

Notes, Questions & Prayer Requests

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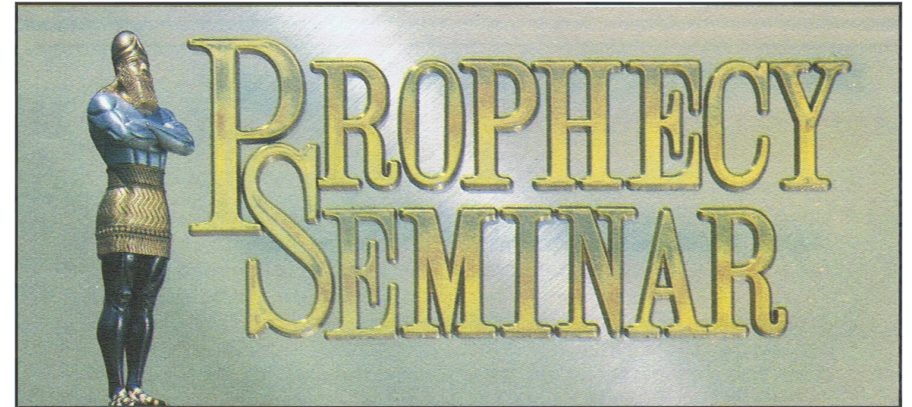


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DS-012



**LESSON TWELVE**

**DID GOD AUTHORIZE THE LITTLE HORN TO CHANGE HIS SABBATH?**

**QUIZ QUESTIONS**

1. God gave people the Sabbath to help them develop a better relationship with God. **True**
2. The Biblical Sabbath is the seventh day of the week, which we commonly call Saturday. **True**
3. The little horn had the power to change the Sabbath from Saturday to Sunday. **False**
4. The Sabbath originated at Creation before sin entered the world. **True**
5. God says the Sabbath is a sign that God and His people have a relationship together. **True**

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**Make certain to review the following points from Lesson 11:**

1. The most important preparation for last-day events is to have a relationship with God.
2. The purpose of the Sabbath is to help establish this strong relationship with God.
3. Which is the seventh day.
4. That the Sabbath is not a Jewish institution; it is a creation institution for all people.
5. That the Sabbath is a special sign of the relationship between God and His people.

This review needs to be done briefly, but needs to be done before moving into Lesson 12.

The purpose of Lesson 12 is to answer the objections that are going to be given to these people who have now heard the Sabbath truth.

Therefore this lesson covers all the texts that mention Sunday and the major arguments that are used against the Sabbath. That's why it is extremely important that your students have a clear understanding of the Sabbath truth. Be sure to give them additional literature to read, either at the meeting or in the home visit that you will make after this presentation.

**Question 1**

The point is, he has no power to do it. He only thinks he has that power. Therefore, it has not been changed.

**Question 2**

It would be worth your time to look up with the students each of these texts and read them so that the students clearly see that there is no mention of any change in the day of worship in any of these texts. There are two basic reasons why each gospel writer makes a point of the fact that Christ rose on the first day of the week. None of them were trying to

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## LESSON 12

### DID GOD AUTHORIZE THE LITTLE HORN TO CHANGE HIS SABBATH?

#### Answer Key

1. Think
2. Jesus, dead
3. Sabbath
4. Baptism
5. Fear
6. Lay, by, store
7. No
8. Sabbath
9. Feasts, Sabbaths
10. Shadow
11. No
12. Sabbath
13. Next
14. City, hear
15. River
16. Three
17. Sabbath
18. Year, half
19. Seventh
20. Rest
21. Vain
22. God
23. Love

prove that the resurrection warranted a new day of worship.

Instead they were trying to prove these two points:

- 1) That Christ fulfilled the prediction about rising on the third day. Therefore they make it clear that He died on Friday and rose on Sunday, the third day, exactly as He said He would.
- 2) Jesus was fulfilling the Old Testament ceremonial types. Therefore He died on the Passover, Nisin 14 in the Jewish calendar, and rose on the Feast of First Fruits, Nisin 16. Each gospel writer wished to make it very clear that Jesus rose according to His prediction and that He fulfilled all of the ancient ceremonial types.

Emphasizing these points helped the disciples prove that Christ was the Messiah. There was no attempt by the disciples to indicate that Christ had changed the day of worship.

#### Question 3

Point out to your students that in most of the places where it mentions that Jesus rose on the first day, it always indicates that the Sabbath was the day before the day of the resurrection. It's almost as if God looked down the stream of history and saw that people would become confused on this issue, and therefore He made certain that there was no question in the Bible about which day is the Sabbath.

#### Question 4

Man may wish to invent another memorial in the resurrection, but he has no authority to do so.

#### Question 6

The point to make in this text is that there was no offering taken in church and that the setting aside was done at home as they settled their business

accounts for the week. They were to put aside money for this offering. Furthermore collecting an offering on a day would not make that day a Sabbath.

## Question 7

This is probably the text used most often to try to prove Sunday sacredness. You should spend extra time on it and make certain it is clear to your students that this text does not indicate Sunday was to be kept as a day of worship.

**Read the entire passage with your students and then take it point by point:**

1. Holding a meeting does not make a day a Sabbath.
2. The text indicates that they broke bread. Some feel this was communion. Holding communion on a day does not make it holy, otherwise we should keep Thursday because that's when the first communion was instituted.
3. The reasons this text is in the Bible is that a miracle took place when Eutychus was resurrected.
4. Point out that this meeting was held on Saturday night, not Sunday. Show clearly that the Biblical day is from sundown to sundown, and not from midnight to midnight.
5. Show that Paul left the next morning to go on a long journey to his next location, hardly something he'd do if he was keeping Sunday.
6. Many Sunday keepers claim that this text shows that Sunday keeping was the custom of the early church. Point out that if this was the usual custom, then to be consistent with the text there needs to be a meeting beginning at sundown Saturday night and continuing all night long till Sunday morning. However, no church has all night Saturday meetings every week. That is all this text says.
7. The text is the record of a farewell meeting with the apostle Paul. He was anxious to spend every possible minute with the people

## Questions 21 to 23

**Questions 21-23** are your appeal questions. Please follow them through very carefully. You want your students to see the magnitude of the issue that you have presented before them. They must see that the Sabbath/Sunday question is not a minor issue, but an issue of loyalty to God versus loyalty to the Papacy. Obviously this is the same issue that will be brought up in greater force in the mark of the beast lesson.

However, it is wise at this point to draw that line very clearly to your students. The appeal you make here is a very crucial and important appeal. Think through carefully what you're going to say, and then make certain that you conclude your appeal for them to follow the Sabbath because of their love for God and their loyalty to Him, not from a sense of obligation but because of love.

## Response Questions:

1. If it is very clear to you from this lesson that there is only one true Biblical Sabbath, and that day is the seventh day, Saturday, put a check in Box #1.
2. If you are ready to say tonight that you love Jesus so much that you want to begin keeping His seventh day Sabbath on Saturday from now on, and thus enter into a special relationship with Him on the Sabbath, put a check in Box #2.
3. If the Sabbath issue is clear to you but you don't feel you're quite ready to make the decision to keep it, and if you want us to pray that God will help you to make that decision soon, put a check in Box #3.
4. If you still have some questions that you would like us to answer for you about the Sabbath, put a check in Box #4.

a relationship with God, we are truly entering into God's rest.

## Question 20

Here we have an actual statement that there still remains this Sabbath rest for God's people. It is not something for Old Testament times only; instead we now find it is something for the New Testament believer as well.

**The Sabbath Issue, Exhibit.** Please read carefully to your class this paragraph and the quotation from Monsignor Sequer. Let the students begin to grasp the real issue in the Sabbath/Sunday controversy. He who keeps Sunday acknowledges the sovereign authority of the Roman Church.

Make it very clear to your students that the Sabbath/Sunday controversy is not an argument over one day versus another day. The real issue is the authority of God versus the authority of the Roman Church. The question is, who is the supreme authority in our life?

The little horn has attempted to change the Sabbath. History bears out that it has done it and proudly proclaims that it has done it as a sign of the authority of its power. Thus he who keeps Sunday when he knows what the Bible says about the Sabbath, bows in humble obedience to the authority of the Roman Church.

Please make it very clear to your students at this point that people who have kept Sunday ignorantly are not held accountable for what they have not known. Cite James 4:17: "To him that knoweth to do good and doeth it not, to him it is sin."

Help your students to understand that God only holds us accountable for that which we know, but once we know these truths God expects us to follow them. This is the natural response for the born-again Christian anyway. He will want to live up to all the light that God has given him and he will want the deeper relationship that will come as a result of his entering into the Sabbath rest.

after Sabbath, since he was planning to leave the next morning. He wished to give them all the counsel and help that he could before leaving on his long journey. He probably felt he might never see them again and was anxious to impart to them all the counsel of God.

Having covered this text, make it very clear to people that these are all of the texts in the Scriptures that mention the first day of the week. Not one of them authorizes any change in the day of worship. The next section is going to answer some of the other texts used to oppose the Sabbath truth.

## Question 8

This question helps establish the fact that the feast days were called "Sabbaths."

## Question 9

Question 9 makes clear that the feast days were in addition to the seventh-day Sabbath. The point that needs to be made clear is that there are two kinds of Sabbaths in the Old Testament: the seventh-day Sabbath and the ceremonial Sabbaths. The seventh-day Sabbath points back to creation; the ceremonial Sabbaths pointed forward to the cross. The seventh day Sabbath existed in Eden before sin entered; the ceremonial Sabbaths came in long after sin. Therefore one will be affected by the cross and the other will not.

## Question 10

Colossians 2:16 now becomes easier to deal with. You merely have to ask the question, Which Sabbaths are the shadow? A shadow indicates that there is not reality here, it only reflects a greater reality. The Sabbaths that reflect a greater reality are the ceremonial feast day Sabbaths, not the seventh-day Sabbath. The seventh day Sabbath is not shadowy. It doesn't foretell anything. It points back to creation. The ceremonial Sabbaths, however, pointed forward to the cross. Christ our Passover is sacrificed

for us, therefore we no longer sacrifice the Passover lamb. It is these ceremonial feast days that are done away with, not the seventh-day Sabbath.

### Question 11

Romans 14:1-6 is used extensively to try to prove that it doesn't make any difference what day is kept as the Sabbath.

**Several things need to be pointed out to your students in this text:**

1. The text does not mention the Sabbath at all. The Sabbath is not an issue in Romans 14.
2. The issue that Paul was discussing is the issue of eating or not eating on a certain day.
3. Paul states unequivocally that it makes no difference what day is chosen as a fast day. The context clearly indicates that the issue in this passage is fast day versus non-fast day. Therefore the text says nothing about the Sabbath. To read the Sabbath into this text is to read something into the text that is not there and never was intended to be there.

Having covered these objectionable texts, you now want to end this lesson by going to the many positive texts that indicate the Sabbath was kept universally in the New Testament church. Build your case strongly, for there is overwhelming evidence that the seventh-day Sabbath was the universal custom of the early church in the book of Acts. The lesson goes to text after text in the book of Acts, showing that the Sabbath was the usual custom and practice of Paul and the apostles.

### Question 13

The point to clarify in this question is that many people try to claim that Paul went into the synagogue to reach the Jews.

However, the point in this passage is that when the Jews went out, the Gentiles asked Paul to come and preach to them the next Sabbath.

Evidently the Gentiles recognized that Paul had the Sabbath-keeping custom. Otherwise Paul would have said he'd preach to them on Sunday, since that would be the same day Paul and the pagan Gentiles kept. Obviously, Paul kept the Sabbath with the Jews, rather than keeping Sunday with the Gentiles. When Gentiles were converted they worshipped on Sabbath, too.

### Question 15

Here you can make another strong case. Make it clear that in these particular texts no Jews are present. This is Christian worship, meeting by the riverside, and the day is the Sabbath. Many people dismiss some of these New Testament texts based on the fact that Paul was simply trying to reach the Jews. You must show that it wasn't just to the Jews that Paul preached on Sabbath, but also to Gentiles.

### Question 18

The Corinthian experience is solid evidence, because of the fact that Paul was present for a year and a half. It would be absolutely astounding if Paul could preach that long and not train his new converts to keep Sunday. Instead, this text declares that for a year and a half he kept every single Sabbath.

### Question 19

Hebrews 4 presents the Sabbath as an illustration of the rest the believer has in Christ. Hebrews 4 is not primarily dealing with the Sabbath, it only brings it in as an example. However, it does show that the writer of Hebrews regarded the Sabbath as a valid expression of what it means to have true rest in Christ. Here again is an opportunity to present the Sabbath in the light of righteousness by faith.

Entering into Sabbath rest is a symbol of entering into the rest that the believer has in Jesus Christ. Therefore, when the Sabbath is kept to build