

PREVIEW

THE
SEVENTH-DAY
SABBATH

SOUGHT OUT AND CELEBRATED

THE SEVENTH-DAY SABBATH

SOUGHT OUT AND CELEBRATED

OR,

The Saints last Design upon the man of sin,
with their advance of God's first institution
to its primitive perfection, being a clear
discovery of that black character in the
head of the Little Horn, *Dan. 7:25.*

THE

Change of TIMES & LAWS.

With the Christian's glorious Conquest
over that Mark of the Beast, and recovery of
the long-slighted Seventh-day, to its ancient
glory, wherein Mr *Aspinwall*, may receive
full answer to his late piece against
the SABBATH.

By *Tho. Tillam*, Minister of the Gospel.

Psalm 102:13-14. *Thou shalt arise and have mercy
upon Zion for the time to favour her, yea the set
time is come. For thy servants take pleasure in
her stones, and favour the dust thereof.*



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INTRODUCTION

THOMAS Tillam was a prominent preacher at Hexham, to the north of London. His vigorous exhortations, usually based on graphic adaptations of Revelation, brought scores of people to baptism by immersion. Jealous rivals soon complained of his preaching methods to Hansard Knolleys - whose London congregation provided leadership for many Baptists. In 1653 Tillam was called to give an account of himself.

The particular issue of dispute which provoked this was Tillam's adoption of the laying on of hands on all believers at baptism. This newly discovered ordinance was not accepted by Knolley's congregation, which then revoked its support of Tillam's ministry. Essentially, this meant that Tillam had no money or credentials with which to preach.

Feeling betrayed, Tillam set out to find other congregations which might share his views on baptism, prophecy and laying on of hands. This search led him to Dr. Peter Chamberlen, who guided the only Baptist congregation which supported the Fifth Monarchy Movement.

This link, and the firm friendship which grew from it, would prove important for the long term establishment of Sabbath-keeping congregations in England - and later the United States.

Their Discovery of the Sabbath

By 1655 Tillam had moved to Colchester. There his gifts as a preacher impressed the local mayor who invited him to use the parish church. Enlivened by this opportunity, Tillam had baptized over one hundred people in a few short months.

Early in 1656, Tillam began holding services in the parish church on Saturday. Exactly *when he first came to understand about the Saturday Sabbath* is not clear. Through this period he had remained in regular and close contact with Chamberlen, whose London congregation adopted the Sabbath about the same time.

Displeased with Tillam's innovation, the authorities had him imprisoned. Like many seventeenth century religious prisoners, Tillam occupied himself in writing and produced his most memorable work: *The Seventh Day Sabbath Sought Out and Celebrated*. (It) was published in 1657 and brought a rush of condemning response. In more than two hundred pages, Tillam developed the link between the Sabbath and Biblical prophecy into a detailed scenario. The Sabbath, said Tillam, "... is in these very last days become

INTRODUCTION

the last great controversy between the Saints and the Man of Sin, The Changer of Times and Laws". Tillam's book was written as an answer to a pamphlet against Sabbath keeping by William Aspinwall, a leading Fifth Monarchist.

Tillam was the first to call the Sunday Sabbath the Mark of the Beast ... (but) Tillam had one disagreement with Chamberlen on this subject. While Chamberlen felt that Sabbath observance negated all significance of Sunday, Tillam believed that the resurrection could be celebrated on Sunday, so as not to cause divisions between Christians.²

Importance of the Seventh Day Sabbath

The Seventh Day Sabbath Sought Out and Celebrated has been reprinted by Wilderness Publications as it represents an important link in the chain of truth handed down throughout the ages of history. "The importance of the Sabbath as the memorial of creation is that it keeps ever present the true reason why worship is due to God. For the worship of God is based upon the fact that He is the Creator and that all other beings were created by Him. The Sabbath therefore lies at the very foundation of divine worship, for it teaches this great truth in the most impressive manner, and no other institution does this. The true ground of divine worship, not of that on the seventh day merely, but of all worship, is found in the distinction between the Creator and His creatures. This great fact can never become obsolete, and must never be forgotten. To keep it in man's mind, God gave to him the Sabbath. He received it in his innocence, and notwithstanding the perversity of His professed people, God has preserved this sacred institution through the entire period of man's fallen state."³

The Publishers, January 2018

References:

1. WILLIAM ASPINWALL was a deacon in the Boston church, and a member of the General Court. In 1637 he was disfranchised and expelled from the Court for his anti-nomianism, whereupon he went to Providence with Ann Hutchinson's party; but in 1642 he returned, and his submission was accepted by both church and government. Slight echoes of the "Fifth Kingdome" emphasis in Britain reached the colonial shores in his tractate, *A Brief Description of the Fifth Monarchy, or Kingdome that shortly is to come into the World* (1653). The four monarchies of Daniel 2 and 7, he holds, soon will be superseded by the everlasting and universal fifth monarchy of God. "It is also the stone cut out of the mountain without hands, with Christ as the Sovereign." This will bring to an end "that mother of harlots (which is the very stump of the fourth Monarchy)." "And this will be followed by the thousand-year reign and rule of Christ, during this fifth monarchy." – see *"The Prophetic Faith of Our Fathers,"* Volume 3, p. 88, by Leroy Edwin Froome
2. *"The Sabbath Sentinel"*, Leon J. Lyell, July - August 2000
3. *"History of the Sabbath and the First Day of the Week"*, J. N. Andrews, p. 510, 1873

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Old English words changed to *Modern English*

Byassed - *Biased*

Rouze - *Rouse*

Enjoyned - *Enjoined*

Hoodwink'd - *Hoodwinked*

Imbraced - *Embraced*

Priviledge - *Privilege*

Shadie - *Shady*

'Tis - *It is*

'Tis not - *Is it not or It is not*

Ratifieth - *Ratified*

Prophane - *Profane*

Establisheth - *Established*

'Twill - *It will*

Tenent - *Tenet*

Signifieth - *Signifies*

Doth - *Does*

Middest - *Middle*

Maugre - *Notwithstanding; in spite of*

(Note: where considered appropriate some words have been retained for authenticity)



To the Church of Christ which is
at *Colchester* gathered by God's
grace with the Author's Ministry
into the beautiful order
of the Gospel.

Precious and therefore Beloved,



hat hath the Holy One done for you! What has Gospel grace wrought in you? Who are these that fly as a cloud and as doves to their windows.¹ Happy day when the eternal Spirit broke open your doors, and led you through the pangs of a new birth into the favour of God by Christ. Blessed season when the Almighty displayed His bright beams of evangelical light, forming Christ in your souls by the same way that the blessed virgin conceived, viz. by the ear; alluring you out of Babylonish abominations, worldly pollutions, and unscriptural mazes to follow the Lamb in all His precious appointments.

1. Isaiah 60:8

Look (my beloved) from the top of the mountain (to which grace hath advanced you), and behold the woeful world still walling in wickedness and weltering in blood under the wrath of a jealous God, in a hopeless, graceless, Christless condition.

And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified,² no more strangers and foreigners but fellow Citizens with the Saints, and of the household of God, founded upon your Rock of Ages whose mysterious habitation and temple ye are. Now what shall we return to the Lord for the invaluable benefits?

I hope there is not a soul of you that dare slight such unsearchable riches of grace. I trust you are truly enlightened and purely principled, which with the sense of your former weight of sin (the intolerable burden of an awakened conscience) will cause you for ever to delight in Christ's shadow, and sit with soul-satisfaction under the spread wings of the eternal Saviour; that soul hath only a name to live that loves not such a Lord.

Amongst all the blessings bestowed upon man, God made for him a holy Sabbath, and this of old was the honour of God's Israel, and shall be again the glory of such as stand in the ancient path enquiring for the good old way. Now since Jehovah hath graciously revealed

Sabbath light amongst you, and laid you under many endearments, let each soul (that is indeed a Saint) take up with the Psalmist, Return unto thy rest, O my soul, for the Lord hath dealt bountifully with thee. For truly you have need of a rest amidst all your reproaches for the Law of your God, and to strengthen you for new trials, especially if you and I (who have hitherto enjoyed our precious liberty) should experience what we hear, namely that the present powers make no conscience of Oaths or Acts; if this should prove so indeed, what can be expected to Sabbath-keepers but new prelati³ persecution?

There is a Solemn Oath taken before God and men to protect such as profess faith in God by Jesus Christ though differing from the doctrine or discipline of the nation which is seconded by the present Parliament who have enacted, that such as profess faith in God, Father, Son, and Spirit, and own the scriptures, shall not be compelled by penalties, nor refrained from their profession, though differing from the public Doctrine, and discipline, but shall be protected in the peaceable exercise of their religion.

But notwithstanding these great engagements, there would be little probability of peace should their principles be as some are persuaded.

3. Ecclesiastical, holy orders.

Wherefore fly with speed to your experienced City of refuge and improve your interest in heaven for the suppression of Jeroboam's sin, who did not only advance the device of his own heart in the time of worship, but imposed it on the people, and so made Israel to sin.⁴

*Strive with your prayers against the remaining corruptions, rising oppressions, appearing persecutions: a manifold enormities⁵ of a revolting nation: God hath eminently punished the princes and the King's children and (*threatens*) all such as are clothed in strange Apparel:⁶ and yet how this abomination abounds amongst us! Yea it is feared that as Jehu pulled down one Baal⁷ and advanced two golden Calves, so the suppression of one proud Prelate may be attended with the promotion of many persecuting Presbyters. And then farewell our precious Gospel privileges if ever our liberty should be at their allowance; they have already put forth their sting by underhand attempts to obstruct this great truth of God's Sabbath.*

Their contentious Lecture at Colchester, termed your Gospel Baptism, an infant damning doctrine and the ministers thereof Devil's Factors *stirring up rulers against us, which probably*

4. I Kings 12:32-33

5. Excessive wickedness

6. Zephaniah 1:8

7. In Hebrew - Lord.

may prove their strongest arguments in opposing the Sabbath. As for such (either Presbyterian or any other opinion) who are of a Gospel frame of Spirit free from Ishmaelitic persecuting principles, I do not in the least reflect upon them, but highly prize all the lovely appearances of Christ in them: knowing that such (though our elder Brethren) dare not murmur at our Father's love, who hath enlightened our minds with the revived glory of His Royal Sabbath but will like noble Bereans weigh this serious (and I hope sober) work in the balance of the sanctuary.

If such as would have a precept of this high import smothered or concealed, under a bed of security or bushel of plenty were thoroughly awakened by the whisperings of Christ; they would readily proclaim this glorious truth upon the housetop. If this lively oracle of God's Seventh-day Sabbath be not clearly Instituted by the Father, Ratified by the Son, Approved by the Spirit, and observed by the Saints, let it be confuted and rejected; but if this Royal Law be thus established, how dreadful must be the continued weekly pollution of it after Christ's call to repentance and reformation? God hath long winked at the days of our ignorance but He will not bear with wilfulness. As for you the

beloved spouse of Christ (Elders, Deacons and Brethren) I do bless the Almighty for you; I can never sufficiently admire that unexpected passage of providence that made plain my path unto you. And truly since God hath so eminently crowned my weak (but willing) endeavours among you, we cannot without ingratitude forget the many fatherly favours and constant encouragements of that worthy instrument who first invited me to serve you.

The good Lord strengthen us by the choice graces of His precious Spirit that we may never forfeit our interest in this honoured Patriot, or in the least blemish our most holy profession. Your gracious submission to Gospel truth hath filled my soul with joy, and I am sure God hath enriched your hearts with gifts and grace since your souls were set towards His Sabbath. It is very much for your sakes (who have earnestly desired it) that I have thus far engaged; wherefore with endeared bowels of love I present it to you. The good Spirit engrave it in your hearts that you may honour it in your lives, until the Lord of the Sabbath crown all your services and sufferings with everlasting rest. Dear Brethren cease not to pour out your souls on the behalf of:

*Your faithful and affectionate Minister
Tho. Tillam.*



THE
Seventh Day
S A B B A T H

Sought out, and celebrated,

BY

Saints obtaining Victory over the
Mark of the Beast



he first Royal Law that ever Jehovah instituted, and for our Example celebrated, (namely His blessed *Seventh-day Sabbath*), is in these very last days become the last great controversy between the Saints and the Man of sin, *The Changer of Times and Laws*. Awake ye slumbering Virgins, the *fig tree* is apparently budded; the signs of His second coming who is *The Lord of the Sabbath*, are fairly

visible, that although the day and hour be not known, yet doubtless this generation shall not pass until New *Jerusalem's* glory shall crown obedient Saints with everlasting Rest.

Wherefore rouse up yourselves, ye Spirited Citizens of Sion; shake off the dust and trash of beastly *Babylon*; and while that imperious Harlot shames not to assert that *Ignorance is the Mother of devotion*, let heavenly wisdom be your sole design, with raised expectations of His faithful performance; who hath promised, *That the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea.*¹

*Many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased.*²

*While vengeance in fiery flames shall be the portion of such as are disobedient and willingly ignorant.*³

Remember the flights and deceits of imposing Pope and Prelate, their Altars, Pictures, Gossips, kneeling at the Rail, Surplice, with the whole *System* of invented service; and let this consideration quicken all that fear the Lord, That the very same Horn who thus imposed his Canons upon our consciences, must change our Times no less than our *Laws*,⁴ or else he is not Antichrist.

Since therefore it is undeniable that we have been deceived by his Laws, it is worthy of our enquiry, whether we have

1. Habakkuk 2:14

2. Daniel 12:4

3. 2 Thessalonians 1:8

4. Daniel 7:25

been cheated of the appointed *Times of God's worship*? It will be said to that soul that (after warning) shall be found in the weekly pollution of God's Sabbath; Is it not one day in seven that will serve man? *When the books shall be opened*,⁵ and that very seventh day on which God Himself rested shall be found expressly commanded, The Beast's Wafer cakes and Water instead of enjoined Bread and Wine, will be as excusable one day as the change of God's holy Sabbath.

As for such professors who surpass the late Prelates in scoffing at God's Sabbath as an empty form, a trifle, etc., let New England (however mistaken in the specific time) mourn over their licentiousness in these sorrowful strains.

“No measure of tears are sufficient to lament the present state of times, that when the Lord Jesus was come forth to vindicate the cause and controversy of *Sion*, there should rise up other instruments of *spiritual wickedness in high places*, to blot out the name and sweet remembrance of this day from off the face of the earth.”

“The enemies of the Sabbath are now not so much negligent time servers and aspiring brambles, whom preferment principally biased to knock at the Sabbath, but those who

5. Revelation 20:12

who have eaten bread with Christ (a generation of professing people) do lift up their heel against the Sabbath: so that what could formerly not be done by Angels of darkness, the old Serpent takes another course to effect by seeming Angels of light.”

And what enlightened soul can cease to cast in a heart full of sighs, not only for such frothy professors, whose earthly minds under spiritual pretences condemn God's hallowed time without fear or trembling; but even for those whose ignorance hurries them (hoodwinked) from week to week to wallow in wickedness, being that day most busily employed about their perishing bodies, which God hath solemnly designed for His honour, and health of their immortal souls. Never more cause of mourning, than to see Saints in these days of light still honouring the Little Horn in the gross abuse of the Lord's Sabbath time, and the Lord's Supper-time. Why Christians will you stick here? Have you got victory over the Beast, and beheld the Holy One tumble down his Image, and will you now lose all your labours for want of a complete victory over the *Mark of the Beast*,⁶ which is so visible and legible in the head of the Little Horn, *The changer of Times and Laws*. Therefore hath the curse devoured the earth, *Because they*

6. Revelation 15:2 & 20:4

*have transgressed the Laws, changed the Ordinance, broken the everlasting Covenant.*⁷

You are assured Christians the Horn hath changed the Laws; and he cannot be that Horn unless he change your Times also. Will you therefore wisely weigh that he had no Times to change, save the Lord's Sabbath time, and the Lord's Supper time, and these he and none but he changed, as I shall plainly prove under this Position.

The Seventh-day Sabbath is a perpetual Royal Rule for the righteous, established by precept and precedent, to God's praise, and Saints privilege.

And to prevent a sudden censure of singularity, let the ingenuous know, that this Conclusion contains not a tittle different from the professed doctrine of the esteemed Orthodox of this age, as will appear in its parts as so many heads of the ensuing Treatise.

1. The Sabbath is one of the Assemblies approved points. *Art. Relig., p. 35.*⁸

2. The time is confessed to be the very seventh day determined by God; for thus write the Elders of *New England* (with whom accord our English Synod),⁹

“Not only a day or rest day, but the rest day or Sabbath day which is expressed and expressly interpreted in the

7. Isaiah 24:5

8. Part 1 - The Rest

9. Part 2 - The Time, *Thes. Sab.*, p. 100, *Large Cat.* p. 34

Commandment to be the 7th day, or a 7th day of God's determining, and therefore called the Sabbath of the Lord our God, is here also enjoined and commanded as generally moral." Here is a full and free confession, and all I shall crave of Christians is but to observe the true Seventh-day Sabbath until some other day of God's determining shall be produced; but since that will never be done, I shall proceed to the third point.

3. God's precept, seconded by His own practice gives such full honour to the Sabbath, that I hear of none save Atheists, Papists, Prelates, Ranters, Quakers, and some Notionists that gainsay it.¹⁰

4. Neither was this ancient Law instituted for a year, or an age, but perpetuated to all posterity, as is fully acknowledged, *Synod Conf., p. 38.*¹¹

5. This Royal Sabbath is no base or beggarly rudiment (as some tremble not to reproach it) but an honourable perfect Law of liberty, worthy to be embraced by all the heavenly race of true believers.¹²

6. Not as a Covenant accompanied with thunder, denouncing curses for the least disobedience, but as a holy, just, religious Rule, breathed by the still soft voice of the Gospel.¹³

10. Part 3 - The Authority

11. Part 4 - Perpetuity

12. Part 5 - The Sanctification, *Thes. Sab.*, p. 49

13. Part 6 - The Bible

7. To persons principled in Church order, Isa. 8:13 (the Antitype of God's Ark) in whose renewed hearts by virtue of the new Covenant all God's Laws are fairly registered which are by others slighted. Hos. 8:12.¹⁴

8. And all for these two great Ends, 1. To honour God, 2. To enjoy Him forever (which is the peculiar prerogative of such as obtain victory over the Beast's Mark, *The Changer of Times and Laws*. And thus each tittle of my tenet being attested (in so many words) by such as are esteemed Orthodox, I hope it may freely appear without prejudice.

*The Seventh-day Sabbath is a perpetual Royal Rule for the righteous, established by precept and precedent, to God's praise and Saint's privilege.*¹⁵

First, Of the Rest.

The Hebrew שַׁבָּת *Shabbat*, signifies a cessation from common work, and where it is first found it is God's Rest, and the day for ever separated and consecrated for the honour of the most High, in memorial of His most glorious works of Creation, the benefit whereof is extended even unto us, and morally engages us to the Religious Observation of it, which can never truly be sanctified until all false rests be removed, such as

14. Part 7 - The Persons

15. Part 8 - The Use and End