



Passage Three

There was a time in the early history of man when the days had no names! The reason was quite simple: Men had not invented the week.

In those days, the only division of time was the month, and there were too many days in the month for each of them to have a separate name. But when men began to build cities they wanted to have a special day on which to trade, a market day.

Sometimes these market days were fixed at every tenth day, sometimes every seventh or every fifth day. The Babylonians decided that it should be every seventh day. On this day they didn't work, but met for trade and religious festivals.

The Jews followed their example, but kept every seventh day, for religious purposes. In this way, the week came into existence. It was the space between market days. The Jews gave each of the seven days a name, but it was really a number after the Sabbath day (which was Saturday). For example, Wednesday was called the fourth day (four days after Saturday),



When the Egyptians adopted the seven-day week they named the days after five planets, the

sun and the moon. The Romans used the Egyptian names for their days of the week: the day of the sun, of the moon, of the planet Mars, of Mercury, of Jupiter, of Venus, and of Saturn.

While we get our names for the days not from the Romans but from the Anglo-Saxons, who called most of the days after their own gods, which were roughly the same as the gods of the Romans. A day, by the way, used to be counted as the space between sunrise and sunset. The Romans counted it as from midnight, and most modern nations use this method.

59. In the early times there were no names for the days, because men_____

- A. had not yet created the idea of grouping seven days in a week
- B. did not know how to spell "week"
- C. considered unnecessary to have the names
- D. did not believe it was the time to invent the week



60. Which of the following is true for those earlier times?

- A. It became necessary for each day to have a separate name when men began to build cities.
- B. There were so many days in the month that it was impossible for each day to have its own name.
- C. At that time the day that got a name was called a market day.
- D. The Babylonians decided people must work on a market day.

61. In this context, the word "week" means

- A. any market day
- B. the Sabbath Day
- C. the days between those for religious purposes
- D. the day for trade and religious festivals

62. Our present names for the days of the week are .

- A. quite different from the old times



B. mostly named after the gods of the Anglo-Saxons

C. more or less the same as those the Egyptians are using

D. used to count the number of days in a week