

Taken from an article by Peter S. Ruckman, B.A., B.D., M.A., Th.M. Ph.D.

The purpose of a Judaizer is to put you back under the ceremonial observances of the Old Testament Sabbath, even though you will not find one Gentile Christian in the New Testament who keeps the Sabbath. To do this you start by ignoring the first seventy chapters in the Bible (Gen. 1-Exod. 20). You pretend that when Jesus Christ defined the Sabbath for "man" (Mark 2:27), that it had to be a reference to all men; not just the nation of Israel (Ezek. 20:12, 20). To the contrary, every man the Lord was speaking to and about was a Sabbath-observing, Temple-worshipping, pork-abstaining, bearded, circumcised Jew (John 4:22).

You also missed that after God made the Sabbath (Gen. 2:1-3), not one man, before or after Noah, all the way up to Exodus 20, ever fooled with keeping ANY seventh-day "Sabbath" for three minutes. Adam never kept it; Enoch never kept it; Noah never kept it; Abraham never kept it; Isaac never kept it; Jacob never kept it; Judah never kept it; Benjamin never kept it; Joseph never kept it. For that matter, neither did Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Gad, Issachar, Zebulun, Dan, Naphtali, Asher, Manasseh, Ephraim, or Amram.

If the word "man" in Mark 2:27 is proof that ALL men should have observed the Sabbath since Genesis 2, then God deliberately refused to inform ANY "man" about it. He let them all violate it for nearly 2,500 years. Do you know why NOT ONE SINGLE OLD TESTAMENT SAINT from Adam to Joseph ever kept or observed ANY Sabbath? Because not one of them even knew such a commandment existed until MOSES (Exod. 16:23, 20:8 cf. Neh. 9:14). Moses came along more than 200 years after Joseph was dead.

There was not ANY Sabbath for any "man" to observe until the Jews (Israel) became a NATION. When they did, the first time any "day of rest" was commanded, it was NOT "the seventh day"; it was the FIRST (Exod. 12:16). That day isn't even the same day from year to year. It could be on a Gentile Sunday, a Gentile Monday, a Gentile Tuesday, etc., because the Jewish calendar is a lunar calendar of thirty days. That is why the first "Sabbath" is called a "high Sabbath" (see John 19:13).

Now, do you know why Paul purposely OMITTED "keeping the Sabbath" when he discussed the contents of the Law that were applicable to the Christian (see 2 Cor. 3:7-16; Rom. 13:9)? It was because not one Christian who ever lived since Acts 15 was ordered by God to observe ANY day as "holy" or to keep ANY day as a "Sabbath."

"Wherefore my sentence is, that we trouble not them, which from among the Gentiles are turned to God: But that we write unto them, that they abstain from pollutions of idols, and from fornication, and from things strangled, and from blood" (Acts 15:19-20).

"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" (Col. 2:16).

The only Gentiles who observe the Sabbath will be in the Millennial reign of Christ (Isa. 56:4-6, 66:19-23), after the Second Advent. That is when the Gentiles observe holy days, pilgrimages, and feasts. Neither Isaiah 56 or 66 has any more connection with the Body of Christ from A.D. 70 to 2009 than does Leviticus or Isaiah 11.

"For from the rising of the sun even unto the going down of the same my name shall be great among the Gentiles; and in every place incense shall be offered unto my name, and a pure offering: for my name shall be great among the heathen, saith the LORD of hosts" (Mal. 1:11).

"And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem" (Isa. 2:3).

"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: WHICH ARE A SHADOW OF THINGS TO COME; but the body is of Christ"

(Col. 2:16-17). "And it shall come to pass, that every one that is left of all the nations which came against Jerusalem shall even go up from year to year to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, and to keep the feast of tabernacles" (Zech. 14:16).

As all Seventh-day Adventists convert Paul's visits to synagogues to preach to unsaved Jews (Acts 13:14-42, 17:2, 18:4) into a Christian leader joining unsaved Jews in worship in a synagogue instead of a church, and observing the seventh day as a day of rest instead of the first day as a day of remembrance of Christ's resurrection (Luke 24:1). Christ appeared to the disciples after His resurrection on "the first day of the week" (John 20:19); the Holy Spirit came down to the disciples on the first day of the week (Acts 2:1-4 cf. Lev. 23:1-5); the local New Testament assembly met together on "the first day of the week" (Act 20:7); the early Christians collected the offering on "the first day of the week" (1 Cor. 16:2).

The final outcome of rejecting these major Biblical truths could easily be predicted. The apostate winds up with salvation by works under the Old Testament Law. When he hits Revelation 12:17, 14:12, and 22:14, he goes berserk. The "Yahweh Assembly" author tries to make those verses apply to the Church Age.

THEY ARE NO MORE IN THE CHURCH AGE THAN THEY ARE IN THE DARK AGES OR THE REFORMATION. All three verses are in the Tribulation, which is apparent by the contexts and the wording. No child of God in this age has any more need for "the tree of life" than a DC-10 pilot has need for a sewing machine.