

## Some Historical Perspective-How We Got From Shabbat to Saturn-Day

### From Various Sources

This change from the luni-solar to a fixed solar calendar occurred in Rome during the repressive measures which were enacted against ALL Jewish customs . . . during the reign of Emperor Hadrian. With the fall of the Nazarene headquarters...at Jerusalem, this new Roman calendar quickly spread throughout 'Christendom.' This new calendar not only replaced yearly festival dates such as Passover, but it also revamped the concept of the week and its seventh day. Iranaeus 2<sup>nd</sup> Century A.D.

"In the years following Clement of Alexandria's time, an ominous change started to take place that was to radically change the Christian concept of the Sabbath."

Records the *Encyclopedia Biblica*:

This intimate connection between the week and the month was soon dissolved. It is certain that the week soon followed a development of its own, and it became the custom -- without paying any regard to the days of the month (i.e. the luni-solar month) . . . so that the New Moon no longer coincided with the first day of the month. Then, on page 4179 of the same encyclopedia, we read: "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 . . . (The MacMillan Company, 1899. p. 5290.)

The modern seven-day week came into use during the early imperial period, after the Julian calendar came into effect, apparently stimulated by immigration from the Roman East. For a while it coexisted alongside the old 8-day nundinal cycle, and fasti are known which show both cycles. It was finally given official status by Constantine in 321. *Roman Calendar Encyclopedia*, Days of the Week.

Under the reign of Constantius the persecutions of the Jews reached such a height that . . . the computation of the calendar [was] forbidden under pain of severe punishment. *The Jewish Encyclopedia*, "Calendar."

Sabbath and New Moon (Rosh Hodesh), both periodically recur in the course of the year. The New Moon is still, and the Sabbath originally was, dependent upon the lunar cycle. *Universal Jewish Encyclopedia*, p. 410.

He shall insult the Most High, he shall torment/wear out the holy ones of the Most High, and he shall attempt to change the calendar and the ordinance. Daniel 7:25 (Knox 20th Century translation).

**. . . and all the world wondered after the beast. Revelation 13:3**

So now let me ask you – is there evidence that the unbroken chains of weeks was fabricated by man and not ordained by the Creator? Yes.

We have all been taught to believe that the Council of Laodicea, Canon 29 stated:

Christians shall not Judaize and be idle on Saturday, but shall work on that day; but the Lord's Day they shall especially honor, and, as being Christians, shall, if possible, do no work on that day. If however, they are found Judaizing, they shall be shut out from Christ.

According to Karl J. von Hefele, a Catholic bishop, in his *History of the Councils of the Church from the Original Documents*, states that the word "Saturday" (dies Saturni) does not exist either in the Greek or Latin text. Rather, the word "Saturday" was supplied in the English translation in place of the word Sabbato, meaning Sabbath.

Quod non oportet Christianos Judaizare et otiare in Sabbato, sed operari in eodem die. Preferentes autem in veneratione Dominicum Diem si vacre voluerint, ut Christiani hoc faciat; quod si reperti fuerint Judaizare Anathema sint a Christo.

At the time the Julian calendar was being enforced upon Christians for religious purposes, no one confused the word Sabbato with dies Saturni. Simply everyone at that time knew these were names for

two different days on two distinctly different calendar systems. It is only as the facts of history have been forgotten that Saturday has been assumed to be the seventh-day Sabbath of Scripture.

In the mid-1st century B.C. Julius Cæsar invited Sosigenes, an Alexandrian astronomer, to advise him about the reform of the calendar, and Sosigenes decided that the only practical step was to abandon the lunar calendar altogether. Months must be arranged on a seasonal basis, and a tropical (solar) year used, as in the Egyptian calendar. "The Julian Calendar," *Encyclopedia Britannica*.

Among Seventh-day Adventists some have wondered: If the luni-solar calendar and its corresponding seventh-day Sabbath is the truth, then why didn't Ellen White teach it and keep it? This question relates specifically to Seventh-day Adventists. Sister White was given a "thus saith the Lord" that the seventh-day is the Sabbath, however, she never received a "thus saith the Lord" that Saturday is in actuality that seventh-day. Human error is often connected with assumptions, and in this case the assumption was made that the seventh-day of the Roman calendar was one and the same as that of Scripture. This is not to negate her as a prophet of Yahshua, but to show that all things were not revealed to her. She said that "truth was progressive." The revelation that the seventh-day was the Sabbath was the "first step" in restoring the true Sabbath. Along with their assumption that the Gregorian calendar was one and the same as that of Scripture, the early Adventists simply did not

progress on to prepare their hearts and minds to receive the second step of Sabbath restoration. In light of Yahuwah bringing His faithful step by step out of false religion, her statement takes on special import.

Age will not make error into truth, and truth can afford to be fair. No true doctrine will lose anything by close investigation. *Councils to Writers and Editors*, p. 35.

In fact, it is this very subject that gives credible evidence of her prophetic gift, because of her many statements that describe this calendation subject that she did not yet even understand. In Yahuwah's great wisdom he allowed the calendation truth to remain hidden until the appointed time, as it is the puzzle piece that is most crucial to the great and final harvest. It is the last message to the world. Now is the time!

If the principle of "solo Scriptura" is faithfully followed, one can not go wrong.

The spring Feast of Passover is the first annual appointed festival each year. It is always on the 14<sup>th</sup> day of the first month of Abib as counted from the New Moon day which, according to Scripture, is New Year's Day. Passover is always the 6<sup>th</sup> day of the week and also located on the preparation day. It is always on or very near the full moon. The day following Passover is always the seventh-day

Sabbath, which also is always a High Sabbath because it is the day Feast of Unleavened Bread commences. A side note is that the Hebrew Old Testament and Greek New Testament never refer to Passover as "Friday" or to the Resurrection day as "Sunday". Passover is always referred to as the 6th day of the week and Resurrection day was the first day of the week. In the sequence that follows, Passover is the first of the Appointed Feasts which Christ the Messiah fulfilled precisely.

On the sixth day of the week they had seen their Master die . . .

*Desire of Ages*, p. 794.