

THE TRUTH

Instructor: Evangelist Carlton Knott

Lesson 13 - The Truth About the 7th Day

Even people who are not "numbers people" may have a soft spot for one number in particular, the number 7. For various reasons, many of us find it fascinating, even mystical. Even bestselling books feature it in their titles, (e.g. The Seven Habits of Highly Effective People,) articles use it to intrigue readers, like Seven Characteristics of Emotionally Strong People.

What is it about the number 7 that causes such a visceral response? The mathematician Alex Bellos asked 44,000 people to name their favorite number and over 4,000 of them named the number 7, far more than any other number. Indeed, ask people to name a number from one to ten and many will name the number 7. The fact is that, historically, the number 7 has played a significant role in society, culture, religion and even psychology. It has had significance in almost every major religion. The word **seven** is found _____ times in the Bible. **Sevenfold** is mentioned _____ times and **seventh** is found _____ times. Here are some examples:

- SEVEN days of creation. [**Genesis 1**]
- SEVEN days before the flood, the animals came into the ark. [**Genesis 7:4,10**]
- SEVEN days Noah and his family stayed in the ark before the rain started. [**Genesis 7:12**]
- SEVEN fat and SEVEN skinny cows, SEVEN healthy ears of corn and SEVEN withered ears of corn in Pharaoh's dream. [**Genesis 41:1-29**]
- SEVEN years times two that Jacob worked for Rachel. [**Genesis 29:20**]
- SEVEN times that Elijah prayed on Mt. Carmel before the rain came. [**1 Kings 18:44**]
- SEVEN times Naaman dipped in the Jordan River to be healed. [**2 Kings 5:10**]
- SEVEN "sabbaths of years" before the great year of release, the jubilee. [**Leviticus 25:4**]
- SEVEN days the Israelites marched around with SEVEN priests, with SEVEN trumpets and then SEVEN times on the SEVENTH day Sabbath. [**Joshua 6:13-15**]
- SEVEN years Nebuchadnezzar was humiliated before the entire world. [**Daniel 7:2**]
- There were SEVEN feast days of our Lord. (Passover, Unleavened, First Fruits, Pentecost, Atonement, Trumpets and Tabernacle.) [**Leviticus 23:1-44**]
- Solomon was SEVEN years in building the Temple and kept the Feast for SEVEN days. [**1 Kings 5:1-11:20; 2 Chronicles 7-9**]
- Job had SEVEN sons. When his friends came to visit him, they sat SEVEN days and SEVEN nights in silence, [**Job 1:2**] and afterward they were required to offer a burnt offering of SEVEN bullocks and SEVEN rams. [**Job 42:8**]
- SEVEN times ten weeks set apart for the Jews. [**Daniel 9**]
- SEVEN times the priest cast the blood of the sacrifice toward the temple. [**Leviticus 16:14**]
- Samson had SEVEN locks. [**Judges 16:13**]
- SEVEN eyes engraved on stone. [**Joshua 3:9**]
- Nebuchadnezzar made an image of gold to be worshipped. At that time he called together SEVEN kinds of officials to the dedication of the image; 1. Princes 2. Governors 3. Captains

4. Judges 5. Treasurers 6. Counselors 7. Sheriffs [Daniel 3:2]

- Three Hebrew children refused to worship the image and were cast into that furnace of death. It was heated SEVEN times hotter than it had ever been. [Daniel 3:19]
- There are SEVEN abominations mentioned by Solomon. [Proverbs 6:16-19]

NEW TESTAMENT

- SEVEN spirits, which are before His throne. [Revelation 5:6]
- SEVEN times seventy were extended for forgiveness. [Matthew 18:21-22]
- SEVEN devils cast out of Mary Magdalene. [Luke 8:2]
- SEVEN deacons chosen to help the work of the church. [Acts 6:1-15]
- SEVEN golden candlesticks. [Revelation 1:20]
- SEVEN stars in God's right hand. [Revelation 1:16]
- SEVEN angels. [Revelation 1:20]
- SEVEN thunders. [Revelation 10]
- SEVEN trumpets. [Revelation 8]
- SEVEN seals. [Revelation 6]
- SEVEN last plagues. [Revelation 15]
- It will take us SEVEN days to get to Heaven. [Revelation 8.1]
- The Saviour spoke SEVEN last words from the Cross. [Luke 23:39-43]

1. What number is associated with the Lord's Sabbath? [Exodus 16:26; 31:15; 35:2;] Ans. The number _____ or _____

2. What does the Lord call the 7th day? [Exodus 16:26; 31:15; 35:2] Ans. The _____

NOTE: The only day in the Bible that has ever been mentioned as being the "Lord's Day" or the "Sabbath" is the **seventh** day of the week.

CREATION

[Genesis 1:3] Day 1 - _____ [Genesis 1:6] Day 2 - _____

[Genesis 1:11] Day 3 - _____ [Genesis 1:16] Day 4 - _____

[Genesis 1:20] Day 5 - _____ [Genesis 1:27] Day 6 - _____

3. What three things made the Sabbath, or the 7th day different from the other six days? [Gen. 2:2, 3] Ans. God _____ on it. He _____ it, and _____ it.

NOTE: At the close of creation week, God set apart the seventh day as a memorial of His loving act of creating the world. He "sanctified" it (made holy, set apart), and placed a special blessing upon it, making it the birthday of the world, a day to remember. If God had blessed and sanctified all seven days and told us to keep any one of them, we would have a choice, but He blessed and sanctified only one day. To say it makes no difference which day we keep is to say that God's blessing and His word are not important.

THE SABBATH AND MANKIND

4. Who was the Sabbath made for? [Mark 2:27,28] Ans. _____

NOTE: The word "man" is used here in the generic sense-mankind. Many claim that the seventh-day Sabbath was given to the Jews only. Not so. It was given to all mankind in Eden more than 2,000 years before the first Jew was born. At that same time marriage was instituted, but no one claims that marriage is for the Jews only.

THE SABBATH IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

5. Many claim that the 7th Day Sabbath is an Old Testament relic and has no bearing on the New Testament Church, is that true? Ans. _____

- The 7th Day Sabbath was observed by Jesus _____ the crucifixion. [Luke 4:16]
- The 7th Day Sabbath was observed at the _____ the crucifixion. [Luke 23:52-56; 1]

NOTE: These verses speak of events, which took place on the weekend of Good Friday and Easter Sunday. Friday was called "the preparation day" a day in which to prepare for the Sabbath. The next day Saturday is "the Sabbath day according to the commandment." The day after the Sabbath is, "the first day of the week" Sunday, the resurrection day.

Some people think that the Old Testament Sabbath is the seventh-day, or Saturday, but that the New Testament Sabbath is the first day, or Sunday. Such is not the case. Not once in the New Testament does the word "Sabbath" apply to Sunday. The Sabbath of the New Testament, as in the Old, is always the day before the first day of the week.

- The 7th Day Sabbath was observed _____ the crucifixion. [Acts:13:42, 44; 18:4,11]
- The 7th Day Sabbath was observed _____ after the crucifixion. [Matthew 24:15-20]

NOTE: This prophecy refers to the flight of the Christians from Jerusalem just before its destruction (verse 16) in 70 A.D., nearly 40 years after Christ's death. Jesus' words plainly imply that He expected the Sabbath would still be kept at that time. Was it? Paul lived until about four years before that terrible event. What day did he keep?

NOTE: Jonathan Edwards a leading Protestant revivalist in the eighteenth-century American Colonies stated: "Christ is here speaking of the flight of the apostles and other Christians out of Jerusalem and Judea, just before the destruction of Jerusalem and after the dissolution of the Jewish constitution, and after the Christian dispensation was fully set up. Yet it is plainly implied in these words of the Lord, that even then, 40 years later Christians would still be bound to a strict observation of the Sabbath." [Jonathan Edwards, Works, Vol. 4, 21-622]

Flavius Josephus: They fled on a Wednesday in October A.D. 70 to a town called Pella Jewish War 5:10:

- The 7th Day Sabbath will be observed in the _____ . [Isaiah 66:22, 23]

NOTE: The Sabbath runs like a golden thread from Genesis through Revelation. Since it was part of God's original plan for man to keep the seventh day holy, since it will also be kept by the redeemed throughout eternity, and since there is no Biblical authority for observing any other day, should it surprise us that God would expect Christians to be observing it now? "If ye love me," Jesus said, "keep my commandments." [John 14:15]

6. Which day of the week does the 7th Day Sabbath correspond with? Ans. _____

NOTE: Webster's New Twentieth Century Dictionary, unabridged second edition, 1978: "**Seventh day, Saturday, the seventh day of the week.**"

The names of the week as we know it, were originally given by the Romans, and were named after their gods:

- **The first day:** Sunday was named after the sun god
- **The second day:** Monday was named after the moon goddess
- **The third day:** Tuesday was named after the god Tyr
- **The fourth day:** Wednesday was named after the god Odin
- **The fifth day:** Thursday was named after the god Thor
- **The sixth day:** Friday was named after the goddess Frigga
- **The seventh day:** Saturday was named after the god Saturn

TIME

7. When does the Sabbath begin and end? [Leviticus 23:32; Mark 1:32; Nehemiah 13:19] Ans.
_____ to _____

PREPARATION DAY

8. Has God given mankind a special day to prepare for His Sabbath? [John 19:30-31; Exodus 16:22-23] Ans. Yes, _____

ACTIVITIES

Forbidden:

- a. Secular work must _____ . [Exodus 20:8-10]
- b. Secular activities, recreation and conversation must _____ . [Isaiah 58:13]

Bidden:

- a. Spending time with _____ in the house of God. [Luke 4:14]
- b. Spending time with God and family in _____ . [Mark 2:23]
- c. Doing acts of _____ and _____ . [Luke 14:1-6]

9. What has God asked us to do regarding His Sabbath? [Exodus 20:4] Ans. To _____ it.