

9. Christ's disciples kept the Sabbath after the Crucifixion (Lk 23:56; Acts 13:14, 42-44; 16:13; 18:4). There's no mention in the New Testament (written up to sixty years after Christ's death) of changing or eliminating the seventh-day Sabbath.

Luke 23:56 speaks of the women resting on the Sabbath immediately following the death of Christ and before His resurrection and before the disciples had been commissioned to preach the Gospel (Luke 24:6-49). Not one of the references in the book of Acts shows Christians engaging in Christian worship on the Sabbath. All they show is that they went where the people were assembled, under the Old Covenant (in the synagogue or the place of prayer) in order to preach the Gospel to them. What is necessary to prove that Christians are to worship on the seventh day Sabbath is **ONE** passage that shows that Christians met for New Testament worship on that day. Such **cannot** be found. However, Scripture **does** show Christians assembling on the first day of the week and engaging in acts of Christian worship (Acts 20:7; I Corinthians 16:1-2).

10. The Old Covenant contained the Ten Commandments (Ex 24:4, 7-8; Deut 3 1:24-26).

Yes, the "Old Covenant contained the Ten Commandments." That is **not** in dispute, that is **not** the issue, and proves nothing.

11. The New Covenant contains the Ten Commandments (Jer31:31-33; Heb8:8, 10).

This statement does not offer evidence to prove the authors' case but offers evidence to the contrary. Jeremiah 31:32 states: "*Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt; which my covenant they brake, although I was an husband unto them, saith the Lord.*" This shows that the New Covenant was not to be the same as the old one, the one that included that Sabbath command given only to the Jews (Deuteronomy 5:3, 15). The passage in Hebrews is a quotation of Jeremiah 31:31-32). Note, however, the authors do not reference Hebrews 8:9 that quotes Jeremiah 31:32 showing the New Covenant was not the same as the old.

12. All flesh—all of God's redeemed people—will celebrate the Sabbath in the new heavens and new earth for all of eternity (Is 66:22-23).

If this prophetic passage is speaking of Christians worshipping on the Sabbath, then it also has them worshipping every new moon. Are the authors of the book willing to affirm such? Further Paul writes: "*Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holyday, or of the new moon, or of the sabbath days*" (Colossians 2:16). Thus, Paul states we are not to be judged regarding keeping the new moon or the Sabbath. Further when we examine closely Isaiah 66:22-23, the language indicates the concept that in the heavenly realm the redeemed will be worshipping God not on the new moon or the Sabbath but constantly—from one to the other. A similar concept is expressed by John in Revelation 5 and 7.

We have reviewed the twelve points offered as "Bible evidence" for the keeping of the seventh day Sabbath and find that each one is lacking that necessary "evidence." Thus, the authors' case is **not** proved. We also pointed out, briefly, in this review some Bible evidence for Christians engaging in Christian worship on the first day of the week, Sunday (Acts 20:7; I Corinthians 16:1-2). Truly, the Ten Commandment Law is a part of that which was nailed to the cross and taken out of the way (Colossians 2:14) and therefore it, including the fourth command, the Sabbath command is **not** bound upon Christians.

Ken Chumbley

BELVEDERE BEACON

"Ye are the light of the world" (Matthew 5:14)

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A DETERMINED BURRO

"Yea, thou shalt be steadfast and shalt not fear" (Job 11:15).

A city man spent his vacation on a cattle ranch and learned some very interesting lessons. He rode with the cowboys on a roundup. It was thrilling--and even more, it was a school within itself.

There was one wild steer over in the breaks that didn't want to be driven to the corral. He wouldn't drive. Neither would he be pulled. When roped, he would lie down and twist and roll. He was the wildest, meanest thing that ever walked on four hoofs. Whirling, turning, charging, ever watching with blood-stained, glassy eyes and breathing out a vapor of murder, he was saying he wouldn't be tamed. But the old cowboys knew better. They knew what to do. They tied that unbroken beast close to a little Mexican burro. When they turned them loose, the big angry steer threw the pint-sized burro ten ways to the veterinarian. And he kept doing it. But every time that burro got up, he got up one step closer home. He wanted to go home.

About ten days later the steer and burro arrived at the corral. And the steer was the tamest thing anyone had seen. Persistence and steadfastness had won.

Sometimes it's not how big we are, but how steadfast we are that gets us where we wish to go. The grit to continue when the going gets rough has a way of coming out on top. It is fatal to enter any endeavor of struggle without the will to win. Persevering people begin their success at the very point where others end in failure.

--Leroy Brownlow
Deceased

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

SUNDAY:		WEDNESDAY:	
Bible Classes for all ages	10.00 am.	Bible Classes for all ages	7.00 p.m.
Morning Worship	11.00 am.		
Evening Worship	6.00 p.m.		

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**IS TEN COMMANDMENT LAW STILL BINDING? -
PART EIGHT**

The authors of the book, "Ten Commandments Twice Removed" in Chapter Nine state: "Let's review some of the Bible evidence we've studied so far to help explain why we should not forget what was created for our benefit, what God asked us to remember – " In this concluding article in our series we will review each of the points they raise as "Bible evidence" in their attempt to bind the Sabbath

on Christians.

1. God instituted the Sabbath at Creation—He blessed and sanctified the seventh day. This is the only supporting reason for our weekly time cycle (Gen 2:2-3).

It is true that God blessed and sanctified the seventh day and that the reason for His doing so was doing so because He had rested from His creative work. However, there is no command given for man to observe the seventh day Sabbath nor is there any example of Adam or his descendents observing the Sabbath as a day of worship.

2. God made the Sabbath for the benefit of mankind (Mk 2:27). Adam and Eve were the only people in the Garden of Eden. If God made the Sabbath for them, they obviously observed and enjoyed their Sabbaths with Him. Most especially after their fateful fall. Sabbaths were the day they could cease from their sentence of hard labor and, once again, rest in their Redeemer.

Again, there is indication that Adam and Eve or their descendents observed the seventh day Sabbath as a day of worship. The statements of the authors are simple assumptions made by them without Biblical support. The context of Mark 2:27 concerns the abuses of the Sabbath by the Pharisees whereby they bound their traditions concerning working on the Sabbath – and then prohibited even gathering of corn for eating on the Sabbath day, as the disciples had done. Christ was dealing with the binding of these traditions and had no reference to worship on the seventh day Sabbath,

3. Abraham and his descendents kept all of God's commandments, including the seventh-day Sabbath (Gen 26:4-5).

The authors here make the **assumption** that Sabbath day worship was included in the commandments that Abraham and his descendents observed. Such cannot rightly be affirmed from the text. Further, if Abraham and his descendents were observing the Sabbath then the inspired Moses made an error as he recorded the words of God: "*The Lord made not this covenant with our fathers, but with us, even us, who are all of us here alive this day... And remember that thou wast a servant in the land of Egypt, and that the Lord thy God brought thee out thence through a mighty hand and by a stretched out arm: therefore the Lord thy God commanded thee to keep the sabbath day*" (Deuteronomy 5:3, 15). Abraham was not a "*servant in the land of Egypt*" nor were his descendents until much later – when a Pharaoh arose that "*knew not Joseph*" (Exodus 1:8-14).

4. God required Moses and the children of Israel to keep His Sabbath law before He handed down the Ten Commandments (Ex 16:4, 26-30).

The context shows that this had to do with the miraculous provision of the manna that was to be provided for the children of Israel in the wilderness. These instructions were given "*on the fifteenth day of the second month after their departing out of the land of Egypt*" (Exodus 16:1). When was the Ten Commandment law that included the Sabbath given? It was less than one month later (Exodus 19-20). There is no indication that Moses and the children of Israel were commanded to observe the Sabbath in Exodus 16, but the people were told to get two days supply on the sixth day as there would be none available on the seventh day.

5. God reinforced His Ten Commandments—in stone, with His own finger—to magnify their divine moral priority to the children of Israel, who had lost evidence of their essential nature over four hundred years of captivity. He placed special emphasis on remembering His seventh-day Sabbath (Ex 20:8-11).

Continued on page 3

NEWS AND NOTES

Keep in your prayers the following: Helen Culpepper, Pam Gossett's mother, Kathy Treadway's mother and Bronwen Gibson's mother (Lavonne McClish) – who has continued health – related issues and who is undergoing pain management therapy; and Rachel Fitzpatrick's aunt (Eula Baker) who has cancer.

Jack Peebles is still in the Mattie C. Hall Care Center in Aiken, room 301. Continue to keep Jack and Jean and their family in your prayers at this difficult time.

It was good to see Helen Culpepper who was able to be with us on Sunday evening.

Justine Hall's new-born great granddaughter is still in MCG and is not doing well.

Pam Gossett has been at her mothers. Pam is scheduled for surgery this week.

Myrtle Grimsley is still not well but is doing better. She will be seeing her doctor again this week.

Our next pot luck meal is today after morning worship. Plan to stay and eat with us.

Ken's Korner, continued from page 2

Yes, "God reinforced His Ten Commandments—in stone, with His own finger—to magnify their divine moral priority to the children of Israel." However, the authors of the book **refuse** to acknowledge that these were given **only** to the children of Israel, not to the Gentiles or to their forefathers (Deuteronomy 5:3, 15). Thus, this does **not** provide evidence that men today are commanded to keep the seventh day Sabbath.

6. Jesus—King of kings and Lord of lords—provided a pattern for us. While on earth as Son of Man, He made it His custom to keep each Sabbath by attending worship services (Lk. 4:16).

Yes, it was the custom of the Lord to keep the Sabbath since He lived under the old covenant. Had He not done so, He would not have kept the Law perfectly and fulfilled it. Such observance by the Lord offers **no** evidence that Christians are to observe the seventh day Sabbath.

7. When Jesus prophesied about events that would take place forty years after His death (A.D. 70, the destruction of Jerusalem), He underscored the fact that His followers would still be observing His sacred weekly Sabbath day (Mt 24:20).

The passage does **not** give any indication that the followers of Christ "would still be observing His sacred weekly Sabbath day." It only indicates that the gates of the city would be closed on the Sabbath Day. They would have been closed on that day because the Jews were still observing the Sabbath according to the traditions of the Jews that would have commanded the gates to remain shut.

8. Jesus said He did not come to destroy the Law, but to fill it to the fullest spiritual meaning. He emphatically declared that not one "jot or tittle" would be changed until heaven and earth pass away (Mt 5:17-18).

The statement: "He emphatically declared that not one "jot or tittle" would be changed until heaven and earth pass away" is a gross misinterpretation of the text. What Jesus said was that was no "*jot or tittle*" would pass until the Law was fulfilled. In verse 17, Jesus emphatically declared that He came to "*fulfill*" the Law. He fulfilled the Law by His death on the cross when He declared "*It is finished*" (John 19:30) thus taking it out of the way (Colossians 2:14).

Continued on page 4