

The Sabbath

Everyone knows the fourth Commandment: Remember the Sabbath Day, to keep it holy.

Exodus 20:8-11

Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work: **But the seventh day is the sabbath of the LORD** thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates: For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: **wherefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it.**

When you study the Bible dispensationally, you take God “at His word” and when it says, “But the seventh day is the sabbath of the Lord thy God:,” you do not try to make Sunday the Sabbath day. Sunday is, and has always been, the first day of the week. Saturday is the Sabbath day and God told Moses to give this commandment to the children of Israel. It does not apply to us.

The covenant God had with Abraham would give Abraham and his seed the land of Canaan for an everlasting possession and they would be His people and He would be their God.

Genesis 17:3-9

And Abram fell on his face: and God talked with him, saying, As for me, behold, **my covenant is with thee, and thou shalt be a father of many nations.** Neither shall thy name any more be called Abram, but thy name shall be Abraham; for a father of many nations have I made thee. And I will make thee exceeding fruitful, and I will make nations of thee, and kings shall come out of thee. **And I will establish my covenant between me and thee and thy seed after thee in their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be a God unto thee, and to thy seed after thee. And I will give unto thee, and to thy seed after thee, the land wherein thou art a stranger, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession; and I will be their God.** And God said unto Abraham, Thou shalt keep my covenant therefore, thou, and thy seed after thee in their generations.

The commandment to honor the Sabbath day is a sign of the perpetual covenant between God and Abraham and his generations. The commandment about the Sabbath Day will last forever, perpetually.

Exodus 31:12-18

And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, Speak thou also unto the children of Israel, saying, Verily my sabbaths ye shall keep: for it is a sign between me and you throughout your generations; that ye may know that I am the LORD that doth sanctify you. Ye shall keep the sabbath therefore; for it is holy unto you: every one that defileth it shall surely be put to death: for whosoever doeth any work therein, that soul shall be cut off from among his people. Six days may work be done; but in the seventh is the sabbath of rest, holy to the LORD: whosoever doeth any work in the sabbath day, he shall surely be put to death. Wherefore the children of Israel shall keep the sabbath, to observe the sabbath throughout their generations, for a perpetual covenant. It is a sign between me and the children of Israel for ever: for in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, and on the

seventh day he rested, and was refreshed. And he gave unto Moses, when he had made an end of communing with him upon mount Sinai, two tables of testimony, tables of stone, written with the finger of God.

For Israel, to honor the Sabbath day is to show their faith that God will honor His covenant. It is impossible to please God if you don't have faith.

Hebrews 11:6, 8-10

But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

⁸By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went. By faith he sojourned in the land of promise, as in a strange country, dwelling in tabernacles with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise: For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God.

It is not every descendent of Abraham that is included in the covenant with God. Only those people who are descended from Abraham through Isaac and then his son Jacob who are part of the everlasting covenant with God.

Exodus 6:4, 8

**And I have also established my covenant with them, to give them the land of Canaan, the land of their pilgrimage, wherein they were strangers.
8And I will bring you in unto the land, concerning the which I did swear to give it to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob; and I will give it you for an heritage: I am the LORD.**

When Israel got into their land, they were even supposed to allow the land of Canaan to honor a Sabbath year to the Lord. Every seventh year, they were not supposed to sow the fields or prune the vineyards. They were not even supposed to harvest anything that grew of its own accord during that seventh year.

Leviticus 25:1-7

And the LORD spake unto Moses in mount Sinai, saying, Speak unto the children of Israel, and say

unto them, **When ye come into the land which I give you, then shall the land keep a sabbath unto the LORD. Six years thou shalt sow thy field, and six years thou shalt prune thy vineyard, and gather in the fruit thereof; But in the seventh year shall be a sabbath of rest unto the land, a sabbath for the LORD: thou shalt neither sow thy field, nor prune thy vineyard.** That which groweth of its own accord of thy harvest thou shalt not reap, neither gather the grapes of thy vine undressed: for it is a year of rest unto the land. And the sabbath of the land shall be meat for you; for thee, and for thy servant, and for thy maid, and for thy hired servant, and for thy stranger that sojourneth with thee, And for thy cattle, and for the beast that are in thy land, shall all the increase thereof be meat.

By keeping this covenant, Israel showed their faith that God always provides for His people. God told them He would provide 3 times the crop in the 6th year to get them through the 7th and the 8th (planting and waiting for new crops.)

Leviticus 25:18-22

Wherefore ye shall do my statutes, and keep my judgments, and do them; and ye shall dwell in the land in safety. And **the land shall yield her fruit, and ye shall eat your fill, and dwell therein in safety.** And if ye shall say, What shall we eat the seventh year? behold, we shall not sow, nor gather in our increase: **Then I will command my blessing upon you in the sixth year, and it shall bring forth fruit for three years. And ye shall sow the eighth year, and eat yet of old fruit until the ninth year;** until her fruits come in ye shall eat of the old store.

The punishment for violating God's commandment to rest on the seventh day was death. The prohibition against working on the Sabbath extended to building a fire in your home to heat it!

Exodus 35:1-3

And Moses gathered all the congregation of the children of Israel together, and said unto them, These are the words which the LORD hath commanded, that ye should do them. Six days shall work be done, but on the seventh day there

shall be to you an holy day, **a sabbath of rest to the LORD: whosoever doeth work therein shall be put to death. Ye shall kindle no fire throughout your habitations upon the sabbath day.**

Without faith, it is impossible to please God. God means what He says.

Numbers 15:32-36

And while the children of Israel were in the wilderness, **they found a man that gathered sticks upon the sabbath day. And they that found him gathering sticks brought him unto Moses and Aaron, and unto all the congregation.** And they put him in ward, because it was not declared what should be done to him. **And the LORD said unto Moses, The man shall be surely put to death: all the congregation shall stone him with stones without the camp.** And all the congregation brought him without the camp, and stoned him with stones, and he died; as the LORD commanded Moses.

When the people of Judah did not allow the land to have its Sabbaths, the punishment was severe! Many people were killed as they were carried out of their land (to Babylon for 70 years) to make up for all of the land's missed Sabbath years.

2 Chronicles 36:17-21

Therefore he brought upon them the king of the Chaldees, who slew their young men with the sword in the house of their sanctuary, and had no compassion upon young man or maiden, old man, or him that stooped for age: he gave them all into his hand. And all the vessels of the house of God, great and small, and the treasures of the house of the LORD, and the treasures of the king, and of his princes; all these he brought to Babylon. And they burnt the house of God, and brake down the wall of Jerusalem, and burnt all the palaces thereof with fire, and destroyed all the goodly vessels thereof. And them that had escaped from the sword carried he away to Babylon; where they were servants to him and his sons until the reign of the kingdom of Persia: To fulfil the word of the LORD by the mouth of Jeremiah, until the land had enjoyed her

sabbaths: for as long as she lay desolate she kept sabbath, to fulfil threescore and ten years.

Many psalms have been written about the Kingdom of Heaven on the earth (the Promised Land of Canaan through God's covenant with Abraham) with Jesus Christ on David's throne as King. It is referred to as "Rest" many times. Try substituting the word "Kingdom" when you see the word "Rest."

Psalm 95:10-11

Forty years long was I grieved with this generation, and said, It is a people that do err in their heart, and they have not known my ways: **Unto whom I swear in my wrath that they should not enter into my rest.**

Psalm 132:8-18

Arise, O LORD, into thy rest; thou, and the ark of thy strength. Let thy priests be clothed with righteousness; and let thy saints shout for joy. For thy servant David's sake turn not away the face of thine anointed. **The LORD hath sworn in truth unto David; he will not turn from it; Of the fruit of thy body will I set upon thy throne. If**

thy children will keep my covenant and my testimony that I shall teach them, their children shall also sit upon thy throne for evermore. For the LORD hath chosen Zion; he hath desired it for his habitation. This is my rest for ever: here will I dwell; for I have desired it. I will abundantly bless her provision: I will satisfy her poor with bread. I will also clothe her priests with salvation: and her saints shall shout aloud for joy. There will I make the horn of David to bud: I have ordained a lamp for mine anointed. His enemies will I clothe with shame: but upon himself shall his crown flourish.

In the following passage, you see how the words “kingdom” and “rest” are tied together. The land promised by God was an inheritance and when Israel was in that land, they could rest from all of their enemies and dwell in safety.

Deuteronomy 12:9-10

For ye are not as yet come to the rest and to the inheritance, which the LORD your God giveth you. But when ye go over Jordan, and dwell in the land which the LORD your God giveth you to inherit, and when he giveth you rest from all

your enemies round about, so that ye dwell in safety;

The most famous of these psalms about the Kingdom is the 23rd Psalm. It is a beautiful, comforting Psalm about God's Love and Protection for His people. It is often read at funerals, but it not about God's promises to the Church, the Body of Christ. It was written by King David to remind Israel about the covenant with Abraham and how faithful God is: that they can always count on His Love and Protection.

Psalms 23

(A Psalm of David.) The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me. Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. Surely goodness and

mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and **I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.**

You may not have noticed this before, but, studied dispensationally, you must consider that the house of the Lord is the Temple. It may be confusing that someone will live in the Temple on earth forever, because we are promised a Heavenly Kingdom. But also consider, Jesus will rule the Kingdom of Heaven on the earth from the Temple in Jerusalem. David and the apostles and other faithful Jews will rule and reign with Jesus, forever, from the Temple. This is not about believers in the Church, the Body of Christ living in the Temple forever.

In another psalm, David explains that those who are in the house of the Lord (the rulers of the Kingdom in the Temple) will allow those who dwell in Jerusalem and the rest of Israel (God's Rest) to live in peace and prosperity.

Psalm 122:1-9

(A Song of degrees of David.) **I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the LORD.** Our feet shall stand within thy gates,

O Jerusalem. Jerusalem is builded as a city that is compact together: Whither the tribes go up, the tribes of the LORD, unto the testimony of Israel, to give thanks unto the name of the LORD. For there are set thrones of judgment, the thrones of the house of David. **Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: they shall prosper that love thee. Peace be within thy walls, and prosperity within thy palaces.** For my brethren and companions' sakes, **I will now say, Peace be within thee. Because of the house of the LORD our God I will seek thy good.**

Hebrews was written to the Jews on earth, after the Rapture of the Church, the Body of Christ, when the Tribulation is happening (Ages to Come.) It goes all the way back to the Old Testament and the escape from Egypt, and the first time God tried to give Israel His Rest—Kingdom.

Hebrews 3:9-11, 16-19

When your fathers tempted me, proved me, and saw my works forty years. Wherefore I was grieved with that generation, and said, **They do alway err in their heart; and they have not**

known my ways. So I sware in my wrath, They shall not enter into my rest.)

¹⁶For some, when they had heard, did provoke: howbeit not all that came out of Egypt by Moses. But with whom was he grieved forty years? was it not with them that had sinned, whose carcasses fell in the wilderness? And **to whom sware he that they should not enter into his rest, but to them that believed not? So we see that they could not enter in because of unbelief.**

In chapter 4, Hebrews picks up from the Gospels and the first chapters of Acts to explain (again) who Jesus Christ is and what happened when He tried to set up God's Rest for Israel (the second time) during His first coming.

Hebrews 4:1-11

Let us therefore fear, lest, a promise being left us of entering into his rest, any of you should seem to come short of it. For unto us was the gospel preached, as well as unto them: but the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard it. For we which have believed do enter into rest, as he said, As I have sworn in my wrath, if they shall

enter into my rest: although the works were finished from the foundation of the world. For he spake in a certain place of the seventh day on this wise, And God did rest the seventh day from all his works. **And in this place again, If they shall enter into my rest.** Seeing therefore it remaineth that some must enter therein, and they to whom it was first preached entered not in because of unbelief: Again, he limiteth a certain day, saying in David, To day, after so long a time; as it is said, To day if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts. **For if Jesus had given them rest, then would he not afterward have spoken of another day.**

It is written to prepare believing Jews, throughout the world, for Jesus to come again, and this time set up His forever Kingdom (Rest) as King and Redeemer of the world.

Hebrews 11:9-11

There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God. For he that is entered into his rest, he also hath ceased from his own works, as God did from his. Let us labour therefore to enter into

that rest, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief.

The following passage describes what it will look like when Israel is gathered into her Kingdom by the Lord Jesus Christ at His second coming. They will obey the Lord God and be His people, and He will be their God. This did not happen in 1948.

Ezekiel 11:17-20

Therefore say, Thus saith the Lord GOD; **I will even gather you from the people, and assemble you out of the countries where ye have been scattered, and I will give you the land of Israel.** And they shall come thither, and they shall take away all the detestable things thereof and all the abominations thereof from thence. And **I will give them one heart, and I will put a new spirit within you; and I will take the stony heart out of their flesh, and will give them an heart of flesh:** That they may walk in my statutes, and keep mine ordinances, and do them: and they shall be my people, and I will be their God.

Hebrews tells us why Israel will (finally) obey the voice of the Lord and do all His commandments.

Hebrews 10:15-17

Whereof the Holy Ghost also is a witness to us: for after that he had said before, **This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, saith the Lord, I will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them; And their sins and iniquities will I remember no more.**

God compares the tablets of stone on which the Law was written, to the hardened hearts of stone of the people who disobeyed Him. The Lord will, this time, give them hearts of flesh and write the Law into their hearts and minds, instead of on tablets of stone.

Ezekiel 36:26

A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh.

This is what Israel of the past, and people who become believers after the Rapture, have to look forward to, when Jesus comes again to set up His Kingdom. To show their faith—that they believe

God will do this—Israel must honor the Sabbath by resting; even after the Kingdom has been established. It is a perpetual sign.