

"From the cowardice that shrinks from new truth, from the laziness that is content with half-truths, from the arrogance that thinks it knows all truth, O, God of Truth, deliver us."



A Controversial Newsletter "The Printed Voice of Summit Theological Seminary"

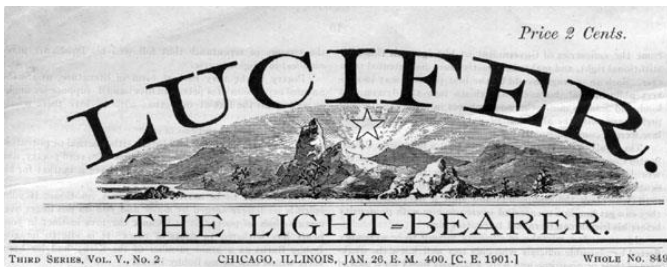
~ All articles are written by George L. Faull, Rel. D. unless otherwise stated ~

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George L. Faull, Editor

Just Who Is Lucifer?



A text out of context becomes a pretext.

There are four good rules to keep this from happening when we study a passage of Scripture. Take the text of **Isaiah 14:12**, where someone is called "Lucifer". It is a good example of the value of using these four necessary hermeneutical principles.

These four questions are invaluable in Bible study:

- 1 - Who is speaking?
God is speaking in this passage.
- 2 - To whom is He speaking?
He is speaking to the nation of Israel.
- 3 - For what purpose is He speaking?
God has several purposes we will show for His command to take up a parable against the King of Babylon.
- 4 - In what period of time is he speaking?
This is during the captivity of Israel in bondage to Babylon's kings.

First - He wishes to encourage Israel by promising they will have rest and not always be captives in bondage; but some day they would rule over their oppressors and Babylon's city of gold would cease and be destroyed.

Second - He wants them to take up a parable or taunting speech against the king of Babylon because God will break the staff of the wicked and the scepter of their rulers.

The king, who smote his people in wrath and ruled the nations in anger, will be persecuted. The world will be at rest from Babylon's King, and God's people will be singing because of what God will do to this tyrant. In fact, the trees used for war purposes will rejoice that no feller of trees will be cutting them down with intentions for war by Babylon.

Third - The grave is preparing for the King of Babylon's coming and the other kings and leaders who have already died will wonder at the King of Babylon's coming to where they are in Hades.

Fourth - The dead kings will mock and ask the King of Babylon, "Are you as weak as we are? Have you the same fate as we? You have lost your pomp, your music, and the worms will crawl all over and under you".

Fifth - They mock him and say "How are you fallen from Heaven oh day star or morning star?" (Jerome put the Latin word in his translation and called him "Lucifer", "light bringer", or "light bearer".)

How could you fall down to the ground which did weaken the nations? (In other words, you who thought you were the highest and greatest star, how could you fall to the ground like an ordinary man?)

Sixth - They repeat back to him his boasting arrogance. You used to say in your heart these five great boasts:

- 1 - I will ascend into heaven.
- 2 - I will exalt my throne above the stars of God.
- 3 - I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation.
- 4 - I will ascend above the clouds.
- 5 - I will be like the most high.

"But the truth is, you shall be brought down to hell to the sides of the pit like a mortal. People will see you and say, 'is this the man that made the earth to tremble, and did shake Kingdoms? Didn't he make the world a wilderness and destroy cities and never set his captives free?' You will not have a burial memorial of glory of your own. You are cast out of a grave like a worthless branch, or the soiled garment of one murdered by a sword. You are in a pit of stones, a mere despised carcass trodden underfoot without the burial of a king and you will never be renowned. Your family will be slaughtered nor will they succeed you. Your land will be destroyed." (This is paraphrased for brevity)

It is this taunting parable of the king of Babylon that has been perverted to teach that Satan is Lucifer. It is the King of Babylon that is addressed here and he is the one to whom these words refer. He thought he was the morning star or the day star. So how did such a great star fall as the parable goes ahead and shows his terrible end? This was the dead king's question to the King of Babylon. He

thought the sun rose and fell upon him. Yet he is delivered to blackness of the pit.

Let me make sure you understand a taunting parable. Suppose there was a proud and arrogant General who was "getting too big for his britches", as men used to say. His name is General Smith, but I say to him "General Napoleon, you may think that God is always on the side of the largest battalion but one of these days you're going to meet your Waterloo." What is true of Napoleon's speech and attitude is the thinking of General Smith and so I tell him his fate. I call him Napoleon, yet he is not Napoleon but only imagines himself to be like the great general. My taunting, mocking parable should warn him of his pride lest he share his hero's fate.

This mocking, taunting parable shows the thinking, dreaming, imagining, goals and the self-assuming pride of the King of Babylon. It is the same as Satan's, yet neither the King nor Satan are the morning star or day star. The kings in Hades only mocked him calling him the name of morning star or day star, the names he assumed himself to be. Remember how Jesus said to Peter, "Get behind Me, Satan..."? Peter was not Satan, he was just acting like him.

They remembered how the King had boasted of himself. The five "I wills" that he "boasted" became the one reality, "You shall be brought down to hell." It is true the King and Satan shall share the same fate but neither one are the great personage they imagined themselves to be.

Now keep in mind the word "Lucifer" is not a Hebrew word and only used once in the KJV Bible. It is a Latin word used by Jerome that ended up years later in our English Bible. It has caused the great confusion along with the fact that men never understood that this was a taunting parable.

The Hebrew word is "*heylel*" (Strong's 01966), which means "brightness or morning star or day star". "*Heylel*" is used only once in the KJV Bible. The Latin word "Lucifer" means "light bearer" or "light bringer". This poor translation exposes two great errors.

First – That Lucifer is not the name of Satan. He is never called Lucifer in the Bible. He is certainly not a light giver or light bearer. He passes himself off as an angel of light but is a deceiver as are his angels. **2 Corinthians 11:13-15**, "13 For such *are* false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. 14 And no marvel; **for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light.** 15 Therefore *it is* no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works."

He certainly deceived Eve with his lie, not truth.

But looking at the Scriptures will show you that Jesus is the light, not Satan. Feast on these Scriptures:

Revelation 22:16, "I Jesus have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things in the churches. **I am the root and the offspring of David, and the bright and morning star.**"

2 Peter 1:19, "We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, **and the day star arise in your hearts.**"

Revelation 2:28, "And I will give him **the morning star.**" (Who would want the devil?)

John 1:7-9, "7 The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all *men* through him might believe. 8 He was not that Light, but *was sent* to bear witness of that Light. 9 *That* was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world."

Isaiah 9:2, "The people that walked in darkness **have seen a great light:** they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, **upon them hath the light shined.**"

Isaiah 60:1-2, "1 Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the LORD is risen upon thee. 2 For, behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people: **but the LORD shall arise upon thee, and his glory shall be seen upon thee.**"

John 8:12, "Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, **I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.**"

Matthew 4:16, "The people which sat in darkness **saw great light;** and to them which sat in the region and shadow of death **light is sprung up.**"

Satan, on the other hand, is the prince of darkness and demons. His kind are called "...wandering stars, to whom is reserved the blackness of darkness for ever." **Jude 13**

Second - This translation has not only caused the devil to be called by one of the Holy names of Christ (day star or morning star), but has caused some to teach the blasphemous doctrine that Jesus and Satan are the same identity. If you do not believe this is true, I suggest you do a little reading on your internet. There are over a dozen sites claiming this lie. Since they know both Jesus and Satan are called the "morning star", "day star", or "light bringer", it has caused some to worship Satan. Cults, atheists, and lodges have fallen into Satan's subtle attempt to be pictured as the morning star or light bringer.

So who is Lucifer? The Latin word, "Lucifer", should not have been substituted for "morning star" or "day star". It is an illegitimate word and since it only appears once in Scripture, and does not refer to Satan but the supposed aspiration of the King of Babylon, it would be better forgotten.

Jesus is the true day star or morning star, He says so. He is the light of the world and the true light giver. Don't flatter Satan by calling him "Lucifer"; he is no "light bringer".

Junior Church – A Midget Maker

-- By Phil L. Young, May 1984

Occasionally we are asked why the Pleasant Ridge Church does not have Junior or Youth Church service conducted at the same time as the regular Lord's Day Worship hour. We are aware of the fact that we are out of step with the progressive congregations and with sophisticated modern methodology. But we choose to be.

Wee Worship, Children's Church, Junior Church; by whatever name it is called, is a relatively recent phenomenon. It all began a couple of decades ago when some wiseacre somewhere decided that Christian worship must be chopped up into smaller bites for children – that the solemn, stately, or inspiring gospel hymns and songs must give way (all the time) to shallower and hand clapping choruses – that preaching must be watered down to storytelling, films, and skits.

A sadder and more objectionable conclusion could hardly have been arrived at, even by an enemy of the faith. (We have exaggerated the case to get your attention – are your ears up???)

We do agree that children deserve to hear the Gospel in a form and at a level which they can understand and appreciate. THEREFORE, we have Bible School classes every Lord's Day that are graduated and classified with different ages in mind. Of course we do, and it's great!

In addition, we have graded youth programs in the evening hour from 6:00 until 7:00 pm **every** Sunday. Of course we do, and it's great!

And once a year, in the summer, we arrange a Daily Vacation Bible School with all ages and levels of childish appreciation in mind. Of course we do, and it's great!

And, at Flora and at Washington, we support Christian Service Camp programs all summer long with specialized Gospel teaching at all levels. Of course we do, and it's great!

SOOOO, is there never to be a time when children and youth are exposed to the full force of the Gospel message in its fullness and power? We think so, for the following reasons:

1 – Every child should be permitted to see the thrilling victories that take place in Worship Services.

They **MUST** be permitted to observe grown men coming with tears in their eyes to accept Christ.

They **MUST** see families coming as a group to yield obedience to the Gospel terms of forgiveness and watch the whole church receive them.



They **MUST** hear the preacher when he is at his best, under the impulse of the Holy Spirit, anointed from on high, thrilled by the reception of an audience listening with bated breath to something greater than oratory and more important than rhetoric.

2 – Every child should have the privilege of watching his father or his grandfather pray at the Lord's Table, or sing in the choir, or belt out the bass in the male quartet.

Every child should see her mother bowed in prayer and listening in reverence to the teaching and preaching.

What sweet memories are denied that child who never worships with the family as a group! What discipline that child never learns who is never taught to be quiet and respectful in the full worship hour of Christ's Church.

Youthful eyes and ears and minds and spirits must be challenged to reach upward to holier things and higher levels. To **always** bring the eternal truths of Jehovah God **down** to their juvenile level is to do them a grave disservice and to actually harm their development and growth. Such stunted development creates midgets!

3 – While there are exceptions we are sure, nevertheless, in the main youth-oriented special services have tended to downgrade traditional and Scriptural items and acts of worship, and to initiate innovative or even radical new formularies.

While we are not opposed to any useful new method of presenting the old gospel truths, yet our experience has been that many youth leaders or youth ministers have too often been too eager to discard the tested, tried, and true, for the untested, and sometimes even untrue new theories.

We cannot believe that puppetry, cartoon skits, and cinnamon suckers can take the place of the "apostle's doctrine, fellowship, breaking of bread, and prayers". The former diet begets dwarfs, the latter begets giants. Or so we think, and so we see!

SEE – The Restoration Herald's January 2015 edition for great insights on this subject – "*When Culture Wins*".

Some Questions for Homosexuals

--By George L. Faull, Rel. D.

If you're homosexual, I'd like you to answer these questions:

1. **Please explain why heterosexuals were given specific instructions and homosexuals were just told "NO", period.**

In the chapter of morality (in **Leviticus 18**) God mentions 15 women with which a man cannot have sexual relations. Obviously, these 15 women were forbidden to have illicit sex with any man who approached her if the man was told not to be intimate with her whom God forbids a sexual union.

In addition, men were told not to lie with another man or beast. Likewise, the women were forbidden to lie with a beast.

God never allowed a man to be sexually engaged with a menstruating woman. As a homosexual male or lesbian, you need to explain why there was no certain prohibitions given to those whom you say were born homosexual.

The only prohibitions to you is same gender sex period. It is an abomination.

2. **Why do you assume the prohibition against laying with a man only refers to male temple prostitutes in pagan temples?**

Admittedly, this was occurring. But why assume that Leviticus refers only to temple activity and not to homosexuals in "a warm and meaningful monogamous relationship", as you allege? The same pagan temples celebrated worship by bestiality. Are we to assume bestiality is only forbidden in temple worship? If not, why not?

God just declares lying with the same-sex is an abomination and bestiality is confusion. Do you also support bestiality?

3. **Why is there a provision for men and women to get a divorce but none for homosexuals to divorce and remarry again?**

Deuteronomy 24:1-2, "1 When a man hath taken a wife, and married her, and it come to pass that she find no favour in his eyes, because he hath found some uncleanness in her: then let him write her a bill

of divorcement, and give it in her hand, and send her out of his house. 2 And when she is departed out of his house, she may go and be **another man's wife.**"

Where is the homosexuals divorce clause in the Law of Moses?

4. **I would like for you, as a defender of the unnatural act of same-sex-marriage, or the so-called 'warm and meaningful and loving relationship', to give me either a command, example, or necessary inference of any such couple in the Bible whom the Lord approves.**

There are none, and the ones that the "gay preachers" try to use as such do not demonstrate any homosexual or lesbians who meet that description. They suggest David and Jonathan, but that would be incest and adultery, as they were brothers-in-law. Would you like your sister's husband to be intimate with another man?

Likewise, Naomi and Ruth – that would be incest. Would you like your wife to be intimate with your mother?

You are obligated to show such a couple or forfeit your absurd argument of God approving of same-sex marriage because of "love". He recognizes no such couple.

5. **You also need to show some integrity and admit in the Netherlands where same-sex marriage has long existed why these same-sex marriages are so short lived.**

How long does their average gay marriage last? (The answer should have been told to America instead of trying to show "true love has won" in the Netherlands.)

The fact is, the average gay marriage lasts 1.5 years and in those 1.5 years they had an average of sexual encounters with 12 other men!!!

Why have you kept quiet about these statistics? Where is your honesty and integrity in debating it and how can 5 black robed usurpers be so naïve as to expect anything else of an unnatural relationship?

6. **Why do the same-sex marriage agenda advocates have to come out with a "Queen James bible" to try to defend their perversion?**

The Queen James Bible adds to God's Word (thus, their names are not in the Book of Life). Instead of,

“You shall not lie with mankind as with womankind, it is an abomination”, they have changed it to “You shall not lie with mankind as with womankind **IN THE TEMPLE OF MOLECH**, it is an abomination”. They have added to God’s Word and therefore are found to be liars. **Proverbs 30:6**, “Add thou not unto his words, lest he reprove thee, and thou be found a liar.”

See **Revelation 22:18-19**, “18 For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: 19 And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and *from* the things which are written in this book.”

Deuteronomy 4:2, “Ye shall not add unto the word which I command you, neither shall ye diminish *ought* from it, that ye may keep the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you.”

Deuteronomy 12:32, “What thing soever I command you, observe to do it: thou shalt not add thereto, nor diminish from it.”

The fact is, the Queen James Bible translators pervert not only God’s design for sex, but marriage and God’s Word.

Their aim was stated, “We wanted to make a book filled with the word of God that nobody could use to incorrectly condemn God’s LGBT children, and we succeeded!” They may have to wait until Judgment Day to find out that they never succeeded.

7. Please explain why God provided natural lubricants for natural intercourse between a man and his wife, but in your unnatural relationship no such lubricant is secreted for anal sex.

That should be enough to convince any rational person that it is an unnatural act and a perversion of God’s natural intent. The lining of the anus is very thin and easily broken so STD’s are much more likely to be spread. Truly **Romans 1:27-28** is true...

“27 And likewise also the men, **leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompence of their error** which was meet. 28 And even as they did not like to retain God in *their* knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient;”

8. How can couples in a man/man or woman/woman relationship ever produce the couples own biological children?

If this is God’s plan, one wonders how the couple could help propagate the world without one of the persons in the same-sex relationship committing adultery!!!

How can this marriage be fruitful and multiply which is one of God’s purposes for marriage? The Scriptures teach us that God gave man a wife that he might obtain a Godly seed.

Malachi 2:15, “And did not he make one? Yet had he the residue of the spirit. And wherefore one? That he might seek a godly seed. Therefore take heed to your spirit, and let none deal treacherously against the wife of his youth.”

CONCLUSION:

We hope these thoughts will be meditated upon and that you will consider God’s Will for your life.

It is possible to be free from these convicting questions.

After warning the Corinthians that sinners including fornicators, adulterers, LBGT, and homosexuals cannot inherit the Kingdom of God, He gave this good news, “and such **WERE** some of you **but ye are washed**, but ye are **sanctified**, but ye are **justified** in the Name of the Lord, Jesus and by the Spirit of our God. **I Corinthians 6:11.**

Corinthian men or women who repented of those sins could say, “I am clean, I am set apart to holiness and I am justified. (Just as if I’d never sinned).

Oh how we love you and want you to know the peace and joy of obedience to God

Summit School of Preaching

SPRING SEMESTER

Began January 12th, 2016

Spring Break – Apr 4th – 8th

Ends May 5th, 2016

Courses this Semester Includes:

Tuesday:

7–9PM – Epistles of John – Kendall Faull – 2 cr.

Wednesday:

9-Noon – Hermeneutics – T. Carter – 3 cr.

1:30-4:30PM – Gospels 2 – Shane Capps – 3 cr.

Thursday:

9-Noon – Why God Gave the Law – G. Faull – 3 cr.

1:30-4:30PM – 1 Corinthians – T. Carter – 3 cr.

6:30-8:30PM – Q&A - End Times-T. Carter/G. Faull – 2 cr.

Rejoice, A Saviour is Born

1. Is it not normal to rejoice because God sent His Son with us to save us from our sins? **Isaiah 9:14, Matthew 1:23**
2. Did not Zacharias, by means of the Spirit rejoice at God raising up a Horn of Salvation through David because David's greater son would be Saviour and fulfill the promise given to Abraham of salvation and remission of sins? **Luke 1:67-70**
3. Did not Elisabeth rejoice in the Holy Spirit and did not John the Baptist, who was in her womb, jump with joy at the announcement of Jesus being present in Mary's womb? **Luke 1:41-45**
4. Did Mary's magnificat show her rejoicing at her pregnancy? **Luke 1:46-55**
5. Did not the Angel of the Lord praise God and tell good tidings of great joy to all people that the child would be a Saviour, the Christ, the Lord? **Luke 3:9-12**
6. Did not the other angels praise God and glorify God and announce peace and good-will toward men? **Luke 3:13-14**
7. Did not the Shepherds rejoice and go tell everyone around of this glorious event? **Luke 3:15-20**
8. Did not Simeon rejoice when he saw the Lord's Christ before he died? **Luke 3:28-35**
9. Did not the widow, Anna, thank the Lord for this newborn child? **Luke 3:36-38**
10. Were the Wise men commanded to follow the star and come to worship Him or was that of their own free choice to bring the King presents and rejoice with exceeding joy when the star stood over the house where He was? **Matthew 2:9-10**

CONCLUSION:

Should those who believed the prophets and have profited by what the Lord has done ever stop praising God for their Saviour who came and dwelt among men?

John 1:4 I don't think so. These people were told to rejoice, or did so of their own free-will because of what it meant to their lives and very souls rejoicing over salvation and the remission of sins because Christ came to save those that believe on Him is normalative to an intelligent believer.

I rejoice, too, but I cannot help loathing the day that the Church links their celebration of His birth to paganism, false traditions, greedy commercialism, idolatry and evil debauchery. It helps justify atheists saying that Christianity is only baptized paganism.

How it must grieve the heart of God to see all this contradicting hypocrisy tied to His Son's birth. I find it hard to believe that God is glad by it!

Dear Brother Carter:

"Now on the first [day] of the week Mary Magdalene went to the tomb early, while it was still dark, and saw [that] the stone had been taken away from the tomb" **John 20:1 NKJV**

In my local congregation, they are moving to a Saturday evening communion. I have always used **Acts 20:7** to argue that we are to observe the Lord's Supper on the first day of the week; which is Sunday.

"Now on the first [day] of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul, ready to depart the next day, spoke to them and continued his message until midnight." **Acts 20:7 NKJV**

But when I looked this verse up in my Greek interlinear, I found that the Greek literally reads, "The first of the Sabbaths". All my English translations read, "On the first day of the week". Is my interlinear wrong or are my English translations in error?

Brother Carter's Answer:

The short answer is that neither your Greek interlinear, nor your English translations are wrong. Both are correct. This is actually a great example of how a literal translation of the Greek can be confusing to English readers of Scripture. What we actually have here is a Hebrew way of speaking about the first day of the week. Greek scholars know this well, which is why they all translate it as "the first day of the week". That is an accurate translation of this idiomatic phrase.

Vincent's Word Studies says of the word "*sabbaton*" in this verse, "the plural used for the singular, in imitation of the Hebrew form. The noun *Sabbath* is often used after numerals in signification of a *week*. See **Matthew xxviii. 1; Mark xvi. 2; John xx. 19.**"

Interestingly, both of my Greek interlinear New Testaments actually show "week" as the "literal" translation of "*sabbaton*" in all three of the passages that Vincent references above. The same phrase found in the Greek in **Acts 20:7** is also found in **Luke 24:1** in reference to the resurrection of Christ. In this passage my Greek interlinear New Testaments also show "week" as the "literal" translation of "*sabbaton*". Again, the English translations are virtually unanimous in translating it as "the first day of the week", here as well.

"Now on the first [day] of the week, very early in the morning, they, and certain [other] [women] with them, came to the tomb bringing the spices which they had prepared" **Luke 24:1 NKJV**

Further, in **I Corinthians 16:2** the word "*sabbaton*" is "literally" translated "week" in both of my Greek interlinear New Testaments as well as virtually all English translations. This is also true of **John 20:1**, "Now on the first [day] of the week Mary Magdalene went to the tomb

early, while it was still dark, and saw [that] the stone had been taken away from the tomb” NKJV

“On the first [day] of the week let each one of you lay something aside, storing up as he may prosper, that there be no collections when I come.” **I Corinthians 16:2** NKJV

Vine’s Expository Dictionary notes that “*sabbaton*” is found in “**Luke 18:12**, ‘twice in the week,’ lit. ‘twice of the Sabbath,’ i.e., twice in the days after the Sabbath.” Under the entry for “one” under the Greek word “*heis*”, it says, “‘the first day of the week,’ Lit. and idiomatically, ‘one of the Sabbaths,’ signifying ‘the first day after the Sabbath, e.g. **Matthew 28:1**; **Mark 16:2**; **Acts 20:7**; **I Corinthians 16:2**.”

The reference to **Luke 18:12** is interesting. “I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I possess.” NKJV

The Greek literally reads, “twice of the Sabbath” but it is translated as, “twice a week”. In fact, the “literal” translation of “*sabbaton*” here is given as “week” in both my Greek interlinear New Testaments as well. Was this Pharisee really trying to say that he fasted twice on the Sabbath? If so, they couldn’t be very long fasts. You can’t fast more than once in a day without eating at least twice that day. This doesn’t seem very impressive or like much of a sacrifice to me.

Thayer’s Greek Lexicon gives, “seven days, a week” as one of the definitions for “*sabbaton*”. Strong’s does this as well. Thayer’s goes on to say that the phrase found in **Matthew 28:1**, **Mark 16:2**, **Luke 24:1**, **John 20:1,19**, and **Acts 20:7** as equivalent to “the first day after the Sabbath”. This, of course, would be the first day of the week.

Robertson’s Word Pictures also comments that either the singular or the plural, “was used for the week (Sabbath to Sabbath)”.

Even Wikipedia says, “In Jewish sources by the time of the Septuagint, the term “Sabbath” (Greek “*Sabbaton*”) by synecdoche also came to refer to an entire seven-day week, the interval between two weekly Sabbaths.” (Article on “*Week*”)

Most commentators do not even mention this since it is a translation issue that is well understood and universally agreed upon by the Greek scholars. It is simply a non-issue to the commentators.

In case this does not convince you that the phrase means, “the first day of the week”, consider **Matthew 28:1**, “Now after the Sabbath, as the first [day] of the week began to dawn, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to see the tomb.” NKJV

The Greek literally says, “After the Sabbath, to the dawning into the first Sabbath”. But it is translated, “Now after the Sabbath, as the first day of the week began to

dawn” in my NKJV. The word “*sabbaton*” is translated “Sabbath” in the first instance, but “week” in the second. This is because of the idiom, or figure of speech, that we have been discussing. However, it shows clearly that such must be the case. The literal translation actually makes no sense. How can it dawn into the Sabbath after the Sabbath? Clearly it is the first day of the week that dawns after the Sabbath.

You can see a similar thing in **Mark 16:1-2**, “Now when the Sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, Mary [the] [mother] of James, and Salome bought spices, that they might come and anoint Him. 2 Very early in the morning, on the first [day] of the week, they came to the tomb when the sun had risen.” NKJV

Verse one says that the Sabbath was past. Verse two says it was “very early in the morning on the first day of the week”. The word for “week” here is “*sabbaton*” in verse two, as is the word for “Sabbath” in verse one. Once again, if we must translate “*sabbaton*” as “Sabbath” we have a problem. How can it be early on the Sabbath when the Sabbath was past? Obviously it cannot.

This question illustrates beautifully how a strictly literal, word for word, translation of the Greek can be confusing and even fail to be accurate. Translators must be aware of idioms as they do their work and reflect the meaning accurately into the target language rather than the rough equivalent of individual words. It is not always true that a literal translation is the most accurate or even the best.

I would like to mention that when our churches try to twist **Acts 20:7** into a Saturday evening observance of the Lord’s Supper, they are guilty of the same error as the cults. The Seventh Day Adventists have always maintained that we ought to worship on the Sabbath. The Messianic Jews also argue this way. In fact, I have seen them argue in print that we ought to worship on Saturday because of the literal reading of the Greek in this verse. When we adopt their arguments for our own purposes, we are keeping company with the cults and Judaizers rather than the New Testament Church.

In the words of Paul, “Do not be deceived: “Evil company corrupts good habits.”” **I Corinthians 15:33** NKJV

If the cults and “progressives” among us are correct, then we have been doing it all wrong for centuries. B.W. Johnson comments, regarding **Acts 20:7**, in the People’s New Testament that, “...*the early church writers from Barnabas, Justin Martyr, Irenaeus, to Clement of Alexandria, Origen and Cyprian, all with one consent, declare that the Church observed the first day of the week. They are equally agreed that the Lord’s Supper was observed weekly, on the first day of the week.*”

Finally, I would mention that some argue that **Acts 20:7** was based on Jewish time, thus their first day of the week would correspond to our Saturday evening and end on our Sunday evening. There are a few things to note about this:

1. The only time they want to follow Jewish time is in observing the Lord's Supper. If we are to observe Jewish time here, why not the rest of the time?
2. If we were meant to follow Jewish time in observing the Lord's Supper, God would have made that plain to us. What was made plain is not whether it was Greek, Roman, or Jewish time, but that it was the first day of the week. That is when they met to observe the Lord's Supper. I suggest we do the same.
3. It is obvious that their conclusion that it was Jewish time is not based on the text itself, but rather on their own convenience.
4. Why would the Church in Troas, which was a Hellenistic city, be observing Jewish time? There is not even any mention of a Jewish synagogue in this city in the New Testament. There is simply no basis for the assumption that this church would have observed Jewish time in regards to the Lord's Supper. In the words of Paul to Peter, "...why do you compel Gentiles to live as Jews?" **Galatians 2:14**.
5. If this is Jewish time, and we are to observe it under Jewish time, then those who have partaken after sunset Sunday evening have been wrong for centuries.
6. Notice that the verse itself says that Paul was ready to depart "the next day". Verse 11 tells us that Paul departed at "daybreak". If this is all Jewish time, and thus the first day of the week runs from sunset of our Saturday till sunset of our Sunday, how could daybreak be the next day? Under Jewish time it would be the same day. It is true that "the next day" could simply refer to daylight. However, this seems to argue against their position that it was Jewish time.
7. If I am asked to speak in a particular city at 7:00 P.M., all parties understand that this is their local time. That may or may not be the same as 7:00 P.M. at my home. But that is irrelevant. Should we observe the Lord's Supper according to Troas time? Certainly not. Clearly we are to follow our local time zone. Thus it seems obvious that we ought to also follow our local time as to when the first day of the week begins and ends. If we are to follow our local time zone as to the hour of the day, why wouldn't we follow it in regards to the day of the week?
8. It should also be noted that at this time, Greek, Roman, and Jews all observed a seven day week. (Some have argued that it must be Jewish time because only Jews had a seven day week at this time.) Consider the following quote from Wikipedia's article on "Week":

"The seven-day week seems to have been adopted (independently) by the Persian Empire, in Judaism and in Hellenistic astrology, and (via Greek transmission) in Gupta India and Tang China. The Babylonian system was received by the Greeks in the 4th century BC (notably via Eudoxus of Cnidus)...It was widely known throughout the Roman Empire by the 1st century AD...The ancient Romans traditionally used the eight-day nundinal cycle, but after the Julian calendar had come into effect in 45 BC, the seven-day week came into use."

GOD IS THE SOURCE OF ALL.....

LIFE	For without Him was not anything made that hath been made. John 1:3
HEALTH	It is the Lord that healeth thee of all thy diseases. Psalms 103:3
INCOME	It is I who giveth thee power to get wealth. Deuteronomy 8:18
COMFORT	He is the God of all Comfort. 2 Cor. 1:3
HOPE	He is the God of Hope. Romans 15:13
PEACE	May the God of Peace be with you. Romans 15:33
LOVE	God is Love. 1 John 4:8, 16

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