

Are Christians To Keep The Seventh Day?

by Bill Crews

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ANSWER: Of course Jesus observed the weekly sabbath **because He was a Jew living under the law of Moses, and obligated to keep it to be sinless** (as Galatians 4:4 puts it, Jesus was *"born of a woman, born under the law"*). Jesus was circumcised by his parents (Luke 2:21); His mother offered animal sacrifices for her cleansing forty days after his birth (Luke 2:22-34); Jesus observed the Passover (John 2:13, 23; Luke 22:15), the feast of Tabernacles (John 7:2, 10), and all other requirements of the law of Moses or the law of God. The only way He could remain sinless (Hebrews 4:15; 1 Peter 2:22) was by keeping all of the requirements of the law (Matthew 5:17-19; 23:2-3, 23; Luke 5:14; 17:14).

3. "Jesus, in a prophecy (Matthew 24:20) taught that the sabbath was to be kept even forty years after His death."

ANSWER: Jesus was referring to the flight of His disciples from the doomed city of Jerusalem (it fell A.D. 70). He was not teaching that it would be a sin to flee on the sabbath day. **He was rather referring to things that would make fleeing difficult or impossible:** (1) pregnancy (v. 19), (2) a nursing baby to care for (v. 19), (3) the winter time because of the bitter cold (v. 20), and (4) the sabbath day because then the gates of the city would be closed (Nehemiah 13:15-22) and travel would be forbidden by the Jewish authorities (v. 20). The temple was also called *"the holy place"* in Matthew 24:15; was it still God's holy place A.D. 70? God's spiritual holy place now is the church.

4. "The apostles, especially Paul, kept the sabbath day long after the death of Christ and the beginning of the church."

ANSWER: Anyone who reads Acts 15, Galatians, and Romans knows that many Jewish Christians continued to observe the entire law of Moses, but not with the encouragement or approval of Christ or the gospel (read Hebrews). They were shown that we have a better high priest, sacrifice, covenant, tabernacle, birth, worship, hope, rest; that the old has given way to the new. Where in Acts or the epistles are we taught that the apostles either kept the sabbath or required sabbath-keeping? Entering a Jewish synagogue on the sabbath for the purpose of preaching the gospel to those gathered there (which they were always, at the first, given the opportunity to do and always did) does not constitute sabbath-keeping. Paul taught against binding sabbath-keeping and other things of the law of Moses (Colossians 2:14-17). Read Acts 16:3 and Galatians 2:3-4.

5. "After the church began, the seventh day of the week is still called 'the sabbath day'."

ANSWER: Yes, and reference is still made to *"Pentecost," "Passover,"* and *"the days of unleavened bread"* (Acts 2:1; 20:16; 1 Corinthians 16:8; Acts 22:3-4), but these, for that reason, are not still binding. Please read Galatians 5:1-4).

(NOTE: If you have been studying with Seventh-Day Adventists, they will try to confuse you with their *arbitrary* and *unfounded* definitions and distinctions on "the law of Moses" and "the law of God," "the old covenant" and "the new covenant," and "under the law," and "not under the law." Teachers of error must do this to support their error. They also believe that Ellen White was a prophetess which she was not. – **Bill Crews**)