## הַיוֹם בַּאֲשֶׁר קוֹמַם יֵשׁוּטַ

## הַמָּשִׁיַח מִן־הַמֵּתִּים



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Sam 28:8). Samuel identifies this night as "this day" (הַיוֹם הַזֶהה) (vs. 18), and then prophesies "tomorrow you...will be with me" (מָחָ ) (vs. 19).

## THE SABBATH

The Sabbath is a sign between the God of creation and His people, called Israel. The Sabbath is concrete evidence that Israel serves and worships Yahweh, the Almighty of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and not some other god attempting to pretend to be the Most High. Satan sought godhood, and was cast out of heaven. He also tempts men to seek godhood. Satan is responsible for the false signs that mark his victims, which are the "days of Ba'al." He promotes a false sign of Jonah, resulting in solemnizing Sunday, and thus succeeds in separating Christians from the Almighty of Israel. He promotes solemnization of Friday via Islam, and this also separates Muslims from the God of creation. So it is necessary to know exactly when the Sabbath is, so that we may honor the Creator. It is also necessary to know exactly how the Sabbath is reckoned, to properly understand biblical chronology and the festival observances we are to obey.

The reader might be a bit worried, at this point, that I have weakened the basis for the Sabbath starting at sunset. The reader should not be so anxious. I will show that the Sabbath should be sanctified beginning with the setting. I will also show that having the normal day begin with daybreak serves to better define Sabbaths, which begin at sunset. However, there are some exegetes that define the Sabbath to begin in the morning. Jacob Z. Lauterbach and some contemporaries of Eben Ezra were some of these who departed from the usual reckoning of the Sabbath. We need to be aware also of groups that do the same, of which I do not approve. However, we must be very careful in the manner that they are answered, and not overlook the truth just so that we can easily win the argument. The answer depends on realizing the difference in two definitions of "day" and the difference between both of these meanings and the meaning of the word "Sabbath."

Firstly, note that between Genesis chapter one and two there are
two definitions of day. The first is a twelve hour ${ }^{49}$ literal day, from dawn to dusk. The second is a calendar day of twenty-four hours from daybreak to daybreak (dawn to dawn). The twenty-four hour day is mentioned six times in chapter one, and the twelve hour day once, when it is defined.

When we come into Genesis chapter two, the seventh day is referring to a twelve hour day. For without the sequence of "day" and then "setting" and "daybreak," we are left to assume the first definition of "day" from Genesis $1: 5 \mathrm{a}$, which is dawn to dusk. The use of the words "seventh day" do not tell us which night to put with the day in order to make a twenty-four hour Sabbath day. We cannot use the daybreak to daybreak calendar day from Gen. 1:5b because the text does not use the "setting" and "daybreak" formula in the case of the seventh day.

Finally, we need to note that the word for "Sabbath" is both a verb and a noun. The verb form is used in Genesis two. The verb means "to cease" and the noun means a "ceasing" or "cessation." The word "Sabbath" therefore, does not define any day at all. It only refers to the fact of "ceasing." It is for this reason that a whole year can be called a "Sabbath" or any day of the week can be called "Sabbath," as Yom Kippur, which occurs on the 10th day of the seventh month, is a "Sabbath." Likewise, the annual Passover Sabbath is a "ceasing," which occurs on the 15th of Nisan. Therefore, the word Sabbath does not have to agree, by definition, with a particular day. There is, however, a special association between the Sabbath and the seventh day.

So then we must ask, when did Yahweh cease from his work? When did he stop working? Genesis two says he was ceased from working "on the seventh day" (בּיוֹם הַשְׁשִִיעִי). It is clear that this was at least from dawn to dusk, or twelve-hours. The question is, which night goes with it to make a twenty-four hour Sabbath? It is clear from Genesis 1:31 that the night of the sixth twenty-four hour day goes with the seventh day to make the Sabbath.

The sixth day (Gen. 1:31) is indeed from daybreak to daybreak.

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[^0]:    ${ }^{49} \mathrm{I}$ am using 12 hours here in the biblical sense, which is to divide the period between dawn and dusk into 12 parts. In terms of the modern hour of 60 minutes per hour and 60 seconds per minute the day length varies.

