

First Day in the New Testament

After 4000 years of Sabbath keeping in obedience to God's command, it would be necessary to have an emphatic commandment to institute a new Sabbath.

Matt 28:1; Mark 16:1, 2 God has placed the two days side by side. The Sabbath (holy rest day) was past when the first day began. The first day was not the Sabbath when the gospels were written several years after Christ's ascension.

Mark 16:9 Jesus rose on the first day.

Luke 23:54-56; 24:1 The women kept the Sabbath of the commandment, and went to the tomb on the first day to anoint Christ's body.

John 20:1 Mary came to the tomb on the first day.

John 20:19 Jesus appeared to the disciples at evening after rising in the morning of the first day.

Luke 24:13-36 On the day Jesus arose, He went in to eat with two men at Emmaus for the day was far spent. When they knew who He was, they arose and went 8 miles afoot to Jerusalem. It was undoubtedly after sundown when they arrived. Therefore by the time Jesus showed Himself to the disciples the 2nd day of the week had begun. Therefore, this first meeting with the disciples was not the 1st day.

Acts 20:6-13 After spending 7 days at Troas, the last of which was undoubtedly the Sabbath, Paul sent his companions on to Assos with the boat (no little task) while he remained for a farewell meeting that night. (There were many lights in the upper chamber.)

Lev 23:32; Mark 1:32 The day begins at sunset. The night of the first day begins Saturday at sunset. Therefore, when the Sabbath was past, Paul's companions went on to Assos, while Paul remained for a meeting with these people for the last time in this world. He left at daybreak to walk 18 miles. Neither he nor his company were keeping this day. It is not called Sabbath.

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Pyrrne, in Dissertation on Lord's Day Sabbath, pp. 36-41, says: "This meeting of the disciples at Troas, I conceive clearly, was upon Saturday night ... and not the coming Sunday night. .. It must needs be on the Saturday, not on our Sunday evening, the day ever beginning and ending at evening.

A recent book entitled Palestine Life, by James Neil of the Church of England (laboring in Jerusalem) says: "The mode of reckoning time in Palestine exists unchanged today just as it was in the days of Christ. .. the day of twenty-four hours begins with sunset and ends with sunset." He says that if you were asked to come to an event on the night of the third (they number the days) and you went Tuesday night you would be 24 hours too late.

1 Cor 16:1-3; Rom 15:26.27 Paul introduced a custom in the Gentile churches, long prevalent among the Jews, of laying aside regularly on the first day of the week, when they figured last week's business, a proportionate sum for the poor Jews at Jerusalem. It was to be laid "By him" (at home) "in store" for future gathering. It is not a church collection. It is not the Sabbath, but the first day of the week.

Acts 18: 1-4. 11 Paul worshipped with the church at Corinth every Sabbath for 1 '12 years, setting the example of Sabbath keeping. It would be very strange if in the letter to them he should teach keeping of the first day.

After the Jews returned from Babylonian captivity, many thousands settled in Jerusalem with no means of support. Many were poverty stricken. Jews with means in other territories, started the custom, centuries before Christ, of laying aside a sum regularly for them. Jews did this on the first day of the week because they figured their business on that day. They still do this and still maintain a box labeled on the outside, "Alms for the Poor Jews at Jerusalem" in which they put an offering on every first day. First day is therefore a common day.