

## SABBATH DAY

The Sabbath is the 7<sup>th</sup> day of the week set aside by God for God. It was instituted at Creation and formed the framework for the operation of the whole of society. Even today we still base our society on a 7-day cycle. This has not changed since creation and it is so integral in our lives that we just don't think about it. Other societies have tried 10-day cycles etc but have always reverted to the 7-day cycle.

This cycle formed the basis of the calendar that God's people operated under with the full moon (every 28 days) dividing the year into workable segments.

It provided a time of rest and recreation for mankind and a time set apart to spend with God for HIS pleasure.

The Traditional Church has set its own agenda and changed this sacred 7<sup>th</sup> day to Sunday, the 1<sup>st</sup> day. Some groups have transferred all the aspects of God's Sabbath to their own day; others have removed the whole concept by saying every day is a Sabbath.

It comes down to whom you believe!!

### CHARACTERISTICS OF THE SABBATH

- **7<sup>th</sup> day of the week set aside by God for God.**

*Exo 20:8 Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.*

*Exo 20:9 Six days you shall labour and do all your work.*

*Exo 20:10 But the seventh day is the Sabbath of Jehovah your God. You shall not do any work, you, nor your son, nor your daughter, your manservant, nor your maidservant, nor your cattle, nor your stranger within your gates.*

- **God kept it Himself**

*Gen 2:2 And on the seventh day God ended His work which He had made. And He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had made.*

- **God sanctified it**

*Gen 2:3 And God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it, .....*

- **As a memorial of Creation**

*.....sanctified it, because in it He had rested from all His work which God created to make.*

- **Instituted before giving of the Law.**

*Exo 16:25 And Moses said, Eat that today. For today is a sabbath to Jehovah.....*

- **God did not work on His Sabbath by providing manna**

*.....Today you shall not find it in the field.*

*Exo 20:11 For in six days Jehovah made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day.*

- **He expected them not to work on Sabbath**

*Exo 16:26 Six days you shall gather it, but on the seventh day, the sabbath, in it there shall be none.*

- **Integral part of First Covenant. Fourth Commandment**

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*Exo 20:11 For in six days Jehovah made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day. Therefore Jehovah blessed the Sabbath day, and sanctified it.*

- **Part of God's Appointed Feasts. First item**

*Lev 23:3 Six days shall work be done, but the seventh day is the sabbath of rest, a holy convocation. You shall not do any work. It is a sabbath to Jehovah in all your dwellings.*

- **Marker for Calculating dates of Appointed Festivals**

*Lev 23:15 And you shall count to you from the next day after the sabbath, from the day that you brought the sheaf of the wave offering; seven sabbaths shall be complete.*

*Lev 23:16 To the next day after the seventh sabbath you shall number fifty days. And you shall offer a new food offering to Jehovah.*

- **Concept carried through to a rest for the land. Sabbatical Year**

*Lev 25:4 But in the seventh year shall be a sabbath of rest to the land, a sabbath for Jehovah. You shall neither sow your field, nor prune your vineyard.*

- **God used Sabbath concept to reboot the society with the Jubilee.**

*Lev 25:8 And you shall number seven sabbaths of years to you, seven times seven years. And the time of the seven sabbaths of years shall be forty-nine years to you.*

*Lev 25:9 Then you shall cause the trumpet of the jubilee to sound on the tenth of the seventh month; in the day of atonement, the trumpet shall sound throughout all your land.*

*Lev 25:10 And you shall make the fiftieth year holy, one year, and proclaim liberty throughout the land to all its inhabitants. It shall be a jubilee to you, and you shall return each man to his possession, and you shall return each man to his family.*

- **Reiterated throughout Israel's history**

*2Ch 2:4 Behold, I am building a house to the name of Jehovah my God, to dedicate it to Him, and to burn before Him sweet incense, and for the continual showbread, and for the burnt offerings morning and evening, on the sabbaths, and on the new moons, and on the solemn feasts of Jehovah our God. This is an ordinance forever to Israel.*

- **Given as a sign that they were God's special people**

*Eze 20:12 And also I gave them My sabbaths to be a sign between Me and them, that they might know that I am Jehovah who sets them apart.*

- **Acknowledgement of their faith in God's protection**

*Jer 17:27 But if you will not listen to me to keep the Sabbath day holy, and not to carry a burden, even entering in at the gates of Jerusalem on the Sabbath day; then I will kindle a fire in its gates,*

*and it will devour the palaces of Jerusalem, and it will not be put out.*

- **Token of commitment to God which overrode more excluding aspects. It is a weightier matters of the Law**

**Mat 23:23** *Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you pay tithes of mint and dill and cumin, and you have left undone the weightier matters of the Law, judgment, mercy, and faith. You ought to have done these and not to leave the other undone.*

**Jer 17:27** *But if you will not listen to me to keep the Sabbath day holy, and not to carry a burden, even entering in at the gates of Jerusalem on the Sabbath day; then I will kindle a fire in its gates, and it will devour the palaces of Jerusalem, and it will not be put out.*

- **Jesus kept the Saturday Sabbath during His life.**

**Mar 1:21** *And they went into Capernaum. And immediately on the sabbath day He entered into the synagogue and taught.*

**Luk 4:31** *And He came down to Capernaum, a city of Galilee, and taught them on the sabbath days.*

**Luk 4:16** *And He came to Nazareth, where He had been brought up. And, as His custom was, He went in to the synagogue on the Sabbath day and stood up to read.*

**Luk 4:31** *And He came down to Capernaum, a city of Galilee, and taught them on the sabbath days.*

**Luk 6:6** *And it happened, also on another sabbath, that He entered into the synagogue and taught*

**Luk 13:10** *And He was teaching in one of the synagogues on the sabbath.*

**Luk 23:54** *And that day was the Preparation, and the sabbath drew on.*

- **His disciples lived it**

**Mar 15:42** *And it, becoming evening already, since it was the Preparation, that is, the day before sabbath,*

**Mar 15:43** *Joseph of Arimathea, an honourable counsellor, who also waited for the kingdom of God, came and went in boldly to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus.*

**Mar 16:1** *And when the sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene and Mary, the mother of James and Salome, had bought sweet spices so that they might come and anoint Him.*

- **Jesus said He was the Lord of the Sabbath.**

**Mat 12:8** *For the Son of Man is Lord even of the sabbath.*

**Mar 2:28** *Therefore the Son of Man is also Lord of the sabbath.*

- **Jesus changed spent a lot of energy refocusing the point of the Sabbath, rest and joy not Law and legalism.**

**Mar 3:4** *And He said to them, Is it lawful to do good on the sabbath days, or to do evil? To save life,*

or to kill?

**Mar 2:27** And He said to them, The sabbath came into being for man's sake, and not man for the sabbath's sake.

**Joh 5:10** Therefore the Jews said to him who had been healed, It is the sabbath. It is not lawful for you to take up the bed.

**Joh 5:11** He answered them, He who made me whole said to me, Take up your bed and walk.

- **Disciples also continued the Sabbath celebration**

**Act 13:14** But going through from Perga, they came to Antioch in Pisidia and went into the synagogue on the sabbath day and sat down.

**Act 13:27** For those living in Jerusalem, and their rulers, not having known this One, and the voices of the Prophets being read throughout every sabbath, condemning Him, they fulfilled the Scriptures.

**Act 13:44** And on the coming sabbath day almost all the city came together to hear the Word of God.

**Act 16:13** And on the sabbath we went out of the city by a river side, where prayer was usually made. And we sat down and spoke to the women who came together there.

This was a gentile city

**Act 18:4** And he reasoned in the synagogue on every sabbath, persuading both Jews and Greeks.

- **Paul also emphasised the importance honouring the Sabbath in love and not Legalism**

**Rom 14:5** One indeed esteems a day above another day; and another esteems every day alike. Let each one be fully assured in his own mind.

**Rom 14:6** He who regards the day regards it to the Lord; and he not regarding the day, does not regard it to the Lord. He who eats, eats to the Lord, for he gives God thanks; and he who does not eat, does not eat to the Lord, and gives God thanks.

- **Basis of our hope for and in the promised Kingdom**

**Heb 4:1** Therefore, a promise being left to enter into His rest, let us fear lest any of you should seem to come short of it.

**Heb 4:2** For also we have had the gospel preached, as well as them. But the Word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in those who heard it.

**Heb 4:3** For we who have believed do enter into the rest, as He said, "

- **Nowhere in Scripture is the Seventh Day Sabbath changed to First Day Sunday**
- **Roman Catholic Church actively acknowledged that they decreed the change.**

The Roman emperor Constantine, a former sun-worshiper, professed conversion to Christianity and named himself Bishop of the Catholic Church and enacted the first civil law regarding Sunday observance in A.D. 321.

*On the venerable day of the sun let the magistrate and people residing in cities rest, and let all workshops be closed. In the country however, persons engaged in agricultural work may freely and lawfully continue their pursuits; because it often happens that another day is not so suitable for grain growing or for vine planting; lest by neglecting the proper moment for such operations the bounty of heaven should be lost. —Schaff's History of the Christian Church, vol. III, chap. 75.*

- Transferred all Sabbath concepts from Seventh to the First day of the week.

*In AD325, Pope Sylvester officially named Sunday "the Lord's Day," and in A.D. 338, Eusebius, the court bishop of Constantine, wrote, "All things whatsoever that it was the duty to do on the Sabbath (the seventh day of the week) we (Constantine, Eusebius, and other bishops) have transferred to the Lord's Day (the first day of the week) as more appropriately belonging to it."*

**Rev 22:14** *Blessed are they who do His commandments, that their authority will be over the Tree of Life, and they may enter in by the gates into the city.*