

## Sabbath

**purpose:** To show that the 7<sup>th</sup> day Sabbath is a perpetual sign of God's creative and redemptive work.

**\*Introduction:** Two studies ago we learned that God wants to write his law on our hearts and minds. In another study we learned that the Antichrist is going to try to change God's law. Isn't that a brilliant strategy by the Devil?

Begin with these texts only if previous study was the Antichrist.

Isaiah 14:12,13

- Devil wants God's place

Daniel 7:25

- Antichrist is going to attempt to change God's law.
- **Transition:** What does God say about His people at the end of time?

Revelation 14:12

- They will keep the commandments of God and have the faith of Jesus.
- **Transition:** Let's look at one of the 10 commandments that the Antichrist has attempted to change.

Exodus 20:1,2,8-11

- Right in the center of the God's law is the commandment to keep the 7<sup>th</sup> day Sabbath.
- Roman church has attempted to change this day from Sabbath to Sunday.
- This change can be found nowhere in the Bible. The change that has happened has happened because the Antichrist has made the change.
- **Transition:** The God that created everything also led Israel out of Egypt and spoke the 10 commandments. Transitive property applies.
  - Creator
  - Deliverer
  - Law Giver

John 1:1-3, 14

- The Word was in the beginning and was with God
- The Word became flesh and dwelt among us- He is Jesus
- All things were made by Him
- Jesus is the Creator; therefore Jesus is the Deliverer, and the Law Giver. (1 Corinthians 10:4)
- **Transition:** Let's go look at when God gave the Sabbath.

Genesis 1:31-2:3

- God (Jesus) created everything in six days.
- The reason God blessed the Sabbath day was because it was the day on which He rested.
- **Transition:** So far we've learned that Jesus created the Sabbath in the beginning and commanded the Sabbath on Mount Sinai. How did Jesus relate to the Sabbath?

Mark 2:27, 28

- The Sabbath was made for man.
- Jesus was appropriately redefining how to keep the Sabbath.
- **Transition:** How did Jesus behave on the Sabbath day?

Luke 4:16

- Jesus had a habit of going to the synagogue on Sabbath and participating in the service.
- **Transition:** We know that Jesus created, commanded, and even kept the Sabbath. But how do we know when the Sabbath actually is?

Luke 23:53-24:3

- Crucified on Friday, Resurrected on Sunday morning (Easter Sunday)
- Jesus rested on the Sabbath in the middle of these two days- Saturday. (according to the commandment)
- \*Note: Luke was written 30 years after Jesus died, yet still said that Jesus rested according to the commandment.
- **Transition:** Let's see how Jesus expected the early Christian church to relate to the Sabbath.

Matthew 24:20

- He warns them to pray that they would not have to flee on the Sabbath.
- He said this in 31 AD and was predicting the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 AD. He tells them to pray that they won't have to flee on the Sabbath so they won't miss the blessing of the day by having to flee. Like praying that Grandma won't die on Christmas. Don't want something sad to happen on a day that is intended for joy and gladness.
- The Sabbath was still important to the early Christians 39 years after his death!

Acts 13:14-16, 37-39, 42-44

- Paul is preaching on the Sabbath.
- Gentiles asked for him to preach again the next Sabbath. So the next Sabbath almost the whole city came again to hear Paul.
- This would have been an excellent opportunity for Paul to announce to a hungry crowd that the new day to worship was Sunday. But no, the apostles didn't change the day. It was changed later on by the Antichrist.
- **Transition:** Let's look at what Jesus prophesied about the Sabbath and eternity.

Isaiah 66:22,23

- In the new heaven and the new earth we will keep the Sabbath!
- Of course there would be no change to God's eternal law!

**appeal:** What is God's new covenant promise? It is to write the law on your heart. Do you want only 50% of it on your heart? 60%? 70%? 90%? I don't know about you, but I want the whole thing. I want everything that God has for me written in my life. I'm scared to death to let the Antichrist write anything in my life. What would keep you from opening up your heart and mind to the Spirit of God and allowing Him to write all of His law there including the 7<sup>th</sup> day Sabbath?

## defend it:

I was in the Spirit on the Lord's Day (Revelation 1:10)

- Later in history "Lord's Day" has sometimes come to refer to Sunday
- However, in the early Christian church Lord's Day
- Isaiah 58:13- The Lord's Day is the Sabbath
- Exodus 20:10- 7<sup>th</sup> day is the Sabbath of the Lord
- Mark 2:27,28- Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath

1 Corinthians 16:1-3

- Lay something aside at home so that you're not short when it comes to give offering.
- Early Christians and Jews did not take offerings on Sabbath. It makes sense because they didn't feel comfortable dealing with money (buying/selling) on Sabbath.

Paul says that one person esteems one day, another esteems every day alike (Romans 14:5,6)

- Ask them to read the chapter and find where the word Sabbath occurs (it isn't there).
- Ask: Do you think it's possible that Paul could be speaking of something other than the Sabbath.
  - Paul is talking about observing a day in honor of the Lord either by fast days or feast days.
  - Illustration: Early Methodists fasted every Wednesday and Friday. Does that mean that it was a commandment of the Lord? Wouldn't it be easy for someone who chose not to fast to be judged by the others as non-spiritual? Yes! This is what Romans 14 is about! He is talking about opinions and not commandments.

Acts 20:7-8

- The dark part of the day is at the beginning of the day. So the dark part of Sunday (first day of the week) is really Saturday night.
- Paul preaches Saturday night and leaves Sunday morning.
- Paul has spent his last Sabbath with the church, eat together, and continue meeting into the night (1<sup>st</sup> day). After the Sabbath is over, he travels to the next town.

The Adventist Achilles heal (Colossians 2:16)

- "Let no man...judge you... or of the sabbath days."
- Book by Ron DuPreez *Judging the Sabbath*
- Hebrew word Shabbat occurs a lot in the OT, 94x talking about the Sabbath. 85% talking about the 7<sup>th</sup> day Sabbath. 15% talking about something other than the Sabbath.
- How do you know when it is talking about the Sabbath and when it isn't?
  - Words: keep, the, day, holy, my; Concepts: cyclical, context.
    - If you see these you can be almost %100 sure it's talking about the 7<sup>th</sup> day Sabbath.
    - If you see one of these words, you know for a fact it is talking about the 7<sup>th</sup> day Sabbath.
  - Words: afflict, weeks, of the land, her/its, your; Concepts: Context
    - Whenever you see these, you know for a fact that it is not talking about the 7<sup>th</sup> day Sabbath.

- There are other rest days.
- In the NT the Greek is either translated as “7<sup>th</sup> day Sabbath” or “week”
  - Talking about the Sabbath
    - Words: the, day, lawful, synagogue, keep
    - Concepts: cyclical, context
  - Not talking about the Sabbath
    - Words: one, first, twice
    - Concepts: context
    - Word sabbath can also mean “week”.
- In Colossians 2, none of the linguistic markers are there (in the Greek) that would be there if it was talking about the 7<sup>th</sup> day Sabbath. None of the linguistic markers are there for the “week” translation either. This is a unique translation of the word.
- There is only one place in the Bible outside of Colossians where you have feasts, new moons, sabbaths (these three, in that order).
  - Hosea 2:11
    - Linguistic marker “her” is here, indicating that this is talking about ceremonial sabbaths.
    - Feast is from the word “Hag”, which refers to Passover, Feast of Booths, and Firstfruits. These were the pilgrimage feasts that required a trip to Jerusalem.
    - What are the sabbaths Hosea is talking about?
      - Leviticus 23:23- Feast of trumpets called a “sabbath”.
      - Leviticus 23:32- Day of Atonement also called a sabbath day.
      - In the OT, there was a prophecy that God was going to put an end to Passover, Booths, and Firstfruit feasts, the new moon celebrations, and the Feast of trumpets and the Day of Atonement. The NT tells us that that was fulfilled by the coming of the Messiah.
    - Why did God put an end to these specific holidays?
      - Colossians 2:16,17
      - Shadows of things to come- the body was of Christ!
      - They prefigured Jesus
        - Passover- Jesus died and was resurrected
        - Feast of Weeks- HS poured out
        - Day of Atonement- our judge
      - When Jesus came, God put an end to these feasts because the real thing had come!
- For many, you can simply say, this text is talking about ceremonial sabbaths that pointed forward to the coming of Jesus.

Sabbath was made for man and not man for the Sabbath

- God made the Sabbath to benefit us.

Jesus is our Sabbath rest (Come unto me all ye that labor and are heavy laden. Matthew 11:28)

- Jesus is talking about the rest of salvation
- Rest of salvation has been available since the creation of the world, as has the rest of the Sabbath.

\*Note about Christmas: The Bible says it is okay to take days and keep them in honor of the Lord by feasting or fasting.