

## Serious about the Sabbath

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This paper is created for those who love God and want to please Him, those *serious* about keeping the Lord's Sabbath day "*holy*." God's desire is that we come **out of Babylon** and be **saved**. The Lord said, "I will not spare any that remain in **Babylon**" (D&C 64:24). To do so we must remove all of the false traditions and teachings of men in our lives, bringing us closer to the living God and His truth. Doing so is an important part of "*true worship*" (D&C 93:19). Honoring God on **His** Sabbath day, according to His word and way, removes the **idolatry** of the 1<sup>st</sup> day of the week **sun** -day Sabbath, returning us to true worship, not on the 7<sup>th</sup> day *Saturn*-day Sabbath, but on the 7<sup>th</sup> day Sabbath marked by the heavens, specifically the moon *and* the sun - His two faithful witnesses. It is good to worship God weekly. Sunday is *good*. The 7<sup>th</sup> day Saturday is *better*, but the 7<sup>th</sup> day marked by the phase of the moon is *best*. Here's why.

To receive God's choicest blessings we must keep all His commandments. This motivated me to look over the Ten Commandments for the ones I wasn't taking seriously. God's 4th commandment encourages us to "keep the Sabbath day *holy*" (Ex. 20:8-11). He makes it very clear in His holy word - in both ancient and modern scripture - that His Sabbath is the "**seventh day**," **not** the *first* day on man's calendar, the calendar given us by Constantine and the Catholic church. This is apparent in Genesis 2:3, Exodus 20:8-11, 31:13, 17; 35:2; Mosiah 13:19, D&C 77:12, Moses 3:3, and Abraham 5:2 (among other scriptures). In these 9 primary scriptures, 4 of which are in our **modern** canon, we read that God's Sabbath day was made *holy* after His *rest* - following the 6 "days" of **Creation**. We have forgotten the connection of the God's Sabbaths to "*rest*" after His **creation** and its consistent ties to the number **7** - the number associated with the concepts of *time*, *completion*, and *spiritual perfection*. His calendar is a **creation** calendar. His Sabbath day to keep *holy* is the 7<sup>th</sup> day, as marked by His heavenly time piece – the *moon* which marks "*days*," in connection with the *sun*, which marks "*seasons*."

*Liberty at 7* Our Lord is the Great **Creator**, as well as our Redeemer, Judge, and King. His whole mission was and is to *relieve* oppression among men through love; His love for us, and our love for one another. Men oppress other men in slavery, debt, and other control. God's desire to remove oppression from us is clearly evident in the first statement He made when He stood up in Nazareth to read Isaiah 61:1-3. It was at the start of His mission and at the beginning of *the Sabbatical Year* of "*release*" – or the "*acceptable year* of the Lord." In His carefully chosen words He revealed who He was - the Messiah, the Son of God – and the reason why He descended to this wicked earth, "to proclaim *liberty* to the captives," those held hostage by ignorance, deception, sin, and death. He said:

*"The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me; because the LORD hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound; To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all that mourn; To appoint unto them that mourn in Zion, to give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that he might be glorified.*

Jesus came here to *redeem* us and *relieve* us from the chains of men's oppressive power over other men in false traditions and teachings. Too many today are ignorant of them. Our Lord's merciful mission is revealed in His 3 "Sabbaths," those He put in place in the Old Testament. He said that in "the mouth of *two or three witnesses*" He would establish all truth (1 Cor. 13:1; D&C 6:28). The 3 different Sabbaths are each tied to the number **7**. They are: (1) the 7<sup>th</sup> day of "*rest*," (2) the 7<sup>th</sup> year of *Sabbatical "release"*, and (3) the 7x7 Jubilee year of "*restoration*." We are made "*new*," *relieved* of oppression, and blessed in each of them, as we honor God on these culminating points, each ending at the 7<sup>th</sup> time period (week, year, millennium). We as the Lord's people are then *relieved* of work and *renewed* on the 7<sup>th</sup> day of *rest*. We are freed from debt and slavery, with the land given *rest* as well - in the 7<sup>th</sup> *Sabbatical year of release*. And we return to Promised covenant lands in the 7x7 Jubilee year of *restoration*. All of these things will be restored in the 7<sup>th</sup> millennium. Each of these 3 Sabbaths was instituted by God to *relieve* the oppression men place upon other men. In them we are *renewed* in Christ Jesus, the great Jehovah of the Old Testament and the Lamb of God in the new covenant. He said, "I make all

things new" (Rev. 21:5). The question is, **the 7<sup>th</sup> day from what?**

The Lord Jesus is not only the great Creator, Redeemer, Judge, and King, He is also the Lord of the Sabbath (Mark 2:28). The two primary heavenly lights He created, specifically the sun *and* the moon, *are* the faithful timepieces He placed above us to provide prophetic "signs" and to *mark time* ("seasons") in His calendar, including the 7<sup>th</sup> Sabbath day of *rest*. This calendar is divided into a night and a day. The moon is the marker for the night, preceding and the sun as a marker for the daylight hours following. Darkness precedes light, as it did in the creation, and in our own creation – with 9 months in a dark womb.

The moon marks "days" well on God's calendar. They are a 24-hour period. The sun marks the "seasons." Both are required to tell time. You cannot tell what day it is by looking at the sun, but you surely can by looking at the *moon phase*. Thus, on the Lord's calendar, all we have to do is *look up* and observe the moon phase in the evening before the coming daylight hours. From sundown the night before (when the moon phase is most easily seen), to sundown the next day, is the Biblical *24-hour day* in God's original calendar. He said, "*And the evening and the morning were the first day*" (Gen. 1:5). Note that God mentions the dark portion of the "day" first. Later in verse 14 of the 1<sup>st</sup> chapter of Genesis, He adds, "Let there be **lights** in the firmament of heaven to divide *the day from the night*; and let them be for *signs* and for *seasons*, and for *days*, and *years*." Together, the sun and moon are both prophetic "signs" of coming events (conjunctions and eclipses), *and* markers for time (*days and seasons*). The moon is for *days*, the sun for *years*. Both are to be used as "**lights**" for prophetic signs and marking time. God's 7<sup>th</sup> day is counted from a particular moon phase, *the New Moon* following the 1 or 2-day *New Moon conjunction*. They start each month consistently in God's calendar. Our pagan Gregorian calendar has a different moon phase starting each month. God's calendar is consistent and predictable.

Today we use a corrupted, replacement calendar created by man and heavily influenced by Satan. The moon has been divorced from it. This idolatry introduced by Satan removes us from our Lord. This has been Satan's plan all along. Our new Sabbath, put in place by Constantine on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of the week, has effectively removed "the **sign**" that we are God's *people*. Exodus 31:17 states that His Sabbath is a *covenant sign* between the covenant people and their God. It reads:

"Wherefore 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**."

Rather than becoming a holy people, we have allowed ourselves to become an idolatrous people, taking upon us much of Babylon, including the mark of the beast, the great whore Babylon. How?

*Loving God means getting Serious About the Sabbath – His 4<sup>th</sup> Commandment*      Men focus on themselves. Too many of us *fear* other men more than God. The word "*fear*" in scripture is tied to respect, honor, and worship. We have allowed men to raise themselves up before us as our light, for the sake of "*gain*" – money, power, and control (see 1 Ne. 22:23). This is priestcraft (see 2 Ne. 26:29). It is also a form of idolatry. God said He is the light we are to raise up before men, and things He did and does (see 3 Ne. 18:24). We have let **false traditions** and **teachings** given us by "*fathers, priests, and kings*" dictate much of what we do. Who we turn to for light and knowledge determines who and what we worship. It is really that simple. God must be our light!

Joshua stated that, "your *fathers*" (because of their traditions) "were led to serve other Gods." He added, "Choose you this day whom ye will serve...As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord" (Josh. 24:2, 15). Christ pointed out that as soon as God reveals truth to man, "that wicked one cometh and *taketh away light and truth*, through disobedience, from the children of men, *because of the tradition of their fathers*" (D&C 93:39). Scripture tells us that in addition to our "*fathers*," civil and religious leaders also set our traditions, for better or worse. Speaking of people being led astray, Zeniff of the Book of Mormon said, "Yea, and they also became **idolatrous**, because they were *deceived* by the vain and flattering words of the *king and priests*" (Mos. 11:7). Men in all 3 forms of government - at home, at church, and in national government - have thus given us many false traditions. Because of it, too many will not be saved when the harvest comes (D&C 45:2; 56:16; Jer. 17:11). Too many will receive lesser terrestrial or celestial glory because "they were *deceived* by the *craftiness*

of men" (see D&C 76:75). We as trees in the vineyard are thus not bearing "fruit meet for the Father's [Celestial] kingdom" (D&C 84:58). Because too many trust men and look to them more than God, we don't question many if not most of our religious traditions. In most cases we are ignorant of their more insidious nature (see endnote 1). To correct this, all we need to do is consult God's word via scripture along with the still small voice of revelation. Removing our idolatry begins by turning to God, not men.

The Saints today don't see themselves as *idolatrous*, but Isaiah repeatedly taught that we are. How? By placing **men and things** between us and the living God! We haven't yet learned to honor the first and great commandment, which is to **love God with all our heart, mind, mind and strength** (Matt. 22:37-38), and to trust in **Him** (Psalm 118:8)! All other commandments fall in line with this one. Note the first 4 of the 10 commandments (Ex. 20) - all focus on loving God, along with removing **idolatry** from our lives.

1. Thou shalt have *no other gods* before me.
2. Thou shalt not make unto thee any *graven image* . . .
3. Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God *in vain*.
4. *Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.*

Honoring the Sabbath Day correctly is the 4th commandment. That makes it very important. Note that it is also longer, via number of verses than all the others – in 4 total verses (see Ex. 20:8-11). Satan has worked hard to overthrow all God's commandments. He has worked to vigorously attack the 4th commandment specifically. Why? It is the only commandment *signifying* that we *belong* to God – and is a "**sign**" that we *worship Him*. It symbolizes that God is our Creator, Judge, King and God, and that we will honor Him by *resting* (from the things of the world) on the 7<sup>th</sup> day - as He did. As we keep **His** Sabbath Day Holy, **we become holy unto the Lord**, removing Satan and idolatry from our lives, along with the things of "Babylon." *In this Sabbath we create a binding, protective covenant with God.* Exodus 31:13 and 16-17 are revealing:

"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; that *ye* may know that *I am* the LORD that doth sanctify you" (Exodus 31:13).

"Wherefore 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.**"

Too many are lost today in the mists of darkness, in the false traditions of men. The ten tribes of *Israel* became lost to history when they followed Jeroboam north into rebellion against God. The ten lost tribes became "lost" when they abandoned God, giving up His identifying **sign** upon them—His Sabbath, along with other idolatrous things and ways.

Many of us on this land are of the tribe of Joseph, either through Ephraim or Manasseh. God made wonderful promises to Joseph and these two brothers and their posterity in the last-days, through the great patriarch Jacob, their grandfather, and the birthright son Joseph. We are part of "*Israel*" or Jacob (though of mixed blood). The Lord has invited us to return to Him (repent) and once again become part of His covenant, holy people, that He might bless us with His love, wisdom, and liberty. Real liberty is freedom from the ways of Babylon. It is time we embrace God's *covenant sign again*.

### **Good, Better, and Best**

As Latter-day Saints it is *good* that we honor God, even on the Sunday Sabbath given us by Constantine and the Catholics (see endnote 1). The Sunday Sabbath is on the 1st day of our modern Gregorian calendar week. Jews and **Seventh-day Adventists** (and others) honor God on what they feel is a *better* Sabbath - on the 7<sup>th</sup> day of the week, today called *Saturday* (Saturn's-day). Scripture reveals that the Lord's Sabbath is not marked by a particular *named* day of the week, but by the heavens instead, and specifically by both the moon (for the day) and the sun (for the season). Our *named* days of the week and our *named* months (both *idolatrous*), replace God's **numbered** days and months on His calendar. His Sabbath day is on the 7<sup>th</sup> day of the week in both the

Bible and the Book of Mormon, not an *idolatrous named* day of the week like Sun-day, Moon-day, Thor's-day, or Saturn's-day. Modern named months are similarly idolatrous with names like January (after the Roman God Janus). **God's choice for the Sabbath is the best.** We don't need watches, computers, nor calculators to know what day is the Lord's Sabbath. All we need to do is search God's holy word in scripture to determine His will (not men's), then follow His direction and **look up**. There we observe the phases of the moon and the seasonal movement of the sun on the horizon, where is marked the four seasons, via the 2 equinoxes and the 2 solstices. Together, they clearly mark the Sabbath "day" as well as the seasons on His calendar. That is how it was done for thousands of years. It is time for us to be *restored* to His truth and His covenant – a **sign** of our fidelity to Him, not other men and their gods.

Constantine and others changed the Sabbath day, and much more (endnote 1). We must educate ourselves to the reality of how this occurred, and how idolatry has resulted; our #1 sin according to the great prophet Isaiah. He saw us and our day and how we have removed ourselves from God in many ways. Constantine eliminated the female-moon portion of God's Biblical calendar. It has been divorced from it - for the sake of convenience in our corrupted celestial, business world, where money reigns supreme. Tradition has taken over ever since - the traditions of men - *fathers, priests, and kings*. The information included hereafter can help you formulate questions you can ask God relative to how *He* would have *you* observe **His** Sabbath. It is about loving Him with our whole heart, and seeking **His will**, not our own or that of others. It is one more way to *remove the idols from our heart* (Prov. 23:7; Isa. 66:2-4; Ezek. 14:1-11; 2 Thess. 2:11; James 4:3; Jacob 4:14; Alma 29:4; Morm. 9:28) and seek God and His will – for our own salvation. There is such a thing as *good, better, and best* when it comes to His Sabbath day. Those who really love God, those who value His will and direction, have inquired of the Lord regarding many things, including the Sabbath. Your questions might include:

1. "Lord, which Sabbath would you have me worship you on?"
  - a. The current **Sunday Sabbath?** / Given us by the Constantine and the Catholic church / It is the 1<sup>st</sup> day of the week, the day named after "the sun." The Moon is divorced from this calendar. See endnote 1.
  - b. The Jewish **Saturday Sabbath?** / Given us by Khazar Jews, not those of the more pure bloodline of Jacob / It is the 7<sup>th</sup> day of the week, this day is named after "Saturn" today. The Moon is often divorced from some Jewish calendars as well.
  - c. The **lunar Sabbath?** / Given us by God (Gen. 1:14-19) and marked in the heavens by the sun *and* the moon / The phases of the moon mark specific days in the month. In the days before computers and other forms of "calculation," the only way to determine any day in the week or month was by the visual moon phase. Months and seasons were and are determined by the Sun. Designated members of the San Hedrin would site the New Moon atop the Mount of Olives in Jerusalem. A secondary setting for the San Hedrin was located on the upper, eastern slope of this mountain for this and other purposes, as the leaders could service those unclean away from the temple there. Together, the sun and moon are two time-based markers (male and female), as God Himself said in Genesis 1:14. The moon is a faithful witness (Psalm 89:37) along with the sun. Both - in unity - are essential for God's calendar, and the moon especially for determining the 7<sup>th</sup> day of the week.

All days and months are **numbered** on God's calendar, **not** named - to avoid *idolatry* in both the Bible and the Book of Mormon. The day count – to get the 7<sup>th</sup> day Sabbath - begins each month on day 1, the day following the *New Moon conjunction*. It is an *alignment* of the Sun, the Earth, *and* the Moon. This monthly alignment causes the moon to be invisible or totally black, as the earth blocks the sun's light upon the moon. The important day-count in each week and month proceeds from the *New Moon conjunction* on the next day – day 1, marking Sabbaths every 7<sup>th</sup> day thereafter (see [http://www.moonconnection.com/moon\\_phases\\_calendar.phtml](http://www.moonconnection.com/moon_phases_calendar.phtml) ). The 8<sup>th</sup> day on this calendar is the first Sabbath of the month when one counts the *New Moon conjunction* as day 1 (including the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of a *New Moon conjunction*). But if one begins the counting at **the first waxing crescent – the**

**New Moon** following the *New Moon conjunction*, then it is day **7**. These are the 2 types of key days starting each month, those a member of the San Hedrin was responsible to identify for calendaring purposes. These 2 types of days are defined as follows:

The *New Moon conjunction* (1 or 2 days in length) / It is invisible or totally black, the moon being lit from the far side only. It is a symbol of God *hiding His face* from the people.

The *New Moon* is the first waxing crescent of each month, visible immediately after the *New Moon conjunction*. Originally, the Israelites began their count from the *New Moon conjunction*. They looked eagerly for the *first sign of light*, the 1<sup>st</sup> waxing crescent of **the New Moon**, a symbol of the *first sign of creation*. It was considered a day of fasting and prayer, but not a Sabbath.

From these special start “New Moon” days (2 types), *the day count* for each Sabbath began. They are each the 7<sup>th</sup> day of the week, not Sunday, the 1<sup>st</sup> day of the week (see Gen. 2:3, Ex. 20:8-11, Mos. 13:19, D&C 77:12 & Moses 3:3). *The New Moon conjunction* can be a 1 or 2-day event, necessitating careful observation to identify the waxing crescent following it. Constantine forced early Jews to abandon observation of “the New Moons” (both types), primarily because of the inconsistency of the 1 or 2 day *New Moon conjunction*.

It should be clear that we need BOTH the moon and the sun to determine time correctly, including the 7<sup>th</sup> Sabbath day. In Genesis 1:14 and more clearly Moses 2:14-18 (Joseph Smith’s re-translation of the Genesis account) we read of the Creation, and repeatedly of **2 things**, not 1. God stated:

“And I, God, said: Let there be **lights** in the firmament of the heaven, *to divide the day from the night*, and let **them** be for **signs**, and for **seasons** [the “appointed” Hebrew Holy Days], and for **days**, and for **years**; And let **them** be for **lights** in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth; and it was so. And I, God, made **two great lights**; the *greater* light to rule the day, **and** the *lesser* light to rule the night, and the *greater* light was **the sun**, and the *lesser* light was **the moon**; and the stars also were made even according to **my word**. And I, God, set them in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth, And **the sun** to rule over **the day**, and **the moon** to rule over **the night**, and to divide **the light** from **the darkness**; and I, God, saw that all things which I had made were good” (Moses 2:14-18).

2. “Lord, should I worship over a 24-hour period (sunset to sunset or sunrise to sunrise) or do I worship during the “day” portion only of the Sabbath?” In Genesis 1:5, the “evening and the morning were the first day,” suggesting that the 24-hour period of “one day,” begins the night before the actual daylight hours. This is because the moon phase is easily seen the night preceding the light of the sun the next day. Since a 24-hour “day” has the dark period preceding a light period (Gen. 1:5), the female portion of God’s heavenly timepiece – the moon – comes first, informing us in the night - of the day to follow. This is both a courtesy to the female sex coming first, and the easiest way to identify the particular moon phase. The “day” portion of 24-hour Sabbath begins at sunrise (see pps. 21-22).
3. “Lord, what should my Sabbath worship of you include and not include (things to do and not do)? How can I draw closer to you this day? How can I further eliminate idolatry in my life?”

*Multiple Sabbaths* It should be noted that there are multiple “**Sabbaths**” and Holy Days on the Lord’s calendar (Lev. 19:3; 23:3-4). They are separated them into 3 groups; (1) the 3 types of Sabbaths – each tied to the number **7**; (2) the **7** annual Holy Days (like Passover or Tabernacles); And (3) the 2 *New Year’s Days* (sacred for the priest [1<sup>st</sup> month] and civil for the king [7<sup>th</sup> month]). This makes 12 holy days total, the number tied to “*governance*” in scripture (here, *governance of time*). All of these “Holy Days” on God’s calendar *relieve* oppression in our lives and draw us closer to God, doing so in a purer form of *worship* (D&C 93:19). The virgin number **7** is tied to most of them, especially the three “Sabbaths,” pointing symbolically to a **7**-part *cyclical period of time* associated with **completion** and our *spiritual perfection*. Though it is not a command to observe

them today, they will be fully restored in the Millennium (see Zech. 14:16-19; Isa. 66:22-23).

1. The 7<sup>th</sup> day of the week is the **Sabbath**. It is tied to the concept of “rest.”
2. The 7<sup>th</sup> year **Sabbatical** (or Shemitah) is tied to the concept of “release.”
3. The 7 x 7 **Jubilee** Year is tied to the concept of “restoration.”

Hereafter, the remainder of this paper includes the following sections:

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## **A. The Monthly Sabbaths: the 4th of the 10 Commandments (Exodus 20:1-17)**

1 And God spake all these words, saying,

2 I *am* the Lord thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.

3 Thou shalt have no other gods before me **[commandment #1]**

4 Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness *of any thing* that *is* in heaven above, or that *is* in the earth beneath, or that *is* in the water under the earth:

5 thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the Lord thy God *am* a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth *generation* of them that hate me;

6 and shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments. **[#2]**

7 Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain; for the Lord will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain. **[#3]**

### **8 Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy**

9 Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work:

10 **but the seventh day is the sabbath of the Lord thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work**, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that *is* within thy gates:

11 **for in six days the Lord made heaven and earth**, the sea, and all that in them *is*, **and rested the seventh day** [following the first waxing crescent moon, immediately following the New Moon conjunction] **wherefore the Lord blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it.** **[#4 - 4 verses long]**

“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; that *ye* may know that I *am* the LORD that doth sanctify you” (Exodus 31:13).

In D&C 59:8-12, God Said, “Thou shalt offer a sacrifice unto the Lord thy God in righteousness, even that of a **broken heart and a contrite spirit**. And that thou mayest **more fully keep thyself unspotted from the world, thou shalt go to the house of prayer and offer up thy sacraments upon my holy day**; For verily this is a day appointed unto you **to rest from your labors, and to pay thy devotions unto the Most High**; Nevertheless thy vows shall be offered up in righteousness *on all days and at all times*; But remember that on this, **the Lord’s day, thou shalt offer thine oblations and thy sacraments unto the Most High, confessing thy sins unto thy brethren, and before the Lord.**” The remaining verses are also instructive. Verses 22-23 point us to the Old Testament - “**the law and the prophets.**”

“I give unto you these sayings that you may understand and know **how to worship**, and **know what you worship, that you may come unto the Father in my name**, and in due time **receive of his fullness**” (D&C 93:19).

## The Remaining 6 Commandments

12 Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee. [5]

13 Thou shalt not kill. [6]

14 Thou shalt not commit adultery. [7]

15 Thou shalt not steal. [8]

16 Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour. [9]

17 Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor any thing that *is* thy neighbour's. [10]

## B. The Three Types of Sabbaths: *Rest, Release & Restoration*

Early on the Lord gave the covenant people the *Holy Days* to remember their covenant relationship with Him. Note that they are “*ordinances*” (Ex. 12:14) to be observed “*forever*” (Zech. 14:16-18). They help man become one with God. Those who love the Lord continue to take hold of His covenant through them (Isa. 56:2-6). There are 12 total Holy Days addressed hereafter. They are all “*holy*” because they mark our Lord's earthly mission, including His birth, death, second coming return, *and* the Creation. The 3 types of *Sabbaths* help us remember the timeline and purpose of His Creation. He rested and *sanctified the 7th Sabbath day* following the 6 days creating heaven, earth, plants, animals, and finally man. The 7 annual Holy Days coincide with His later mission of redemption, when he descended here and was crucified in the spring at *Passover*, buried on the *Feast of Unleavened Bread*, and resurrected at *Firstfruits*, all on our behalf. The Holy Spirit was sent 50 days later at *Pentecost*. The fall Holy Days mark His second coming return, as King at *Rosh Hashanah* (the civil New Year's Day), as Judge on *the Day of Atonement*, and as the Bridegroom on *the Feast of Tabernacles*. Most of the Holy Days are marked by the Lord's 2 faithful heavenly witnesses - the sun and the moon.

A. There are **3** types of *Sabbaths* drawing attention to the sanctified **7th** period on the Lord's calendar.

1. There is the *7<sup>th</sup> day weekly Sabbath*, tied to the concept of “*rest*” - after the 6 days of Creation.
2. There is also the *7<sup>th</sup> Sabbatical Year* tied to the concept of “*release*” - in the 7th year.
3. And there is the *50<sup>th</sup> Jubilee Year*, occurring after every *7 x 7* years, plus 1 (a Sabbath of Sabbatical Years). It is tied to the concept of “*restoration*” in the 50th year, the first year of the next **49**-year period. *Judgments* of the Great King come on 1 or more of these 3 Sabbaths as we will see hereafter, especially the 7th Sabbatical Year of “*release*.”

B. There are also **7** annual Holy Days (like *Passover*, *Tabernacles*, etc.), drawing attention to the Lord's mission of redemption for all mankind. Within the category of Holy Days are 4 types of *days* on God's calendar: the *New Moon conjunction*, the *New Moon*, *Sabbaths*, and regular *work days*. *New Moon conjunctions* are marked by the totally invisible moon, a perfect alignment (*conjunction*) of the sun, moon, and earth, making the moon invisible, as all sunlight is on its far side. It is holy and can be 1 or 2 days in length. No work was to be done on them even though they are not considered a “*Sabbath*.” The *New Moon* immediately following this conjunction day is the 1st day of each month (day 1). The *New Moon* marks the first day of the year, a memorial day for *the first day of Creation*. It is known as *Rosh Hashanah* (the civil New Year's Day of the king). It is day 1 of month 1 (Tishri) in the Lord's original, pre-flood calendar (corresponding to late September on our current Gregorian calendar).

C. Not to be forgotten are **2** *New Year's Days* (a *sacred* [priest] New Year's Day near the spring equinox, and a *civil* [king] New Year's Day near the fall equinox). The equinox is marked by the sun's position on the horizon relative to standing stones, mountains, etc. In God's pre-flood original calendar, the New Moon fell on the equinoxes - New Year's Day in the 1st and 7th months. Today these 2 New Year's Days are marked by the New Moons *nearest* the spring and fall equinoxes (either before or after them).

All but the New Moons are established in the number **7** – the number associated with the **7** periods of the ***Creation***. The 3 types of Sabbaths are *signs* reminding us of our **covenant relationship** with God (Ezek. 31:13), resulting in **covenant blessings or curses**. This is why God's *judgments* typically come on one of the 3 Sabbaths. They are tied to our *return* to Him via the 3 concepts of *rest*, *release*, and *restoration*. Each provides *renewal* signaled by the *time cycle of 7* in connection with our *spiritual* perfection. We see these concepts at play on the **7<sup>th</sup>** day of the week (rest), in the **7<sup>th</sup>** Sabbatical Year (release), and in the Jubilee Year (restoration), every **7** sets of **7** years. No work was to be done on Sabbaths or the New Moon, only on workdays (Gen. 2:2). Note the concept of *renewal* in the 3 *Sabbath* time cycles below:

The Sabbath day in most of the Bible was the **7<sup>th</sup>** or last day of the week, a day of “*rest*.” Its first occurrence was on the **8<sup>th</sup>** day of the new month from the *New Moon conjunction*, or the **7<sup>th</sup>** day after the **1<sup>st</sup> waxing crescent** moon. This is day 1 in the month. Thereafter the Sabbaths fell on the **15<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>, and 29<sup>th</sup>** days of the month. Today, Sabbaths are Saturdays for modern Jews, or Sundays for most of the modern Christian world. Both are consistent, based on the idolatrous Roman names tied to days of the week. In the Lord’s calendar, however, all days are numbered, *not* named. The **8<sup>th</sup>** day was the first Sabbath from the *New Moon conjunction*, followed by the **7<sup>th</sup>** day thereafter for 3 weeks. The Sabbatical Year or “*Shemitah*” is the **7<sup>th</sup> “release” year**, *the first year* of a new Sabbatical cycle of 7 years. The word “*Shemitah*” means “*release*.” The Jubilee Year is the **50<sup>th</sup> “restoration” year**, providing *liberty*. The **50<sup>th</sup>** year was the first year of the next cycle of 49 years (**7 x 7** years).

In many cases in the Bible, a **7**-day period was required for rituals tied to physical or spiritual *rebirth* and *renewal*, which occurred in the **8<sup>th</sup>** period, marking a new beginning. The weekly renewal or *reset* period is called the **8<sup>th</sup>** day in scripture (Lev. 14:23; 15:19-30; 23:36). The **8<sup>th</sup>** day of the month in the Lord’s calendar was the first *Sabbath* (7 days from the first waxing crescent moon). The **50<sup>th</sup>** Jubilee period has similar *renewal* qualities tied to it. Because both the 360 and 365-day years are not divisible by **7**, calculations tied to **7<sup>th</sup>-day** Sabbaths, Sabbatical Years, and Jubilee Years often require leap days, months, and years to keep things in order.

### **1. The Sabbath Day of Rest (occurring on the 7<sup>th</sup> day of the week) / Commandment #4**

In scripture we are familiar with the *Sabbath* day as a period of *rest* on the **7<sup>th</sup>** “day” after the 6 days of creation. We are released from the cares of the world to instead focus on things of a more spiritual nature, especially our relationship with God. Few know that observing the Sabbath as the Lord directs is not only the **4<sup>th</sup>** commandment, but a **sign of our covenant with Him**. We read in Exodus 31:13:

“*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; that ye may know that I am the Lord that doth sanctify you.*”

Proper Sabbath observance is of great importance and is rejuvenating physically and spiritually. Note the Lord’s words in the Creation in Genesis 1:1-5. There was “darkness upon the face of the deep...And God Said, Let there be light...And **the evening and the morning were the first day.**” All 3 types of Sabbaths provide rest and a new beginning. To have God’s light, His Spirit, “the remnant of Jacob” must keep all the commandments, including the **4<sup>th</sup>** commandment of the Sabbath. Keeping another Sabbath is to have “**the mark of Beast**.”

***Creation Day***      Current Jewish *tradition* states that the “*day*” in scripture is marked by sunset to sunset, revealing that the next “*day*” starts with darkness of night before, where the moon phase (female) can be more easily observed. Sunlight (male) then follows the next morning. God rested on the **7<sup>th</sup>** day from the start of creation and thus this **7<sup>th</sup>** day was hallowed or made sacred. This is the significance of rest on the **7<sup>th</sup>** day Sabbath. God started Creation on this day. The **New Moon** marker (**1<sup>st</sup> waxing crescent** immediately after the *New Moon conjunction*) is now associated with *Rosh Hashanah* (“head of the year”), an annual Holy Day marking the civil New Year’s Day. It is a Holy Day, but not the Sabbath **7** days later. To be *sacred* has ties to “*sanctification*,” often part of **7**-part time period of spiritual perfection and renewal. Note the 4 types of “*days*” on the chart below: *New Moon conjunction* (**green**), *New Moon* (**blue**), regular *workdays* (**black**), and *Holy Days* (**red**). *New Moon conjunctions* are not visible, a symbol of the Lord hiding His face.

<b>New Moon conjunction</b>	1st Day <i>New Moon</i>	2 <sup>nd</sup> Day	3 <sup>rd</sup> Day	4 <sup>th</sup> Day	5 <sup>th</sup> Day	6 <sup>th</sup> Day	<b>7<sup>th</sup> Day of the week - Sabbaths</b>
<b>1</b>	2	3	4	5	6	7	<b>8</b> ¼ moon waxing
	9	10	11	12	13	14	<b>15</b> Full moon
	16	17	18	19	20	21	<b>22</b> ¼ moon waning
	23	24	25	26	27	28	<b>29</b> Final crescent moon
<b>(30)</b>							<i>New Month</i>
<b>1</b>	2	3	4	5	6	7	<b>8</b> ¼ moon waxing, again

*When is the Sabbath Day?* There is much debate about what day is the 7<sup>th</sup> day “Sabbath.” Jews claim it is Saturday, modern Christians say Sunday, when really all scripture says is that it was **the 7<sup>th</sup> day of the week**. There were **no names** for individual days of the weeks in the Bible or Book of Mormon, *only numbers*, so too with the *months*. Note in the chart that Sabbaths (in **red**) are normally the 7<sup>th</sup> day, but only *after* the first 8<sup>th</sup> day of each month. It becomes the first Sabbath in God’s calendar. *Identifying the New Moon conjunction and New Moon was a critical element for establishing the start of the month and its numbered days.*

Ancient Israel had the Sanhedrin, located at their secondary site atop the Mount of Olives in Jerusalem (near Bethphage) to determine the important *New Moon*. Both the sun and especially the moon must be used for this purpose in the Lord’s calendar, as God has requested, or periodic, arbitrary man-made time cycles result. Many problems arose once the moon was ignored by calendar makers, including identification of the “Sabbath day” as Saturday and later Sunday. The problem of which day is the Sabbath remains because our Gregorian calendar ignores the moon phases against the Lord’s will and scripture. The best solution is to look up, observing His two faithful witnesses – the sun and the moon phases (Psalm 89:37), otherwise we worship **“the Beast.”** Idolatry tied to sun worship on **Sun**-day is the new 1<sup>st</sup> day of the week Sabbath (endnote 1).

## 2. The Sabbatical Year of *Release* - every 7<sup>th</sup> year / (Rosh Hashanah start day)

The *Sabbatical Year* takes the Sabbath concept of *rest* and carries it further with the theme of “*release*.” During the Sabbatical Year or *Shemitah* (meaning “to **release**”) crops were not planted allowing the ground to *rest* or **released** for 1 full year (Ex. 23:10-11; Lev. 25:2). In addition, debts among the Israelites were completely wiped out or *forgiven* (Deut. 15:1-3). Slaves were also set *free* after their 6 years of service (with gifts provided, Ex. 21:2; Deut. 15:12-14). These collectively provided great **relief** for the people from the *oppression* of slavery and debt via periodic *renewal* every 7<sup>th</sup> year (see p. 111). Today’s bankruptcy laws are tied to this principle. Covenant lands were also rejuvenated and strengthened, regaining necessary nutrients for the sustenance of the people. The Lord desired that mother earth receive needed rest (see Moses 7:48-52). There are indications that Solomon’s Temple was dedicated in a Sabbatical Year (it took 7 years to build, see endnote 141). Jonathan Cahn has pointed out that **judgment** coincides with the last day and hour of the year of **release**, at sunset of Elul 29, New Year’s Eve. Rosh Hashanah follows the civil New Year’s Day (day 1, the 7th month of Tishri).

It is significant that Jesus Christ and John the Baptist appear to have started their important missions in a *Shemitah* or Sabbatical Year (27 – 28 AD), when crops lay un-harvested in the fields throughout Judea. This *release* year ended in 28 AD, when Christ stood up in a Synagogue in his hometown of Nazareth, declaring “*the acceptable year of the Lord*” (Luke 4:18; Isa. 61:1-3). His mission would last 3.5 years ending in 32 AD at Passover. During this special year many were unemployed or “*poor*,” as harvesting was not needed. Many took up a second trade separate from agriculture, as their needs still needed to be met and they had more time on their hands. They were *set free* to investigate new truths offered them by these two men in the year of “*the Lord’s release*.” Many were baptized and healed (physically and spiritually) at this time. In addressing the Lord’s instruction for opening the heavens and releasing the powers there on our behalf (service), we read in Isaiah:

“Is not this the fast [loving service] that I have chosen? to *loose the bands of wickedness*, to *undo the heavy burdens*, and to *let the oppressed go free*, and that ye *break every yoke*?” (Isa. 58:6).

Moses taught Joshua what to do once he brought the children of Israel into the Promised Land. He was to divide them on 2 opposing mountains, 6 tribes placed on each of 2 mountains north of what would become Jerusalem, near Shechem. They were Mount Gerezim on the southwest – the mount of *blessing*, and Mount Ebal on the northeast – the mount of *cursing*. In the valley between them he was to recite the law (as part of “the doctrine of the 2 ways”). Note the words tied to “**release**” which Moses used to instruct Joshua. The law was to be read every 7 years at the Feast of Tabernacles, at the **end** of the previous year of “the Lord’s release.” It was a time of **judgment**, the *day of remission*.

“And Moses commanded...saying, At the **end** of every **seven** years, in the solemnity of **the year of release**, in the *feast of tabernacles*, when all Israel is come to appear before the Lord thy God in the place which *he shall choose*, thou shalt read this law before all Israel in their hearing. Gather the people together, *men*, and *women*, and *children*, and thy stranger that *is* within thy *gates*, that they may hear, and that they may learn, and fear the Lord your God, and observe to do all the words of this law” (Deut. 31:10-13, italics added).

We read in Deuteronomy 15:2, “And this *is* the manner of **the release**: Every *creditor* that lendeth *ought* unto his neighbor shall *release it*; he shall not exact *it* of his neighbor or of his brother; because it is called **the Lord’s release**” (bold & italics added, see also Deut. 30:19, 29).

We see this *judgment* tied to debt (and sin) in the U.S. stock market crashes of 2001 and 2008, both 7% drops on Elul 29 (the last day of the 6th month in the Hebrew calendar - the last day of *the Sabbatical Year of release* both years). It was the *civil New Year's eve*. At sundown, it becomes the 1st day of the 7th month, *Rosh Hashanah - New Years day*.

According to Jeremiah, the Israelites were held captive in Babylon **70 years** (10 Sabbatical cycles) because they did not keep the law of the Sabbatical “*year of release*” or *Shemitah* (which means “**release**” or “*let fall*”). They did not proclaim *liberty* to their slaves as they had promised God they would, therefore they lost their own liberty, and significantly their land or inheritance too. God said; “I proclaim liberty for you, saith the Lord, to the sword, to the pestilence, and to the famine; and I will make you to be removed into all the kingdoms of the earth” (Jer. 34:13-17, see also Jer. 25:4-11). As long as Israel lay desolate, her people captive in Babylon, the land enjoyed her Sabbaths (2 Chron. 36:15-21; Lev. 26:31-35; Moses 7:48-52). Breaking *covenants* and changing ordinances have real, dire consequences. Leviticus 26 addresses specific **covenant curses**, “**seven times more**” for not keeping the Lord’s “statutes and judgments and laws” on Sabbatical and Jubilee Years (see verses 18-46).

### 3. The Jubilee Year of *Restoration* every 7x7 years + 1 / (Day of Atonement start day)

*Isaiah's Prophecy of Christ*      The Apostle Paul taught that the Law of Moses pointed entirely to Christ and His mission (Gal. 3:24-25). It was a mission of redemption for us, thought to have begun in earnest on or near His 30<sup>th</sup> birthday in a synagogue in His hometown of Nazareth, when He stood to read important passages from Isaiah (chapter 61, verses 1-3). Isaiah’s words were prophecy focusing on this very day, the start of our Savior’s difficult mission of *release*, when all the repentant were promised *liberty* from sin, death, and hell through the sacrifice of the Messiah. This day Jesus stood and proclaimed “*liberty to the captives*” within His own community. He was in their presence, God among them. The concept of *liberty* was and is the very essence of Christ’s mission. He not only provides periodic *rest* in the regular weekly *Sabbath*, and *release* in the *Sabbatical Year*, He also grants us *liberty* via a *restoration* to promised, covenant lands in the *joyous Jubilee Year*. We are **restored** to Him and the Father, and upon lands of inheritance, where there is peace, prosperity, and protection. Standing up in a synagogue in His hometown of Nazareth, Jesus took the Isaiah scroll and began to read. Luke stated:

“And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up: and, as his custom was, he went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and stood up for to read. And there was delivered unto him the book of the Prophet Esaias. And when he had opened the book, he found the place where it was written, The Spirit of the

Lord is upon me, because *he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, To preach the acceptable year of the Lord.* And he closed the book, and he gave it again to the minister, and sat down. And the eyes of all them that were in the synagogue were fastened on him...This day is this scripture fulfilled in your ears" (Luke 4:16-21; see also Isa. 61:1-3).

In these important words the Master revealed who He was, and to those of His hometown first. Those who knew scripture also knew the messianic nature of Isaiah's words that they had just heard in their own ears this day. Jesus was proclaiming that He was the promised Messiah, come "*to proclaim liberty to the captives.*" It was bold and too much for some. Wasn't he the son of Mary and Joseph? Most of His kinsmen rejected him. They, like so many others did not value the spiritual deliverance that He as a young teacher had to offer them. They were looking instead for a powerful deliverer who would rescue them physically from oppressive Roman rule, a mighty warrior-king like David. They wanted a lion and saw Christ as a lamb. His mission start day is believed to be at the conclusion of the 27-28 AD Sabbatical Year, just after the civil New Year. It marked the beginning and ending of *Sabbatical Years*, signaled by crops lying un-harvested or "fallow" in the fields for the entire year just ended (see John 4:35; Deut. 31:10). Jesus had come to earth to redeem man, and to fulfill *the Law and the prophets* (their prophecies of Him). He gave this Law to Moses on Sinai as Jehovah. After His crucifixion in the meridian of time, Christ went to the spirit world where He then proclaimed *liberty* to those held captive by death or ignorance, a spirit "prison" for them (D&C 138:31).

*What is a Jubilee?* In Leviticus 25 we read of the Jubilee Year and its ties to Israel's *restoration* upon covenant lands. It is a time of *refreshing*, a start over period *when oppression is relieved*, and when the covenant people are finally re-united with their *covenant land* as their rightful inheritance, their *ancestral homeland*. It begins just after the 7th Shemitah or Sabbatical Year of release. The last two Jubilee Years are believed to be 1968 and 1917, thus concluding the Shemitah Year of 2015, making 2016 the Jubilee Year.

"And the Lord spoke to Moses on Mount Sinai, saying, 'Speak to the children of Israel, and say to them: **When you come into the land which I give you**, then ye shall keep a *sabbath* to the Lord. Six years you shall sow your field, and six years you shall prune your vineyard, and gather its fruit; but in the **seventh year there shall be a sabbath of solemn rest for the land**, a *sabbath to the Lord*. You shall neither sow your field nor prune your vineyard. And you shall count *seven sabbaths of years* for yourself, **seven times seven years**; and the time of the **seven sabbaths of years** shall be to you **forty-nine years**. Then you shall cause the trumpet of the **Jubilee** to sound on the tenth day of the seventh month; on the Day of Atonement you shall make the trumpet to sound" (Lev. 25:1-4, 8, 9).

And ye shall hallow the *fiftieth* year, and proclaim *liberty* throughout all the land unto all the inhabitants thereof: it shall be a **jubilee** unto you; and ye shall **return every man unto his possession**, and ye shall **return** every man unto his family. **The land shall not be sold for ever: for the land is mine**, for ye are strangers and sojourners with me. And if thy brother be waxen poor, and fallen in decay with thee; then thou shalt relieve him: yea, though he be a stranger, or a sojourner; that he may live with thee. Take thou no usury of him, or increase: but fear thy God; that thy brother may live with thee. For unto me the children of Israel are servants; they are my servants whom I brought forth out of the land of Egypt: I am the Lord your God" (Lev. 25:10, 23, 35-36, 55).

*Start Day* The 50<sup>th</sup> Jubilee Year officially began in the New Year following the last or **49<sup>th</sup>** year of 7 Sabbatical Year cycles. Its specific start day was Tishri 10, marked by the blowing of the *Shofar*. It was the solemn fast day known as the Day of Atonement, memorializing Christ's sacrifice, where the repentant are granted *liberty* from sin. It should be remembered that the *Shofar* was blown each day for seven days as Joshua and his army circled Jericho, and on the **7<sup>th</sup>** day, the *Shofar* was blown **7** times. *Jericho's walls then fell down* when the whole army "shouted." It is a type for Babylon falling in our day. The *Shofar* is tied to *judgment* and *Rosh Hashanah*, also known as the Feast of *Trumpets*. God's commandment to Moses was that the covenant people sanctify every *fiftieth "Jubilee Year"* by proclaiming *liberty* or freedom for all *captives*. Hope was then given to three groups of oppressed people:

1. Physical *Slavery* Like Sabbatical Years, captives and slaves were granted liberty in the Jubilee Year, even if their six-year service period was not fulfilled.

2. Financial *Debt* Also like Sabbatical or Shemitah Years, debt was forgiven in this special year.

3. *Those without a home or homeland* **Unique to this more rare Holy Day** was **the return of land** lying outside a walled city **to its original family ownership** (Lev. 25:11-55). If others had taken possession of one's land, it had to be *returned* to rightful owners. It was a time of **restoration**, an important return for all Israel!

*Why 49/50-Day Jubilee Periods?* The symbolism of the 50<sup>th</sup> day (7 x 7 + 1 equaling 50) is like that of the 8<sup>th</sup> day in much of scripture, where day 1 of the next week or 7-part time period (7 + 1 equaling the 8<sup>th</sup> day) was a day of *renewal*. Unique to the Jubilee Year, however, is the concept of **restoration** upon promised, covenant lands. The number 7 is tied to a *full or complete 7-part time cycle leading to spiritual perfection*, preceding a joyous *rebirth*. This occurred in the 50<sup>th</sup> Jubilee Year. To calculate Jubilee Years one must use 49-year *increments* and not 50, as the 50<sup>th</sup> period was year 1 in the next 49-year period. Major "liberty" events involving the Jewish people occurred in 1916-17 and 1966-67 – 49 years apart, and include (1) the promised **restoration** of the Jewish people to their own covenant land in 1917 via the Balfour Declaration; (2) the **return** of the capital city Jerusalem in 1966-67, 49 years later; a third "**restoration**" event, (3) which may include the **rebuilding** of the Jerusalem temple 49 more years later, in 2016-17. These dates are significant, as we will see hereafter. An important Jubilee Year for Latter-day Saints was 1820, the starting point for *the Restoration*.

*God with Us* The Lord appears to have instituted the *Jubilee Year* to periodically provide *rest, release*, and a **restoration** for the covenant people, and to remind them of His power and mercy in continually *delivering* Israel. Their liberty from the bondage from the Egyptians is a good example. It was **50** days after crossing the Red Sea that God came down upon Sinai in fiery glory before all the people. And it was at the base of Sinai (a type of wedding Huppah) that God's Bride Israel was invited to be one with Him as the Bridegroom. God gave Moses the Law atop Sinai and invited all Israel to meet Him face to face. The offer was refused (D&C 84:23-26; JST Ex. 34:1-2). Renewal through God or His Spirit in connection with the number **50** is comparable to the great out-pouring of the Spirit on Pentecost – the 50<sup>th</sup> day after the resurrection of our Lord (50 days is 7 weeks of days, plus one day). Pentecost is a Greek word for "50." These ties to the number 50 and to *God's* presence or the Spirit are overlooked aspects of the *Jubilee Year*. It is after the final Jubilee that the Lord will finally be tabernacled with the righteous in the Millennium. Such *renewal* is signaled all around us in many things, including the color *green* in springtime rebirth, and in words starting with "re," including:

*Return Repent Reset Release Relief Refresh Renewal Rest Recycle Redemption Resurrection*

For more information on the Jubilee Year of *restoration* and prophecy, see *Seven Heavenly Witnesses of the Coming of Jesus Christ*, 10<sup>th</sup> ed., by the author.

## C. The Mark of the Beast in our Sunday Sabbath

*False Sabbath Keeping & the Mark of the Beast* According to our Lord, proper Sabbath observance is a **sign** unto Him of who we are. We read again, "...my sabbaths ye shall keep: for it *is* a **sign** between me and you throughout your generations; that ye may know that I *am* the LORD that doth sanctify you. (Ex. 31:13, see also Ezek. 20:12). In D&C 59:8-12, He added, "Thou shalt offer a sacrifice unto the Lord thy God in righteousness, even that of a *broken heart and a contrite spirit*. And that thou mayest **more fully keep thyself unspotted from the world**, thou shalt go to the house of prayer and offer up thy sacraments upon **my holy day**; For verily this is a day appointed unto you **to rest from your labors, and to pay thy devotions unto the Most High**; Nevertheless thy vows shall be offered up in righteousness *on all days and at all times*; But remember that on this, **the Lord's day**, *thou shalt offer thine oblations and thy sacraments unto the Most High*, confessing thy sins unto thy brethren, and before the Lord." What day is the Lord's Day?

The 7th day Sabbath was instituted to remember God and practice a pure form of worship according to His directions. *He rested after the six days of the Creation on the 7th day* (Moses 3:2). Does He expect us to do the same today? We currently worship on a **Sunday** Sabbath - on **the 1st day** of the Gregorian calendar week. Why? Where did this originate? Whose calendar are we using? In the Bible, the Lord's calendar was marked by *the heavens*, the sun and the moon - *His* timepieces. The Bible calendar and the one in the Book of Mormon had no *named* days on it like Monday or Sunday, only **numbered** days, like the **7th** day of the week. Our current Gregorian calendar was instituted by man, specifically the Roman Emperor Constantine, then spread worldwide by the Catholic Church. We are following their idolatrous traditions and few know it.

Scripture appears to provide evidence revealing that false Sabbath keeping contributes to idolatry and worshipping "the Beast" instead of God. We then acquire "*the mark of the Beast*" rather than "*the seal of the living God*" (D&C 77:9). It was in the 4th century that the evolving and declining Christian Church headed up by the powerful Emperor Constantine forced the Jews to give up determining the New Moons in connection with their Biblical calendar - or face death. The later, modified Jewish Hillel II calendar (AD 320-385) was then put in place at the request of the president or *nasi* of the Great Sanhedrin. The Jews and the Sanhedrin were threatened with extinction if they continued to observe *the New Moon* as part of their calendar. Their new, changed calendar was based on mathematical and astronomical *calculations*, mixed with observation of the sun only, *not the moon*. This *compromised* Hebrew calendar is still used today. It utilizes a modern, **consistent** Saturday (**7th** day) Sabbath for business purposes, unlike the Lord's 2 original Bible calendars. This means *the New Moon* is not used as it once was to determine the important start day of the *month and year* via observation (an inconsistent 1 or 2 day event today). For consistency sake, the modern Jewish and Gregorian calendars have divorced the moon from general usage. Both of these modern calendars now use standardized lengths for months based on the sun and calculation, not observation of the heavens as directed by their Creator (Gen. 1:14). Its consistency – via 7 named days - is simply more convenient for our modern telestial, business-centered world.

### ***Three Sabbath Choices – Good, Better & Best***

Today there are 3 choices for Sabbath observance as a "sign" unto the Lord - of who we worship and how - of where our heart is. They include a good, better and best choice. Though this was discussed previously, more detail is now included hereafter.

**1. Good** – A *Sunday Sabbath, the 1st day* of every week      This Sabbath originated with Roman *worship of the sun* (see Ezek. 8-9) via the Roman Emperor Constantine, and Catholic tradition thereafter. Most Christian faiths today follow this pattern established firmly by the Catholic Church (Seventh Day Adventists are an exception). Endnote 1 reveals this more clearly. It is a consistent weekly Sabbath on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of the week, one preferred in the telestial business world, where money is king, not God. It is named after the sun, worshipped by Romans.

**2. Better** – a *Saturday Sabbath, every 7th day* of the week      The Jews (a mixture on non-bloodline Khazar Jews and those of the bloodline of Jacob) were forced to use a *solar* only calendar by the Roman Emperor Constantine, *eliminating observation of the moon* in determining their Sabbaths. It has now become a consistent Jewish Sabbath, also useful for the business world. Jews and Seventh-Day Adventists worship on this 7<sup>th</sup> day *Saturday Sabbath*. It is named after Saturn.

**3. Best** – a *lunar Sabbath on the 7th day* of the week      This Sabbath requires looking up to the heavens to determine season, month, day, and time of the day. The sun and the moon are God's 2 faithful witnesses – *His heavenly timepieces* (see Psalm 89:37). To use God's calendar requires close observation of the *inconsistent* 1 or 2-day *New Moon conjunction* – a perfect alignment of the sun, moon, and earth – where the moon is completely invisible (we are then in alignment with the fully shadowed *dark side of the moon* – there is NO crescent shape at all). It is a symbol of God hiding His face from the people. *The New Moon conjunction* does not fall on a consistent "day" each month after the Flood, when the length of the year changed from a 360-days to 365.24 days. Businessmen and others did not like this, thus the Roman calendar was further modified and instituted as it is today by Constantine. It makes use of consistent, *named* days in the week, whereas the original Bible calendar

(and that of the Book of Mormon) had only *numbered* days. This avoids *idolatry in* named days of the week and months, named after Roman gods (like Janus for January) and the planets, including **Sun**-day (worship of the sun), Saturday (Saturn), or Monday (Moon-day - the moon). The first day of the year (New Year's Day) and the first day of each month were marked on God's original calendar by *the New Moon*, a sliver a light (the 1<sup>st</sup> waxing crescent). Thus each month started with *the New Moon*. Today, the start of any month can differ with a different moon phase. They move around inconsistently on our current Gregorian calendar. Thus, our modified, calculated, solar calendar no longer uses the moon, in direct contradiction of God's word. The female moon phase has been divorced from our current calendar.

In Genesis 1:14 and Moses 2:14-18, we read of the Creation, and repeatedly of **2 things**, not 1. God stated:

“And I, God, said: Let there be lights in the firmament of the heaven, *to divide the day* from **the night**, and let **them** be for **signs**, and for **seasons** [the “appointed” Hebrew Holy Days], and for days, and for years; And let **them** be for lights in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth; and it was so. And I, God, made **two great lights**; the *greater* light to rule the day, **and** the *lesser* light to rule the night, and the *greater* light was **the sun**, and the *lesser* light was **the moon**; and the stars also were made even according to **my word**. And I, God, set them in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth, And **the sun** to rule over **the day**, and **the moon** to rule over **the night**, and to divide **the light** from **the darkness**; and I, God, saw that all things which I had made were good” (Moses 2:14-18).

Our modern calendars have eliminated the *female* portion of our calendar. It clearly marked days in the month via its *phases*. We cannot look at the sun to determine *days*, only the 4 “seasons” via the sun’s position on the horizon *relative to* a specific landmark (like mountains or pillars anciently), thus indicating 2 equinoxes and the 2 solstices.

## Where did today's Hebrew Saturday Sabbath Originate?

Today's consistent Hebrew Saturday Sabbath came from both Rome and Babylon, after the moon was divorced from the calendar for convenience sake. “The introduction...of the custom of celebrating the Sabbath every 7th day, *irrespective of the relationship of the day to the moon's phases*, led to a complete separation from the ancient view of the Sabbath...” (Encyclopedia Biblica, 1899 ed, p. 417). The Bible and Book of Mormon both use *numbers* to designate days of the week and months of the year, not pagan, *names* that came later via Roman idolatry and Babylonian Rabbis after the Babylonian captivity. **In 153 B.C. Rome changed the beginning of its year from March 1 to January 1. In addition, Saturday was instituted as the first day of the Roman seven-day week, as it was tied to the planetary god Saturn** (tied to Satan in some circles). In 321 AD the Roman Emperor Constantine venerated the day of the sun, making *Sun-day* the first day of the week rather than Saturday.<sup>1</sup> With this, Saturday was moved to the 7th day on the Roman calendar, remaining there ever since.

### Saturn's Day (Saturday)

Saturday was based on worship of the *planet* Saturn from Babylonian and other influences, where Sunday is based on worship of the sun (Egypt and Babylon). Miller states that Saturday became the 7<sup>th</sup> day in current Hebrew Tradition by way of Turkish *converts* to Judaism – the Khazars. They are not real bloodline Jews through Jacob. He states, “So, how did [Saturday or] satyrday [Satyr's day, after Saturn] become recognized as the Sabbath in Jewish tradition? Israel apostatized, forgot the Sabbath, and were later scattered. Later, the Khazars adopted a half pagan form of the Hebrew religion from the Babylonian Rabbis and became known as the Jews, who because of their religion have been accepted as Israelites. Satyrday was the seventh day of the pagan planetary week when the Khazars adopted Judaism, so the Jews keep satyrday, the seventh day of a pagan/papal calendar week. **From their own mouth, the [Khazar] Jews admit they are Edomites**, and history proves they are also of Japheth's seed, and it is self-evident that **because they know not the calendar of YHVH, they willfully adopted a pagan calendar**. All the proof you need that the Jews know not YHVH is the fact that they keep satyrday, the seventh day of a pagan/papal week. This day wasn't the seventh day of ANY week until 321 A.D. The Khazars/Jews adopted their Sabbath in the 8th century...Lamentations 2:6 says that

YHVH caused Israel, when in apostasy, to forget the Sabbath. Israel is STILL in apostasy. Couple that with what Hillel II did to the Hebrew calendar in about 341 A.D., changing it from a lunar-solar calendar to a more fixed calendar, one Rome could understand and you have a recipe for a falsified calendar, one that still exists in Israel to this day ” (Troy Miller, [creationcalendar.com](http://creationcalendar.com)).

Jewish historian, Arthur Koestler supports the Khazar theory addressed by Miller. He stated that “the people known as Jews today *are* descendants of Abraham, *but not of Isaac and Jacob*. History reveals that they originate in the fierce Turkish, Khazar tribes who once roamed southern Russia. They *adopted* Judaism culturally between 7th and 9th centuries AD. “Today, the Khazars are known as ‘Jews,’ **not** because of any racial question [bloodline], but because of their [adopted] religion.” (Arthur Koestler, *The Thirteenth Tribe*, Random House). Miller concludes, “The Khazars had no problem going along with the powers that be, thinking only of *making money* and mixing with the local population. The Khazars adopted and retained their understanding of the 7th day Sabbath, but this was the Catholic version of the 7th day accepting the “Sabbath” long AFTER the Catholic Church had changed the calendar of the Roman Empire. In 321 A.D., *satyrday* was made the 7thday of the week by Constantine, prior to that, it had been the first day of the pagan week. And all of the Roman Empire eventually accepted this calendar, including the Khazars some four centuries later” (Troy Miller, [creationcalendar.com](http://rense.com/general89/notjws.htm)). See Arthur Koestler, The Thirteenth Tribe, <http://rense.com/general89/notjws.htm>

*Babylonian Rabbis* Following destruction of Herod’s Temple in 70 AD, the Jews appear to have had a difficult time maintaining control over their calendar. According to the *Encyclopedia Britannica*, “The calendar was originally fixed by observation, and ultimately by calculation. Up to the fall of the Temple (A.D. 70), witnesses who saw the new moon came forward and were strictly examined and if their evidence was accepted the month *was fixed by the priests*. Eventually the authority passed to the Sanhedrin and ultimately to the patriarch. When necessary, a second “Adar” was inserted in order that the reaping of the corn should come at Passover. Gradually *observation gave place to calculation*. The right to determine the calendar was reserved to the patriarchate; the Jews of Mesopotamia tried in vain to *establish their own calendar* but the prerogative of Palestine was zealously defended.” As long as Palestine remained headquarters for Jews it was the place where the calendar was fixed and maintained throughout the region. In the 4th century AD, however, after the Babylonian captivity, the Talmud addresses *various* New Year’s Days. In Palestine the New Year [Rosh Hashanah] began in the first month of Nissan (Ex. 12:2), whereas in Babylon it remained the seventh month of Tishri. Today there are both New Year’s Days, one sacred (Nisan 1) and one civil (Tishri 1).

## Origin of the Modern Christian Sunday Sabbath

Rome instituted the continuous 7-day week with the Sabbath occurring on the 1st day of the week, not the 7th. This new calendar was implemented so for 3 primary reasons; (1) For convenience sake, as the new calendar did not use the moon phases to start the month; (2) The did so to honor the sun on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of the week; And (3) They made the change to separate themselves from Jewish (Biblical) tradition. Today most Christians support the Roman Catholic changes by using a new *interpretation of a single scripture*. This new *tradition* is tied the Lord’s resurrection day, which they see as the 1st day of the week, “**the Lord’s day**” (Rev. 1:10). According to Canright, “When it [Sunday] was introduced, it did **not** come in as a sabbath. Look at the word itself, ‘Sunday.’ Webster defines it as ‘so-called, because this day was anciently *dedicated to the sun*;’ and the *North British Review* styles it ‘*the wild solar holiday of all pagan times*.’ Now, how did it creep into the church? I’ll tell you how. When the early Christians evangelized the heathen tribes, they would go to the head, or chief, and labor with him . . . to be baptized. They were pagans, *and had kept Sunday as a festival of honor to one of their gods, the sun*; and when they **outwardly** accepted Christianity, they kept up their observance of Sunday, which gradually supplanted the Lord’s Sabbath. . . . [originally a **numbered**, 7<sup>th</sup> day]. The observance of Sunday, introduced as a holiday, or festival, gradually assumed more importance as a rival of God’s 7<sup>th</sup> day Sabbath, until, by the influx of half-converted pagans into the church, bringing with them their *solar holiday*, it began to supplant its divinely appointed rival” (D. M. Canright, *Tabernacle Lectures*, pp. 80-83).

## False arguments against the lunar 7<sup>th</sup> day Sabbath

God's lunar Sabbath on the 7<sup>th</sup> day (see also endnote 2).

Presented hereafter are four false arguments against

### 1. The old Law of Moses is fulfilled

Various inspired teachings in the Old Testament, including the Ten Commandments are not to be thrown away. This is also true of the 4<sup>th</sup> commandment. The primary part of the Law of Moses that has been replaced today, is that of animal sacrifice, fulfilled in Christ's blood sacrifice – His atonement for us. We are now to offer up to God as a sacrifice, “a broken heart and a contrite spirit.” It is necessary to experience the baptism of fire and Holy Ghost, where we are sanctified, redeemed, become the sons and daughters of God, and receive the Holy Ghost as our important guide.

### 2. The Babylonians Gave us the Lunar Sabbath

The Babylonians, Egyptians, Greeks, Romans and other surrounding cultures did influence Israel to accept more and more idolatry among them, including their calendar. Our current Gregorian calendar reflects this, with days of the week named after planets (like *sun-day*), months after Roman Gods (like January, after the Roman god Janus), etc. The heavens were created by God, however, and in His own words in Genesis chapter, God reveals that we are to use both the sun and the moon for our calendar; one to mark the night, one to mark the day, and both as *prophetic signs* (in conjunctions and eclipses), and as “*seasons*” for our calendar (Gen. 1:14). Too many of the Saints discount the Old Testament, believing that its teachings have been fulfilled, when this is true for only some laws. God says we will return to His calendar in the millennium (see Isa. 66:22-24; Zech. 14:16-20). Though astrology has pagan components within it, astronomy is the study of what God put in place in the Creation of heaven and earth. He said, “all things are created and made to **bear record of me**” (Moses 6:63).

### 3. The 1<sup>st</sup> Day of the Week Sabbath Replaced the 7<sup>th</sup> Day Sabbath at Christ's Resurrection

The great majority of all scriptures tied to Sabbath worship point to celebrating God's completion of **the Creation** on the 7<sup>th</sup> day. Modern LDS scriptures in the D&C and the Joseph Smith re-translation of the Bible are no exception (the Books of Moses and Abraham). They too confirm a 7<sup>th</sup>-day Sabbath, not a 1<sup>st</sup> day Sabbath (see Gen. 2:3, Ex. 20:8-11, 31:13, 17; 35:2; Mos. 13:19, D&C 77:12, Moses 3:3, and Abr. 5:2, and other scriptures). It is the Catholic church that has forced this day upon the modern world of Christianity, corrupting God's calendar. They eliminated the Holy Days and instituted the new 1<sup>st</sup> day of the week as our Sabbath. It is tied to sun worship on *Sun-day*, as noted in the practices of the Roman Emperor Constantine.

The primary scripture used to support the change to the 1<sup>st</sup> day of the week is from John the Revelator in Revelation 1:10. His words have been taken out of context, that modern idolatry in the Catholic church may be enforced upon us. John's whole book of Revelation is a Revelation about the last-days, and much of it is centered on “the great and dreadful day of the Lord.” This day of coming **judgment** is called by a number of names including “the great day,” “the day of the Lord,” or “the Lord's day.” Its primary theme is coming **judgment** upon modern *Babylon* and the wickedness in this darkening world. The phrase “*the Lord's day*” (which could be an incorrect translation) refers to the day he had his vision of coming judgment upon the world, resulting in the book of Revelation. It really doesn't matter what day he had this vision on. What does matter are the events leading up to it and our need for repentance and returning to the Lord, including keeping all His commandments – in God's intended way, and removing ourselves from the idolatry of this world.

Historically speaking, the Bible gives us no record of the 1st-century church worshipping or celebrating Christ's resurrection on Sunday. Revelation 1:10 states, “I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and heard behind me a great voice.” This lone verse, among so many others, is used as biblical authority by the Catholic church for our modern Sunday Sabbath. They say it is “*the Lord's Day*.” Notice, however, that this verse does not say the “first day of the week” nor “Sunday,” only that John calls the day of his vision of coming judgment upon the world as, “the Lord's day.” The book of Revelation is a prophecy mostly about the Second Coming of Christ and the events leading up to it (Rev. 1:1-3, 7). This book is written by John, a Jew steeped in the language of the Old Testament. To him, the phrase *en teé kuriakeé heeméra* (“on the Lord's day”)—and its Hebrew or Aramaic equivalent—would imply what is often called in the Old Testament “the Day of the Lord,” the time of the coming destruction that climaxes in the return of Christ (Isa. 13:6, 9; Joel 1:15; 2:1, 11, 31; Amos 5:18; etc.).

In the introduction to E.W. Bullinger's *Commentary on Revelation*, he explains clearly that the "Lord's day" in Revelation 1:10 is not talking about the first day of the week. He states, "let us notice the latter expression, 'the Lord's Day.' The majority of people, being accustomed from their infancy to hear the first day of the week called the Lord's Day, conclude in their own minds that that day is thus called in [Revelation 1:10] because that was the name of it. But the contrary is the fact: the day is so called by us because of this verse. In the New Testament this day is *always* called "the first day of the week" (Mat. 28:1; Mark 16:2 2, 9; Luke 24:1; John 20:1, 19; Acts 20:7; I Cor. 16:2.). Is it not strange that in this one place a different expression is thought to refer to the same day? And yet, so sure are the commentators that it means Sunday, that some go as far as to say it was "Easter Sunday," and it is for this reason that Revelation 1:10-19 is chosen in the New Lectionary of the Church of England as the 2nd Lesson for Easter Sunday morning." See more on Bullinger's commentary at <https://www.cgg.org/index.cfm/fuseaction/Library.sr/CT/BQA/k/168/What-is-Lords-Day-Revelation-1-10.htm> See also endnote 2.

The Roman Catholic Church was a major player in forcing these changes upon the Christian world, especially under the Roman Emperor Constantine. He worshipped the god *Sol Invictus*, "**the Invincible Sun**" until the day he died. He declared **Sun-day** to be **the official day of rest** throughout his empire on March 7<sup>th</sup>, 321 AD, also establishing Christ's official birth on the pagan date of December 25, after the *return of the unconquerable sun* following the winter solstice. Constantine also minted coins with Helios (the sun) crowned by spiked rays, like those of the Statue of Liberty today.

Note the following 9 (A – I) revealing statements, mainly from leaders in Roman Catholicism relative to our current Sunday Sabbath. They express the concept of control over the rest of Christianity; forced implementation of an idolatrous Sabbath upon us.

A. "If you want to know the days to keep, go to the Catholic Church, not to the Mosaic Law. **We have power to put down feast days**, and we have power to institute feast days." *Cardinal James Gibbons*

B. "**The Catholic Church abolished not only the Sabbath, but all the other Jewish festivals...** There is but one church on the face of the earth which has power, or claims power, to make laws binding on the conscience, binding before God, binding under penalty of hell-fire. For instance, **the institution of Sunday**. What right has any other church to keep this day? You answer by virtue of the third commandment [the Papacy changed the fourth commandment and called it the third], which says, 'Remember that thou keep holy the Sabbath day.' . . . **It was the holy Catholic Church that changed the day of rest from Saturday, the seventh day, to Sunday, the first day of the week.** . . . And lo! **the entire civilized world bows down in reverent obedience to the command of the holy Catholic Church.**" *Thomas Enright, C.S.S.R.*

C. "From this same Catholic Church **you have accepted your Sunday**, and that Sunday, as the Lord's day, **she had handed down as a tradition; and the entire Protestant world has accepted it as tradition, for you have not an iota of Scripture to establish it.** There that which you have accepted as your rule of faith, inadequate as it of course is, as well as your Sunday, you have accepted on the authority of the Roman Catholic Church." D. B. Ray, *The Papal Controversy*, p. 179.

D. On November 11th of 1895, H. F. Thomas, Chancellor of Cardinal Gibbons, stated, "Of course the Catholic Church claims that the change [Saturday Sabbath to Sunday] was her act...And *the act is a mark of her [false] ecclesiastical authority in religious things.*" Daniel 7:25 states that the Beast, "*shall think to change time and laws.*

E. "They [the Papacy] allege the Sabbath changed into Sunday, the Lord's Day, contrary to the Decalogue, as it appears, neither is there any example more boasted of than the changing of the Sabbath day. **Great, say they, is the power and authority of the church, since it dispensed with one of the Ten Commandments.**" Martin Luther, *Augsburg Confession of Faith*.

F. "It is well to remind the Presbyterians, Baptists, Methodists, and all other Christians [Mormons] that **the Bible does not support them anywhere in their observance of Sunday. Sunday is an institution of the Roman Catholic Church, and those who observe the day observe a commandment of the Catholic**

**Church.”** (Priest Brady, in an address reported in the Elizabeth N. J. News of March 18, 1903.)

G. “The Bible says, Remember that thou keep holy the Sabbath day. The Catholic church says, No! **By my divine power I abolish the Sabbath day, and command you to keep the first day of the week. And lo, the entire civilized world bows down in reverent obedience to the command of the holy Catholic church!”** (Fr Enright, C.S.S.R. of the Redeemptorial College, Kansas City, Mo., History of the Sabbath, p. 802.)

H. **“Sunday is a Catholic institution and its claim to observance can be defended only on Catholic principles...From 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.”** (Catholic Press, Sydney, Australia, August, 1900.

I. “In 46 B.C., Julius Caesar asked astronomer Sosigenes to suggest ways to improve the calendar. Acting on Sosigenes suggestions, **Caesar ordered the Romans to disregard the moon in calculating their calendars.**” World Book Encyclopedia, Vol. 3, p. 28.

**4. Convenience** The last of the 4 arguments against the lunar Sabbath, is tied to *convenience* - for the business world of Babylon. It was difficult to determine the New Moon each month and inconvenient to have an erratic 1 or 2-day New Moon conjunction at the start of every month. Businessmen wanted to have a consistent, repeating 7-day week. They also liked having *names* for each of these 7 days, along with *names* for the 12 months. Thus, for convenience sake, *numbered* days of the week and *numbered* months in the year were exchanged for idolatrous *names* for both. These were consistent days repeating every week. This consistency required throwing out the moon and its phases, virtually half of God’s calendar (the female half). The weekdays were then consistent, including a new 1<sup>st</sup> day of the week Sunday Sabbath that occurred *every 7<sup>th</sup> day* (rather than on *the 7<sup>th</sup> day*, from the New Moon conjunction (an erratic 1-2 day period every month). This new system is in place today. Nowhere in scripture do we read that God’s Sabbath must be **EVERY 7<sup>th</sup> day**, only that it should occur **ON** the 7<sup>th</sup> day. One of the trade-offs for this change is that the start of every month is now *inconsistent* with regard to a moon-phase marking it. Thus, every month on our current calendar starts on a different named day of the week, and with a different moon phase.

Besides having the Sabbath *every 7<sup>th</sup> day*, the new calendar also eliminated special “leap” months on the 2nd Bible calendar *after* the flood of Noah. This 2<sup>nd</sup> Bible calendar required an extra month (a “leap” month) periodically to *reconcile* the differing cycles of the earth, moon, and sun (see below). Prior to the flood, the moon was farther away from the earth and the numbers tied to these cycles were perfectly divisible (left), requiring no leap months or years. The inconsistent leap months of the 2nd, later Bible calendar (after the flood) were also inconvenient and thus eliminated.

<i>Pre-Flood Bible Calendar</i>		
12 months with 12 New Moons		
30 days in each month		
360 days in the year		

<i>Post-Flood Roman Calendar</i>		
12 months with 13 New Moons		
29.5 day average month (some 28, 29, 30 & 31 days)		
365.242 days in the year		

Originally observance of the first sliver New Moon, following the New Moon conjunction, meant each month started with a Sabbath on the 7<sup>th</sup> day *thereafter*. Because of the one or two-day New Moon conjunction, some months in the second of the Lord’s two Bible calendars had 29 days, others 30 days - to *reconcile* the different, new cycles of the *solar year* (365.24 days), the *lunar months* (29.53 days), and *days* (24 hours in a “day”).

1 Nisan	30 days	our March-April	7 Tishri	30 days	our Sept-Oct
2 Ivar	29 days	our April-May	8 Cheshvan	29 or 30 days	our Oct-Nov
3 Sivan	30 days	our May-June	9 Kislev	30 or 29 days	our Nov-Dec
4 Tammuz	29 days	our June-July	10 Tevet	29 days	our Dec-Jan
5 Av	30 days	our July-Aug	11 Shevat	30 days	our Jan-Feb
6 Elul	29 days	our Aug-Sept	12 Adar I	30 days	our Feb-Mar
			13 Adar II	30 days	our Feb-March

In both of the Lord's Bible calendars, Sabbaths *were* on every 7th day, but only after the erratic New Moons. Note the added 13<sup>th</sup> "leap" month below right, in special *Embolism* years in the 2<sup>nd</sup>, post-flood Bible calendar. The *Embolism* years occurred 7 times during the 19-year Metonic moon cycle. Together, they *reconciled* the different cycles of the sun and moon during this 19-year period (full moon dates repeat after 19 years). The Metonic cycle was used to predict eclipses anciently (which repeat on specific dates after 18 years). Meton was an early Greek astronomer in the 5<sup>th</sup> century. In the older, traditional Babylonian and Hebrew luni-solar calendars, the 7 *Embolism* years (featuring a extra 13<sup>th</sup> month – Adar II) were during the years 3, 6, 8, 11, 14, 17, and 19. Our current calendar is more convenient in eliminating the *Embolism* years, and the extra New Moon days (1-3 per month). This is one reason the Lord has not "*required*" the lunar Sabbath to be used widely among us. It remains a choice for some, however. For more on the four different calendars of the western world, see *Seven Heavenly Witnesses of the Coming of Jesus Christ* (10<sup>th</sup> ed. [www.digitalegend.com](http://www.digitalegend.com)).

### More on the Mark of the Beast (the great and abominable church, the great whore Babylon)

Scripture addresses a number of "beasts" that will arise in the last-days to diminish Christ and His gospel. This includes a great army invading this land from the north, like ancient Syria into Israel. Most believe it will be Russia with the aid of China and select nations of the European Union. Another beast appears to be the European Union, whose symbol is a woman riding a great bull or beast. A third beast tied to **Sunday worship** is a unique kingdom in the last-days, one revived again from the dark ages; a unique "kingdom" combining the powers of *Church* and *State* (religious and civil leadership), which *is* the Vatican of the Catholic Church.

"Beasts" are addressed in Revelation and are often equated with a woman, a great whore riding it (Rev. 13). This beast has risen up again in the last-days under a new Jesuit Pope Francis. It appears to be fulfillment of prophecy in Revelation 17:8, where the controlling government of the Catholic Church combined with the state - "*was*" (538-1798 AD), "*is not*" (1798 – 1929 AD), and "*yet is*" (1929 to the present). The Vatican, a recognized modern church and state, ruled for **1260 years** from 538 to 1798 AD (see Dan. 7:3, 17, 23). It was during that time that this particular "Beast" made war with the Saints, the woman, the Bride of the Lamb, which fled into the wilderness for John's 1260 *days* as years (mirroring the prophetic days for years pattern of the Bible, see Ezek. 4:6). During that time it is estimated that 100 million souls lost their lives. Napoleon eliminated this powerful "beast" in 1798, capturing the Pope and taking him to France. Then in **1929** the Vatican was reborn, a united church-state once again, now embracing the ways of *the New World Order*. A Jesuit Pope commands her today, the first ever. He is from South America. He rules from Vatican headquarters established on 7 hills or mountains in Rome (Rev. 17:3, 9). "It is within the city of Rome, called The City on Seven Hills, that the entire area of the Vatican State Proper is now confined" (The Catholic Encyclopedia, p. 529). According to the Encyclopedia Britannica, "The Seven Hills of Rome are Palatine, Capitoline, Quirinal, Viminal, Esquiline, Caelian, and Aventine. Together they span approximately 110 acres."

Pope Francis is about to exert more control. He recently made four visits to the U.S. on Sept. 24-26 in 2015; (1) to Pres. Obama, (2) to the U.S. Congress, (3) to the U.N. and (4) at Madison Square Garden in New York City. Note his various titles below with ties to the number 666, the number tied to the "man" leading "the Beast" in Revelation 13:16-18:

"Vicar of the Son of God"	The Latin, VICARIVS - 112, FILII - 53, DEI - 501	=	666
"Vicar of the Court"	The Latin, LVDOVICVS		666
"Captain of the Clergy"	The Latin, DV X		666
"King of the Latin Priests"	The Latin, REX LATINVS SACERDO		666
"Holy light of God"	The Latin, SANCTA LVX DEI		666

Daniel suggests that this particular "beast" is a *kingdom*, one "*diverse from all other kingdoms*" (a combined church and state, Dan. 7:3). It is the Pope who leads it. He is the man with the number 666 (above). Some suggest that **the sign** of those that worship on **Sun**-day, the pagan day the Catholic Church substituted for 7<sup>th</sup> day Sabbath worship - are those with "**the mark of the Beast**" – Satan's **sign**. It is worth repeating that on November 11th of 1895, H. F. Thomas, Chancellor of Cardinal Gibbons, stated, "Of course the Catholic Church

claims that the change [Saturday Sabbath to Sunday] was her act...And *the act is a mark of her ecclesiastical authority in religious things.*" Daniel 7:25 states that the Beast, "shall think to change time and laws," and it did so with **Sun**-day worship - that nearly all modern Christian churches now conform to (including the Latter-day Saints). Those submitting to the rules and changes of *the beast* have its mark in the *right hand* or *forehead*. This particular *mark* may not be a literal, physical one in the traditional sense, but one visible by God and his select angels, or those permitted to see it spiritually (see Eph. 6:12). What then is the *mark* in the forehead or hand as addressed in scripture?

In prophecy, the **forehead** is tied to (our *focus*, intent, thoughts, preferences, etc.):

Where the law of God is written, under the New Covenant (Jer. 31:31-34; Heb. 8:10-11; 10:16)  
Where the servants of God were marked in the past (Ezek 9:4; Rev. 9:4; D&C 77:9&14; D&C 7; D&C 112:22-23)  
Where the wickedness of **Babylon** is written – in the name "MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH" (Rev. 17:5)  
Where ancient Israel was stubborn and rebellious (Jer. 3:3)  
Where the Seal of God will be placed in the future (Rev. 7:2-3; 14:1), not in the hand.  
A seal is a type of mark (Rom. 4:11). God's law is sealed amongst His people (Isa. 8:16).  
Where the name of Christ will be for the redeemed (Rev. 22:4)  
The righteous serve God with their minds (Rom. 7:25)  
The place referring to the brave, fearless, God's true servants, etc. (Prov. 28:1; Ezek. 3:8-9)

In prophecy, the **right hand** is tied to (action, work, movement):

Being forced against your will (Jer. 34:3; 38:23; 42:11; Ezek. 21:24)  
To be in someone else's control (Gen. 16:6; Josh. 21:44; 24:8, 10-11; Judges 2:16; 3:28; 1 Sam. 27:1; Jer. 38:5)  
To be wicked, violent or undisciplined (Gen. 16:12; Isa. 59:6; Micah 2:1; 7:3)  
To be destroyed by someone else (1 Sam. 23:17; 27:1; 2 Sam. 24:16; 2 Chron. 28:5)  
Falsehood (Psalm 144:7-8, 11)  
Going Astray (Josh. 23:6, 8; 2 Sam. 14:19; Prov. 4:27)  
The difference of salvation (Job 40:14; Psalm 17:7; 108:6; Isa. 37:20; 59:1)  
A symbol of physical labor (Eccl. 9:10)  
To be in royal favor (1 Kings 2:19)

Mentioned together, the **forehead** and the **right hand** appear to refer to:

Keeping the Ten Commandments (Deut. 6:6-8; 11:18)  
Keeping God's principles (Ex. 13:9, 16)  
God's seal is keeping the proper Sabbath Day holy (Ex. 31:16-17; 20:12 & 20)

### **The Seal of the Living God**

The "seal" God places on the foreheads of His righteous followers (Mos. 5:15) is the opposing mark to that of the beast, Satan (Alma 34:35). We are sealed to one or the other. "*The seal of the living God*" is placed upon us by one of our Lord's choice servants, the lead "angel" in D&C 77:9, for example. There, God tells us that this special angel (identified in verse 14) has *His "seal,"* and that he (a writer with an inkhorn) and his 4 companion angels are to *mark* the 144,000 in their foreheads prior to the destruction coming upon the earth. The mark provides protection from God's coming judgments. All others will be destroyed, as we saw in Ezekiel 9, where this same angel in white linen, with an "inkhorn at his side" placed the mark on those *to be preserved*. They were those who "sighed" because of the wickedness surrounding them.

The wicked in Ezekiel 9 were located at God's "house" or Sanctuary in Jerusalem. They were the leaders of the people at Solomon's Temple, God's "house." They did not have the "seal" and were thus destroyed in God's *judgment* because they were practicing *idolatry*. Notice that that their idolatry was worshipping the sun. Note

also the judgment coming in our day in D&C 112:22-23, first comes upon the Lord's House (is this His people, leaders, temple too?). The "seal of the living God" is believed to be an important sign or symbol of our Lord's protection, that given us in *the Atonement*. It is the rudimentary **T-shaped cross**, often called the the ancient **Tau** mark. It symbolizes the scales of mercy (left) and justice (right). It is the 22<sup>nd</sup> letter of the Hebrew alphabet, tied to "judgment" at the end of time (see next page). Those weighed and measured in the *balances* - those found clean, receive this mark in their foreheads and are thus preserved under the protective wings of God's care.

*The Hebrew Alphabet* Many believe the sequence from letter 1 to letter 22 of the Hebrew alphabet expresses a complete history of the earth in regard to *time*. The first letter *aleph* points to God as the origin of creation; the 13<sup>th</sup> and middle letter *mem* (Gematria 40) is representative of the wise *owl* (representing "Messiah" in the meridian of time); and the 22<sup>nd</sup> letter *tav* (Gematria 400) is representative of *scales* – of "justice" in Christ's return in final judgment at the end of time. According to Sampson, the number 22 appears to have connection to the *final judgment* and end times, since *Tav* (the *last* letter of the modified Hebrew alphabet) is the 22<sup>nd</sup> letter (400 in Gematria / 400 years [judgment] was the time the Children of Israel were held captive in Egypt, and the time between Christ's personal visit in 3 Nephi and their eventual destruction as a people.) According to Sampson, "By shape, Tav in its earliest form is the cross and is considered as the sign, mark or token. In the Book of Ezekiel the angels of heaven in judgment, fly through the streets of Jerusalem and mark the righteous with the cross [or Tau mark] on the forehead. These will be spared from destruction... *It is the token that they have passed their judgment and are not found... wanting*. It is also an ideographic motif of the scales of justice and mercy, symbolized by its cross design, implying division" (see Joe Sampson, Written by the Finger of God, Wellspring Publishing). The cross of Christ may have been a T shape (chap. 7, Seven Heavenly Witnesses), not a traditional, Roman cross, with center post extending upward. Note the chart below.

#/Gematria	Hebrew Letter	Meaning/Graphic	#/Gematria	Hebrew Letter	Meaning/Graphic		
1	<b>Aleph</b>	A	<b>God</b>	12 (30)	Lamed	L	Justice / Governance
2	Beth	B	Mother [house, creation]	13 (40)	<b>Mem</b>	M	<b>Messiah</b>
3	Gimal	G	Cycle	14 (50)	Nun	N	Angel / new governance
4	Daleth	D	Mortality	15 (60)	Samekh	S	Resurrection
5	<b>Hei</b>	H	<b>Life / Covenant</b>	16 (70)	Ayin	-	Deliverance [gentiles]
6	Vav	O	Nail [structure]	17 (80)	Peh	P	Voice
7	Zayin	Z	Time [spiritual perfection]	18 (90)	Tzadhe	Ts	Devotion
8	<b>Cheth</b>	CH	<b>Gate</b> [renewal] - life	19 (100)	Koph	K, Q	Mercy
9	<b>Tet</b>	T	<b>Serpent</b> (judgment & creation)	20 (200)	Resh	R	Scythe
10	Yod	Y	Spirit [complete]	21 (300)	Shin	S, Sh	Womb
11 (20)	Kaph	K	Palm	22 (400)	<b>Tav</b>	T, Th	<b>Judgment</b> [at the end] – a <i>Sealing</i>

*Anciently there were no written numbers in Hebrew. Letters were assigned numerical values. Thus A was 1, B was 2 and so on - every letter carrying numerical and symbolic value. Numbers in scripture and sacred architecture have symbolic meaning beyond simple computation. The number 22 throughout scripture has ties to God's judgment (see Seven Heavenly Witnesses, endnote 124). The chart represents the author's condensed number and letter symbolism tied to Joe Sampson's research on Joseph Smith's Egyptian Alphabet and Grammar. Much of it was created by W. W. Phelps and Joseph Smith as an aid in decoding the Book of Joseph, part of early translation work for the Book of Abraham.*

***The 360-Day Prophetic Year*** Adam and Enoch's calendar used a 360-day year, the number of degrees in a perfect circle. One proof for the older 360-day year is comparing Genesis 7:11 with 7:24-8:3 and 8:4. It reveals that the 17<sup>th</sup> day of second month - to the 17<sup>th</sup> day of the seventh month is five months (5 x 30 = 150 days). Thus it is important to remember this year when calculating prophecy in the Bible, as it uses 360-day years – a "prophetic year." The change from the older 360-day year to the current 365-day year appears to have occurred after the Great Flood. The last-days prophecies of Daniel and John the Revelator utilize the 360-day *prophetic year*. Note the relationship of the number 360 (degrees in a perfect circle defining *space*) to the linear measure in the Sacred Cubit, when we take the number 7 (the number of *time*) and multiply it by 360 (degrees in *space*), which equals 2520 (the Sacred Cubit is 25.20 inches).

In the original Bible calendar before the Flood, and the second Bible calendar after the flood, God asked His people to rest on the 7th day of the week as marked by the moon (Gen. 2:1-3, Ex. 20:8-11; 34:21). He also asked that they observe 7 annual Holy Days each year (Ex. 23:14-17, 34:18, 22-23, Deut. 16:1, 9-10, 13-16; Lev. chapters 16 and 23). He **never** stated that the Sabbath was to be *every 7th day in succession*, but **only that the**

Sabbath is **the 7th day of the week**, as marked in a lunar calendar (see the chart hereafter).

**Why do the Saints & other Christians Continue to Worship on Sunday?** The simple answer is ignorance and tradition. There is also the obvious influence of Satan. He desires to oppose Christ at every turn. Satan corrupts everything in this world, including God's calendar. He is the God of this world as our Temple Endowment reminds us. Most people simply don't know the facts behind our current Sunday practice. Like sheep, most simply follow, and in this case it is other men – "the arm of flesh" rather than God that we follow (see 2 Ne. 4:34; Psalm 118:8). Many of the most devoted Christians today are seeking the Lord's will and have either switched to a new day of worship, or do so privately observing the heavens for additional worship – according to His *original* Bible lunar calendar. Others attend Sunday services with their congregations, but look forward to "*the full restoration of all things*," when the Lord's Holy Days will again be put into practice to worship the Lord as He taught us – by observing the heavens He created, His timepiece above. This may be the best choice for devoted Latter-day Saints. The key ingredient is seek the Lord's will in this and all things.

Scripture tells us that we *will* return to the Holy Days to properly remember our Lord and worship Him as He desires, or there will be cursing, plagues, etc. This is the last-days prophecy of Zechariah 14:16-18. There we read, "And it shall come to pass, that every one **that is left** of all the nations which came against Jerusalem shall even go up from year to year to worship the King, the Lord of hosts, and to keep the feast of tabernacles. And it shall be, that whoso will not come up of all the families of the earth unto Jerusalem to worship the King, the Lord of hosts, even upon them shall be no rain. And if the family of Egypt go not up, and come not, that have no rain; there shall be the plague, wherewith the Lord will smite the heathen that come not up to keep the feast of tabernacles."



14-15 moon phases from New Moon (a Holy Day) to full moon; two phases of waxing and waning (29-30 total)

The illustration on the preceding page assumes the reader is facing north. Reading left (west) to right (east) and goes from New Moon (day 1) to full moon (day 15). The phase and position of the moon in the sky simulates its waxing (getting larger) at sunset each successive night of the month. Waning is just the opposite, the moon decreasing in size and its similar phase seen at sunrise, as well as portions of the day.

<b>New Moon conjunction</b>	1st Day New Moon	2 <sup>nd</sup> Day	3 <sup>rd</sup> Day	4 <sup>th</sup> Day	5 <sup>th</sup> Day	6 <sup>th</sup> Day	<b>7<sup>th</sup> Day of the week - Sabbaths</b>
<b>1</b>	2	3	4	5	6	7	<b>8</b> ¼ moon waxing
	9	10	11	12	13	14	<b>15</b> Full moon
	16	17	18	19	20	21	<b>22</b> ¼ moon waning
	23	24	25	26	27	28	<b>29</b> Final crescent moon
<b>(30)</b>							<i>New Month</i>
<b>1</b>	2	3	4	5	6	7	<b>8</b> ¼ moon waxing, again

Note the four days of the Biblical lunar calendar. They include New Moon conjunction (green), the New Moon (blue), workdays (black) and Sabbaths (red).

### A Millennial Restoration – The Full Restoration of All Things

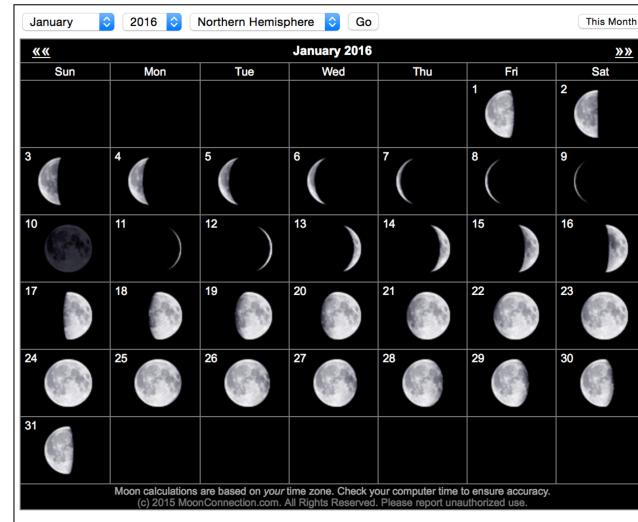
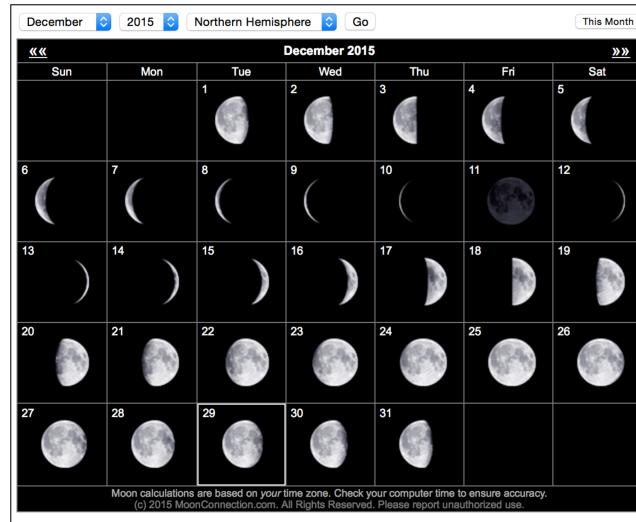
It is this author's opinion that had the Prophet Joseph Smith lived longer, he would have instituted Sabbath worship consistent with scripture *and the heavens*, doing so with at least a few of the Biblical **Holy Days** – to better *remember* and *memorialize* our Lord, rather than our current paganized *holidays*. The Lord stated that His people were to observe and honor **His** calendar and its holy days as "*ordinances*," doing so *forever* as a form of *true worship*. Speaking of Passover, He said, "And this [holy] day shall be unto you for a *memorial* [of the Atonement portion of my redeeming mission]; and ye shall keep it a feast to the Lord throughout your

generations; *ye shall keep it a feast by an ordinance for ever*" (Ex. 12:14). The three types of "days" in the month are found in Ezekiel 46:1.

The Biblical calendar **Holy Days** memorialize our Lord **on the actual days** when He performed His most important service, like *the Atonement*, for example, which occurred *on Passover* (at full moon). He was, after all, the Lamb of God, sacrificed for you and I. On our present corrupt Gregorian calendar, this Holy Day has been *polluted, renamed, and combined* with pagan *Easter* traditions. Easter has ties to the Babylonian God Tammuz and his corrupt mother, who had sex with one another. Of special note is that *Easter* is often celebrated weeks apart from when *Passover* and the Lord's *Resurrection* actually occurred in the meridian of time! Imagine celebrating your wife's birthday or your anniversary on a *more convenient, substitute* days.

According to his own words, Constantine moved the date of the *Passover* celebration, and re-named it Easter, for two reasons; (1) convenience, and (2) his hatred for the Jews, and thus the traditions they observed. We must remember that the Holy Days thrown out by Constantine and the 7<sup>th</sup> day Sabbath according to the moon, were part of the Law Jehovah gave His people, those who love, worship, and honor HIM. In a letter to the Council of Nicaea in 325 AD, Constantine said, "When the question relative to the sacred festival of Easter arose, it was universally thought that it would be *convenient* that all should keep the feast on one day." He then went on to explain how new Christians must separate themselves from the "detestable" traditions and company "of the Jew." Christ was a Jew. It was He as Jehovah who gave the Law as the Law Giver. He came to fulfill portions of this law perfectly, that connected to animal sacrifice. Today we offer up instead a broken heart and a contrite spirit. Other portions of His law remain in place.

Our present pagan calendar and its Sabbath is well suited for those who worship the Lord with their lips rather than their hearts. It fits in well within our idolatrous, telestial, business world - Babylon. The Lord has repeatedly told us to come out of Babylon, and that she *will* be destroyed. He stated, "**I will not spare any that remain in Babylon...** Wherefore, if ye believe me, ye will labor while it is called today" (D&C 64:23-25). The capital city Jerusalem, with Solomon's Temple, had been corrupted by outside influences too. Lehi and his family was commanded to leave her before she was destroyed. Few in that day believed this was possible. Lehi believed and acted.



Above, Moon Phases for December 2015 and January 2016

In Joseph Smith's day the Lord's calendar was apparently a lesser priority in comparison to the safety of the Saints and other more pressing matters. Had he lived longer, it may have been different, however. As mentioned earlier, Isaiah 66 and Zechariah 14 tell us that we will eventually return to at least some of the Biblical Holy Days. This will be part of the promise of "*the full restoration of all things*." Note D&C 59, modern scripture associated with honoring "**the Lord's day**" – His Sabbath. It states, "And in nothing doth man offend God, or

against none is his wrath kindled, save those who confess not his hand in all things [our calendar], and obey not his commandments. Behold, this is according to **the law** and **the prophets** [both found in ancient and modern scripture]; wherefore, trouble me no more concerning this matter. *But learn that he who doeth the works of righteousness shall receive his reward*, even peace in this world, and eternal life in the world to come. I, the Lord, have spoken it, and the Spirit beareth record. Amen" (D&C 59:21-23).

By keeping the commandments, studying "**the law** [He gave] and **the** [words of the ancient] **prophets**," and diligently seeking the Lord's Spirit through revelation, we can discern His will in this *and* all things. For a more complete overview of the Lord's calendar, see chapters 2-4 and Appendix A of my book, *Seven Heavenly Witnesses of the Coming of Jesus Christ*, [www.digitalegend.com](http://www.digitalegend.com) See also the calendar of David Walther on the next page - <http://www.lunarsabbath.ca/cal/abbotsford.html>

2015 Anno Domini												Days of the Month												Conjunction			Sabbath			
Month	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
1	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	
2	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
3	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	
4	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
5	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	
6	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
7	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
8	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	
9	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
10	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	
11	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
12	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	

David Walther's 2016 Holy Days Calendar (Sabbaths in Red)

*When does "the Day" Start?* Technically the 24-hour Sabbath "**day**" extends from sunset the night before (at "evening" - when the moon phase tied to the next day is seen) to sunset the next day. The actual "day" begins at sunrise, not sunset the day before, or midnight (Gregorian calendar). In Genesis 1:3-5, the Lord said, "Let there be light." At the end of this verse we read that it was the first day. Yes, the earth was dark and void, **but with light came creation.** *The female moon phase appears to prefigure the coming day after it*, a day starting with the light of sunrise, not sunset the day before, or midnight (like our Gregorian calendar). This may be indicated by God's language in Genesis 1:3-5, where "**the evening and the morning were the first day.**" God divided the light of the *day* from the darkness of the *night* (Gen. 1:3-4, 14-18). One might ask, if the 24-hour day starts in the evening when dark comes, *then when does nighttime begin?* God is not a God of confusion. Light is day and night is dark – they are opposite one another (Gen. 8:22). Judges 16:2 tells us that the day starts when it becomes light, whereas Psalm 104:20 tells us night begins with darkness. The sun rules the day and the moon the night (Psalm 136:7-9).

Verses stating that the sunlight portion of the 24-hour "day" begins at dawn include, Gen. 32:24; Judges 19:26; Josh. 6:15; Job 3:9, 7:4; Song of Solomon 2:17, 4:6. John 20:19 expresses that the evening is the latter part of

the previous day, not the start of the next day (see also Mark 4:35; Mat. 28:1; Lev. 6:20; I Sam. 9: 10-11, 19, 30:17, 26; II Sam. 24:13-15; Jonah 4:6-7; Deut. 9:11, Job 26:10; Psalm 74:16, 121:6; Isa. 38:12-13; Lam. 3:22.

The following verses express that the sunlight portion of the *day* ends at sundown: Deut. 24:15; Judges 14:18, 19:9 and II Samuel 3:35. Many scriptures state that a person is “unclean until the even,” such as Lev. 11:24. Leftovers from the Passover were not to remain until the morning (Ex. 12:10).

Note also the following scriptures that show that “tomorrow” doesn’t begin at even: Ex. 16:22, 18:13, 32:5-6; I Sam. 19:11; Esther 2:14. Instead, the “**evening**” (with its moon phase) and **the morning** (with its sunlight) mark *the 24-hour “day”* in scripture.

## Sabbath Worship in LDS Scripture

There are a number of modern scriptures addressing the Sabbath for Latter-day Saints. They include **Mosiah 13:19**: D&C 59, 68:29, **77:12**; **Moses 3:2-3**, and **Abra. 5:2**. Four of the three (in bold) clearly address the 7<sup>th</sup> day or 7th time period. The Bible calendar establishes the Sabbath on the 7<sup>th</sup> day after the New Moon. The modern pagan Gregorian calendar, put in place by Constantine, establishes the Sabbath on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of the week named Sunday in connection with Roman sun worship. D&C 59 addresses the Sabbath in subtle ways, without clarifying a specific day of the week on our modern calendar.

“Wherefore, I give unto them a commandment, saying thus: *Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, with all thy might, mind, and strength; and in the name of Jesus Christ thou shalt serve him. Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself.* Thou shalt not steal; neither commit adultery, nor kill, nor do anything like unto it. Thou shalt thank the Lord thy God in all things. Thou shalt offer a sacrifice unto the Lord thy God in righteousness, even that of a broken heart and a contrite spirit. *And that thou mayest more fully keep thyself unspotted from the world, thou shalt go to the house of prayer and offer up thy sacraments upon my holy day;* For verily this is a day appointed unto you to **rest** from your labors, and to **pay thy devotions unto the Most High**; Nevertheless thy vows shall be offered up in righteousness on all days and at all times; But remember that **on this, the Lord’s day, thou shalt offer thine oblations and thy sacraments unto the Most High, confessing thy sins unto thy brethren, and before the Lord. And on this day thou shalt do none other thing**, only let thy food be prepared with singleness of heart that **thy fasting may be perfect, or, in other words, that thy joy may be full.** Verily, **this is fasting and prayer, or in other words, rejoicing and prayer.** And inasmuch as ye **do these things with thanksgiving, with cheerful hearts and countenances, not with much laughter, for this is sin, but with a glad heart and a cheerful countenance**— Verily I say, that inasmuch as ye do this, the fulness of the earth is yours, the beasts of the field and the fowls of the air, and that which climbeth upon the trees and walketh upon the earth; Yea, and the herb, and the good things which come of the earth, whether for food or for raiment, or for houses, or for barns, or for orchards, or for gardens, or for vineyards; Yea, all things which come of the earth, in the season thereof, are made for the benefit and the use of man, both to please the eye and to gladden the heart. Yea, for food and for raiment, for taste and for smell, to strengthen the body and to enliven the soul. And it pleaseth God that he hath given all these things unto man; for unto this end were they made to be used, with judgment, not to excess, neither by extortion. *And in nothing doth man offend God, or against none is his wrath kindled, save those who confess not his hand in all things, and obey not his commandments.* **Behold, this is according to the law and the prophets;** wherefore, trouble me no more concerning this matter. *But learn that he who doeth the works of righteousness shall receive his reward, even peace in this world, and eternal life in the world to come.* I, the Lord, have spoken it, and the Spirit beareth record. Amen.”

*The Law and the Prophets* are traditionally understood to be the Old Testament, where the Sabbath day was established along with the 10 commandments. They are part of true worship. D&C 93:19 states:

“I give unto you these sayings that you may understand and know **how to worship**, and **know what you worship, that you may come unto the Father in my name**, and in due time **receive of his fullness”**

Constantine's corruption of the calendar we use today is motivation for many to depart from the 1<sup>st</sup> day of the week Sabbath (Sunday) and return to God's 7<sup>th</sup> day Sabbath. **This is not Saturday, but the 7<sup>th</sup> day according to the New Moon.**

*Creation or Resurrection?* God's word in 9 scriptures clearly state that the 7<sup>th</sup> day is the Sabbath, a **blessed, sanctified** day tied to "rest" and "refreshing" after the 6 days of **creation**. This is consistent in the books of Genesis, Moses, and Abraham. The Israelites followed the lunar Sabbath until they were eventually defiled by the adopted ways of the Gentiles. Five scriptures, 3 in the New Testament (the main one being Rev. 1:10, see also 1 Cor. 16:2; Acts 20:7), and D&C 59:12 appear to some to tie the Sabbath after Christ's atonement to His *resurrection* on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of the week. This is because of an unclear translation of the phrase, "*the Lord's day*" seems to signify the Sabbath<sup>2</sup> to them (see endnote 1, *John Maintains Truth*, and endnote 2). Misunderstanding of the context of this phrase has led many to believe that it was a new Sabbath instituted after the resurrection, and one instituted by the Lord. Most all other scriptures in our canon, however, clearly tie the Sabbath to "rest" on the 7<sup>th</sup> day following the **creation**, not the Lord's *resurrection*. Though the Creation and the Resurrection are both important days, it is the 7<sup>th</sup> day that is tied to the 3 Sabbaths generally throughout scripture on the Lord's calendar (7<sup>th</sup> day Sabbath, 7<sup>th</sup> Sabbatical year, and the 7x7 Jubilee year), as well as the 7<sup>th</sup> millennial rest for the Earth and her inhabitants.

Besides the 9 scriptures in bold below (4 of which are from our modern canon of scripture), prayer and direct revelation on this matter may be the only way to determine what the Lord would individually have each of us to today. See the following 9 Sabbath scriptures in bold for clear 7<sup>th</sup> day Sabbath support among those listed hereafter. They are: **Gen. 2:3; Ex. 20:8-11, 21:2, 23:11-12, 25:2, 31:13, 17; 35:2**; Lev. 19:3; Deut. 15:1; 2 Chron. 36:21; Heb. 4:4 (D&C 84:24); **Mosiah 13:19**; D&C 59, 68:29, **77:12**; **Moses 3:2-3**, and **Abr. 5:2**.

#### **Modern 1<sup>st</sup> Day Sunday Sabbath**

1<sup>st</sup> day of the Roman Week

Tied to Sun Worship – the Roman "Sol Invictus"

Forced upon the people by Constantine  
"The Lord's day" (Rev. 1:10, endnote 2)

#### **7<sup>th</sup> day Lunar Sabbath (not Saturday)**

7<sup>th</sup> day after the New Moon in the Bible

"7<sup>th</sup> day is the Sabbath of the Lord" (Ex. 20:10)

*Blessed, sanctified* day of *rest* after the *Creation* (Gen. 2:3)

"enter in to the *rest* of the Lord" (Heb. 4; D&C 84:24)

7<sup>th</sup> year *sabbatical* liberty & rest for slaves (Ex. 21:2; 23:11-12)

7<sup>th</sup> year *release of debt* (Deut. 15:1-2)

"the *land* enjoy her *sabbaths*" (2 Chron. 36:20-21)

A "*willing offering* with his heart" (Ex. 25:2)

A "sign between me and you throughout your generations" (Ex. 31:13)

The 7<sup>th</sup> day was the *creation of man* (D&C 77:12)

*Rest in the 7<sup>th</sup> "time"* (Abraham 5:2)

Support for the 1<sup>st</sup> day of the week as the Sabbath may be found in four scriptures: Acts 20:7, 1 Cor. 16:2, Rev. 1:10, and perhaps D&C 59. We see what is meant by "the Lord's day" in endnote 1, *John Maintains Truth*.

The Lord's revelation in D&C 59 was given to the Prophet Smith on August 7<sup>th</sup>, 1831. It was a **Sunday** (1<sup>st</sup> day of the week on our modern Gregorian calendar) *and a New Moon*. We should keep in mind that technically, the **New Moon** was *not* a **Sabbath**, but a special *Holy Day*, one of 4 types of "days" in the Biblical calendar given Moses to go with "work days" and "Sabbaths" (the 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>, and 29<sup>th</sup> days of the month). See Exodus 46:1.

Note the following scriptures in D&C 59:

"For verily **this is a day** appointed **unto you** to rest from your labors, and to pay thy devotions unto the Most High;" (verse 10)

"But remember that on **this, the Lord's day...**" (verse 12, see endnote 2)

"And on **this day** thou shalt do none other thing..." (verse 13)

“And in nothing doth man offend God, or against none is his wrath kindled, save those who confess not his hand in all things, and *obey not his commandments*. **Behold, this is according to the law and the prophets;** wherefore, trouble me no more concerning this matter. But learn that he who doeth the works of righteousness shall receive his reward, even peace in this world, and eternal life in the world to come” (v. 21- 22).

For the moon phase for August 7<sup>th</sup> in 1831, see:

<http://www.timeanddate.com/calendar/monthly.html?year=1831&month=8&country=1>

The Lord may have been purposely obscuring the specific “*day*” of the current week in D&C 59, as the time for observing the lunar Sabbath had not yet arrived. Joseph Smith and the Saints had enough on their plates. The prospective change to the lunar Sabbath, rather than the idolatrous Sunday Sabbath on the Gregorian calendar, was most likely a lower priority for him and the Saints at the time. Our Lord’s use of the words “*the law and the prophets*,” however, clearly has ties to the original *law* of God and the *Prophets* in the Bible, and with the heavens that mark the 7<sup>th</sup> day Sabbath. Those who seek the Lord’s will for the “*best*” Sabbath, among other usable choices (“*better*” and “*good*”) will find that it is superior in removing idolatry and blessing our lives. In the Millennium, we will again worship the Lord on **His** Sabbath day, along with other holy days, such as *Tabernacles* (see Zech. 14:16-21). Note what the great Prophet Isaiah had to say about this future day, when **true worship** will once again be restored.

“Also the sons of the stranger, (Gentiles) that join themselves to the Lord, to *serve* him, and to **love** the name of the Lord, to be his servants, every one that **keepeth the sabbath** from *polluting* it, and taketh hold of **my covenant**; *Even them will I bring to my holy mountain, and make them joyful in my house of prayer*: their burnt offerings and their sacrifices shall be accepted upon mine altar; for mine house shall be called an house of prayer for all people” (Isa. 56:6-7).

“If you will keep your feet from [trampling] the Sabbath – from achieving your own ends on my holy day – and **consider the Sabbath a delight**, the holy [day] of Jehovah *venerable*, and if you will *honor it by refraining from your everyday pursuits* – from occupying yourselves with your own affairs and seeking of [business] matters – then shall you *delight* in Jehovah, and I will make you traverse the heights of the earth and nourish you with the heritage of Jacob your father. By his mouth Jehovah has spoken it” (Isa. 58:13-14, Gileadi re-translation).

“For as the new heavens and the new earth, which I will make, shall *remain* before me, saith the LORD, so shall your seed and your name remain. 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” (Isa. 66:22-23).

The Lunar Sabbath and the 7 annual Holy Days are not a requirement among us until Zion is once again established. Those who live it now, however, are given additional blessings, including an added measure of *protection* in their fight against the Adversary. It represents a way to keep the spirit and law of the 4<sup>th</sup> commandment more completely. If one chooses to live it now, the additional new moon days (1 to 3 of them per month) should be included as holy days (not Sabbaths, however). This act of turning from the pagan calendar to God’s heavenly signs is a great act of honor. God will in turn honor those who express love to Him in this way.

## Conclusion

*A Creation Calendar*      The first verses of Genesis detail the Creation, including that of the sun and the moon, God’s 2 faithful witnesses. They are symbolically tied to male and female, Father and Mother. Unlike our current calendar that is primarily tied to timekeeping only, God’s calendar (marked by the position of the sun and moon relative to earth) was used for 3 *important purposes* anciently; (1) It was an important part of **true worship**, helping us remember and memorialize the redemptive mission of the Creator and Savior Jesus Christ. He has said that no one comes to the Father, except by and through Him. As we remember Him, we have His Spirit to be with us, as promised in the Sacrament prayers; (2) God’s original calendar also marked the timing of **divine appointments with God** (the 7 annual Holy Days), including the **3 Sabbaths**; And (3) God’s calendar was

an **aid in determining planting and harvesting times** (tied to creation and renewal). The first 2 purposes have mostly disappeared from our current Gregorian calendar, and so too a greater focus on the Lord. Idolatry in our modern *holidays* has replaced remembering the Lord Jesus on *the Holy Days*.

God's purer calendar also made use of 3 types of "days." They are a 24-hour period, beginning at sunset the night before the "day." These 3 days are featured in 1 scripture. It reads, "Thus saith the Lord God; The gate of the inner court that looketh toward the east shall be shut the six **working days**; but on the **sabbath** it shall be opened, and in the day of the **new moon** it shall be opened" (Ezek. 46:1, see also Isa. 66:23, 2 Kings 4:23, Amos 8:5). Darkness preceded light in the creation. It also precedes sunlight in the "day." The *evening moon phase* thus effectively marks the "day" following it via various phases of the moon. God said, "the evening and morning are the first [24-hour] day" (Gen. 1:5).

The 7<sup>th</sup> day Sabbath, marked by moon phases, is the one preferred by God, the one He put in place first in the Bible. Men then corrupted His word, law, and calendar. Satan was behind it all (D&C 93:39). He hates the Lord Jesus and wants to diminish Him in every way possible. Daniel prophesied that the great and abominable church would change the calendar in our day (see Dan. 7:25). It is fully entrenched among us. God has said that we cannot be saved in ignorance, however, *and* that He will not, "spare any that remain in Babylon" (D&C 64:24). It is our duty to discern truth from error today, and remove ourselves from the false beliefs and traditions of wicked, idolatrous men who embrace Babylon. They seek to control us for the sake of gain of all types.

Constantine associated Sunday with *sun* worship in His pagan Roman practices. He and the later Catholics have made the 1<sup>st</sup> day of the week our new Sabbath, a "sign" – *the mark of the beast* – and their corrupt system that now dominates our world (see endnote 1). It is part of a great secret combination to control the world. The Gregorian calendar we use today is named after a later Pope, Pope Gregory XIII, who further modified it. This corrupt, idolatrous calendar will be removed in the Millennium, when all things are restored to purity and truth (D&C 77:9&14). Today there is a choice between a good, better, and best Sabbath. Those wise ones who love God and wish to remove all idolatry from their lives today, can choose to do so by worshipping Him according to His holy word – on the 7<sup>th</sup> day as marked by both the sun *and* the moon. They are the faithful witnesses of His calendar. It is a sacrifice that will be rewarded.

#### **End Notes**

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<sup>1</sup> **Constantine's Changes – our current Sabbath Today** Emperor Constantine the Great (274-337 AD) did not embrace Christianity as the religion of Rome as most think. He modified Christianity into a new form, *then* implemented these changes as the religion of Rome, complete with ties to his Roman beliefs. He maintained the title *Pontifex Maximus* as the high priest of *Sol invictus*, then minted coins during his reign with the inscription, "SOL INVICTO COMITI" (meaning "Committed to the Invincible Sun"). This pagan solar deity apparently revealed to him in a dream that he would conquer "in this sign." A prior Roman Emperor, Elagabalus (218-222 AD) was also a high priest - of the *sun god* Baal in Syria prior to becoming a Roman Emperor. He established the *Sol Invictus Elagabal* cult in Rome. Later the Roman Emperor Aurelian (270-275 AD) made *Sol Invictus* the State religion of the Roman Empire. He established a college of high priests under the name *Pontifices Dei Solis*. Constantine belonged to this special college. **It later evolved into the Roman College of Cardinals of the Vatican.** They elect Popes and continue to do so today. We us Pope Gregory's modified calendar today, the Gregorian calendar. Hereafter, this endnote addresses many changes to God's Bible calendar, all put in place the Roman sun worshipper Constantine who hated the Jews and their traditions.

In a letter from Constantine to the Council of Nicaea in 325 AD, he said, "When the question relative to the sacred festival of Easter arose, it was universally thought that it would be *convenient* that all should keep the feast on one day." He then went on to explain how new Christians must separate themselves from "detestable" traditions and company "of the Jew." Constantine, with the approval of the Council of Nicaea, introduced the following 5 changes, leading to our current **idolatry** in connection with our calendar and more:

(1) Constantine introduced the false Easter Friday crucifixion to Sunday resurrection tradition used throughout Christianity today. There are no Friday's or Sunday's in the Bible or Book of Mormon on God's calendar. The change was made for *convenience* sake, according to Constantine's own words, and to separate Christian worship from Jewish worship (from Nisan 13/14 to 15/16 to the new Friday and Sunday celebration). In addition, the current tradition does NOT use the

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sun and moon to mark the days we celebrate Christ's Atonement and Resurrection on. They are often weeks apart. Thus the false Easter tradition is even on the wrong day, not longer tied to those days Christ performed the Atonement for us.

(2) Constantine eliminated the siting of the New Moon by Jewish leaders to start each month and the New Year, thus divorcing the moon from the original Hebrew calendar. **It has never recovered.** The Apostle John did his best to maintain the connection of these two Holy Days to God's 2 faithful witnesses; the sun *and* the moon.

(3) Constantine moved the location for the crucifixion and burial of Christ to an area northwest of the temple site. Then built the Church of the Holy Sepulcher to mark *his* choice, not one based on history, accuracy, or scripture. The nearby Garden Tomb later became the place we honor today for Christ's burial (another false tradition). Historic sources, Mosaic Law, and early pilgrims place the crucifixion *and* burial site on the Mount of Olives, directly east of the temple. Both were thus "before the Lord's face," and "outside the camp of Israel," necessary requirements in the Mosaic Law which God gave Moses on Sinai, a law which He came to fulfill in every type, shadow, jot, and tittle.

(4) Constantine aided the increase of anti-Semitism, evident later on in the words of Justin Martyr, Irenaeus, Tertullian, Martin Luther, Jerome, and the Christian church generally, leading to much persecution of the Jewish people, finally realized in a savage cleansing by Hitler. This cleansing was aided by the Islamic Grand Mufti in the region, and the Nazi's of World War II.

(5) The Roman Emperor Constantine encouraged usage of pagan themes and practices, allowing them to be mixed in with his version of Christianity. Even our Lord's modern name *Jesus* has Greek influence. Sunday, the first day of the week, is tied to Roman worship of the Sun. It became the official new "Sabbath" replacing the 7th day on God's calendar. Only *numbered* days and months were used in God's calendar, not days of the week *named* after heavenly bodies, along with months *named* after Roman gods. Constantine's changes to God's calendar fulfilled Daniel 7:25, where the changes introduced were by "**the beast**" – *the great and abominable church – the great whore Babylon*. It opposes God at every turn, seeking gain of all kinds, including money, control, power, and the lusts of the flesh. Nephi taught that there are save 2 churches only, that of the Lamb (the church of the Firstborn), and that of the Devil (see 1 Ne. 14:10 & 22:23).

Constantine directed the Christian church of his day without knowledge, experience, and spiritual understanding during his reign over the early Christian church as Roman Emperor. He was not even baptized a Christian until he was on his deathbed, yet he controlled the church in his day and its doctrine. He is responsible for many **idolatrous traditions** we practice unknowingly today (see the *Easter Traditions* hereafter), including our **Sabbath**, the *God we worship on it*, and the reverence we give to the place he, as Emperor, chose for the false site of the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ (most sources attribute the "vision" he claimed to have to his mother, St. Helena). These sites today include the Church of the Holy Sepulchre and the nearby Garden Tomb, both of which are in the wrong locations for Christ's death and burial (they should be due east of the temple). Mosaic Law, temple patterns, scripture, and historic sources reveal that the setting for Christ's crucifixion and burial was on the Mount of Olives (see chapter 7, Seven Heavenly Witnesses of the Coming of Jesus Christ, [www.7witnesses.com](http://www.7witnesses.com)). Constantine did not consult historic sources nor knowledgeable ones around him like Eusebius. It was Eusebius who gently (and secretly) protested the choices of Constantine - the supreme power at the time who used this power to enforce His changes, those seen in "vision." He built the original St. Peter's Basilica as a memorial for the supposed burial place of Peter. Eusebius stated that Peter was never in Rome (see Eusebius, *Vita Constantine*, Lib. III, pps. 18-20). It should be noted that Satan can also orchestrate dreams and visions.

**Anti-Jewish Sentiment** The Hebrew *Passover* is marked by the full moon on Nissan 14. Constantine moved it for convenience sake to our current Easter *Friday - Sunday* tradition. In addition to convenience, this change was the result of anti-Jewish sentiment in the early Christian church in the fourth century AD. According to Samuele Bacchiocchi, the change to an Easter-Sunday was due to persecution, and early Greek bishops in Jerusalem, most likely occurring in Palestine after the Roman Emperor Hadrian ruthlessly crushed the Bar Kokhba Revolt (132-135 AD). Bacchiocchi states that the new *Gentile* hierarchy changed the date of Passover from Nisan 14 (a day marked by the moon) to a Sunday on a Constantine's new calendar, its days of the week named after pagan gods. This separated his calendar from the one of the Jews in the Bible.

A whole body of *anti-Jewish* literature was produced by the leading Fathers at this time. They defamed the Jews as a people and then proceeded to move away from various Jewish practices and influences, many given of the Lord. Both the **Sabbath** and **Passover** represent two early causalities of this anti-Jewish sentiment. The Sabbath (formerly Nisan 14-15 at full moon) was changed to the Roman worship day of the Sun – Sunday, which occurred after the full moon. It can now be as far as three weeks away from the actual timing of the Lord's sacrifice at Passover - as marked originally by the heavens. Quoting J.B. Lightfoot, Bacchiocchi explained that Rome and Alexandria adopted Easter-Sunday to avoid "even the semblance of Judaism" (see Bacchiocchi S. *God's Festival in Scripture and History, Biblical Perspectives*, pps. 101-03).

**John Maintains Truth** The Apostle John continually established truth, using the first New Moon after the spring equinox (in his day) to mark Passover. The changing church under Constantine later established a new Easter celebration, eliminating the Jewish Passover. It was done in connection with a new Sabbath also, tied to the phrase "**the Lord's day**," Sabbath on Sunday, rather than the day marked by the moon phase.

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Note the words of Anatolius of Alexandria (a Bishop of Laodicea, early 3<sup>rd</sup> century). “But nothing was difficult to them with whom it was lawful to celebrate the Passover on any day when the *fourteenth of the moon happened after the equinox*. Following their example up to the present time all the bishops of Asia—as themselves also receiving the rule from an unimpeachable authority, to wit, the evangelist John, who *leant on the Lord’s breast*, and drank in instructions spiritual without doubt—were in the way of celebrating the Paschal feast, without question, every year, whenever *the fourteenth day of the moon had come, and the lamb was sacrificed by the Jews after the equinox was past*; **not** acquiescing, so far as regards this matter, with the authority of some, namely, the successors of Peter and Paul, who have taught all the churches in which they sowed the spiritual seeds of the Gospel, that *the solemn festival of the resurrection of the Lord can be celebrated only on the Lord’s day*. Whence, also, a certain contention broke out between the successors of these, namely, Victor, at that time bishop of the city of Rome, and Polycrates, who then appeared to hold the primacy among the bishops of Asia...The one party, indeed, *kept the Paschal day on the fourteenth day of the first month*, according to the Gospel, as they thought, adding nothing of an extraneous kind, but keeping through all things the rule of faith. And the other party, passing the day of the Lord’s Passion as one replete with sadness and grief, hold *that it should not be lawful to celebrate the Lord’s mystery of the Passover at any other time but on the Lord’s day*” (see ANF06, The Paschal Canon of Anatolius of Alexandria, X. THE ANTE-NICENE FATHERS translations of The Writings of the Fathers down to A.D. 325. Alexander Roberts, D.D., and James Donaldson, LL.D., EDITORS. AMERICAN REPRINT OF THE EDINBURGH EDITION. Revised and chronologically arranged, with brief prefaces and occasional notes by A. Cleveland Coxe, D.D. T&T CLARK, Edinburgh. Wm. B. Eerdmans publishing company, italics added). For more on John, see endnote 2 below.

**Instituting Easter** Those that claimed succession from Peter and Paul insisted on the **Easter Sunday** date, while those in line with the Apostle John kept the original Hebrew biblical date tied to the full moon of Passover. Though they were condemned by Bishops Victor and Hippolytus, many in the Roman Catholic and Eastern Orthodox backgrounds, continued to keep Passover on the 14th of Nisan into the fourth century. This has now been replaced by false traditions.

Emperor Constantine convened the famous Council of Nicaea in 325 A.D. to decide on a new *universal date* (his date) for Christ’s crucifixion and resurrection, among other things. Epiphanius states, ..”the emperor...convened a council of 318 bishops...in the city of Nicaea...They passed certain ecclesiastical canons at the council besides, and at the same time decreed in regard to **the Passover** that there must be one unanimous concord on the celebration of God’s holy and supremely excellent day. For it was variously observed by people...” (See Epiphanius, the Panarion of Epiphanius of Salamis, Books II and III [Sections 47-80], De Fide [section VI, verses 1, 1 and 1, 3], in EJ Brill publishers, pps. 471-472).

Theodoret of Cyrus stated, “The commemoration of the most sacred paschal feast being then debated, it was *unanimously decided*, that it would be well that it should be everywhere celebrated upon the same day. What can be more fair or more seemly, than that that festival by which we have received the hope of immortality should be carefully celebrated by all, on plain grounds, with the same order and exactitude? It was, in the first place, *declared improper to follow the custom of the Jews in the celebration of this holy festival* [which used the moon phase] because, their hands having been stained with crime, the minds of these wretched men are necessarily blinded. *By rejecting their custom*, we establish and hand down to succeeding ages one which is *more reasonable*, and which has been observed ever since the day of our Lord’s sufferings. *Let us, then, have nothing in common with the Jews, who are our adversaries*. For we have received from our Saviour another way...” According to Eusebius’ *Life of Constantine* (Book III chapter 18), a more accurate translation of Constantine’s last line above is; “*Let us then have nothing in common with the detestable Jewish crowd; for we have received from our Saviour a different way.*”

*The Gentile portion of the early Christian church observed a Nisan 14 Passover, not an Easter Sunday version of it.* This is confirmed by many early church historians and leaders, including Polycarp, Thraseas, Theodoret, Sagaris, Papirius, Melitio, and Apollinaris. Polycrates stated, “We observe the exact day...the fourteenth day of the passover according to the Gospel, deviating in no respect, but following the rule of faith...For those greater than I have said, ‘**We ought to obey God rather than man**’” (Theodoret of Cyrus, Ecclesiastical History [Book I], Chapter IX. Excerpted from Nicene and Post-Nicene Fathers, Second Series, Volume 3. Edited by Philip Schaff and Henry Wace. American Edition).

**The Modern Easter Tradition** Scripture tells us that Christ was resurrected on “the third day.” This is from is His capture in Gethsemane the night of Nisan 13. The current pagan *Friday to Sunday Easter* worship tradition is tied to the Babylonian god Tammuz and his mother. She was worshipped at the beginning of spring, at the beginning of the week, and at the beginning of the day. We have taken that pagan tradition as our own, like so many others, pushing Christ in favor of a false leader in Constantine, and false gods and traditions.

Regarding such borrowing from surrounding cultures, the Children of Israel were told, “Take heed to thyself that thou be not snared by following them, after that they be destroyed from before thee; and that thou enquire not after **their gods**, saying, How did these nations serve their gods? even so will I do likewise. Thou shalt not do so unto the LORD thy God: for every abomination to the LORD, which he hateth, have they done unto their gods; . . .What thing soever I command you, observe to do it: thou shalt not add thereto, nor diminish from it.” (Deut. 12:30-32).

**Pagan Meanings Behind Easter** In Genesis 10 we learn of the powerful man, Nimrod (great grandson of Noah). Nimrod married his mother, Semiramis. She became the Queen of Babylon. Some stories say Nimrod was killed by his

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uncle, Shem. Nimrod's body was then cut in pieces and sent throughout the kingdom. His wife-mother Semiramis had these parts gathered, except for one missing part, his penis. Semiramis believed he could not come back to life without it. She told her people that Nimrod had ascended to the sun and would now be called "Ba'al," himself a sun god. A similar story is told in Egypt involving Osiris and his death. According to Miller, Semiramis claimed she was a goddess who had been conceived immaculately. She taught that she came from the moon in a huge moon-like egg that fell into the Euphrates River. This occurred at the first full moon after the spring equinox (**the time of today's Easter celebration**). Later she became known as "Ishtar," pronounced "Easter" by many in the Middle East. Her moon-egg became known as "Ishtar's egg." She eventually became pregnant suggesting that it was the sun god Ba'al who was the father. Their son was Tammuz. He is mentioned in Ezekiel 9 as part of the Idolatry practiced at the Jerusalem temple in which all were destroyed there who did not have the *Tau* sealing mark on their forehead, a T-shaped cross symbol that served as a protection mark for those not to be destroyed, a type for the first *Passover* in Egypt earlier.

Tammuz was a hunter like his father and liked rabbits, a sacred symbol of fertility in the Babylonian religion. Tammuz was eventually killed by a wild boar (pig). His mother, the Queen of Heaven (a substitute for the Virgin Mary), told her people that when her son was killed by the wild boar, some of its blood fell on an evergreen tree stump. It grew into a great tree quickly because of the blood of Tammuz. She then put in place a yearly *forty*-day period of sorrow tied to his death. Some believe it is tied to the season of Lent in Catholicism today. Miller states, "Worshippers were to meditate upon the sacred mysteries of Ba'al and Tammuz, and to make the sign of the "T" in front of their hearts as they worshipped...They also ate sacred cakes with the marking of a "T" or cross on the top (the origin of hot cross buns, and the meaning behind the song, *hot cross buns*). Every year, on the first Sunday after the first full moon after the spring equinox, a celebration was made. It was Ishtar's Sunday (**Easter Sunday**) and was celebrated with rabbits and eggs. Ishtar also proclaimed that because Tammuz was killed by a pig, that a pig must be eaten on that *Sunday*." Today Easter seems incomplete to many with Easter eggs and a feast with ham with hot-cross buns (see Troy Miller, Easter, creationcalendar.com). Pigs as food are not allowed under Mosaic law. They are an unclean animal.

The word "Easter" is used in the King James version New Testament *one time*, part of a poor translation tied to Passover. The word "Easter" is thought to be the Semitic pronunciation of *Ishtar*. We read in Acts 12:4, "And when he [Herod] had apprehended him, he put him in prison, and delivered him to four quaternions [sixteen] of soldiers to keep him; intending after *Easter* to bring him forth to the people." The Greek word *pascha* comes from the Hebrew word *Pesach*, as there is no original Greek word for *Passover*. **Pascha always means Passover never Easter!** For this reason, the Hebrew word *pascha* is used in the Greek translation of the New Testament. In other translations, this same word is rendered *Passover* correctly. This statement is also important in that it shows the early Christians (of Jewish culture and blood) were still celebrating *Passover* some ten years after Christ's death. Christ was *their* Passover.

We read of this in 1 Corinthians 5:7-8, "Purge out therefore the old leaven, that you may be a new lump, as you are unleavened. For even Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us." Christ became and was the Passover in the meridian of time. Christ, as the Lamb of God (John 1:29; Acts 8:32; I Peter 1:19; Rev. 5:6) replaced the Old Testament lamb eaten on Passover. The early Christians in the New Testament knew that many non-believers celebrated the return of spring each year, before Christians celebrated what we now call "Easter." This pagan tradition was kept alive with Romans like Constantine.

It was after the Civil War that modern Americans began celebrating "Easter," in this country. It became a tradition in the 1870s. Most of our current Easter Sunday traditions thus originate in the resurrection of the Babylonian god, Tammuz. He was revived from the underworld by his mother Ishtar. Ishtar is pronounced "Easter" in many Semitic dialects. Too few Christians, including most Latter-day Saints understand that their adherence to this offensive modern Catholic tradition is idolatrous. Isaiah said this is our number one sin today. Our modern Gregorian calendar is full of idolatry and filth, including days like May Day, Haloween, and even Christmas. We simply cannot be saved in our ignorance. We must come out of Babylon before it is too late. Our Redeemer, King, and Judge said, "**I will not spare any that remain in Babylon**" (D&C 64:24).

<sup>2</sup> **John the Revelator and "the Lord's Day"** Many Christians use a single verse in scripture to support their belief that the 7th-day Sabbath has been replaced by the 1st day of the week, commonly referred as "the Lord's Day" in Revelation 1:10. The book of Revelation is about coming destruction upon the earth in the last days, a day John saw in vision, apparently the great and dreadful "day of the Lord." Many of these same individuals further believe that this change to a new Sabbath day (from the 7<sup>th</sup> day Sabbath to the 1<sup>st</sup> day of the week Sabbath) was done by the Lord Himself. Neither of these assumptions appear to be correct.

According to the author of <http://tyndalearchive.com/scriptsures/www.innvista.com/scriptsures/compare/lordsday.htm> another way of writing "the Lord's Day," as found in Revelation 1:10, is *The Day of the Lord*. He adds, "From a grammatical standpoint, both are in the genitive (possessive) case and express the same meaning. There are numerous scriptural references to "the Day of the Lord" (Isaiah 2: 12-18; 13: 9; Jeremiah 46: 10; Joel 1: 15, 16; 2 Peter 3: 10). All speak of a day in which Yahweh brings *destruction* on the earth. It is not a quiet day of worship on the first day of the

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week. Read the whole Book of The Revelation. The writer has described a time of *destruction*. There is reference to the voice sounding like a trumpet in the passage under discussion. This is consistent with subsequent references in this book (4: 1; 8: 13; and 9: 14). John was taken in the Spirit to see in vision a *great day* of the future – a day of great *destruction*. It is called “*the great and dreadful day*” (Mal. 4:5), “*the great day of the Lord*” (Zephaniah 1:14), and “*the Lord’s day*.”

The author of <http://tyndalearchive.com/scriptsures/www.innvista.com/scriptsures/compare/lordsday.htm> goes on, stating, “Two passages which are used along with the one being discussed to prove that the 7th-day Sabbath had been replaced by Sunday (the 1st day of the week) are Acts 20:7 and 1 Corinthians 16:2. Use of these, however, shows a lack of knowledge and understanding of Jewish custom. The Sabbath had not been changed to the 1st day of the week by Jesus. Note that Matthew 28:1 and Hebrews 4:9 indicate that the Sabbath was still being kept. However, both references have been mistranslated in many versions of the Scriptures. Hebrews 4 also refers to the Sabbath being kept in the future.

The 1st day of the week begins following the closing of the Sabbath at sundown on the 6<sup>th</sup> day (our Saturday today). Candles are used in this closing ceremony. This accounts for the lights at that meeting. Following the ceremony, it is customary to have a meal. Thus, the people had met together on the 1st day of the week to break bread. After this and during the night, Paul preached to the people. He did not preach all afternoon and evening on the 1<sup>st</sup> day (Sunday) and through the early hours of the 2<sup>nd</sup> day (Monday) until morning.

Since the people, as well as Paul, were strict about observing the Sabbath, they would not be collecting money on that day. Thus, the direction was given to collect on the 1st day of the week, which could be on Sunday [today] evening after the closing ceremony or all day on Monday. It was unlike the Christian churches of today that collect on the day of worship, which happens to be the 1st day of the week.

*The 1st day of the week was not known as the Lord's Day until the time of the Council of Laodicea when the council ratified a change in custom which was already well established. The “Christian” church of the day made the change.*

In conclusion, it does not matter which day of the week John saw his vision. It could have been any day. The important point, which has been missed by many translators and commentators, is that **John was taken in the Spirit to be shown what “the Day of the Lord” at the end of the world**, would be like so that he could provide a **warning** to all people.”

Prophetic warnings in scripture are often connected to our idolatry and deception at the hands of evil and designing men of antiquity and today. The *craftiness* of men (D&C 76:75; 123:12), and their desire for gain, power, control, and the lusts of the flesh keep too many of us in ignorance and false traditions and beliefs. It need not be so. We must become more wise. See <http://tyndalearchive.com/scriptsures/www.innvista.com/scriptsures/compare/lordsday.htm>

For greater coverage of the Lord’s calendar generally, see Seven Heavenly Witnesses of the Coming of Jesus Christ, by the author, [www.digitalegend.com](http://www.digitalegend.com)

See also Bullinger’s commentary at <https://www.cgg.org/index.cfm/fuseaction/Library.sr/CT/BQA/k/168/What-is-Lords-Day-Revelation-1-10.htm> and the section of this paper called “False Arguments Against the Lunar 7<sup>th</sup> Sabbath” on pages 15-18.