

down, and there confound their language, that they may not understand one another's speech. So the LORD scattered them abroad from thence upon the face of all the earth: and they left off to build the city. Therefore is the name of it called Babel; because the LORD did there confound the language of all the earth: and from thence did the LORD scatter them abroad upon the face of all the earth" (Gen. 11:3-9).

Please mark this point that nations or diversity of speech only existed after the flood. At the time the Sabbath was created during the first week of human history, there existed no Jew. The inquirer can now see that the argument that the Sabbath was made for the Jews does not hold water.

FOOTPRINT OF CREATION

Here is the summary of the footprints of the creator during the first week of creation: (1) first day - He created light, (2) second day - firmament and atmosphere, (3) third day - land and water separated and vegetation produced, (4) fourth day - sun, moon and stars, (5) fifth day - fish and birds were created, (6) sixth day - animals and man were created, (7) seventh day - the Sabbath day was created in which no work was done because God rested on this day and commanded man to cease from all manner of civil work.

Moses links the two words "seventh day" of creation (Gen. 2:2, 3), and the word "Sabbath" as referring to one and the same day (Ex. 20:10). The term "seventh day" was first used at the end of the first week of creation and on the first day of human existence about 6000 years ago. The word Sabbath was first used over 4000 years at the time of the exodus as we read. "Six days ye shall gather it; but on the seventh day, which is the sabbath, in it there shall be none" (Ex. 16:26).

To convince even the most skeptical and gainsayer, God clarifies the matter further and said "But the seventh day is the sabbath of the LORD thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy

manservant, nor thy maid-servant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates" (Ex. 20:10).

Here, a link is made between the seventh day of creation and the Sabbath that the two terms refer to the same day which was created at the end of the first week of human existence.

We can now conclude that (1) at the time the Sabbath was created, there was not a Jew in existence; (2) at creation mankind was of one speech; (3) diversity in speech only existed after the flood, (4) at the time God created the world, Sabbath has been in existence. Therefore, the Sabbath was not made for the Jews, but for mankind.

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The Sabbath is not for the Jews

We hear from intellectuals, theologians and the common alike ascribing the Sabbath as a Jewish custom.

Others go further to consign the seventh day Sabbath to the trash bin arguing that it does not represent the actual day God rested from his labours at creation. This tract examines the question whether or not the Sabbath was exclusively for the Jews and provides Bible evidence to the question at hand.

THE ORIGIN

Logic demands that where misunderstanding and confusion abound about the interpretation and understanding of a text or book, the best the intellectual inquirer can do is to ask the author for the intended meaning or interpretation of what is written.

In the spiritual realm, there is but one source from which mankind can obtain correct information concerning the origin of the earth and its inhabitants. It's written: "Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear." (Heb. 11:2).

And we learn that faith comes by hearing the word of God (Rom. 10:17). Science and philosophers have their acknowledged spheres, but they cannot reach to such a subject as this. Revelation alone can instruct us here. "For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God. For it is written, I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and will bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent. Where is the wise? where is the scribe? here is the disputer of this world? hath not God made foolish the wisdom of this world?" (1 Cor. 1:18-20).

"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth" (Gen. 1:1). This is the rational and consistent view of the origin of things. It is thus that "the heavens declare the glory of God, and the firmament showeth his handi-

work" (Ps. 19:1).

God is the author and finisher of the Christian faith (Heb. 12:1). None is qualified to interpret His Word than Himself. We make no mistake to inquire from Him the meaning and interpretation of His Word. To the inquirer He gives this assurance, "For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened," (Matt. 7:8).

The promise and assurance is sure and is for all who will seek for the inspired meaning to comprehend the depth and height of the Christian faith. The Bible cannot be interpreted by theologians, academics, philosophers or intellectuals. Isaiah issues further invitation for the inquirer to come and reason with God (Isaiah 1:18). Now, let's examine the common question among Christians, ***Is the Sabbath for the Jewish?***

THE SABBATH IS FOR MAN

The confusion and deception surrounding the Sabbath is nothing new, the Pharisees in the days of Christ, grappled with the same question. They rightly asked Christ this very question (Mark 2:24) and He gave them this answer. ***"The Sabbath was made for man, and not man for the Sabbath."*** (Mark 2:27). There are three terms in this text that deserve our attention, (1) man, (2) the preposition ***'for'***, and (3) ***Sabbath***. Let us try and unravel them.

Since much time and space was given to the subject of the Sabbath in the pamphlet "Which day is the Sabbath? (write for this tract), Let us turn our attention to examine the first two terms. The word ***'for'*** is a preposition which is translated to mean (a) ***to belong to:*** for example: these exercise equipment is for Rebecca; (b) it is also translated to mean ***suited the purpose or need of:*** for example: this medicine is for the aged; (c) it is also translated to mean ***intended or de-signed for:*** for example- the Sabbath was meant for man. It is within this context we should understand the Bible text in Mark 2:27.

The second term ***"man"*** is translated to have the following meanings (1) an adult male of the human race, (2) a human being regardless of sex. The first time the word ***"man"*** was used in the history of mankind was at the creation of the earth and its inhabitants.

"And God said, Let us make ***man*** in our image, after our likeness: and ***let them*** have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth" (Gen. 1:26). God used one term ***"man"*** as a compound noun to describe a total sum of more than one as is seen in the text describing ***"man"*** as ***"them"***. In the next verse God demystify the above statement and said. "So God created ***man*** in his own image, in the image of God created he ***him; male and female created he them"*** (Gen. 1:27).

We make no mistake to conclude that God used the word ***"man"*** as a generic term referring to the human race regardless of sex. Putting the two terms together we do not err to conclude that the Sabbath was made for the benefit of the human race irrespective of sex, colour, nationality or ethnicity. To apply it to one ethnic group is but a gross misrepresentation of the Word of God. After all when the term was first used, there only existed the human race and not nations as we know them today.

HISTORY OF NATIONS

Where do nations come from? This is the question we now turn our attention to answer. The term ***"nation"*** was first used about 4000 years ago. "These are the families of the sons of Noah, after their generations, in their ***nations:*** and by these were the ***nations*** divided in the earth after the flood" (Gen. 10:32). But take note of the following verse in chapter 11. "And the whole earth was of one language, and of one speech" (Gen. 11:1.3).

"And the LORD came down to see the city and the tower, which the children of men builded. And the LORD said, Behold, the people is one, and ***they have all one language;*** and this they begin to do...Go to, let us go