

The Fijian Man's Defense

"Why have you forsaken your Sunday Keeping church?"

"The Bible has driven me to this decision."

"But didn't you understand my sermon this morning?" asked the missionary.

"Oh, yes, I understood. But you gave only words of man to support your arguments. You gave no texts from the Bible." They were speaking in Fijian so the whole congregation could hear and understand what they were saying. "Brother Missionary," went on Pauliasi, "if you could give me just one 'Thus saith the Lord' commanding us to keep Sunday I would come back to my old church at once." The European missionary stood helpless for a moment, for of course there is no such "Thus saith the Lord."

Then Pauliasi under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit said very humbly, "Brother Missionary, you are not the judge over this Sabbath law, and neither am I the judge.

"But if in the great day of judgment I am found to be wrong, I am going to bring a charge against Jehovah because He wrote with His own finger the law of the Ten Commandments, the fourth of which says the seventh day is the Sabbath, and we are commanded to keep it.

"And if found to be wrong I will bring a charge against all the patriarchs and prophets of Old Testament times because they all taught the seventh-day Sabbath and kept it. And I will also bring a charge against the Lord Jesus Christ, who on the mount said, 'Think not that I am come to destroy the law ...: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfill.' And Jesus kept His Father's commandments and rested on the holy Sabbath, and preached in the synagogues.

"And if I am found to be wrong, I'll also bring a charge against the apostle Paul, who said of the law that it was holy, just, and good, and he also honored the Sabbath day by preaching in the synagogue on that day, as well as by the riverside.

"In short, if I am wrong, I'll bring charges against Jehovah, the patriarchs and prophets in Old Testament times, and against Jesus, Paul, and the apostles in New Testament times.

"And now, if you are found to be wrong over this Sunday question, what Bible characters are you going to bring charges against?"

There was absolute silence, and the preacher walked away discomfited. Pauliasi's argument was unanswerable.