

SABBATH EXCUSES EXAMINED AND ANSWERED – PART 1

Since in Revelation 1:10 it declares that “I (John), was in the Spirit on the Lord's day”, people then claim that this day was undoubtedly the first day of the week.

Revelation 1:10 does furnish direct proof that there is a day in the Gospel Dispensation which the Lord claims is His special and holy day. But is there even one text in the Bible which testifies that the first day of the week is this Lord's day? No, there is not a single Bible text declaring such to be truth.

Yet, there is indeed a record that God claimed a certain day as His and reserved it to Himself as His holy Sabbath.

"And God blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it; because that in it He had rested from all His work which God created and made" Genesis 2:3.

"For he spake in a certain place of the seventh day on this wise, And God did rest the seventh day from all his works....There remaineth therefore a rest (the keeping of the Sabbath) to the people of God." Hebrews 4:4, 9.

"If thou turn away thy foot from **the sabbath**, from doing thy pleasure on **my holy day**; and call the sabbath a delight, the holy of the Lord, honourable; and shalt honor him, not doing thine own ways, nor finding thine own pleasure, nor speaking thine own words: Then shalt thou delight thyself in the Lord; and I will cause thee to ride upon the high places of the earth, and feed thee with the heritage of Jacob thy father: for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it." Isaiah 58:13-14 (see also Exodus 16:23, 20:10; Mark 2:28).

So the Bible declares that the seventh day of the week is the true rest day which God reserved to Himself when He gave to man the other six as working days (Ezekiel 46:1), and this day He calls “my holy day”. This seventh-day is the Sabbath day which the New Testament declares the Son of man to be the Lord of (Luke 6:5). There is but one day that the Bible designates as the Lord's day, and it is none other than the Sabbath of the fourth commandment, which we know of as Saturday today.

But where did this teaching and belief that the Lord's day is Sunday and not Saturday first originate from? It is definitely not a modern belief, but it goes back more than 1000 years!

St. Ignatius of Antioch [about 50-117 A.D.]

“The day of the preparation, then, comprises the passion; the Sabbath embraces the burial; the Lord's Day contains the resurrection.” Epistle to the Trallians, about 110 A.D., Chapter IX, Reference to History of Christ, found in Early Church Fathers, Ante-Nicene Fathers, Vol. I, at <http://www.ccel.org/ccel/schaff/anf01.v.iv.ix.html>.

Pope St. Gregory I (The Great) [Pope from 590-604]

“On the Lord's day, however, there should be a cessation of earthly labour, and attention given in every way to prayers, so that if anything is done negligently during the six days, it may be expiated by supplications on the day of the Lord's resurrection [Sunday].” Epistle 1 - To The Roman Citizens, about 597 A.D., Found in Early Church Fathers, Nicene and Post-Nicene Fathers, Series II, Vol. XIII, Book XIII, at <http://www.ccel.org/ccel/schaff/npnf213.ii.ix.i.html>.

Pope Pius XII [Pope from 1939-1958]

“Let the public and private observance of the feasts of the Church, which are in a special way dedicated and consecrated to God, be kept inviolable; and especially the Lord's day which the Apostles, under the guidance of the Holy Ghost, substituted for the sabbath.” Pope Pius XII, Mediator Dei, Encyclical on the Sacred Liturgy Promulgated on November 20, 1947, Paragraph 150, Given at Castel Gandolfo, near Rome, on the 20th day of November in the year 1947, the 9th of Our Pontificate, at http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/pius_xii/encyclicals/documents/hf_p-xii_enc_20111947_mediator-dei_en.html.

Catholic Church Today

“The gentile converts held their religious meetings on Sunday (Acts, xx, 7; 1 Cor., xvi, 2) and with the disappearance of the Jewish Christian churches this day was exclusively observed as the Lord's Day.” The Catholic Encyclopedia, Volume XIII, under The Sabbath in the New Testament, at <http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/13287b.htm>.

So you can clearly see, that the teaching of the Lord's Day of Revelation 1:10 being a Sunday and not a Saturday, is not a modern belief at all, but it has been around since the second century A.D. You can also plainly see that this belief is not found written in the Bible at all, but was first found originating in the writings of Catholic church fathers. Thus this belief is not a doctrine of God taught in the Bible, but is purely Catholic in origin and a doctrine taught in the Roman Catholic Church.

This then means that for any Protestant or non-Catholic believer to use the argument that the Lord's Day of Revelation 1:10 was a Sunday and not a Saturday in their efforts to try and prove that Sunday is God's Sabbath day today, is forced to rely upon the teachings of Catholicism and not the truth of God's holy Scriptures in order to do so!