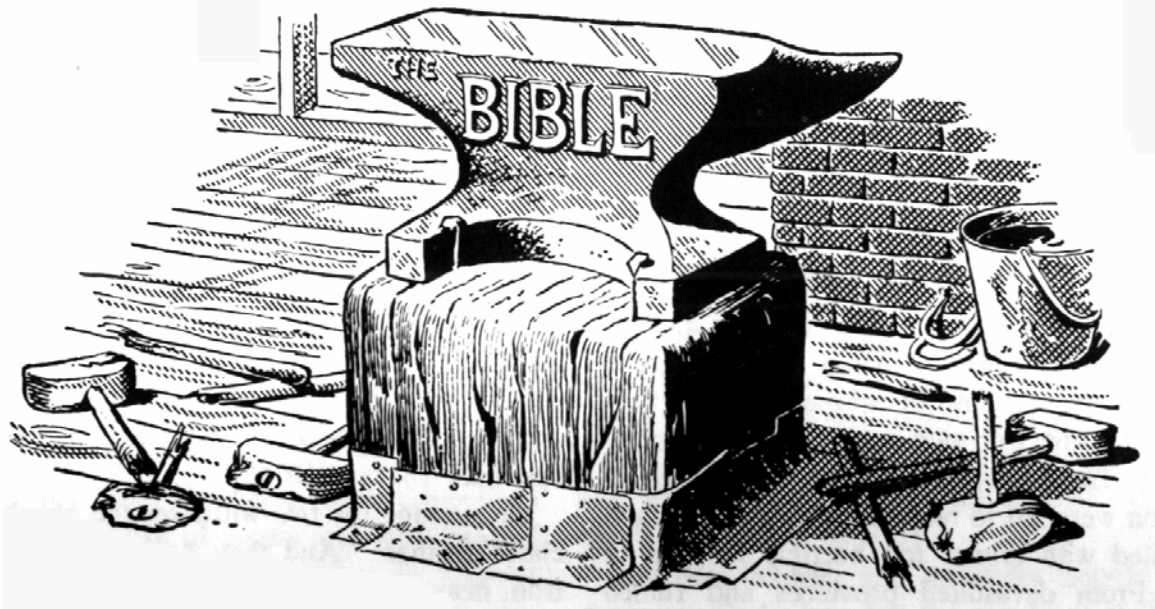


Sabbatarian Quibbles Quashed



*Prepared by Jeffrey S. Asher 4601 Rose Drive Amarillo, Texas 79108 USA
Distributed by the Dumas Drive Church of Christ Amarillo, Texas*

Sabbatarian Quibbles Quashed

1. **The Sabbath is a memorial of Yahweh's omnipotent, creative power (Gen. 2:2-3).**

ANSWER: The seventh day was the day upon which God rested from His creative work. The text does not say the Sabbath memorializes God's creative power.

2. **The seventh day sabbath was prescribed to man in the garden of Eden (Gen. 2:2-3).**

ANSWER: The text says the sabbath was sanctified after the creation week, "And God blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it: because that in it he had rested ..." "Had rested" is past perfect tense of the verb and refers to an action completed sometime in the past; therefore, sometime following the rest after the seventh day.

3. **The patriarchs kept the Sabbath (Gen. 4:3; Gen. 8:6-12; 29: 27, 28).**

ANSWER: Not one of the texts cited says that the seventh day weekly sabbath is being kept. Furthermore, Moses said, "The Lord God made a covenant with us in Horeb. The Lord made not this covenant with our fathers ..." (Deut. 5:2-3).

4. **Israel was keeping the Sabbath in Egypt before the receiving of the Ten Commandments (Ex. 5:5).**

ANSWER: This is the first time the Sabbath is mentioned in the Bible and, in this connection, it was given to "prove them." This indicates they had not been keeping the Sabbath since before leaving Egypt. Furthermore, a consideration of the time frame shows that they were in the immediate proximity of Sinai (Ex. 16:1, 5, 33, 20; 19:1) where they would receive the law including the Sabbath (Neh. 9:13, 14).

6. **Abraham kept the sabbath because God said, "Abraham ... kept my charge, my commandments, my statutes, and my laws (Gen. 26:5).**

ANSWER: Deut. 5:3

QUESTION: Suppose Abraham did keep the sabbath. Would that prove that it is binding on Christians now? Abraham kept the law of circumcision (Gen. 17:10-14) and offered animal sacrifice (Gen. 22:13). Do you?

- 7. God told Israel to “remember” the sabbath day (Ex. 20:8, 9). How could they remember it unless they had been keeping it?**

ANSWER: God said to Israel in Egypt: “Remember this day, in which ye came out from Egypt” (Ex. 13:3). They had never observed this day (the Passover). How could they remember this? The explanation of the one is the explanation of the other.

- 8. God’s people of all nationalities, whether Jew or Gentile, were duty bound to observe the Sabbath in order to enjoy the blessings of heaven (Isa. 56:6, 7).**

ANSWER:

What did they “sons of the stranger” have to do? They had to:

1. “join themselves to the Lord”
2. “love the name of the Lord”
3. “be His servants”
4. “take hold on God’s covenant”

These are Gentiles that convert to Judaism. God commanded Gentiles that converted to be circumcised (Ex. 12:48), keep the day of atonement (Lev. 16:29), to keep the sabbath of the land (Lev. 25:6), and to offer burnt offerings (Num. 15:4), none of which sabbatarians observe.

QUESTION: Why did God, when he gave the sabbath commandment at Sinai, make it binding only on “thy stranger that is within they gates?” (Ex. 20:10) Find where the sabbath was binding on the stranger without their gates. This shows that sabbath was not of universal application.

- 9. God tests His people by whether they keep the sabbath or not (Jer. 17:21-25).**

ANSWER: This passage does not say God tests Christians by whether or not they keep the sabbath (cf. Jer. 17:20, 22, 26).

- 10. The sabbath was binding on Gentiles, who by transgression defiled the earth (Isa. 24:5, 6).**

ANSWER: This passage mentions neither sabbath keeping nor Christians. The sabbath was not given to any but Israel at Sinai (Deut. 5:2, 3, 12, 15; Ezek. 20:10-13). However, all men have always been under law to God (Rom. 5:12-14). Where does the Bible teach God ever gave the Sabbath to any people other than Israel?

- 11. Jesus kept the Sabbath (Lk. 4:14-16).**

ANSWER: Jesus was also circumcised (Lk. 2:21), kept the passover (Mt. 26:17-25), paid the temple tax (Mt. 17:24-27) offered sacrifices (Lk. 2:22-24) and visited Jerusalem on holy days (Lk. 2:41-47). Jesus did all this because he was “made under the law” (Gal. 4:4). However, we are not under the law (Rom. 6:14).

12. Christians were keeping the Sabbath after Pentecost A.D. 33 (Mt. 24:20).

ANSWER: If this passage proves the Sabbath was a “holy day” for Christians, then it proves that winter was a “holy season,” for he told them to pray that their flight be not in winter. It was not the sacredness of the day, but the safety of his disciples. The Sabbath would make Christian’s escape from Jerusalem difficult because on that day the gates were locked (Neh. 13:19).

13. Paul kept the Sabbath (Acts 13:14; 16:13, 14; 18:1-11).

ANSWER: Paul went into the synagogue on the Sabbath Day to preach (13:42). Those to whom Paul preached on those occasions whether Jew or Gentile were not Christians. What is needed is a passage where Paul was requested to “remember the Sabbath and keep it holy” and his response.

14. Paul observed the Sabbath 18 months in Ephesus (Acts 18:4, 11).

ANSWER: The texts say Paul reasoned in the synagogue every sabbath” and that he was “teaching the word of God,” but nowhere does it say he was “keeping the Sabbath.” Furthermore, the “year and six month” is mentioned after Paul “departed thence” (from the synagogue) and left of teaching the Jews (18:6).

15. Hebrews 4:9 commands Christians to keep the Sabbath.

ANSWER: The text says “a rest” not “the sabbath.” The “rest” in view is the eternal rest of heaven (4:11) and not the seventh day Sabbath which the Jews were keeping when they came into the land and were still keeping when David wrote this Psalm (Psa. 95).

16. God said, “the Sabbath ... my holy day” (Isa. 58:13).

ANSWER: What is needed is a passage that says that the Sabbath is God’s holy day in the Christian dispensation.

17. The sabbath is an everlasting commandment.

ANSWER: The sabbath was a temporary (Ex. 31:13) ordinance like circumcision (Gen. 17:12) burnt offerings (Ex. 29:42) incense (Ex. 20:8) holy anointing oil (Ex. 30:31) meal offering (Lev. 6:18) cleanliness codes (Lev. 22:3) the heave offering (Num. 15:21), day of atonement (Lev. 23:31, Ex. 30:10), passover (Ex. 12:14), offering of first fruits (Lev. 23:14) Pentecost (Lev. 2:21; silver trumpets (Num. 10:8); Levitical priesthood (Num. 18:23) Goel (Num. 35:29)

18: The Sabbath was to be observed “forever” (Lev. 16:31; Ex. 31:16, 17); therefore, we are to observe it now.

ANSWER: The following were by “statue forever” but not now binding upon Christian: Aaronic priesthood (Num. 18:23) heave offering (Ex. 29:28; Lev. 10:15), tabernacle (Ex. 27:21; Lev. 24:3), water of purification (Num. 19:9, 10) the priest linen breeches (Ex. 29:43), brass laver (Ex. 30:21), meal offering (Lev. 6:18), peace offerings (Lev. 23:21), feast of tabernacles (Lev. 23:41), water of purification (Num. 19:10).

19. The ten commandments are the standard of right and wrong.

ANSWER: They were a part of the standard, but not the standard. There were many things that were wrong that were not forbidden in the ten commandment: drunkenness (Dt. 21:20), bestiality (Lev. 20:15), homosexuality (Lev. 20:13), fornication (Dt. 23:18).

20. Jesus “came not to destroy the law, but to fulfill it” (Mt. 5:17-19).

ANSWER: This statement true of the whole Mosaic system not just the ten commandments (5:24). Jesus did not dishonor or disobey any part of the law. Does that prove that it is all binding on Christians?

Matthew 5:18 shows the law was to cease. Jesus said: “One jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all shall be fulfilled.” This shows it would pass when it was fulfilled. Now, did Jesus fulfill it? That settles it then, the law passed away (cf. Mt. 1;25; Acts 23:12; Mt. 24:34).

OBJECTION: The law will not pass as long as heaven and earth are here (Mt. 5:19).

ANSWER: The passage does not say that the law will not pass as long as heaven and earth are here, but it would not pass “till all be fulfilled.”

21. Jesus kept the Father’s commandments (Jno. 15:10), and we are to follow Him (Jno. 8:12).

ANSWER: Are we supposed to do all that Jesus did? Jesus paid the temple tax (Mt. 17:24-27), offered sacrifices (Lk. 2:22-24) and visited Jerusalem on holy days (Lk. 2:41-47). Do you? Jesus was under the law (Gal. 4:4); we are not under the law (Rom. 6:14).

22. Revelation 12;17; 14:12 and 22:14 teach the importance of observing the ten commandments.

ANSWER: Prove that the commandments mentioned in these verses are the ten commandments.

QUESTION: Does God have any commandments other than the ten commandments? (cf. 1 Cor. 14:37).

23. We must keep the Sabbath because James teaches: “Whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all” (2:10). Notice vs. 11 quotes the decalogue.

ANSWER: Notice verse 8 quote from what is called the “ceremonial law” does this mean that the whole law is binding on us? Also notice that James does not quote the fourth commandment, he does not say to keep it. The law to which he refers in this text is the “law of liberty” (2:8, 12). Is that the 10 commandment law? (Gal. 4:15, 30, 31).

24. The law nailed to the cross was not the ten commandment law of God, but the old law of pardon by the blood of animals which Moses wrote in a book and placed in the side of the ark (cf. Dt. 31:24-26; 1 Kings 8:9).

ANSWER:

1. The ten commandments were written twice in full by Moses in the book (Ex. 20:1-17; Dt. 5:1-21).
2. The “law of Moses” and “the law of God” were the same thing:
 - a. God gave “the law of Moses” (Ezra 7:6), and Moses gave “God’s law” (Neh. 10:29)
 - b. God gave “the book of the law of Moses” (Neh. 8:1), and Moses gave “the book of the law of the Lord” (2 Chron. 34:14).
 - c. The “law of Moses” contains the ten commandments: Honor parents (cf. Mk. 7:10; Mt. 15:4); do not kill (Jno. 7:19)

- d. The “law of God” contains that which Moses wrote: burnt offerings (2 Chron 31:3), rituals for cleanliness (Lk. 2:22-24), feasts and new moons (2 Chron. 31:3), feast of tabernacles (Neh. 8:8, 14).
 - e. The expressions are used interchangeably in Neh. 8 and Ezra 7.
3. There was only one covenant given at Mt. Sinai (Gal. 4:24; Heb. 9:1-4)
- a. Its elements were --
 - the book* (Ex. 24:7)
 - the blood* (Ex. 24:8)
 - the ark* (Num. 10:33)
 - the tables* (Dt. 9:9-11)
 - the mediator* (Gal. 3:19)
 - b. The ten commandments are part of this one covenant [Dt. 9:9; Ex. 34:27-28; Dt. 4:13; 2 Chron. 6:11 (cf. 1 K. 8:9)]

25. “The seventh day is a sabbath unto Jehovah thy God” (Ex. 20:10). Since the sabbath was “unto the Lord,” it should be kept today by Christians.

ANSWER: animal sacrifice (Ex. 24:5), the blood of atonement (Ex. 30:10), the ransom money (Ex. 30:12), the meat offering (Lev. 23:13), incense (Lev. 24:9), the Nazarite vow (Num. 6:2), drink offering (Num. 15:7) and the tribute of the spoil (Num. 31:28) were all unto the Lord. Does this mean Christians should be doing these things now?

In Ex. 35:2 God said the sabbath “shall be unto you” a holy day. That is a statement to Israel and no one else.

26. The Sabbath was to be kept perpetually (Ex. 31;16).

ANSWER :

1. To whom was this statement made? “Speak to the children of Israel” (31:13, 16).
2. The sabbath was a “sign” between the Lord and Israel (Ex. 31;17).
3. Strong’s Lexicon says a sign is: “a signal, flag, or beacon,” Thus, it is an indication of something special. If everyone were keeping the Sabbath under the Old Testament it would loose its significance.
4. The word “perpetual” properly means “age-lasting.” In the old covenant God called the following laws “perpetual:” the priesthood (Ex. 29:9), incense (Ex. 30:8), water of separation (Num. 19:21), and peace offerings (Lev. 3:17).

27. 2 Kings 21:8 reveals two laws which were given -- the law of God and the law of Moses.

ANSWER: Notice the parallel in 2 Chron. 33:8.

28. The ten commandments were given for 1,000 generations (1 Chron. 16:15).

ANSWER:

1. The passage does not say anything about the ten commandments.
2. The context shows it is not the ten commandments (1 Chron. 16:16-18).
3. Deut. 8:9-11 uses the phrase 1,000 generations of keeping what you call the “ceremonial” law. Does that mean such are binding on Christians today? (cf. 7:2, 3)

29. “The law of the Lord is perfect.” God would not abolish such a law.

ANSWER: The passage does not say the ten commandments are perfect, but that the law is perfect. All of God’s commandments are perfect and good (Psa. 119: 128, 160, 172). Since you must admit this, then according to your reasoning God would not abolish any of His laws. BUT, since you know He did your argument on the ten commandments fails.

30. The Ten Commandments are never called the Law of Moses.

ANSWER: Yes the Ten Commandments are called the Law of Moses in Hebrews 10:28, “He that despised *Moses’ Law* died without mercy under two or three witnesses.” The penalty applied all ten of the commandments.

Command	Penalty
(1) No other gods (Exodus 20:1-6)	Deuteronomy 13:6-11
(2) No graven images (Exodus 20:1-6)	Deuteronomy 13:6-17
(3) Lord’s name in vain (Exodus 20:7)	Leviticus 24:10-16
(4) Keep the sabbath (Exodus 20:8)	Exodus 35:1-3
(5) Honor parents (Exodus 20:12)	Exodus 21:15
(6) No murder (Exodus 20:13)	Exodus 21:12-14
(7) No adultery (Exodus 20:14)	Leviticus 20:10
(8) No stealing (Exodus 20:15)	Exodus 22:2
(9) No false witness (Exodus 20:16)	Deuteronomy 19:16-21
(10) Do not covet (Exodus 20:17)	Joshua 7:20-26