

The Establishment of the Sabbath Doctrine, Part 2

* Dates of most likely first book/tract publication

But the **infidel supposition**, that the events of the first week required **seven vast, indefinite periods** for their accomplishment, strikes directly at the foundation of the Sabbath of the fourth commandment. It makes indefinite and obscure that which God has made very plain. It is the worst kind of infidelity; for with many who profess to believe the record of creation, it is infidelity in disguise. It charges God with commanding men to observe the week of seven literal days in commemoration of seven indefinite periods, which is unlike his dealings with mortals, and is an impeachment of his wisdom.

(3SG 91.1)

The word of God is to be our study. We are to educate our children in the truths found therein. It is an inexhaustible treasure; but men fail to find this treasure because they do not search until it is within their possession. Very many are content with a **supposition in regard to the truth**. They are content with a surface work, taking for granted that they have all that is essential. **They take the sayings of others for truth**, being too indolent to put themselves to diligent, earnest labor, represented in the word as digging for hidden treasure. But man's inventions are not only unreliable, they are dangerous; for they place man where God should be. They place the sayings of men where a "Thus saith the Lord" should be. (*COL 109.1*)

What is the most important
book in the Bible to Adventists?

The scripture which above all others had been both the foundation and the central pillar of the advent faith was the declaration: “Unto two thousand and three hundred days; then shall the sanctuary be cleansed.” Daniel 8:14.
(GC 409.1)

And he shall speak *great* words against the most High, and shall wear out the saints of the most High, and think to change times and laws: and they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and the dividing of time. (Daniel 7:25)

And I saw **another angel** fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people, Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters. And there followed **another angel**, saying, Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication. And the **third angel** followed them, saying with a loud voice, If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive *his* mark in his forehead, or in his hand, The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb: And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name. Here is the patience of the saints: here *are* they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.

(Revelation 14:6–12)

Here is the patience of the saints: here *are* they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus. (Revelation 14:12)

And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ. (Revelation 12:17)

And I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the **seal** of the living God: and he cried with a loud voice to the four angels, to whom it was given to hurt the earth and the sea, Saying, Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads. And I heard the number of them which were sealed: *and there were* sealed an hundred *and* forty *and* four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel.

(Revelation 7:2-4)

And in their mouth was found no guile: for they are without fault before the throne of God. (Revelation 14:5)

If any man worship the beast and his image,
and receive *his* **mark** in his forehead, or in his
hand, The same shall drink of the wine of the
wrath of God . . . (Revelation 14: 9, 10)

Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holyday, or of the new moon, or of the sabbath *days*: (Colossians 2:16)

Sabbath days. The type of sabbath under consideration is shown by the phrase “which are a shadow of things to come” (Col. 2:17). The weekly Sabbath is a memorial of an event at the beginning of earth’s history (Gen. 2:2, 3; Ex. 20:8–11; PP 48). Hence, the “sabbath days” Paul declares to be shadows pointing to Christ cannot refer to the weekly Sabbath designated by the fourth commandment, but must indicate the ceremonial rest days that reach their realization in Christ and His kingdom. (*SDA BC*)

The book of Genesis has been called “the most important book ever written.”¹ As the first book of the Bible, it not only contains or anticipates all the biblical truths, it is also the book that, more than any other biblical book, has impacted the whole of Scripture, and theology at large. Without the book of Genesis, the Bible would be incomprehensible. (Jacques B. Doukhan, *Genesis, Seventh-day Adventist International Bible Commentary*, p. 21 and back cover)

1. Henry M. Morris, *The Genesis Record* (Grand Rapids Baker, 1976), 17.

The Book of Genesis is probably the most important book ever written. The Bible as a whole would surely be considered (even by those who don't believe in its inspiration) as the book that has exerted the greatest influence on history of any book ever produced. The Bible, however, is actually a compilation of many books, and the Book of Genesis is the foundation of all of them.

Henry Morris, *The Genesis Record*, p. 17

The Lord's Day

Revelation 1:10

I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and heard
behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet,
(Revelation 1:10)

For the Son of man is Lord even of the sabbath
day. (Matthew 12:8)

No one is able to show that the Scriptures state
the first day of the week is the Lord's day, but
there are numerous Scripture passages indicating
that the seventh day is the Lord's special day.

If thou turn away thy foot from the sabbath, *from* doing thy pleasure on my holy day . . . (Isaiah 58:13)

And God blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it . . .
(Genesis 2:3)

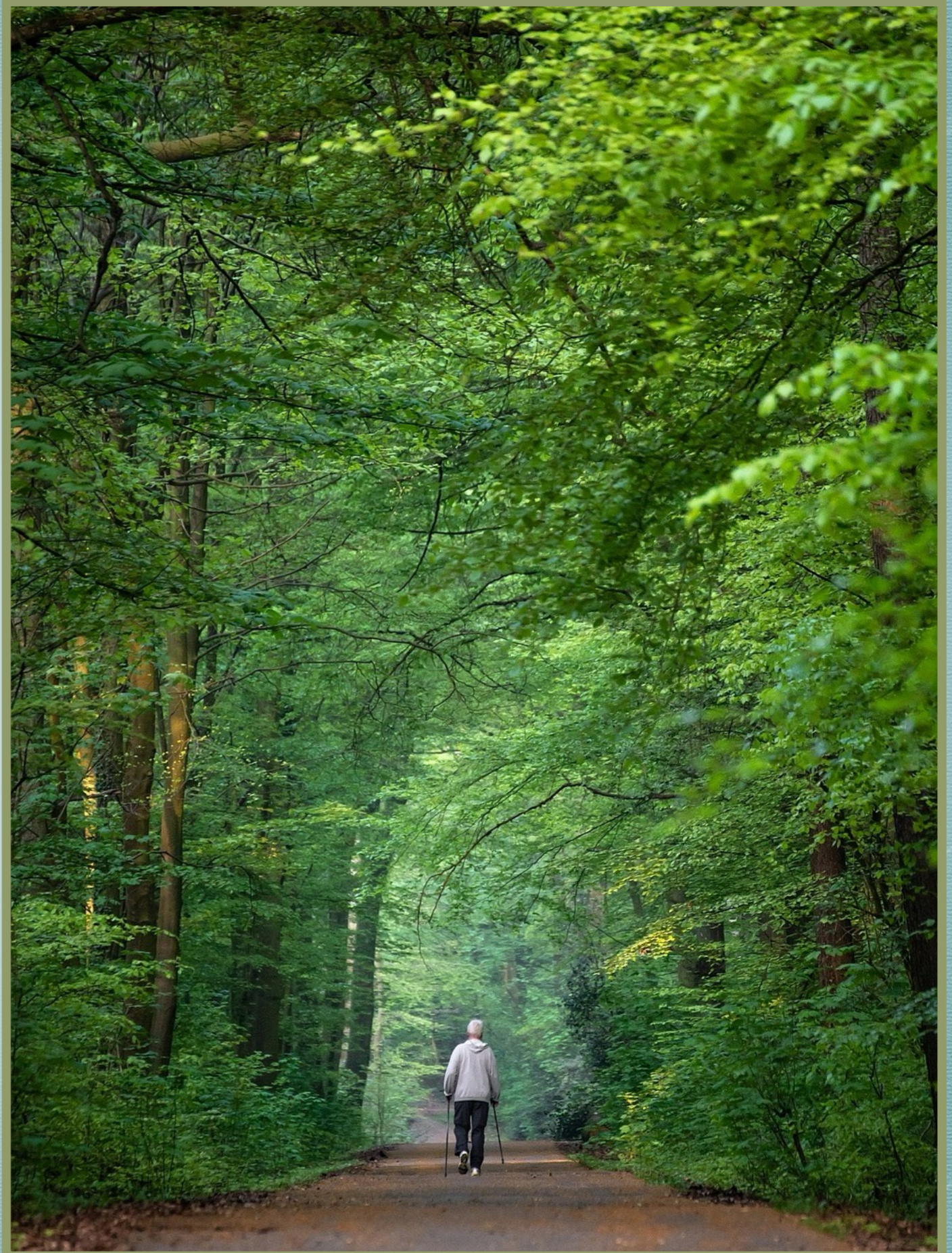
But the seventh day *is* the sabbath of the Lord thy God . . .
(Exodus 20:10)

And hallow my sabbaths; and they shall be a sign between me and you, that ye may know that I *am* the Lord your God.
(Ezekiel 20:20)

Speak thou also unto the children of Israel, saying, Verily my sabbaths ye shall keep: for it *is* a sign between me and you throughout your generations; that *ye* may know that I *am* the Lord that doth sanctify you. (Exodus 31:13)

Therefore the Son of man is Lord also of
the sabbath. (Mark 2:28)

And he said
unto them,
The sabbath
was made for
man, and not
man for the
sabbath:
(Mark 2:27)



- * For man—*SDA BC* states it means literally, “for the sake of.”
- * Man—*anthrōpos*—is not a term of gender but a term for a person or a human being—man, woman, or child. In Mark 6:44, the word *men* is translated from a different Greek word—*andres*, which means adult males.

Not man for the sabbath.

God did not create man because he had a Sabbath and needed someone to keep it. Rather, our Creator knew that man needed an opportunity for moral and spiritual growth, for character development. He needed time in which his own interests and pursuits should be subordinated to a study of the character and will of God as revealed in **nature**, and later, in **revelation**. The seventh-day Sabbath was ordained of God to meet this need.

(SDA BC)



The Sabbath calls our thoughts to **nature**, and brings us into communion with the Creator. In the song of the bird, the sighing of the trees, and the music of the sea, we still may hear His voice who talked with Adam in Eden in the cool of the day. And as we behold His power in nature we find comfort, for the word that created all things is that which speaks life to the soul. He “who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.”

2 Corinthians 4:6. (*DA* 281.4)



The Sabbath was hallowed at the creation. As ordained for man, **it had its origin** when “the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy.” Job 38:7. Peace brooded over the world; for earth was in harmony with heaven. “God saw everything that He had made, and, behold, it was very good;” and **He rested in the joy of His completed work.** Genesis 1:31. (*DA* 281.1)

His wondrous works are to be remembered.

Psalm 111:4

Works of creation and works of re-creation

A book of remembrance (Malachi 3:16-17)

Another Important Rest

At last **Jesus was at rest**. The long day of shame and torture was ended. As the last rays of the setting sun ushered in the Sabbath, the Son of God lay in quietude in Joseph's tomb. His work completed, His hands folded in peace, He rested through the sacred hours of the Sabbath day. (*DA* 769.1)

In the beginning the Father and the Son had rested upon the Sabbath after Their work of creation. When “the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them” (Genesis 2:1), the Creator and all heavenly beings rejoiced in contemplation of the glorious scene. “The morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy.” Job 38:7. **Now Jesus rested** from the work of redemption; and though there was grief among those who loved Him on earth, yet there was joy in heaven. (*DA* 769.2)

Glorious to the eyes of heavenly beings was the promise of the future. A restored creation, a redeemed race, that having conquered sin could never fall,—this, the result to flow from Christ’s completed work, **God and angels saw.** With this scene the day upon which Jesus rested is forever linked. For “His work is perfect;” and “whatsoever God doeth, it shall be forever.” Deuteronomy 32:4; Ecclesiastes 3:14. When there shall be a “restitution of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all His holy prophets since the world began” (Acts 3:21), the creation Sabbath, **the day on which Jesus lay at rest in Joseph’s tomb,** will still be a day of rest and rejoicing. Heaven and earth will unite in praise, as “from one Sabbath to another” (Isaiah 66:23) the nations of the saved shall bow in joyful worship to God and the Lamb. (*DA* 769.2)

A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh. And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do *them*. (Ezekiel 36:26–27)

John 9

Then they brought him before a council of the Pharisees. Again the man was asked how he had received his sight. “He said unto them, He put clay upon mine eyes, and I washed, and do see. Therefore said some of the Pharisees, This man is not of God, because He keepeth not the Sabbath day.” The

Pharisees hoped to make Jesus out to be a sinner, and therefore not the Messiah. **They knew not that it was He who had made the Sabbath and knew all its obligation, who had healed the blind man.** They appeared wonderfully zealous for the observance of the Sabbath, yet were planning murder on that very day. But many were greatly moved at hearing of this miracle, and were convicted that He who had opened the eyes of the blind was more than a common man.

(DA 472.1)