

# Did Christ Rise On Saturday Or Sunday?

by Casey Head

Most denominational people will agree that Jesus Christ rose from the dead on Sunday, but there are those in the religious community who deny this fundamental point. Some argue that Jesus rose on Saturday, and as a result, they worship on Saturday, the seventh day of the week, just as the Jews did in the Old Testament. This disagreement concerning the day of Christ's resurrection revolves around the subject of the Sabbath day. In this short article, we will address both issues and resolve the matter once and for all.

First, we must recognize that Christians are not bound to keep the Sabbath day. When Jesus died for our sins, He nailed the requirements of the law of Moses to the cross. Paul confirms this point in Colossians 2:14-16 when he says, "Blotting out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to His cross...Let no man therefore judge you in meat or in drink, or in respect of an holy day, or of the new moon, *or of the Sabbath days.*" It is clear from this passage alone that Christians have been freed from the bondage of the law of Moses. We are not bound to keep the Sabbath. Many New Testament passages show that the old law has been replaced (Acts 15:10; 2 Cor. 3:3-9; Gal. 5:1-4; Heb. 8:13). Under the new covenant, Christians are to observe the first day of the week (Acts 20:7; 1 Cor. 16:1-2), not the Sabbath. Some want to distinguish between the law of Moses and the law of God in the Old Testament, but their efforts are in vain when we consider verses like Ezra 7:6 and Nehemiah 10:29.

With this doctrinal point behind us, let us move onto the true purpose of this article- did Jesus Christ rise on Saturday or Sunday? To establish that Jesus rose on Sunday, we will consider two accounts of His resurrection from the gospel letters.

First notice the resurrection account in Mark 16. Several points are made here which prove conclusively that Jesus rose on Sunday, not Saturday. It says in verse one, "And when the Sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome, had bought sweet spices, that they might come and anoint Him." What day is it? The first day of the week, as the Sabbath had already past. Seventh-Day Adventists will argue that while the women came to the tomb early on Sunday, that Jesus had already risen on Saturday. But their theory falls apart when the remainder of the chapter is considered. Notice verse nine, "Now when Jesus was risen *early the first day of the week.*" This proves that Jesus rose on Sunday, the first day of the week.

The account in Luke, however, is much more powerful and effective. Let us notice several verses throughout the chapter, beginning in verse one. It says in Luke 24:1, "Now upon the first day of the week." This verse is short and simple. As with the account in Mark, the first day of the week is under consideration. In verse seven, angels reminded the women of Jesus' words when He said, "The Son of man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again." Jesus would rise the third day, and we find that Sunday was the third day since His death. Finally, consider verse 21, "But we trusted that it had been He which should have redeemed Israel: and beside all this, today is the third day since these things were done." This proves conclusively that Jesus rose on Sunday. Not only is the first day of the week, NOT the Sabbath, under consideration here, but reference is made to it being the third day since Jesus' death, the foretold day of His resurrection.

Our Lord died on Friday, the day before the Sabbath. In John 19:31, we are told that "The Jews therefore, because it was the preparation, that the bodies should not remain upon the cross on the Sabbath day, (for that Sabbath day was an high day,) besought Pilate that their legs might be broken, and that they might be taken away." When they came to Christ, He was already dead. They took Him down from the cross before the Sabbath began and was buried. Three days later, as seen in Luke 24, Jesus rose from the dead on the first day of the week- Sunday. Who can deny these simple points? Only those who wish to bind the Sabbath and force the Bible to fit their doctrine.