

5

Worshiping the Creator



“Worship Him who made heaven and earth,
the sea and springs of water” (Revelation 14:7).



An Amazing Fact: *In 1876, two Chicago criminals attempted to steal the body of Abraham Lincoln from the Oak Ridge Cemetery in Springfield, Illinois, and hold it for ransom. Their plot was foiled. Lincoln’s remains were subsequently placed in a concrete vault 10 feet below the surface to protect it from other would-be graverobbers, and the site was crowned with a beautiful memorial.*

People often create grand memorials that are designed to last—like the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C. Now more than a century old, the Lincoln Memorial debuted on the National Mall on May 30, 1922. This neoclassical

temple houses a larger-than-life marble statue of assassinated President Abraham Lincoln and on opposite walls, inscriptions of his famous Gettysburg Address and second inaugural address. Both delivered during the Civil War, these speeches represent Lincoln’s dedication to America’s founding tenets of unity, equality, and freedom.

Memorials are made to keep memories alive. As it reads inside Lincoln’s monument, “The memory of Abraham Lincoln is enshrined forever.”

Did you know that God established His own memorial?

It’s not a building or any place that people travel to visit; instead, God’s memorial comes to people—every week. It’s the Sabbath, the fourth of God’s Ten Commandments; it’s not a cold, stone monolith but a living memorial of who God is in relation to us, the human race. The commandment begins, “Remember the Sabbath day” (Exodus 20:8,

emphasis added). The Sabbath was created to keep alive the memory of this day. Moreover, the Sabbath illuminates not just the foundations of one nation but of the entire world!

But memorials are also often targets of vandalism. The Lincoln Memorial has been vandalized several times in its history. The devil, who we know is targeting God's law (Revelation 12:17), is attempting to deface God's memorial. How do we counteract the devil's tactics? Read on to find out!





When you see a blank, look up the passage in your Bible and write in the missing word.

1. When did God establish the Sabbath?

Genesis 2:1, 3. Thus the heavens and the earth, and all the host of them, were _____. ... Then God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it, because in it He rested from all His work.

ANSWER: The Sabbath was established at the beginning of earth's history—at the close of the Creation week.

2. What day of the week is the Sabbath?

Exodus 20:10. The _____ is the Sabbath of the LORD your God.

Genesis 2:2, 3. And on the _____ God ended His work which He had done, and He rested on the _____ from all His work which He had done. Then God blessed the _____ and sanctified it.

Exodus 20:11. For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the _____. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it.

ANSWER: The Sabbath is the seventh day of the week. God made the Sabbath to memorialize the day upon which He finished creating our world—by both blessing and sanctifying it. When God blesses something, it is blessed forever (1 Chronicles 17:27); to sanctify means “to set aside for a holy use.” The Sabbath is like a birthday or holiday, a certain day celebrated because of what happened on that day.

3. How are we to memorialize the Sabbath?

Isaiah 66:23. “From one Sabbath to another, all flesh shall come to _____ before Me,” says the LORD.

Exodus 20:8–10. Remember the Sabbath day, to _____ it _____ . Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the LORD your God. In it you shall do _____ : you, nor your son, nor your daughter, nor your male servant, nor your female servant, nor your cattle, nor your stranger who is within your gates.

Isaiah 58:13. _____ your foot from the Sabbath, from doing _____ pleasure on My holy day, and call the Sabbath a delight, the holy day of the LORD honorable, and ... honor Him, not doing _____ own ways, nor finding _____ own pleasure, nor speaking _____ own words.

Leviticus 23:3. Six days shall work be done, but the seventh day is a Sabbath of solemn rest, a holy _____ .

ANSWER: We memorialize the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. We keep the Sabbath holy by worshipping God. We go to church, described in Leviticus as “a holy convocation,” an assembly of people. We take a rest from our daily toil, from earning money for our own livelihoods (Nehemiah 13:15–19). Instead, we focus on God, dedicating this day to honoring His will and His Word. The Bible gives examples of how to do this: through prayer (Acts 16:13); Bible study (17:2; 18:11); reverent music (Psalm 92); and good works in outreach, such as visiting, healing, and comforting the sick (Matthew 12:10–13; Luke 13:10–16). In the process, we are blessed (Isaiah 58:14).

Notice that part of the first angel’s message, to “worship Him who made heaven and earth, the sea and springs of water” (Revelation 14:7), is a direct reference to the Sabbath commandment. In God’s final warning to the world, the Sabbath is especially illuminated.



4. When does the Sabbath begin and end?

Leviticus 23:32. From _____ to _____, you shall celebrate your sabbath.

Genesis 1:31. So the _____ and the _____ were the sixth day.

ANSWER: The Bible defines a day, a 24-hour period, as beginning at sundown and ending at the next sundown. The first chapter in Genesis repeatedly describes the six days of Creation in this way. One day consisted of the hours during “the evening,” nighttime, plus the hours during “the morning,” daytime (vv. 5, 8, 13, 19, 23, 31). Thus, the Sabbath begins at sundown Friday and closes at sundown Saturday.

Does it take time to get to know and love someone? Yes! That’s why every week, God has given us a full 24 hours to spend with Him. Think about it: God gave Adam and Eve this special day *before* they fell into sin. How much more do we—sinners harassed by a devil who wants to keep us so busy that we forget about God—need that special time to develop a relationship with Him?



5. Does the Sabbath matter to God?

Deuteronomy 5:12. Observe the Sabbath day, to keep it holy, as the LORD your God _____ you.

Deuteronomy 5:15. Therefore the LORD your God _____ you to keep the Sabbath day.

ANSWER: God placed Sabbath observance at the heart of His Ten Commandments, His never-changing, everlasting law, the transcript of His character! Without a doubt, the Sabbath matters to Him. Keeping this day holy gives evidence that you “love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind” (Matthew 22:37). The Sabbath matters to God, and it should matter to you.

6. Did God make the Sabbath only for the Israelites?

Mark 2:27. *The Sabbath was made for _____, and not _____ for the Sabbath.*

ANSWER: While many believe that the Sabbath is only for the Jewish people, the Bible teaches otherwise. The word Jesus uses for “man” in Mark 2:27, *anthropos* in the Greek, means “human being”—all people. God made the Sabbath to be a blessing for all mankind.

Just as the other commandments are not binding only for Jews, neither is the Sabbath command. In fact, the commandment states that the Sabbath should be shared with all in our sphere of influence, from those in our service to any we welcome into our home (Exodus 20:10). (See also Isaiah 56:2, 6, 7.)

7. Did Jesus keep the Sabbath?

Luke 4:16. *He came to Nazareth, where He had been brought up. And as His custom was, He went into the synagogue on the _____ day, and stood up to read.*

Mark 1:21. *Immediately on the _____ He entered the synagogue and taught.*

John 9:14. *Now it was a _____ when Jesus made the clay and opened his eyes.*

ANSWER: Yes! Jesus routinely worshiped on the seventh day of the week: going to church, teaching, and healing the sick. Jesus even kept the Sabbath in death: The Savior was crucified on Friday, “the Preparation Day, that is, the day before the Sabbath” (Mark 15:42). Then, He rested in the tomb on Saturday in accordance with the Sabbath command (Luke 23:55, 56) before being resurrected the next day, “the first day of the week” (Mark 16:2), “when the Sabbath was past” (v. 1). Christians worldwide still celebrate Resurrection Day—Easter Sunday.

But not only did He keep the Sabbath holy, Jesus also corrected the defacement of His law. At the time that Christ lived on the earth,



Jewish leaders had added so many of their own regulations to the Sabbath command that keeping it had become a burden, not a blessing as God meant it to be. For instance, it was taught that a person broke the Sabbath if he lit a candle or journeyed more than two-thirds of a mile. To such manmade traditions, Jesus said, “Hypocrites! ... In vain they worship Me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men” (Matthew 15:7, 9). Jesus instead taught people how to truly keep His Sabbath by His own example (John 13:15; 1 Peter 2:21).

8. Did Paul and the other apostles honor the Sabbath?

Acts 18:4. *And he [Paul] reasoned in the synagogue every _____, and persuaded both Jews and Greeks.*

Acts 17:2. *Then Paul, as his custom was, went in to them, and for three _____ reasoned with them from the Scriptures.*

Acts 13:42. *When the Jews went out of the synagogue, the Gentiles begged that these words might be preached to them the next _____.*

ANSWER: Yes! It was also Paul’s custom to keep the seventh-day Sabbath. On another occasion, the apostles met on the Sabbath with a group of Gentile women by the riverside because the city had no synagogue (Acts 16:13).



9. Did Christ’s resurrection change God’s holy day from Saturday to Sunday?

Matthew 24:20. *And pray that your flight may not be in winter or on the _____.*

ANSWER: In this verse, Jesus was predicting the fall of Jerusalem, which took place in AD 70, about 40 years after His death and resurrection. Thus, Jesus expected His people to still be keeping the seventh day.

Most of Christianity goes to church on Sunday based on when Christ was resurrected, but

nowhere does the Bible say that God changed His holy day from the last to the first day of the week. Instead, we are instructed to honor Christ's resurrection not by celebrating a certain day, but by our baptism: "We were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life" (Romans 6:4).

10. What day is the "Lord's Day"?

Exodus 20:10. *The seventh day is the Sabbath of the _____ your _____.*

Isaiah 58:13. *Turn away your foot from the Sabbath, from doing your pleasure on _____ holy day.*

Mark 2:28. *Therefore the Son of Man is also _____ of the Sabbath.*



ANSWER: Most Christians traditionally speak of the Lord’s Day as Sunday—but the Bible doesn’t. Rather, the only day that the Lord calls His is the seventh-day Sabbath, as seen in both the Old and New Testaments. The first day of the week, Sunday, is simply one of “the six working days” of the week (Ezekiel 46:1). Thus, when the apostle John records that “[he] was in the Spirit on the Lord’s Day” (Revelation 1:10), we can deduce that God gave John a vision on His special holy day, the Sabbath.

11. Why does much of the world believe that God’s holy day is Sunday?

Daniel 7:25. *He shall speak pompous words against the Most High, shall persecute the saints of the Most High, and shall intend to _____ times and law.*



ANSWER: The prophet Daniel foretold that an enemy of God “the Most High” would attempt to alter God’s “times and law.” In Aramaic, “times” refers to a fixed period of time. In God’s law, there is only one commandment that refers to a fixed period—the Sabbath command. History shows that this adversary did attempt to change God’s laws, notably the day of the Sabbath. (More on this in a future lesson.)

Interestingly, the Sabbath command is the only one to begin with the word “remember.” God, who gave Daniel his prophetic vision, knew full well of the deliberate effort that would be made to erase His seventh-day Sabbath. (See “How Saturday Is Still the Seventh Day” at the end of this lesson.)

12. Will the saved keep the Sabbath?

Isaiah 66:22, 23. *“For as the new heavens and the new earth which I will make shall remain before Me,” says the LORD, “so shall your descendants and your name remain. And it shall come to pass that from one New Moon to another, and from one _____ to another, _____ flesh shall come to worship before Me,” says the LORD.*

ANSWER: After the Second Coming and all the subsequent events at the end of the world, God will recreate heaven and earth. Then, throughout time everlasting, all the saved will keep God's holy day. The seventh-day Sabbath, like all of God's law, lasts for eternity!

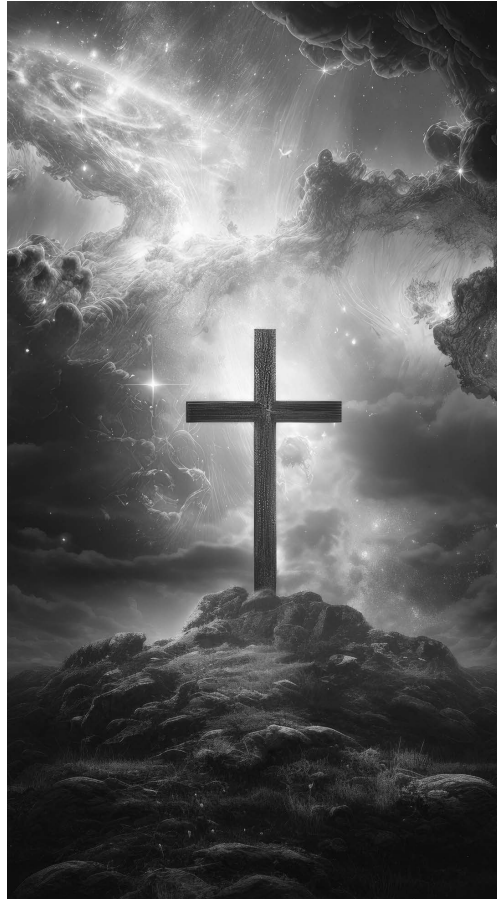
13. Of what two precious things does God say the Sabbath is a sign?

Exodus 31:17. *It is a sign between Me and the children of Israel forever; for in six days the LORD _____ the heavens and the earth, and on the seventh day He rested and was refreshed.*

Ezekiel 20:12. *I also gave them My Sabbaths, to be a sign between them and Me, that they might know that I am the LORD who _____ them.*

ANSWER: God says that the Sabbath signifies His power as Creator and Redeemer. These two verses echo the two places in Scripture where the fourth commandment is recorded in full within the Ten Commandments (Exodus 20:8-11; Deuteronomy 5:12-15).

In Exodus 20:11, the fourth commandment states the reason for keeping the Sabbath as God's *creative* power. In Deuteronomy 5:15, the fourth commandment states the reason for keeping the Sabbath as God's *redemptive* power: "And remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt, and the LORD your God brought you out from there by a mighty hand and by an outstretched arm." Notice that as both Creator and Redeemer, God gives you life. The Sabbath reveals that God is worthy of worship because He is your Life-giver.



14. Is keeping the Sabbath legalism?

Hebrews 4:9, 10. *There remains therefore a _____ for the people of God. For he who has entered His _____ has himself also ceased from his works as God did from His.*

ANSWER: Many believe that Sabbath observance is an attempt to save oneself—an act of righteousness by works. Ironically, in this view, Sabbath *rest* is considered *work*.

In contrast, Paul highlighted the Sabbath as a powerful illustration of righteousness by faith. In the book of Hebrews, he expounds on the term “rest” as a symbol for salvation. When we enter into God’s rest, we are saved by Him. “I will give you rest,” Christ said (Matthew 11:28). Similarly, when we rest on the Sabbath day, we cease to work for ourselves; we worship a God who both creates and recreates us in His image. God does the work, not us! Keeping the Sabbath reminds us that we cannot save ourselves but that we have faith in a God who is our Savior (Hebrews 3:18, 19; 4:2, 3, 6, 11). We observe the Sabbath for the same reason and in the same way that we obey any of God’s other laws: out of love for Him and through His sanctifying power.

15. Would you like to begin receiving the blessings of the Sabbath by keeping this important day in God’s honor?

Answer: _____





Lesson 5 Supplemental Material

How Saturday Is Still the Seventh Day

Look up the following entries in almost any dictionary and you'll find:

- **“Saturday** (*noun*). The seventh and last day of the week.”
- **“Sunday** (*noun*). The first day of the week.”

Some argue that the calendar has been changed and that the seventh day of the week is no longer Saturday. It's true that the calendar was changed once in October 1582 from the Julian to the Gregorian—but only the numerical date was altered, *not* the weekly cycle: Ten dates, October 5 to 14, were omitted from the calendar; what would have been Friday, October 5, became Friday, October 15. You may better visualize the change in the diagram below:

OCTOBER 1582

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thur.	Fri.	Sat.
	1	2	3	4	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

But perhaps the most foolproof evidence lies in the Jewish calendar, a lunisolar timetable that has been used without interruption since the time of Moses. For thousands of years, religious Jews have followed that calendar, week after week observing the same seventh-day Sabbath as their holy day. We can know for sure that we, to this day, are able to keep the very same Sabbath that God designated in His Word.

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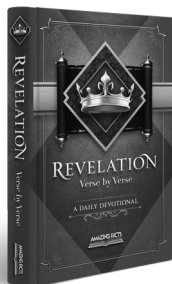
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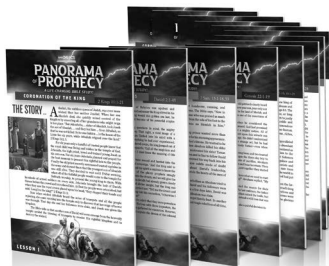


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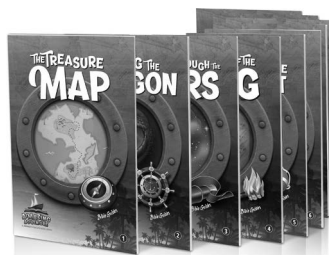
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Then I saw another angel flying in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach to those who dwell on the earth—to every nation, tribe, tongue, and people—saying with a loud voice, “Fear God and give glory to Him, for the hour of His judgment has come; and worship Him who made heaven and earth, the sea and springs of water.”

And another angel followed, saying, “Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she has made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication.”

Then a third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, “If anyone worships the beast and his image, and receives his mark on his forehead or on his hand, he himself shall also drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out full strength into the cup of His indignation. He shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb. And the smoke of their torment ascends forever and ever; and they have no rest day or night, who worship the beast and his image, and whoever receives the mark of his name.” Here is the patience of the saints; here are those who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus.

Revelation 14:6–12

