

# KEEPING THE SEVENTH DAY SABBATH ON A ROUND WORLD: -

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**NOTE:** - All Bible texts are from the King James Bible; and the compiler has supplied all emphasis throughout this article.

## ■ OBJECTION: -

Some Christians urge the following objection against the keeping of the seventh-day Saturday Sabbath: -

“The Sabbath Commandment was only designed to be observed by the Jews in the land of Israel; and once you are outside the land of Israel, it is impossible to keep the same Sabbath day, because of the different times the sun sets, in different places upon this round earth. Modern day Jewish Rabbis acknowledge this problem regarding Sabbath-observance outside the land of Israel. And in areas near the North Pole where there are seasons of the year when the sun does not set at all, it is impossible on a practical level to keep the seventh-day Sabbath.”

## ■ ANSWER: -

- The comments of the modern day Jewish Rabbis concerning this supposed “problem” are not inspired, and should have no bearing in this discussion for a person who bases their faith upon the Word of God alone. If we were to accept the interpretations of the modern day Rabbis of the Old Testament writings, we would be led to reject Jesus as the Christ, as the modern day Jewish Rabbis do!
- Paul tells us that mankind was made by God to dwell upon all the face of the earth, and that God has determined the appointed times.  
Acts 17:26: - **“And hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation.”**

Jesus stated that the Sabbath was made for man.

Mark 2:27: - **“And he said unto them, The sabbath was made for man, and not man for the Sabbath.”**

☞ The Sabbath day was made by God to be kept by mankind upon all the face of the earth.

- The first recorded instance of Israel’s Sabbath-keeping that is recorded in Scripture, occurred before they arrived at Mount Sinai (which is in Arabia See Galatians 4:25), in the wilderness of Sin, after they had crossed the Red Sea. This episode is recorded in Exodus Chapter 16. It is quite plain that the Lord expected Israel to keep his Sabbath day holy in this wilderness, as he rebuked Moses for Israel’s profaning of the Sabbath day, concerning their gathering of the manna upon the Sabbath day. And then the people complied with the Lord’s command. This took place outside the land of Israel.  
Exodus 16:28 - 30: - **“And the LORD said unto Moses, How long refuse ye to keep my commandments and my laws? See, for that the LORD hath given you the sabbath, therefore he giveth you on the sixth day the bread of two days; abide ye every man in his place, let no man go out of his place on the seventh day. So the people rested on the seventh day.”**

- When the children of Israel arrived at Mount Sinai in Arabia, the Lord spoke his Ten Commandment Law publicly, and enshrined in the heart of his Law the fourth Commandment, that commands the observance of the seventh-day Saturday Sabbath. The Lord commanded his covenant people to keep the Sabbath day holy in Arabia. This took place outside the land of Israel.  
Exodus 20:8 - 11: - **“Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy.** Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work: But the seventh day [is] the sabbath of the LORD thy God: [in it] thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that [is] within thy gates: For [in] six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them [is], and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it.”
- The Lord expected the children of Israel to keep his Sabbath day holy during their wilderness travels, before they reached the Promised Land of Israel. In fact, because the generation of adults who came out of Egypt profaned the Sabbath day in the wilderness, God would not take them into the Promised Land.  
Ezekiel 20:15 & 16: - “Yet also I lifted up my hand unto them in the wilderness, **that I would not bring them into the land which I had given [them], flowing with milk and honey, which [is] the glory of all lands; Because** they despised my judgments, and walked not in my statutes, **but polluted my sabbaths:** for their heart went after their idols.”
- Turning to the book of Acts in the times of the apostolic Church, the apostle Paul and the Jews outside of the land of Israel, had no difficulty in keeping the Sabbath Commandment, in whatever city of the world they were located.

Paul kept the Sabbath day holy in the following cities, located hundreds of miles outside of the land of Israel:

- i.) In Antioch in Pisidia – See Acts 13:14 - 44.
- ii.) In Philippi – See Acts 16:12 - 15.
- iii.) In Thessalonica – See Acts 17:1 - 4.
- iv.) In Corinth – See Acts 18:1 - 4. The city of Corinth involved a difference of longitude of 13 degrees, with the city of Jerusalem, in the land of Israel; and this involved a time difference of about 52 minutes between the two cities. Yet Paul had no problem keeping the Sabbath day in this city.
- v.) In fact, the apostle James has made it abundantly clear, that the Jews in the time of the apostolic church, had no trouble keeping the Sabbath day holy, in every city in which they were located on the globe.  
Acts 15:21: - “For Moses of old time hath in every city them that preach him, being read in the synagogues every sabbath day.”

Concerning the difficulty that is urged relating to the great length of days and nights in high northern latitudes. How, is it asked, can the Sabbath be kept in countries where in summer the sun does not set for several months and in winter the sun does not rise for several months?

Our answer: -

God not only made the sun and moon to divide the day from the night, but the stars were created to help determine the day as well, and to show us when night has come.

Genesis 1:14 - 16: - "And God said, **Let there be lights in the firmament of the heaven to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs, and for seasons, and for days, and years:** And let them be for lights in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth: and it was so. And God made two great lights; the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night: **[he made] the stars also.**"

The stars are still visible at the North Pole throughout the year, and the turning of the earth in 24 hours can be recorded from the position of the stars alone, as they appear to rotate in the heavens. And this is all that is necessary to keep the Sabbath according to the commandment.

☞ These supposed objections have no foundation in the Scriptures whatsoever, and are theories based upon the inventions of uninspired men. All these supposed difficulties that are raised against Sabbath-keeping are purely imaginary and "straw men"<sup>1</sup> arguments. Throughout the times of the Bible, God's people had no difficulty in keeping the Sabbath day holy, no matter wherever they were located on this round world. And this is exactly what we would expect to find, according to Acts 17:26 & Mark 2:27.

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<sup>1</sup> A "straw-man" argument can be defined by the actual comparison to the literal straw man or scarecrow illustration. From a distance a straw man has the appearance of substance and has the form and looks of a person; but upon closer examination, we can see that all the substance was only an illusion. So it is concerning these objections (excuses would be a more accurate word) raised against the Sabbath Commandment. On the surface they appear to have some merit and to be a cause of some concern; but when they are examined carefully with the Scriptures, we soon discover that the so-called substance is just an illusion, and the straw is consumed by the fire of God's Word.