

# How A Radio Pastor Arrested My Attention!

By Daniel Knauft

It was a Sunday morning; I was listening to religious programming as I often do at the beginning of another work week. When my ears heard it, it was burned into my mind: ***“The Sabbath was made for the Jew; and Sunday for the Christian.”*** (I am not Jewish, but I observe the Sabbath anyway as a Christ-follower.)

This was spoken by one of my favorite, well-known evangelical pastors that I have listened to for many years. It shouldn't have surprised me because many fellow-Christians would agree with what he said.

Quickly, you tell me: Do Jews consider that the Saturday Sabbath is exclusively theirs? Do they consider that they are the only ones obligated to obey the Fourth Commandment?

I'd already discovered this first century comment made by Jewish writer, Philo of Alexandria, which I believe is the general thinking of Jewish religious people:

**“But after the whole world had been completed according to the perfect nature of the number six, the Father hallowed the day following, the seventh, praising it, and calling it holy. For the day is the festival, not of any one city or one country, but of all the earth; a day which alone it is right to call the day of festival for all people, and the birthday of the world.”**

Does this stake up with the Bible? In addition, is this the way Jesus thought of the Sabbath?

If we are to believe the Genesis account of Creation, it is Jesus who designed the seventh-day

of the week to be the Sabbath. It is His handiwork, His design, and Adam and Eve were its first recipients—non Jews, if I am correct. It would be two thousand years before Abraham who is the “father” of Jewish ethnicity.

**The next step.** . . . Reflecting on what the radio preacher said, I thought it would be a good idea to find out what Jesus said about the Sabbath. He got into trouble with the local Pharisees, as you know. Some of them plotted Jesus death on the basis of how Jesus kept the Sabbath. Jesus performed at least six unusual miracles on the Sabbath during His ministry getting Him into difficulty with the synagogue rabbis. He put His life on the line to do this. Was the Sabbath that important to Him to take this risk? If the Sabbath was going to be replaced by a new day—Sunday, why make it an issue that caused so much irritation?

**It blew me away** . . . I found my answer from Jesus. Its not that I hadn't seen it before, but now in an expanded and candid way. And it is wrapped up, as only Jesus can do, in a six word sentence:

**“The Sabbath was made for man, . . .”** Mark 2:27

Let me unpack this for you. Relax! There is more here than meets the eye—so to speak. The word “made” has to do with origination. The Sabbath was brought into existence at Creation. Jesus, Himself, declared and authorized it—a divine institution with its foundation in Creation. The point is that it was made for man's benefit. It was like a present to all who would live on Earth. The Sabbath is a celebration of the Creator—none other than Jesus!

His Sabbath healings were an extension of His

creative power at Creation. The Creator was there present in the synagogue demonstrating His creative energy in healing a human being. What a delight! Was Jesus filling the Sabbath full of meaning? It is all on record in all four of the New Testament Gospels!

Now, the word “man.” Again, Jesus said: “The Sabbath was *made* for *man*, . . .” Remember, these are just six words from Jesus. The New Testament was written in Greek—the universal language of the Roman Empire. The Greek word for “man” is *anthropos*. This is generic meaning “mankind” or “all humans,”—the human race. That is to say that the Sabbath was made for every human being at what ever time they exist on planet Earth. So, the conclusion: *Jesus made the Sabbath to exist every seventh day in the weekly cycle as long as humans inhabit this planet. And we are still here!*

It is this reality that is applied to the “new Earth” of the future which Isaiah spoke of in Isaiah 66:22, 23—“ 'For just as the new heavens and the new earth which I will make will endure before Me,' declares the LORD, . . . 'from sabbath to sabbath, all mankind will come to bow down before Me,' says the LORD.” (NASB)

Conclusion: As long as God allows the Earth to be the home of humanity, the human race, the Sabbath Jesus made for “man” in the beginning, will continue week after week after week. . .ENJOY!

So, what about Sunday? The answer? Somewhere along the way the “train” jumped the tracks. This is a whole story by itself. God is anxious and willing for all to find their way back. It is still true:

“The Sabbath was made for man, . . .”—With Love, *Jesus*

\* \* \*