1) <b>History</b> and the <b>Bible</b> are <b>100% against SDAs.</b></p> <p>2) There is enormous historical evidence that before Constantine, Christians <u>always</u> met on Sunday, and <u>never</u> met on the Saturday Sabbath.</p> <p>3) There is <b>no historical evidence</b> that early Christians:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Kept the Sabbath;</li> <li><u>Protested</u> a change from Saturday to Sunday worship;</li> <li><u>Practised</u> the Lord's Supper on the Sabbath.</li> </ul>	<p>History shows that the very earliest Christians kept the Sabbath.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Up to 135AD there was no discussion of the Sabbath question.</li> <li>History shows that Christians began keeping the Sabbath, and gradually started meeting on Sundays about the time of Constantine (320AD).</li> </ul>

Challenge: We challenge any SDA to give one quote that any Christians kept the Jewish Sabbath before 320AD.

	HISTORICAL RECORDS	SDA LIES
1	33-140AD: <u>Universal Sunday meetings 'no longer observing the Sabbath, but living in the observance of the Lord's Day.'</u> (Ignatius, <i>Epistle to the Magnesians, Ante-Nicene Fathers, Vol 1, p 62-63</i> ).	<u>Universal Sabbath keeping.</u> No one worshipped on Sunday 'for 100 years after Christ, there is no discussion of the Sabbath question.' ( <i>Revelation Seminar, Schreven, 1994, Now That's Clear</i> ).
	See <u>page 752-753</u> , for <u>15 early church writers</u> from 74-350AD who say the opposite to SDAs.	'Christians kept the Sabbath Commandment up to 135AD.'
	False	'As late as 430AD, historians testify that <u>almost all</u> Christian churches in the world were still <u>keeping the Sabbath.</u> '
2	140-300AD: <u>Universal Sunday meetings.</u>	<u>Gradual shift</u> towards Sunday, but still kept the Sabbath.
3	300-2000AD: <u>Universal Sunday meetings.</u>	<u>Universal Sunday meetings.</u>

4	<p><b>Conclusion:</b> Christians always kept Sunday. Sunday is not a Christian Sabbath or day of rest, or holy day to be kept. It is a day of Christian worship. When Christians today wrongly apply the 4<sup>th</sup> Sabbath Commandment as the reason why they worship on Sunday, they are:</p> <p>a) mistaken; and</p> <p>b) opening themselves to manipulation by SDAs.</p>	Christians originally kept the Sabbath, but due to the devil's influence, Christians went into universal apostasy for 1600 years, until Ellen White, the SDA 'prophet' arrived. She thought, contrary to Colossians 2:14, that the Sabbath Law was not nailed to the cross. Only in the 19 <sup>th</sup> Century did God, through the SDA church, restore, by direct revelation, the truth that the day of Christian worship was Saturday.
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32) True Proposition	SDA Argument
There is no documented evidence that Mithraism had a formal Sunday worship service. How could Sunday worship be copied if Mithraism never had Sunday worship?	Christians copied Sunday keeping off the pagan religion of Mithraism.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>'Sun worship' and 'worshipping on Sunday' are two very different ideas that SDAs like to mix together to confuse the whole subject.</li> <li>'The association between the Christian Sunday and the pagan veneration of the sun is not explicit before the time of Eusebius (260-340AD).' (<i>From Sabbath to Sunday</i>, p 261, Samuele Bacchiocchi, SDA historian).</li> </ul>	'Another influence in the early Christian Church was Mithraism, an ancient cult of the sun. This cult came to Rome in the 1 <sup>st</sup> Century AD and became popular in the 2 <sup>nd</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup> centuries. The central feature of this cult was the worship of the sun on the first day of the week.' Historians have written concerning the influence of Mithraism on Christianity.' ( <i>Now That's Clear</i> , Leo Schreven, 1994, p 101).

33) True Proposition	SDA Argument
Many early church writers before 340AD all say that <b>Christians met on Sundays</b> from the Apostles	The <b>Pope</b> changed the Sabbath from Saturday to Sunday.

- If SDAs have any actual historical proof that the Pope changed the Sabbath to Sunday, let them supply it to us and to the world.
- Just because Catholics claim they changed the Sabbath to Sunday, doesn't prove they did. **Question:** Do SDAs believe everything that the Roman Catholic Church says? No.
- SDAs believe the Pope changed the Sabbath because their 'inspired prophet' Ellen White said so: 'The Pope had changed it from the seventh day to the first day of the week; for he was to change times and laws.' (*Early Writings of EGW*, p.33). Again on p 65 she said, 'The pope has changed the day of rest from the seventh day to the first day.' **Note:** SDAs in the 1990s are refuting what their founding 'prophet' White was 'told by God in a vision', by claiming that Christians in Rome changed the Sabbath around 135AD not the Pope. **Conclusion:** This proves once and for all that Ellen White was a false prophet.

- Samuele Bacchiocchi, the Seventh-day Adventist's top scholar wrote in an e-mail message to the *Free Catholic Mailing List* [CATHOLIC@AMERICAN.EDU](mailto:CATHOLIC@AMERICAN.EDU) on 8 Feb 1997 and said:
  - I differ from Ellen White, for example, on the origin of Sunday. She teaches that in the first centuries all Christians observed the Sabbath and it was largely through the efforts of Constantine that Sunday keeping was adopted by many Christians in the fourth century. My research shows otherwise. If you read my essay *How Did Sunday keeping begin?* which summarises my dissertation, **you will notice that I place the origin of Sunday keeping by the time of the Emperor Hadrian, in AD135.**
  - This proves once and for all time that **Ellen G White was a false prophet!**
- Note how SDAs have corrected White's vision: 'Sunday keeping had its origin in Rome during the reign of the Emperor Hadrian (117-138AD). Hadrian persecuted the Jews in Rome incessantly. In an attempt to separate themselves from the Jews and avoid being persecuted with them, those early Roman Christians began keeping Sunday in addition to the Sabbath.' (*Now That's Clear*, Schreven, p 97, 1994, *Revelation Seminar*).

34) True Proposition	SDA Argument
<b>Constantine just made a civil decree</b> that because Christians were <b>already meeting on Sunday</b> (since 33AD), that Christians <b>should not work on Sunday</b> .	SDAs claim that <b>Constantine</b> changed the Sabbath to Sunday.

**Question:** Have SDAs carefully read Constantine's Decree?

**'On the venerable day of the sun, let the magistrates and people residing in cities rest, and let all workshops be closed.'** (Constantine, 7 March 321, *Codex Justinianus* lib3, tit.12,3; translated in Philip Schaff, *History of the Christian Church*, Vol 3, p 380, note 1).

- SDAs contradict themselves. Who changed the Sabbath? Was it the **Pope, Constantine** in 321, or **some Christians in Rome in 135AD?**
- Constantine is just decreeing that, because Christians were already meeting on Sunday ever since the apostles, that Christians **should not work** on Sunday.
- It is not a sin to work on any day of the week. It is a sin to forsake the assembling of the church. (Hebrews 10:24,25).

35) True Proposition	SDA Argument
<p>i) Any Greek dictionary will tell you that 'MIA TON SABBATON' means: mia = first ton = of the sabbaton (plural) = weeks.</p> <p>ii) If 'MIA TON SABBATON' in Acts 20:7 &amp; I Cor. 16:1,2 mean the 7th day (Sabbath day), then it creates a contradiction with Mark 16:1,2.</p>	<p>The 'first day of the week' in Acts 20:7 and I Corinthians 16:1,2 are a mistranslation.</p> <p>The Greek says 'MIA TON SABBATON' or 'sabbath day'. So Christians were told to take a collection (I Corinthians 16:1,2) and partake of the Lords Supper (Acts 20:7) on the Sabbath day, not Sunday.</p>

'And when the **Sabbath** (Greek: *Sabbatou* = singular, the normal expression for the Sabbath day) **was past**, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the Mother of James, and Salome, had brought sweet spices, that they might come and anoint him. (v.1).

And very early in the morning of the **first day of the week** (Greek: *Mia ton Sabbaton*) they came unto the sepulchre at the rising of the sun.' (v. 2).

**Key:** 'Mia ton sabbaton' (v.2) must be different from 'Sabbatou' (v 1) meaning 'the Sabbath'.

You can't have one Sabbath being over (v.1) being followed by another Sabbath the next day.

iii) 'MIA TON SABBATON' is the common Bible expression for Sunday.

iv) When SDAs deny that these texts should read 'first day of the week', it shows that --they know these passages teach **first day observance** if it is translated 'first day, and --they know that **Sabbath keeping is refuted** if Acts 20:7 proves to be **Sunday observance** rather than Saturday observance.

36) True Proposition	SDA Argument
<p><b>Luke</b>, the writer of Acts, uses <b>Roman time</b>, being from <b>midnight to midnight, not Jewish time (sunset to sunset)</b>. This can be stated dogmatically because 'daylight' (v.11) was the next day (v.7).i) Roman day was from 6 am to 6 pm.</p> <p>ii) Roman night was from 6 pm to 6 am.</p>	SDAs teach that the evening meeting in Acts 20:7 was on a Sabbath day because the Sabbath day lasts from <b>sunset Friday to Sunset Saturday</b> (Jewish time).

**Luke** uses **Roman time**, not Jewish time in these 10 cases:

- Acts 2:15 'These are not drunken, as ye suppose, seeing it is but the **3<sup>rd</sup> hour (9 am) of the day**'
- Acts 3:1 'Peter and John went up together into the temple at the hour of prayer, being the **9th hour (3 pm)**'
- Acts 10:3 'He saw in a vision evidently about the **9th hour of the day (3 pm)** . . .'
- Acts 10:9 'Peter went up upon the housetop to pray about the **6th hour (12 noon)** and he became very hungry'
- Acts 23:23 'Make ready 200 soldiers to go to Caesarea, and 70 horsemen, and 200 spearmen, at the **3<sup>rd</sup> hour of the night (9 pm).**'
- Luke 23:44 'It was about the **6th hour (12 noon)**,& there was a darkness over all the earth until the **9th hour (3 pm)**

7. Acts 12:18 'Now **as soon as it was day**, there was no small stir among the soldiers, what was become of Peter.'

8. Acts 16:35 'And **when it was day**, the magistrates sent the serjeants, saying, Let those men go.'

9. Acts 20:11 'and **talked a long while, even till break of day**, so he departed.'

10. Acts 23:12 'And **when it was day**, certain of the Jews banded together . . .'

**Conclusion:** Hence Acts 20:7 'And upon the **first day** of the week, when the disciples **came together** to break bread, Paul preached unto them . . . and continued his speech until midnight', means that the Thessalonian church met on the first **day** of the week.

Luke's method of counting days was **NOT Jewish**, which measures from **sundown to sundown**, but **Roman**, which counted from **midnight to midnight**. This can be stated dogmatically because 'break of day' (v.11) was the next day (v.7).

**SDA Objection:** This was not a true church meeting for worship.

**Answer:** It was a true church worship meeting because the Greek word "came together" (v.7) (sunegmenon-4863) means "to gather together, a formal meeting of the disciples", and is used in this context in Acts 4:31; 11:26; 14:27; 15:6,30; I Cor. 5:4; Hebrews 10:25.

"Break bread" (Greek: "tou klasai arton") in the Syriac version is to "break the Eucharist". It was in all likelihood the Agape feast followed by the Lord's Supper (I Cor.10:16; 11:20,21).

(Source: *Word Pictures in the NT*, AT Robertson, Vol.3, p.339).

### Verses to Refute Seventh Day Adventism

1. The **Ten commandments** are **part of the Mosaic Covenant**, both of which are **done away, abolished, and vanished**. SDAs believe that the Mosaic Covenant is abolished, but not the 10 Commandments.

**Key:** These verses show that the **10 Commandments** are part of the abolished **Mosaic Covenant**.

Hence the 10 Commandments are also abolished. This is fatal to Seventh Day Adventism.

- Colossians 2:14 " **Blotting out** the handwriting of **ORDINANCES** (1378) that was **against us**, which was **contrary to us**, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross."
- Ephesians 2:15 "Having **abolished** in his flesh the **enmity**, even the **law of commandments** contained in **ORDINANCES** (1378)." Note the connection with Col. 2:14.
- Hebrews 9:1-4 "The **first covenant** had **ORDINANCES** ... the **tables** of the covenant."
- 2 Corinthians 3:7-11 "If the ministration of death, written and **engraven in stones** was glorious, much more that which remaineth was glorious." (v.11).
- Exodus 34:28 "He wrote upon the **tables**, the words of the **covenant**, even the **ten commandments**."
- Deut. 9:9 "When I was gone up into the mount to receive the **tables of stone**, even the **tables of the covenant**."
- Deut. 4:13 "And he declared unto you **his covenant**, which he commanded you to perform, even **ten commandments**; and he wrote them upon **two tables of stone**."
- I Kings 8:9 "There was nothing in the ark save **two tables of stone**... when the Lord made a **covenant** with Israel."
- Hebrews 8:13 "A new covenant, he hath made the **first old**... ready to **vanish away**."

2. **Verses stating that the Law of Moses is done away:**

- "But **before faith** came, we were **kept under the law, shut up** (as in prison) unto the faith which should afterwards be revealed." Galatians 3:23.  
The Law was like a **prison** which people were **shut up in until** after **faith in Christ** came.
- "Wherefore the **law** (Ten commandments) was our **schoolmaster** to bring us unto Christ, that we may be justified by **faith**. But **after** that **faith** is come, we are **NO LONGER** under a schoolmaster (the ten commandments law)." Galatians 3:24,25.
- "He **took away the first** (Mosaic Covenant, including the Law of Moses) that he may **establish the second** (New covenant, including Law of Christ)." Hebrews 10:9.
- "There is verily a **disannulling** of the **commandment** going before for the weakness and unprofitableness thereof." Hebrews 7:18.
- "For the **priesthood** being **changed**, there is made of necessity a **change** also of the **LAW**." Heb. 7:12 As the **priesthood** is changed from **Levitical** (v.11) to Christ, so the **law of sin and death** (10 commandments), is changed to the **law of the Spirit of life in Christ**." Romans 8:2; Galatians 6:2.
- "Certain 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 15:19,24.

- vii) "If ye are led of the Spirit, ye are **NOT under the Law**." Galatians 5:18.
- viii) "Christ is the **end of the Law** for righteousness, to every one that believeth." Romans 10:4.
- ix) "Now we are **delivered from the Law**, that being dead wherein we were held; that we should serve in newness of spirit, and not in the oldness of the letter." Romans 7:6.
- x) "Ye are **not under the law**, but under grace." Romans 6:14,15; Galatians 5:18. (Romans 7:1-4.
- xi) "Ye are **dead to the Law** by the body of Christ; that ye should be married to another (to Christ)."
- xii) **When did the law finish ? When Christ came**, as seen by the word "**TILL**" in Galatians 3:19. "Wherefore then serveth the **Law**?" Romans 7:1-4. "It was added because of transgressions, **TILL** the seed (Christ) should come." Galatians 3:19.
- xiii) Paul said that the sabbath is a **shadow** of things to come:
  - "the sabbath days; which are a **shadow** of things to come." Colossians 2:16,17.
- xiv) "The **Law of the Spirit of life** in Christ Jesus has made me **free** from the **Law of sin and death**." Romans 8:2. We now operate under the Law of Christ. We are now free from the Mosaic Law of sin and death.

### 3. **Nobody knew of or heard of the Sabbath until Mount Sinai:**

- i) "Thou camest down also upon Mount Sinai... And **madest known** unto them thy **holy sabbath** by the hand of Moses." Nehemiah 9:13,14.
- ii) It was impossible for the Sabbath law to be practiced before Moses, because God instructed Moses to **change the Jewish calendar**, making the departure from Egypt "the **beginning of months**: it shall be the first month of the year to you." (Exodus 12:2). From this date commenced the sabbath observance.
- iii) On this point **Moses needed instruction**, which he passed on to the people: " This is that which the Lord hath said, Tomorrow is the rest of the holy sabbath unto the Lord (v.23). Eat that today; for **today** is a **sabbath** unto the Lord: today ye shall not find it in the field." Exodus 16:23,25,29,30.
- iv) In Numbers 15:32-36 **further instruction** was given to Moses and Aaron concerning the sabbath, because "it was not declared what should be done" to the sabbath breaker who gathered sticks on the sabbath day.
- v) **Israelite leaders before Moses did not keep the Sabbath**. "The Lord our God made a covenant with us in Horeb (1491BC). The Lord **made not** this covenant **with our fathers**, but with us, who are all of us here **alive** this day." Deuteronomy 5:2,3. (1451 BC). Hence Adam, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and Joseph knew nothing about Sabbath keeping.
- vi) The **Sabbath law** came **430 years after** the Abrahamic Covenant: "The **Law**, which was 430 years **after** Abraham." Galatians 3:17. This shows that Abraham never knew about the Sabbath law.
- vii) **No one before the Exodus** (Exod 16) ever **knew about the Sabbath law**: "I caused them to go forth out of the land of Egypt... **I gave them my Sabbaths**, to be a sign between me and them." Ezekiel 20:10,12
- viii) The **first time** something is mentioned, it is introduced with the **indefinite article "a" or "an"**, but never with the definite article "**the**". This shows that the Sabbath was first introduced in Exodus 16:23.

### 4. **The Sabbath was a sign between God and Israel only, not between God and Christians.**

- i) "Speak thou also unto the **children of Israel**, saying, Verily my **sabbaths** ye shall keep: for it is a **sign** between **ME** and **YOU** throughout your generations." Exodus 31:13.
- ii) "Wherefore the **children of Israel** shall keep the **sabbath**, to observe the **sabbath** throughout their generations, for a perpetual covenant." Exodus 31:16.
- iii) "It is a **sign** between **ME** and the **children of Israel** forever:" Exodus 31:17.
- iv) "Moreover also I gave them my **sabbaths**, to be a **sign** between **me** and **them**." Ezekiel 20:12.
- v) "And hallow my **sabbaths**; and they shall be a **sign** between **me** and **you**." Ezekiel 20:20.

### 5. **Early Christians met on Sunday**, not Saturday.

Paul taught **Christians** at church on **Sunday**,...and disputed with **Jews** in their synagogues on **Saturday**.

- i) "And upon the **first day** of the week, when the **disciples came together** to break bread, Paul preached unto them, ready to depart on the morrow." Acts 20:7.
- ii) "Now concerning the **collection** for the saints, as I have given order to the churches of Galatia, even so do ye. Upon the **first day of the week** let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be **no gatherings** when I come." 1 Corinthians 16:1,2.
- iii) "Then the same day at evening, being the **first day** of the week, when the doors were shut where the **disciples** were **assembled**...Jesus stood in the midst, and saith unto them, Peace be unto you." (v.19)  
"After **eight days** again his disciples were within, then came Jesus..." John 20:19,26.

**Question 1.** Did the Jews **protest** against Christians for **worshipping on Sunday**? (Yes).

**Question 2:** Did the Jews **protest** against the Christians for **not keeping** the Jewish yearly feasts, new moon, and **Sabbath** days? (Yes). "Let no man therefore **judge you** in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an **holy day**, or of the **new moon**, or of the **sabbath days**." Colossians 2:16.

**Question 3:** Did Paul say that Christians **must** meet on the Sabbath (No), or did he say it was a matter of **personal preference**? (Yes). "One man esteemeth one day above another (SDA's): another esteemeth every day alike. Let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind." Romans 14:5.

"He that **regardeth not the day**, to the Lord he doth not regard it." Romans 14:6.

iv) See 15 church writers before 350 AD who all state that Christians met on Sunday and not Saturday.

**6. Some were exempt from Sabbath keeping as a day of rest.** (priests & boys circumcised on sabbath).

i) Instead of the Sabbath being a day of rest for the **priests**, their work was **doubled**. (Numbers 28:9,10). Jesus asked the Jews, "Have ye not read in the Law how that on the Sabbath days the **priests** in the temple profane the sabbath, and are blameless." (Matthew 12:15). As New Testament priests (1 Peter 2:9), we are exempt from the Sabbath rest, because our whole lives should be dedicated to God as New Test. priests.

## QUESTIONS TO ASK SDA's

### Question 1:

- Do you believe that **Ellen White** was a true prophet of God? (p.748). [(Deuteronomy 18:20-22) (p.749)
- Do you believe that the Bible's **test** of a false prophet is if their "prophecies" do not come to pass?
- Doesn't White's **5 false prophecies** below make her a false prophet? (p.749).
  - Some living in 1856 would see Christ return.
  - England would declare war on the USA about the time of the Civil War.
  - Old Jerusalem would never be built up.
  - The time for salvation of sinners passed in July 1844.
  - World would end in 1851.

### Question 2:

- Should a true prophet of God speak in agreement with the Bible? (p.750).
- Don't these **unbiblical statements** of White prove her to be a false prophet? (p.750).
  - Was the Tower of Babel built before the Flood? (1) (No).
  - Where does the Bible say that the Seal of God is the Sabbath? (3).
  - Did the same Herod put Jesus on trial and kill James? (4).
  - Will Satan bear our sins, or did Jesus bear our sins? (5). (Isaiah 53:6).
  - Did Christ finish our atoning work on the cross or is He still performing our atoning work in heaven?

### Question 3:

- Show me the **Investigative Judgment** in the Bible? (p.750).
- Have believers' sins been blotted out by Christ or not? (8).
  - Did White know the day and hour of Christ's coming? (9). (p.751).
  - Did God hold a council to decide what should be done with Adam and Eve after the fall? (10).
  - Where does the Bible teach that Adam and Eve kept the Sabbath? (11).
  - Where does the Bible state that angels have a gold card? (12).

### Question 4:

- Did **Deity sink** under the agonies of Calvary? (p.751).
- Is there **consciousness** after death or not?

### Question 5:

- Show me one NT Scripture that quotes the **4<sup>th</sup> Commandment?** (p.751).
- Show me **one NT Scripture** that tells Christians to keep the Sabbath day holy?
- Show me one NT Scripture teaching that Sunday keeping is following an image of the Beast as Leo Schreven and White say? (p.752).

### Question 6:

- Do you have **gas heating**? Do you cook on the Sabbath? (Exodus 35:3). (p.752).
- Do you stay in one place on the Sabbath or do you travel?
- Do you buy any goods on the Sabbath?
- Do you stone to death other SDA's who break the Sabbath?
- Did God ever relax any of the 8 Sabbath day restrictions on **p.752**?

### Question 7:

On which day did **early Christians worship** according to the following 14 authorities (p.752): Barnabus (74 AD), Ignatius (107 AD), Didache (90 AD), Justin (150 AD), Clement (190 AD), Bardaisan (154 AD), Tertullian (200 AD), Origen (220 AD), Cyprian (250 AD), The Didascalia (225 AD), Victorinus (300 AD), Eusebius (300 AD), Athanasius (345 AD), and Cyril (350 AD)?

### Question 8:

How do you know that White had a **true vision** from God of the heavenly sanctuary? (p.754). Was it foolish to believe this when you couldn't prove it? (I Thessalonians 5:21).

### Question 9:

Did you **know Ellen White** to be a prophet at your baptism? (Clause 17). (p.754). Had you read all her writings at that time? (No). Then how did you know she was a true prophet? Was it because you believed what some SDA told you? Could he have been lying or misinformed?

### Question 10:

Did the **Pope** change the Sabbath (White), or was it changed in Hadrian's time (135AD) (Bacchiochi)? 754,784.

### Question 11:

- Has the **Mosaic Covenant** been taken away? (Yes). (p.754-755).
- Does the Mosaic Covenant **include** the 10 Commandments? (SDAs say "no", we say "YES").
- How do you explain the following Scriptures which clearly state that the Mosaic Covenant **DOES** contain the 10 Commandments?
  - Hebrews 9:1,4 "the first covenant had..... the **tables of the covenant**";
  - Exodus 34:28 "he wrote upon the tables the words of the covenant, the **ten commandments**."
  - Deuteronomy 4:13 "He declared unto you his **covenant**,..even **ten commandments**..upon tables of stone." II Corinthians 3:7-11 "if the **ministration of death**, written and **engraven in stones**, was **glorious**... that which was **done away** (Mosaic Covenant, including the 10 Commandments) was **glorious**..."

### Question 12:

If the Sabbath was **so well known to Moses** and the Israelites, why did God need to give Moses so many **instructions** about how to keep it? (p.756).

### Question 13:

- When was the Sabbath given or "**made known**" to Israel according to Nehemiah 9:13,14? (p.756).
  - In Eden or on Mt. Sinai? "Thou camest down also upon **Mt Sinai** and **madest known** unto them **thy holy Sabbath**.... by the hand of **Moses**."
- What does "**made known**" mean?
- What is the significance of the phrase "**it was not declared** what should be done" to the Sabbath breaker in Numbers 15:32-36? (p.756).

### Question 14:

- Were OT **priests exempt** from keeping the Sabbath because of their extra workload? (yes). (p.757).
- Since NT believers are a royal priesthood, aren't we also exempt from keeping the Sabbath?

### Question 15:

- When a boy required **circumcision** on the Sabbath day, which of these laws were broken, Sabbath law or circumcision law? (**Answer:** Sabbath law was broken). (p.757).
- Which of these laws were more important? (Circumcision).
- Since the more important circumcision law is now obsolete, what does this tell us about the Sabbath law? (**Answer:** It also is obsolete).

### Key Question 16:

Since the Sabbath day was given over to disputing with Jews in the **Synagogue**, on what day did the Apostles meet with believers for fellowship and preaching? (Sunday). (p.759).

### Question 17:

- If **Constantine** changed Saturday worship to Sunday worship in 328 AD, why was there no protest to this change? (p.759).
- What does the record of **15 early church writers** before 320 AD who state that Sunday worship was the universal practice, tell you? (p.759, 752).

### Question 18:

- Does God **change His laws**? (SDA say 'no'; Bible says 'yes'). (p.760).
- What about circumcision, animal sacrifice, and yearly worship at Jerusalem?
  - Have they been changed? (Yes). Then so has the Sabbath law been changed.

### Question 19:

- To what 2 things is the law compared to in Galatians 3:23-25? (a **prison**, and a **schoolmaster**). (p.760).
- What does the phrase mean "We are **no longer** under a schoolmaster?" (Galatians 3:25).

Question 20:

- a) When was the law added **TILL**? (Galatians 3:19 'till the seed should come'). (p.760).
- b) Has this happened? (yes). Hence the Mosaic law and Sabbath keeping are obsolete, true?

Question 21:

- a) If SDA's could find a verse saying that Christians should take up a **collection** on the Sabbath day, would they use it to prove Sabbath day worship? (yes). (p.762). Q2.
- b) Then what does **I Corinthians 16:1,2** tell you on what day the worship of giving took place? (Sunday).

Question 22:

- a) Is giving to the church an act of worship? (Yes). (p.762). Q3.
- b) Could giving to the church be done on Saturdays? (yes).
- c) Then why did Paul give orders for giving to be done on Sunday, the first day of the week? (Because Sunday was the only day on which the early church met).

Question 23:

- a) Do you SDA's "**lay by in store**" on the first day of every week? (No). (p.762). Q4.
- b) On which day of the week do SDA's give to their church? (Saturdays).
- c) By what authority do SDA's give on Saturday? Is there some passage I have overlooked which commands offerings to be made on the 7<sup>th</sup> day Saturday?  
SDA church members give money on the **last day** of the week. Paul said to give on the **first day** of the week. The SDA church has missed the day of worship by 6 days.  
If **offering** is a part of worship, and if the offering was on **Sunday**, then **worship also took place on Sunday**.
- d) Which will you deny? Paul or the SDA manual?

Question 24:

If Paul wanted them to store up their offerings **at home**, then when Paul came, the offerings would need to be collected from people's homes. (p.763).  
This would disobey Paul's command of "**no gatherings** when I come." I Corinthians 16:1,2.

Question 25:

Fill in the blank: If **Giving** is worship, and giving took place on **Sundays**, then worship took place on \_\_\_\_\_?

Question 26:

According to Malachi 3:10 where did the Jews of Malachi's time store up their weekly offerings, at **home**, or in the **storehouse** of the temple treasury? (p.763).

Question 27:

If Paul promoted Sunday keeping, would you expect a **protest** by some Jewish believers? (Yes). (p.764).  
Where is this protest recorded? (Colossians 2:16,17) "let no man **judge you** in Sabbath days..".

Question 28:

If Christians must keep the Sabbath, why is there **NO New Testament example** of any church meeting for Sabbath worship? If there is a case please show me now? (p.764). Q1.

Question 29:

- a) Is it valid for God to teach us by **example**? (Yes). (p.764).
- b) Then why won't you let God teach us Sunday keeping by the example of the churches at Jerusalem, Troas, Galatia and Corinth? John 20:19,26; Acts 20:7; I Corinthians 16:1,2?

Question 30:

- a) If you found a NT passage which said "Upon the seventh day of the week, let every one of you lay by Him in store," would you use it as a proof of Saturday Sabbath worship? (Yes). (p.764). Q2.
- b) Then why don't you accept that this verse clearly teaches Sunday worship?
- c) Do you give money to the SDA church on **Sundays**, the first day of the week? (No).
- d) By what authority does the SDA church give on **Saturday**, the 7<sup>th</sup> day of the week?
- e) If believers stored their offerings **at home** on the **first day** of the week (Sunday), how many collections would there be when Paul came? (One (1) collection from each house).
- f) Why do you **disobey Paul's order** to give on Sunday, the first day of the week?

Question 31:

- How do we know that the blotted out "**ordinances**" in Colossians 2:14 mean that the "**10 Commandments**" were nailed to the Cross? (p.764).
- i) Ephesians 2:15 says so: "Having **abolished** in his flesh the enmity, even the **law of commandments** contained in **ordinances**", p. 23.
  - ii) 'Shadow' in Hebrews 8:4,5 (law...shadow) and 10:1 (law having a shadow) mean 'Law of Moses'.
  - iii) Colossians 2:16-17 mentions **Sabbath** days in the same context.

Question 32:

When Christ fulfilled the Law of Moses (Matthew 5:17,18), what happened to it? (It passed away).(p.765).

Question 33:

- a) Does **1 Kings 8:9** say that the 10 Commandments are part of the Mosaic Covenant? (Yes). (p.765).
- b) What does **Jeremiah 31:31,32** teach about the 10 Commandments if the **New Covenant** is "**NOT according to the Mosaic Covenant**" as Jeremiah 31:31,32 states? (p.765).

Question 34:

If the **10 Commandments** are **part of the Mosaic Covenant**, then what does **Hebrews 8:13** say about the 10 Commandments? (Both are old and ready to vanish away). (p.765).

Question 35:

What 10 verses teach that the **10 Commandments** are **part of the Old Mosaic Covenant** which has been done away? (p.766).

- 1) Galatians 3:23-25 'The **law** was our schoolmaster to bring us to Christ,...But after that faith is come, we are **NO LONGER** under a schoolmaster.'
- 2) 2 Corinthians 3:7-11 'If the ministration of death, written and **engraven in stones**, was glorious, which glory was to be **done away**: (7).....For if that which is **done away** was glorious, much more that which remaineth is glorious.' (11).
- 3) Hebrews 8:13 'A new covenant, he hath made the first old...ready to **vanish away**.'
- 4) Hebrews 9:1-4 'The first covenant had...the **tables** of the covenant.'
- 5) "**Against us**" in Colossians 2:**14-17** is the same as "**enmity**" in Ephesians **2:15** "Having **abolished** in his flesh the **enmity**, even the **law of commandments**."
- 6) Nehemiah 9:13,14 "Thou camest down also upon **Mt Sinai**...  
And **madest known** unto them thy **holy Sabbath** by the hand of Moses..."
- 7) Exodus 34:28 "He wrote upon the tables, the **words** of the **covenant** even **the ten Commandments**."
- 8) Deuteronomy 4:13 "And he declared unto you **his covenant**, which he commanded you to perform, even **ten commandments**; and he wrote them upon **two tables of stone**."
- 9) Deuteronomy 9:9 "When I was gone up into the mount to receive the **tables of stone**, even the **tables of the covenant** which the Lord made with you..."
- 10) I Kings 8:9 "There was nothing in the ark save the **two tables of stone** ... when the Lord made a **covenant** with the children of Israel."

## SDA ARGUMENTS SUMMARISED and REFUTED.

- 1) **SDA:** 10 Commandments are not in the Old Mosaic Covenant. (p.766).  
**Bible:** 10 verses teach that 10 Commandments & Mosaic Covenant were all abolished when Christ died.
- 2) **SDA:** Sabbath day in Col. 2:16 is not the weekly Sabbath, but monthly or yearly Sabbaths. (p.767).  
**Bible:** Sabbath days in Col. 2:16 is the weekly Sabbath that was nailed to the Cross because:
  - i) The "handwriting of ordinances" in Colossians 2:14 is the 10 Commandments since "contrary to us" here means the same as "ministration of death" written and "graven in stones" in 2 Cor. 3:7.
  - ii) The year, month, day sequence in Col. 2:16 proves it to be a weekly Sabbath because the same year, month, day sequence occurs in Galatians 4:10; I Chronicles 23:31; II Chronicles 2:4; 8:13, 31:3; Nehemiah 10:33; Ezekiel 45:17, Hosea 2:11.
  - iii) The Greek plural word "Sabbaton" for Sabbath days is the weekly Sabbath because the same Greek word occurs in Matthew 28:1; Luke 4:16; Acts 16:13; Exodus 20:8 (Septuagint).
- 3) **SDA:** The Sabbath law is a moral law because it is in the 10 Commandments. (p.768).  
**Bible:** The Sabbath law is not a moral law because:
  - i) The priests were allowed to profane it (Matthew 12:5; Numbers 28:9,10).
  - ii) God grew weary of the Jews keeping it (Isaiah 1:13,14).
  - iii) God never charged the Gentiles with breaking it, as He did the other commandments.
- 4) **SDA:** 10 Commandments and Sabbath existed from the Garden of Eden. (p.769).  
**Bible:** 10 Commandments and Sabbath law did not exist before Moses because:
  - i) God revealed or "made known" the Sabbath law and 10 Commandments to Israel at Mt Sinai, not in Eden. He did not remind them. See Nehemiah 9:13,14, "Thou made known unto them thy holy Sabbath" by the hand of Moses thy servant."
  - ii) Israelite leaders before Moses did not keep the Sabbath. "The Lord made not this covenant with our fathers, but with us..." (Deuteronomy 5:2,3).
  - iii) Abraham never knew of the Sabbath law because it came 430 years after Abraham: "the law, which was 430 years after (Abraham)." Galatians 3:17.
  - iv) No one before the Exodus (Exodus 16) ever knew about the Sabbath law. Exodus 20:10,12, "I caused them to go forth out of the land of Egypt. I gave them my Sabbaths."
  - v) The Sabbath is first mentioned in Exodus 16:22,23 as a new experience for Israel.
  - vi) The Sabbath was inappropriate for Adam in Eden because there was no weariness, sickness, death or strangers in Eden before the Fall.
  - vii) The Sabbath was not sanctified on Day 6 but is an example of Prolepsis, (represents something in the future as if it already existed).  
Six examples of Prolepsis are: Genesis 2:24; 3:20; 4:20; 4:21; Matthew 10:4; John 11:1,2.
- 5) **SDA:** Christ came to fulfil the law, not to destroy it (Matthew 5:17-18). (p.771).  
**Bible:** i) Christ fulfilled Matt. 5:17-18 by fulfilling the OT prophecies and offerings about the Messiah.  
ii) "Jot and tittle" refer to the entire OT law, including all the ceremonial laws.  
According to SDA logic, this verse proves that we must keep all the ceremonial laws, right? Wrong. They have passed away. So have the 10 Commandments been replaced by the law of Christ.  
iii) Christ said "I came to fulfil"; He did not say "I come to perpetuate."  
None of Moses' laws failed. Christ fulfilled them 100%.
- 6) **SDA:** The 10 Commandments are for all mankind for all time. (p.772).  
**Bible:** The 10 Commandments are only for Israel. Exodus 31:13.  
**Question:** If the Sabbath law was a moral law for all mankind, then why did God never charge the Gentiles with breaking it?
- 7) **SDA:** If the 10 Commandments were abolished, we could murder, steal, and commit adultery. (p.773).  
**Bible:** i) We are now under a different law, the law of Christ, forbidding these. This implies that if we don't listen to Moses, there are no other laws to guide us. eg. a country may change its law over time.  
ii) All the 9 moral laws of the 10 Commandments are brought over and expanded into the New Covenant law of Christ.
- 8) **SDA:** The Royal law of James 2:8-12 is the 10 Commandments law. (p.774).  
**Bible:** The Royal law is stated in James 2:8 as 'Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.'
- 9) **SDA:** Jesus said "Keep my commandments." John 14:15 (SDA read this as 10 commandments). (p.774)  
**Bible:** Jesus did NOT say "Keep the 10 Commandments," but "Keep my commandments" which far exceed the 10 Commandments. Eg: I John 3:23,24; John 13:34,35.
- 10) **SDA:** The NT quotes several of the 10 Commandments proving that all 10 are binding today, including the Sabbath. (p.775).  
**Bible:** i) The Sabbath law is never quoted in the NT. Col. 2:14-16 says it was abolished at the Cross.  
ii) The 10 Commandments are stated as being part of the Mosaic Covenant which was abolished and replaced by the new covenant in II Corinthians 3:7-11; Hebrews 8:13; Hebrews 9:1-4.
- 11) **SDA:** The 10 Commandments contain all we need to know about perfect moral living. Man needs nothing else to live perfectly. (p.775).  
**Bible:** The 10 Commandments are not complete, because God has added many other laws not covered by them: eg. drunkenness, pride, fornication, homosexuality, Christians suing Christians, evil thoughts. They do not tell us how to be forgiven or how to enter heaven.
- 12) **SDA:** God does not change, therefore neither does His law. (p.776).  
**Bible:** God's nature does not change, but His laws and human requirements in different time periods have changed a lot. eg. God gave laws on animal sacrifices, then later abolished them. Does this prove that God's nature changes? No.
- 13) **SDA:** The Sabbath must be kept today because God blessed it and made it holy. (p.776).  
**Bible:** This proves nothing because many other things that God said were holy, have been abolished eg: 7 feasts and 19 other holy things.
- 14) **SDA:** The "Lord's Day" is the Sabbath because Jesus said He was Lord of the Sabbath. (p.778).  
**Bible:** The "Lord's Day" is Sunday because:
  - i) Jesus rose on Sunday.
  - ii) The Holy Spirit came on Pentecost (Acts 2:1) which always falls on a Sunday.
  - iii) Christians practiced the Lord's Supper on Sunday (Acts 20:7).
  - iv) Early Christians (eg. Chrysostom, Theodoret) from 33-300AD called Sunday the Lord's Day.
  - v) John called Sunday "the Lord's Day" in the Book of Revelation (1:10).  
If the Lord's Day was Saturday, John would have called it the Sabbath.
- 15) **SDA:** John foresaw 20<sup>th</sup> Century Christians keeping the Sabbath day. (Matthew 24:20). (p.778).  
**Bible:** This refers to Jews living in Jerusalem in the middle of the future 7 year Tribulation when the Antichrist begins to persecute them. SDA's miss the context of:
  - i) when this happens, ii) to whom this happens, and iii) the place this happens.
- 16) **SDA:** "The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath." (Mark 2:27). (p.778).  
Therefore all mankind must keep it.  
**Bible:** The laws of keeping the Sabbath must not be applied to oppose man's real welfare.
- 17) **SDA:** The Sabbath is eternal and endures forever, therefore we must keep it today. (p.779).  
**Bible:** If the Sabbath is eternal, then so too are all the other Jewish holidays.  
Do we keep the Jewish Feasts of Unleavened Bread, Atonement, Tabernacles and Passover, all of which are stated as lasting forever? No.
- 18) **SDA:** Since the Sabbath was a memorial to a 6-day creation, then this proves that the Sabbath will endure forever. (p.779).  
**Bible:** Since the first heavens and earth will pass away at the end of the Millennium, then so will the Sabbath if it is a memorial to the first heavens and earth.



- 19) **SDA:** Since the Sabbath will be **kept in the Millennium (Isaiah 66:23)** we should keep it now. (p.779)  
**Bible:** i) Since the **Feast of Tabernacles** will be kept in the Millennium, should we keep it now? No. Why don't SDA's keep the Feast of Tabernacles now? (Zechariah 14:16-19). Because it is not relevant to the Church Age. Neither is Sabbath keeping.  
 ii) Should we keep **new moon feasts** now? **No**. Then neither should we keep the Sabbath now.
- 20) **SDA:** The Sabbath is God's **special law above all laws**. (p.780).  
**Bible:** How can the Sabbath commandment be more important than that which Jesus calls the first and great commandment of loving God and loving your neighbour? (Matthew 22:37-40).
- 21) **SDA:** The Sabbath is a sign between **God** and **Christians**. (p.780).  
**Bible:** The Sabbath is a sign between **God** and **Israel only**, because:  
 i) Exodus 31:13; 31:16; and Ezekiel 20:12 say so.  
 ii) Why did God never command any Gentiles in the OT or NT to keep the Sabbath?  
 iii) Why do **SDA's** not keep the **sign of circumcision?** (Genesis 17:11).  
 Why do **SDA's** not keep the **sign of Passover blood?** (Exodus 12:13).  
**Question:** Why should Christians not keep the sign of the **Sabbath?** (Exodus 31:13,16).  
**Answer:** Because it was a sign **ONLY** for Jews and not for NT Christians in the Church Age.  
 iv) Keeping the Saturday Sabbath was the sign of the Mosaic Covenant between God and Jews only.  
 Exodus 31:13,14,16,17; Romans 9:4.
- 22) **SDA: Hebrew 4:9** proves we must keep the weekly Jewish Sabbath. (p.781).  
 "There remaineth therefore a **rest** to the people of God."  
**Bible:** The Hebrews 4:9 rest (Greek: "Sabbatismos"(4520), not "Sabbaton"(4521)) is "our **fellowship rest** with the Father and Son in **eternity**." See S. Zodhiates, NT Word Study Dict. p.1268. **Rev.14:13**.
- 23) **SDA:** The Sabbath is **not nailed to the Cross** because the Holy Spirit still refers to the Sabbath day after Christ's death, when the New Covenant had replaced the Old Covenant. (p.781).  
**Bible:** Other Jewish days kept after the cross, yet are not binding on Christians are: Pentecost (Acts 2:1); Unleavened Bread (Acts 12:3; 20:6); Purification (Acts 21:26); Animal sacrifices (Acts 21:26); and Circumcision (Acts 16:3).
- 24) **SDA:** The Sabbath was **not a shadow**, because the Sabbath was given before the Fall. (p.781).  
**Bible:** Paul says that the **Sabbath is a shadow**: "the Sabbath days; which **are a shadow** of things to come." Colossians 2:16,17.
- 25) **SDA:** The Sabbath is the way we know **God sanctifies us**. (p.781).  
 "I gave them my Sabbaths to be a sign between **me** and **them**, that they might know that I am the Lord **that sanctify them**." Ezekiel 20:12,20; Exodus 31:13.  
**Bible:** This expression "that they might know that I am the Lord that sanctify them" is **NOT found in the NT**, nor is there any NT commandments for Christians after Pentecost to keep the Sabbath.
- 26) **SDA: Christ our example** kept the Sabbath. (p.781).  
**Bible:** Jesus kept the Passover, every Jewish Feast day, animal sacrifices and all the Ceremonial Laws of Moses. Why don't the SDA's keep these as well?  
 Because "after faith is come, we are no longer under a schoolmaster (the law)." Galatians 4:24,25.
- 27) **SDA:** The **disciples kept the Sabbath one day after Christ's death**, proving that the Sabbath was not abolished when it was nailed to the Cross. (p.782).  
**Bible:** The disciples kept this Sabbath day, because **they did not yet understand** that **ALL** of the Mosaic Covenant and Mosaic Laws would be abolished by the New Covenant and the law of Christ. This SDA argument proves nothing. They didn't yet understand Christ's crucifixion, death, resurrection, ascension or second coming. This is the only time after the cross that the disciples ever kept the Sabbath day.  
**Question:** "Why is there no other place in the New Covenant where Christians "kept the Sabbath according to the Commandment"?"
- 28) **SDA: Paul preaching on the Sabbath** after the Cross, proves we must keep the Sabbath today. "He reasoned in the synagogue every Sabbath day." Acts 13:14; 16:12; 17:2; 18:4,11. (p.782).  
**Bible:** Do SDA pastors "keep Sunday" if they preach in a Sunday keeping church on Sunday? No. Then neither did Paul keep the Sabbath in these verses. Pentecost (Acts 2) and Sabbath days just provided an opportunity to preach to an interested audience.
- 29) **SDA:** Sunday keeping is **worshipping the sun** -"SUN" day. (p.782).  
**Answer:** Ridiculous! If so, then Saturday keeping is worshipping the Roman god Saturn,"Saturn's" day.
- 30) **SDA: Ananias**, a devout Christian, kept the 10 Commandments: "Ananias, a devout man according to the Law..." Acts 22:12. So should we keep the Sabbath law today. (p.782).  
**Bible:** Just because a Jew kept the Mosaic Law does not prove that we must keep it because:  
 i) The Mosaic Law included **circumcision** (Acts 21:20-24) which Christians don't keep.  
 ii) The Apostles **never commanded Christians to keep the Mosaic Law**:  
 "certain ....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 15:24).
- 31) **SDA:** History shows that the **very earliest Christians kept the Sabbath**, (p.783) as follows:  
 i) Up to 135 AD there was no discussion of the Sabbath question.  
 ii) After 135 AD Christians started meeting on Sundays, or after Constantine (320 AD).  
**Bible** i) History and the Bible are 100% against SDA's.  
 ii) There is enormous historical evidence (over 15 early writers) that from the Apostles to Constantine, Christians always met on Sunday, and never on the Sabbath.  
 iii) There is no historical evidence that early Christians:  
 -Kept the Sabbath.  
 -Protested a change from Saturday to Sunday worship. (Jews protested it)  
 -Practised the Lord's supper on the Sabbath.
- 32) **SDA:** Christians copied Sunday keeping off the pagan religion of **Mithraism**. (p.783).  
**Answer:** There is no documented evidence that Mithraism had a formal Sunday worship service. "Sun worship" and worshipping on Sunday" are completely different ideas that SDA's combine in order to confuse the subject.
- 33) **SDA:** The **Pope** changed the Sabbath from Saturday to Sunday. (p.784).  
**Answer:** i) Which Pope? When did he change it? What proof is there?  
 ii) Many church writers before 340 AD all say that Christians from the Apostles met on Sunday.  
 iii) SDA theologian, Bacchiocchi said "I differ from Ellen White on the origin of Sunday keeping... I place the origin of Sunday keeping by the time of the Emperor Hadrian, 135AD."
- 34) **SDA: Constantine** changed the Sabbath to Sunday. (p.784).  
**Answer:** i) Constantine just made a **civil decree** that because Christians were **already meeting on Sunday** (since 33 AD), that Christians **should not work on Sunday**.  
 ii) SDA's contradict themselves. Who changed the Sabbath? Was it the **Pope, Constantine** in 321 AD, or some **Christians in Rome** in 135 AD?