

Cut and Paste Christianity Part 5

The Sabbath and Holy Days

One of the biggest mistakes made by those who cut and paste God's Word is the blunder in dismissing or even "doing away with" the Old Testament. Omitting any of God's Word is contrary to scripture (**Deut. 8:3, Matt. 4:4, Luke 4:4, Rev. 22: 18-19**). So why is it so easy to do away with God's true Sabbath and His Holy Days? In Cut and Paste Christianity Part 3, we discussed the false doctrines of "going to heaven or going to hell" and how the "sinners' prayer" gets you saved. It is a far easier sell for those pushing this agenda than the actual truth in God's Word. Being good and your 90-minute visit to church on Sunday (Christmas and Easter is more of a reality) is all you need. Besides, all the Saturday Sabbath stuff and Holy Days is all Jewish anyway and doesn't apply to "modern Christianity." Really? Let's take a look at those thoughts.

I believe that if we look at the current Hebrew calendar, we are in the year 5782. In other words, we are 5782 years away from creation. God established His Sabbath at Creation.

Genesis 2:2-4- “And by *the beginning of* the seventh day God finished His work which He had made. And He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had made. And God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it because on it He rested from His work. This is the account of the heavens and of the earth when they *were* created; in the day that the LORD God made the earth and the heavens,”

So, at the time of creation, there were no humans present (yet), much less Jews.

There were *no Jews* until the 12 tribes of Israel were established through the sons of Jacob. Jacob was born around 2108 (Hebrew Year). This was over 2100 years *after* Creation! So, for over 2000 years, there were NO Jews present on the Earth.

The term “Jew” refers to certain members of the 12 Tribes of Israel to include;

Judah and Benjamin; and to some extent, some Levites. The 12 Tribes of Israel

(Israelites) were the twelve sons of the biblical patriarch Jacob. The 12 Tribes of

Israel were: Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar, Zebulun, Joseph, Benjamin,

Dan, Naphtali, Gad, and Asher. **Gen. 35:22-26-** “And it came to pass when Israel

lived in that land that Reuben went and lay with Bilhah his father’s concubine. And

Israel heard it. And the sons of Jacob were twelve: The sons of Leah: Reuben,

Jacob’s firstborn, and Simeon, and Levi, and Judah, and Issachar, and Zebulun.

The sons of Rachel: Joseph and Benjamin. And the sons of Bilhah, Rachel’s

handmaid: Dan and Naphtali. And the sons of Zilpah, Leah’s handmaid: Gad and

Asher. These were the sons of Jacob born to him in Padan Aram.”

Okay, so we pretty much established that there were no Jews at creation. Some would still argue that Abraham (Jacob's grandfather) was a Jew, he was not. Abraham was a gentile who was called by God, "And the LORD said to Abram, "Get out of your country, and from your kindred, and from your father's house into a land that I will show you. And I will make *of* you a great nation. And I will bless you and make your name great. And you shall be a blessing. And I will bless those that bless you and curse the one who curses you. And in you shall all families of the earth be blessed."- **Genesis 12:1-3**. Abram was chosen by God to be the "father of many nations." "And when Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram and said to him, "I *am* the Almighty God! Walk before Me and be perfect. And I will make My covenant between Me and you, and will multiply you exceedingly." And Abram fell on his face. And God talked with him, saying, "As for Me, behold, My covenant is with you, and you shall be a father of many nations. Neither shall your name any more be called *Abram*, but your name shall be *Abraham*; for I have made you a father of many nations. And I will make you exceedingly fruitful, and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you."- **Genesis 17:1-6**.

Since Abraham was not around at creation either, this would also negate any thoughts of the Sabbath being "Jewish." The first mention of Jews in the Bible

isn't until **2 Kings 16:6**- "At that time Rezin king of Syria recovered Elath to Syria, and drove the Jews from Elath. And the Syrians came to Elath and lived there until this day." (**Also 2 Kings 25:25**). The term Jew is simply the shortened version for Judah, and may have been a term coined by the Babylonians or Persians to refer to the people in their midst who had come from the kingdom of Judah. King David and Jesus are from the lineage of the Tribe of Judah (**Matt. 1**). By New Testament times, *Jew* was a common term, and it remains in common usage to this very day. Obviously, Abraham was never referred to biblically as a Jew.

One thing I came across while reading various sources and meanings was the definition used for "Gentile." Webster and most on-line sources have the definition listed as "non-Jewish religions or nations." This encapsulates anyone non-Jewish as a gentile. This deviation may be enough to twist the Old Testament into being "Jewish." The term *Gentile* is simply from the Latin word for "nation." When the term *Gentiles* is used in Scripture, it means "the nations." If a person is a Gentile, he or she is a member of one of the many nations in the world and not a member of the Nation of Israel. Modern day definitions may distort the original intent and definition. The current error is that in contrast, the modern mind set excludes the

other 10 Tribes of the Nation of Israel (not the country in the Middle East). The Ten Tribes have been absorbed among the nations of the world.

When *Jew* and *Gentile* are compared, should the contrast be between one who is a member of God's chosen *nation* (not just 2 tribes-Benjamin and Judah) or one who is a member of one of the hundreds of other nations or ethnic groups not chosen for special blessing in the way that the Biblical Nation of Israel was? In this framework, it is easy to understand how the Old Testament can be deemed "Jewish." We know that when people hear the term, "Nation of Israel" they think of the Jewish State of Israel in the Middle East. They overlook the 12 Tribes of the Nation of Israel used in the Biblical context. Hopefully, this will spark a discussion to get everyone's thoughts on this. This leads into the Holy Days and God's Commandments.

The Forth Commandment

God makes it quite clear which day He has set aside to Moses on Mt. Sinai in giving the Fourth Commandment; **Exodus 20:8-11** "Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work. But the seventh day *is* the Sabbath of the LORD your God. In it you shall not do any work, you, nor your son, nor your daughter; your manservant, nor your maidservant, nor your livestock,

nor the stranger within your gates; For *in* six days the LORD made the heaven and the earth, the sea, and all that *is* in them, and rested the seventh day. Therefore, the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and sanctified it. Having an understanding of who God is speaking to is paramount to receive God's Truth. Moses giving the Ten Commandments is somehow viewed as Moses speaking to Israel. Again, the modern mind set switches to the Nation of Israel.

To put this to rest, the modern "State" of Israel was founded on May 14, 1948. Israel's establishment as an independent, sovereign state was officially declared in Tel-Aviv by Zionist leader David Ben-Gurion. Ben-Gurion's declaration came on the day the British Mandate over Palestine was officially terminated, in accordance with UN Resolution 181 which called for the division of the land into a Jewish state and an Arab state.

When God tells Moses to speak to the children of Israel, He means speak to the 12 Tribes liberated from Egyptian captivity. **Exodus 31:13-18-** "Speak also to the children of Israel, saying, 'Truly you shall keep My Sabbaths, for it *is* a sign between Me and you throughout your generations to know that I *am* the LORD Who sanctifies you. You shall keep the Sabbath therefore, for it *is* holy to you. Everyone that defiles it shall surely be put to death, for whoever does *any* work on it, that soul shall be cut off from among his people. Six days may work be done, but on the seventh day *is* the Sabbath of rest, holy to the LORD. Whoever does

any work on the Sabbath day, he shall surely be put to death. Therefore, the children of Israel shall keep the Sabbath, to observe the Sabbath throughout their generations *as* a perpetual covenant. It *is* a sign between Me and the children of Israel forever; for in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, and on the seventh day He rested, and was refreshed.” And He gave to Moses, when He had made an end of speaking with him upon Mount Sinai, two tablets of the testimony, tablets of stone, written by the finger of God.”

The feasts are all Jewish holidays

Lev. 23:1-2- “And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, “Speak to the children of Israel and say to them, ‘*Concerning* the appointed feasts of the LORD, which you shall proclaim *to be* holy convocations, even these are My appointed feasts.” The rest of **Lev. 23** explains each of the appointed Feasts of the Lord.

“Sunday churchers” put the same spin on God’s Holy Days and dismiss them as Jewish as well. In some years, the dates celebrated by people of the Jewish faith may coincide with God’s Holy Days. (Yom Kippur, Rosh Hashana). But most of the Jewish faith miss the true day of Passover and they celebrate it on the 15th Day of Aviv instead of the 14th day (**Lev. 23:5, Numbers 9:5**).

God's original instructions clearly stipulate that Passover is a single day, Aviv 14, followed by the seven-day Feast of Unleavened Bread, beginning on Aviv 15 (**Exodus 12:6-20; Leviticus 23:5-8; Numbers 9:2-5**). Since leaving Egypt, the children of Israel rebelled and continued in leaving God's way and instructions. Being polluted with pagan cultures and over time, they moved farther from God and His commands. During the reigns of the kings, Israel and Judah, now separate nations, adopted many practices from the pagan cultures surrounding them, with the kings often leading the way. By the time of Jesus, most anyone celebrating Passover or any of the Feasts of God were of the tribe of Judah. There are several New Testament scriptures calling the Passover a Jewish feast (**John 2:13, 11:55**). We know this not to be solely a Jewish Feast. But for those are not called (**John 6:44**) and who do not read and study God's Word in its entirety, they will never fully understand.

The Establishment of Sunday as the Sabbath

In the entire Bible, there is no variation or discrepancy on which day of the week is the true Sabbath. We know it was established by God at Creation and emphasized by God to Moses on Mt. Sinai. The seventh day Sabbath is the only day designated by God Almighty in His entire Bible. It was never changed by God The Father nor Jesus Christ. Not only was Jesus the perfect example in observing the weekly

seventh day Sabbath, but all of His disciples followed the His example as well.

They continued to do so even after Jesus ascended back to Heaven. They kept the Sabbath for the rest of their lives. Not one of them ever said in any scripture the Sabbath had been changed.

Another quip often used to delete the Old Testament and God's Commandments is that "it's nailed to the cross." Jesus said in **Matthew 5:17-18**- "Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I did not come to abolish, but to fulfill. For truly I say to you, until the heaven and the earth shall pass away, one jot or one tittle shall in no way pass from the Law until everything has been fulfilled."

The only thing that was done away with was all of the hand written ordinance of Moses. Jewish customs were readily challenged but the weightier matter of weekly worship never was an issue. If there had been any switch from the seventh day Sabbath to the first day of the week, I'm pretty sure there would have been an uproar from Christians and Jews alike. So, if God, Jesus and the Apostles didn't change the Sabbath, how did we end up with Sunday as being the Sabbath?

Paul had prophesied that apostasy would take place soon after his departure. He said there would be a falling away from the truth. The rise of false prophets and false doctrine was foretold in the Gospels and spoken by Jesus Himself (**Matt. 24:11, 24, Mark 13:22, Luke 6:26, 2 Peter 2:1, 1 John 4:1**). One doesn't have to

read very far in early church history to see just how that prophecy was fulfilled.

You can almost visualize Satan sitting idly by waiting for the last Apostle to pass away so he could “re-arrange” what had been established. Certainly nothing new.

With the passing of time Gnosticism began to rise up under the influence of philosophers who sought to unify Christianity with Paganism. At the same time, a strong anti-Jewish sentiment became more widespread. Hypothetical explanations began to appear regarding some of the great doctrines of Christ and the apostles and the diluting of the truth was well under way.

When Constantine became Emperor of Rome in the early 4th century, there was an obvious division in the early church. I believe we’ve talked about Constantine in the past and know he was the first so called “Christian” emperor. He supposedly had a vision while marching to fight a battle and he allegedly saw a flaming cross in the sky. Displayed under the cross was Latin words meaning, “in this sign conquer.” Constantine took this as an omen that he should be a Christian, and his army as well. He declared all his pagan soldiers to be Christians, and became very zealous to build up the power and prestige of the church. Through his edict great numbers of pagans were “drafted” into the early Christian Church. That would be like a Baptist minister snagging us into a Baptist church. We’d still be who we are. The same was with his pagan ranks, they were still pagans. This blending was as successful as mixing oil and water.

At that time the cult of sun-worship was the official religion of the Roman Empire. It was well established and the biggest rivalry to the new Christian church. It had its own organization, temples, priesthood, robes and also had an official day of worship, Sunday, which is where we get our day of the week. Constantine's pagans were worshipping on Sunday for their adoration of the Sun god. It was their holy day. Trying to maintain order and peace, Constantine felt it would be easier for them to switch to his "new" religion if he changed the Sabbath to Sunday.

Remember that there was already animosity growing against the Jews who had been blamed for putting Jesus to death. Those feelings would made it easy for many Christians to walk away from something which was held as religious by the Jews. It is easy to understand how the change was imposed on Christianity through a strong civil law issued by Constantine as the Emperor of Rome. Even worse than vaccines! The early Christians had no difficulty in disassociating themselves with anything that was remotely Jewish. Changing the Seventh Day Sabbath seemed like an easy compromise. We can hang the initial change to Sunday around Constantine's neck. Now I'll not turn this entirely into a history lesson on Constantine, quite the contrary, this is the condensed version of the transition.

Further digging into the subject, any on-line encyclopedia will suffice, you can read up on how the church changed to Sunday, how this all "morphed" into blending paganism and Christianity. Losing the Seventh Day Sabbath for Sunday,

adopting the pagan sun god's birthday (Dec 25th) and calling Sunday the "Lord's Day."

The following are several publications from the Catholic Church listing these changes:

Catholic Encyclopedia, Vol. 4, p.153, "the church after changing the day of rest from the Jewish Sabbath or the seventh day of the week to the first, made the third commandment seventh-day of the week to the first, made the third commandment refer to Sunday as the day to be kept holy as the Lord's day."

This is a quote from the Catholic Press newspaper in Sidney, Australia. "Sunday is a Catholic institution and its claims to observance can be defended only on Catholic principles. From the beginning to end of Scripture there is not a single passage that warrants the transfer of weekly public worship from the last day of the week to the first."

From The Catholic Mirror of September 23, 1894, puts it this way: "The Catholic Church for over one thousand years before the existence of a Protestant by virtue of her divine mission, changed the day from Saturday to Sunday."

From the Convert's Catechism of Catholic Doctrine by Reverend Peter Giermann.

“Question: Which is the Sabbath day? Answer: Saturday is the Sabbath day.

Question: Why do we observe Sunday instead of Saturday? Answer: We observe Sunday instead of Saturday because the Catholic Church in the Council of Nicea transferred the solemnity from Saturday to Sunday.”

From Reverend Steven Keenan’s Doctrinal Catechism we read this: “Question: Have you any other way of proving that the Church has power to institute festivals of precept? Answer: Had she not such power, she could not have done that in which all modern religionists agree with her; she could not have substituted the observance of Sunday, the first day of the week, for the observance of Saturday, the seventh day; *a change for which there is no Scriptural authority.*”

From Cardinal Gibbons’ book, The Question Box, p.179, “If the Bible is the only guide for the Christian, then the Seventh-day Adventist is right in observing Saturday with the Jew. Is it not strange that those who make the Bible their only teacher *should inconsistently follow in this matter the tradition of the Catholic Church?*”

From the book, The Faith of Millions, p. 473. “But since Saturday, not Sunday, is specified in the Bible, isn’t it curious that non-Catholics who profess to take their

religion directly from the Bible and not from the Church, observe Sunday instead of Saturday? Yes, of course, it is inconsistency but this change was made about fifteen centuries before Protestantism was born, and by that time the custom was universally observed. They have continued the custom even though it rests upon the authority of the Catholic Church and not upon an explicit text from the Bible. That observance remains as a reminder of the Mother Church from which the non-Catholic sects broke away like a boy running away from home but still carrying in his pocket a picture of his mother or a lock of her hair.”

These statements are not anything made up or unverified. It is historical fact that Constantine changed the Seventh Day Sabbath to Sunday. The anti-Semitism that grew surrounding the Jews only fueled the fire and made it easy for Satan to perpetuate the lies through the ages. The catholic church, in their self-appointed leadership role supported and changed the true Sabbath from Saturday to Sunday with NO scriptural authority. I find it mind boggling with all the facts and evidence presented, aside from the Word of God, people still refuse to keep the correct Sabbath.

Remember **Rev. 22:18-19**- “For I jointly testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book, *that* if anyone adds to these things, God shall add to him the plagues that are written in this book. And if anyone takes away from the

words of *the* book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part from *the* book of life, and from the holy city, and from the things that are written in this book.

God Says vs. “We Choose”

I remember having a conversation with a local pastor a few years back We chatted in a parking lot and the scriptures were flowing. It was like being in a boxing match with someone who was drunk, not much of a challenge. When speaking on the Sabbath and sharing scriptures, his response on Sunday will always echo in my ears. “Oh, *we choose* to worship the Lord on the Lord’s Day.” How absurd.

Is it any wonder, they miss the mark? Ignoring all the facts and truth regarding the Sabbath and they still refuse to keep the correct day. Steeped in tradition rather than obedience to God’s Word. **1 John 2:4-** “The one who says, “I know Him,” and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.” The rewards of keeping God’s true Sabbath are a gift for being obedient. **Isa. 58:13-14-** “If you turn your foot away from the Sabbath, *from* doing your own desires on My holy day, and call the Sabbath a delight, the holy of the LORD, honorable; and shall honor Him, not doing your own ways, nor pursuing *your own* desires, nor speaking *your own* words, Then you shall delight yourself in the LORD; and I will

cause you to ride upon the high places of the earth, and feed you with the inheritance of Jacob your father, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken it.”

So how can a pastor of a church (with a fairly large congregation) so blatantly discount the Word of God?

James 2:10-11- “For *if* anyone keeps the whole law, but sins in one aspect, he becomes guilty of all. For He Who said, “You shall not commit adultery,” also said, “You shall not commit murder.” Now if you do not commit adultery, but you commit murder, you have become a transgressor of *the* law.”

By breaking the Fourth Commandment, they’ve broken them all. Again, **Matthew 5:19-** “Therefore, whoever shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever shall practice and teach *them*, this one shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.”

We have proven God established His Sabbath during His Creation week. We know it is not a Jewish day of worship only but given to all mankind. We know that it was changed from the true Sabbath to the first day of the week with no scriptural authority what so ever.

God did not tell us to keep one day in seven holy, but He named His own and said very distinctly, “Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy.”- **Exodus 20:8**. He assigned a reason to this day and not any other, this reason belongs only to the

Seventh Day Sabbath. “For *in* six days the LORD made the heaven and the earth, the sea, and all that *is* in them, and rested the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and sanctified it.”- **Exodus 20:11**

I believe that those who substitute Sunday for the true Sabbath are missing the greatest Commandment as well. **Matthew 22:37-38**- “And Jesus said to him,” ‘You shall love *the* Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is *the* first and greatest commandment;” God has set aside one very special day. A day that we can worship Him in spirit and in truth (**John 4:23-24**). We are to rest from our labors as He did and spend it in fellowship worshipping our Creator. Leaving the world at the door, we are given this opportunity that we might come to know God more on this day than any other day of the week. To truly be at one with Him must begin with doing things His way!

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