

THE SABBATH OF JESUS

In our last two studies, we found in Scripture that God's ten commandments are eternal, timeless, and changeless, even as God Himself is eternal, timeless, and changeless. They reveal to us God's holy character, with its loveliness, selflessness, majesty, purity, honesty, truthfulness. They show sinners where they are out of harmony with such a God, a condition the Bible calls sin (1 John 3:4). Thus, they help us to see our great need of Christ, who willingly forgives the sins of every repentant person (Matthew 1:21; John 6:37). And Christ, in turn, creates a love within our hearts that enables us to want to keep the ten commandments (John 14:15)."

Referring to the ten commandments, John Wesley once said: "Every part of this law must remain in force upon all mankind and in all ages; as not depending either on time or place, or any other circumstance liable to change, but on the nature of God and nature of man, and their unchangeable relation to each other."---Sermons, Vol. I, Sermon 25, pages 221,222.

We found this to be biblically true in our last studies. But it also now raises some questions. First, is the fourth commandment, the seventh day Sabbath, as eternal as the rest of the commandments? Is it important which day we keep, just so we keep one? Was there a change made by Christ or the apostles which could help us to correctly answer these questions? Let us see what we can find in the Bible.

1. We already know that about 2,500 years after creation, God gave the ten commandments to Moses at Mt. Sinai. Re-read the Sabbath commandment that He gave at that time in Exodus 20:8-11. If you would look up the word "Sabbath" in a Bible concordance, and read every text in which it occurs from Moses' day to the time of Christ, we would have no question that it was continually observed (and broken) throughout that period of history.
2. Was Sinai really its beginning place? Re-read Exodus 20:11, and then Genesis 2:1-3. Where, when, how did it really begin?

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3. Is the Sabbath ever referred to again before it was given on Mt. Sinai? What do we find in Exodus 16:1-3, 11-26, in connection with the Israelites in the wilderness before Sinai?
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(It is important to note two things in reference to the commandments in this early, pre-Sinai, period of history. First, though there is little mention of "Commandments" or "Sabbath," the records clearly point out the "rights" and "wrongs" as contained in the ten commandments. Second, the commandments and Sabbath existed long before there was a Jew on earth. Thus, it is difficult to say that the Sabbath was given only for the Jews.)

4. What was the attitude and practice of Jesus in relation to the Sabbath in His day? Write down what you find in these texts.
 - (a) Matthew 12:8
 - (b) Mark 6:2; Luke 4:16
 - (c) Luke 6:1-11

(Christ's great objective was to put love back into Sabbath-keeping, something that the Jews of the period between the Old and New Testaments, and in Jesus' day had almost totally removed.)

- (d) Which day of the week was still the Sabbath at the time when Jesus died, according to Luke 23:54-24:1? _____
5. As we move beyond Christ's ascension, into the period of the apostles and the early Christian church, what do we find being practiced and taught in relation to the seventh-day Sabbath?
- (a) Acts 13:14-16, 42-44 (about 15 years later) _____
- (b) Read also Acts 16:12,13; 17:1,2; 18:1-4,11.
6. What had Jesus Himself told the Jews to pray about in connection with the destruction of Jerusalem in AD 70, in Matthew 24:20? _____
7. Knowing that the faithful apostle John was a Sabbath-keeper, what would we conclude about his teaching on the Sabbath near the end of the first century, AD, by tying together Revelation 1:10, Mark 2:27,28, and Exodus 20:10? _____
8. What did Isaiah teach in Isaiah 66:22,23 as he was shown a time far off in the future? _____

The **CREATOR**, Jesus, gave Adam the Sabbath (Gen. 2:1-3).

The **LAWGIVER**, Jesus, gave Moses the Sabbath (James 4:12).

The **SAVIOR**, Jesus, kept the Sabbath (Luke 4:16).

The **KING** of the new earth, Jesus, preserves the Sabbath throughout eternity. (Isaiah 66:22,23).

What will we do today, about the Sabbath of Jesus, which, like a great arch, spans time from eternity to eternity? In our next lesson we will see what the Bible tells us about its purpose, how we can be blessed as we keep Jesus' eternal day.

2. _____ _____		4. _____ _____		8. _____ _____ _____
3. _____ _____		1. _____ _____		5. _____ _____ 6,7. _____
		+		
1	2	3	4	5
Jesus, the _____	Jesus, the _____		Jesus, the _____	Jesus, the _____