

PARK HEIGHTS CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Thus Saith the Lord THE "CHRISTIAN SABBATH"

By Jeff Sweeten

The Sabbath fell on the seventh day of the week. This day was sacred to Jews under the Mosaic Law in the Old Testament. "Six days you shall gather it, but on the seventh day, which is a Sabbath, there will be none" (Exodus 16:26). "For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day. Therefore, the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy" (Exodus 20:11).

Keeping the Sabbath was important to God during the Mosaic Covenant. Strict condemnation was commanded for those who broke the Sabbath under the Law of Moses. "Six days shall work be done, but the seventh day is a Sabbath of solemn rest, holy to the Lord. Whoever does any work on the Sabbath day **shall be put to death**" (Exodus 31:15; cf. Exodus 35:2). No regular business was to be carried on during the Sabbath, as per this Old Testament Law. "And if the peoples of the land bring in goods or any grain on the Sabbath day to sell, we will not buy from them on the Sabbath or on a holy day. And we will forego the crops of the seventh year and the exaction of every debt" (Nehemiah 10:31)

Therefore, the Sabbath day has been the seventh day of the week since the institution of the Law of Moses, based upon the seven-day week that began at creation (Genesis 2:2-3). So, the reference to the "Christian Sabbath" seems a peculiar phrase. What is that? It's origin is founded in a flawed understanding of the Old Testament Law. The term doesn't even show up in the Bible until the beginnings of the Israelite nation (Exodus 16:23) and was given exclusively to the Jews (Exodus 31:16). So, the Sabbath was not kept prior to its having been instituted in the law of Moses and was never intended to be observed by the non-Jew, unless they happened to be living within a Jewish community (Exodus 12:49).

Christians are not under the Mosaic Covenant (and we don't sacrifice goats on Saturday). Therefore, because Christians assemble on the first day of the week (Acts 20:7) does not mean that, in some mystical way, Saturday has mutated into Sunday, for religious purposes. There is no such thing as a "Christian Sabbath."

JOIN US ON SUNDAY AND WEDNESDAY!

SUNDAY: 9:30 a.m. Bible Study • 10:25 a.m. Morning Worship • 1:30 p.m. Bible Study

WEDNESDAY: 7:00 p.m. Bible Study • Contact the minister at 254-370-4130