

# WHO NAMED SUNDAY THE LORD'S DAY?

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The phrase "Lord's day" appears only one time in the Bible. The apostle John said, "I was in the Spirit on the **Lord's day...**" (Rev. 1:10). On what day of the week is the Lord's day?

There are those who still cling to the Law of Moses (the Old Testament), saying we must worship God on the sabbath day (Saturday, the 7th day of the week). They refuse to acknowledge that God changed the Law, including not only the *acts* of worship, but the *day* of worship as well.

When the children of Israel left Egyptian bondage, sabbath keeping was given to them and them alone (not the whole world) as a part of the law of Moses (Nehemiah 9:13-14). However, the world today, including the Jews, is not under *any part* of the Law of Moses. The Old Law was taken away when Jesus died on the cross (Heb. 9:15-17; Col. 2:14).

On what day of the week did the church in the first century assemble to worship? To answer this question, answers the question about which day of the week is the "Lord's day."

Though there is no "direct command" as to which day God designated as the Lord's Day, we do learn from the common practice of the church in the first century. Second Thessalonians 3:6 speaks of the "tradition" received from the inspired apostles. What was the common practice of the church in the New Testament? There are two passages that give an inspired example as to which day is the Lord's Day.

Concerning the church at Troas we read, "And upon **the first day of the week**, when the disciples came together to break bread..." (Acts 20:7). Also, the

church at Corinth was told, "Now concerning the collection for the saints, as **I have given order to the churches of Galatia, even so do ye. Upon the first day of the week** let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him..." (1 Cor. 16:1-2). Notice that churches everywhere were given the same command.

Notice these important and essential facts concerning the first day of the week:

- 1) Jesus was raised from the dead (Mark 16:9),
- 2) Jesus was declared to be the Son of God (Rom. 1:4),
- 3) Jesus met with his apostles after his resurrection (John 20:1,19,26),
- 4) The church began on Pentecost which was always the first day of the week (Acts 2:1-4,41,47; Lev. 23:15),
- 5) The Holy Spirit fell on the apostles (Acts 2:1-4),
- 6) The first Gospel sermon was preached (Acts 2:22-36),
- 7) The first 3,000 people obeyed the Gospel (Acts 2:41).
- 8) The church met to observe the Lord's supper (Acts 20:7),
- 9) Church members were commanded to give of their means (1 Cor. 16:1-2).

In the New Testament we learn of: 1) a new covenant (new commandments, Heb. 8:6-13; 9:9-10), 2) a new institution (the church, the body of Christ, Eph. 1:20-23; Col. 1:18), 3) a new day of worship (Acts 20:7; 1 Cor. 16:2), 4) a new term to express the new day (the Lord's day, Rev. 1:10).

When John said he was in the spirit on the Lord's day, **the Lord's day was the first day of the week**. The first day of the week is called Sunday.