

THE APOSTLE PAUL TESTIFIED THAT HE WAS A SABBATH-KEEPER!

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

☞ There are several very clear statements from the apostle Paul, which are found in the book of Acts, which clearly establish beyond any doubt, that Paul was a seventh-day Sabbath-keeper, throughout his years of gospel ministry, till the end of his life.

STATEMENT 1: - Acts 25:7, 8: - “And when he was come, the Jews which came down from Jerusalem stood round about, and laid many and grievous complaints against Paul, which they could not prove. While he answered for himself, Neither against the law of the Jews, neither against the temple, nor yet against Caesar, have I *offended any thing at all.”

NOTE: - * The Greek word that is translated as “offended” is the word “**hamartano**” - See Strong's Concordance: Greek, No. 264 In the INTERLINEAR GREEK-ENGLISH NEW TESTAMENT, in this verse, “**hamartano**” is translated as “**sinned**”.

So from the apostle Paul's own testimony, he stated plainly that he had **NOT** sinned in any thing at all, “against the law of the Jews”, which law included the fourth Commandment relating to the seventh-day Sabbath. Paul could not truthfully make such a statement, if he was a Sabbath-breaker. He could only honestly make such a statement, if he was an observer of the seventh-day Sabbath, throughout his many years of gospel ministry.

STATEMENT 2: - Acts 28:17: - “And it came to pass, that after three days **Paul called the chief of the Jews together:** and when they were come together, he said unto them, **Men and brethren, though I have committed nothing against the people, or customs of our fathers,** yet was I delivered prisoner from Jerusalem into the hands of the Romans.”

NOTE: - Several important points can be gathered from this important statement from Paul's own lips: -

1. Paul made this statement at the end of the book of Acts, towards the end of his ministry and life.
2. Paul was addressing “the chief of the Jews” at Rome.
3. He stated to the Jewish leaders that, “I have committed nothing against the people (i. e. his Jewish brethren - compilers), or customs of our fathers.” Paul could not truthfully make this statement, concerning not doing anything against the Hebrew “customs of the fathers”, if he did not observe the seventh-day Sabbath. Why? Because of the following command by the Lord, to the children of Israel: - Exodus 31:16 & 17: - “Wherefore the children of Israel shall keep the sabbath, to observe the sabbath throughout their generations, for a perpetual covenant. It is a sign between me and the children of Israel for ever: for in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, and on the seventh day he rested, and was refreshed.”

Paul still classed himself, as a Hebrew and an Israelite, after his conversion to Christ.

2 Corinthians 11:22: - “Are they Hebrews? **so am I.** Are they Israelites? **so am I.** Are they the seed of Abraham? **so am I.**”

NOTE: - So he would still be observing the seventh-day Sabbath, which the Lord commanded to Israel, in Exodus 31:16 & 17 Otherwise, he would be doing things contrary to “the customs of our fathers.”

4. Throughout the book of Acts, the unbelieving Jews followed Paul around on his missionary journeys; they stirred up the unbelieving Gentiles against him; they tried to prejudice the civil authorities with false reports against Paul. And yet, they **never** accused Paul and his companions of being Sabbath-breakers. This in itself is a powerful proof that Paul was a seventh-day Sabbath-keeper throughout his ministry.

STATEMENT 3: - Acts 24:14 & 15: - “But this I confess unto thee, that after the way which they call heresy, so worship I the God of my fathers, **believing all things which are written in the law and in the prophets:** And have hope toward God, which they themselves also allow, that there shall be a resurrection of the dead, both of the just and unjust.”

NOTE: - Paul stated plainly in VS. 14, that he believed in “all things which are written in the law and in the prophets”- the Old Testament writings. Turning to these inspired writings, particularly relating to the “MESSIAH” - the “CHRIST”, there are **NO** prophecies concerning the “MESSIAH”, which predict that he was to abolish the Law of 10 Commandments; or that he was to abolish the seventh-day Sabbath of the Fourth Commandment; or that he was to change the day of rest and public worship for his people, from the seventh to the first day of the week. There are **NO** such prophecies in “THE LAW AND THE PROPHETS”, relating to the “MESSIAH”. But there are some clear statements found in “THE LAW AND THE PROPHETS”, which Paul still believed in, which have a direct bearing to the issue of the Law of God, and the seventh-day Sabbath. For example: -

1. Paul still believed in the Fourth Commandment found in 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.”

NOTE: - It would be impossible for Paul to still believe in all that was written in the “LAW AND THE PROPHETS”, if the 10 Commandment Law, which included the seventh-day Sabbath, had been abolished by Christ's death, as you cannot still believe in something, that is supposed to no longer exist!

2. Paul still believed in the command of Exodus 31:16 & 17 (which is found in the “Law of Moses”, and which we have just examined in STATEMENT 2), where the Lord commanded Israel to keep the Sabbath day forever, as a sign that the Lord is the Creator of heaven and earth.
3. Paul still believed in the plain statement in the book of Psalms, where the Psalmist states clearly, that **all** of God's Commandments stand for ever.

Psalms 111:7 & 8: - “The works of his hands are verity and judgment; **all his commandments are sure. They stand fast for ever and ever, and are done in truth and uprightness.**”

4. Paul still believed in the prophecy found in “THE PROPHETS”, relating to the New Heavens and the New Earth, where all the righteous will come and worship before the Lord every Sabbath day, throughout eternity

Isaiah 66:22 & 23: - “**For as the new heavens and the new earth, which I will make, shall remain before me, saith the Lord**, so shall your seed and your name remain. And it shall come to pass, that from one new moon to another, **and from one sabbath to another, shall all flesh come to worship before me, saith the Lord.**”

5. And Paul still believed in the prophecy found in “THE PROPHETS”, where the Lord promised to make a New Covenant with the house of Israel (we note, that the Covenant is **not** made with the Gentiles), and the Lord would write his Law or “Torah”, upon the hearts and minds of his people.

Jeremiah 31:31 - 34: - "Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, **that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah:** Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt; which my covenant they brake, although I was an husband unto them, saith the Lord: **But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the Lord, I will put *my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts;** and will be their God, and they shall be my people. And they shall teach no more every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the Lord: for they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the Lord: for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more."

NOTE: - * The Hebrew word for "my law" is the word "**torah**" - See Strong's Concordance; Hebrew, No. 8451. Not only does the Lord provide forgiveness of his people's sins in the New Covenant, but also he promises to write his "LAW" in the hearts and minds of his people. Instead of the New Covenant abolishing the Lord's "LAW", it actually establishes it in the hearts and lives of his people. Clearly, Paul would have been an observer of the seventh-day Sabbath, which is found in the Fourth Commandment of the "LAW" of the Lord, which is to be written in the hearts and minds of God's people, in the New Covenant promised in "THE PROPHETS", which prophecy Paul still believed in.