

Sabbath Day

(Part Two)

The word Sabbath in the Hebrew dictionary is 7676 and 7673 and means to repose, cease, or rest. When we consider the seventh day Sabbath, the word seven is from the root (savah) to be full or satisfied. What caused the seventh day to be full or satisfied? To get a proper understanding we would need to examine the law as it appears in the ten commandments.

Exodus 20: 4, “ Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy”. 9, “Six days shalt thou do thy labor, and do all thy work:” 10, “ But the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord thy God, in it thou shall not do any work, thou thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor the cattle or the stranger that is within thy gates: 11, “ for in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea and all that is in them , and rested the seventh day, and hollowed it.

Exodus 20:4-11, these scriptures are a reference to the 1st and 2nd chapters of Genesis to the work that God did.

Genesis 2:2“And on the sixth day God ended His work which He had made; and He rested on the seventh day from all His work that He had made. 3, and God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it; because that in it He had rested from all His work which God created and made.

The fourth commandment is the longest commandment with explanation given to us so it must be important. The word sanctified in verse 3 is number 6942 and means to be, make, pronounce, or observe as clean.

God is telling us that His creation is perfect and satisfying to Him and perfect for the first phase of His creation . The second

phase and continuation of his creation doesn't commence until after He had rested. First came the work and then came the rest.

The nation of Israel, were the only people that had the teachings of God given to their forefathers, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. Being in bondage under Egyptian rule caused them to forget God's law until He called them out of Egypt.

Hosea 11:1, When Israel was a child, then I loved him, and Called My son out of Egypt.

Mount Sinai was the place where God would echo His law to bring attention to the creation itself, that it was good and that it would, upon obedience, bring blessings to them and others who they would come in contact with. But what of the people's attitude at Mount Sinai?

Exodus 20:18, And all the people saw the thundering and lightning, and the noise of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking: and when the people saw it, they removed, and stood afar off. 19, And they said to Moses, " Speak thou with us yourself and we will hear, but let not God speak with us, lest we die.

What did God think of the people who He brought out of Egypt?

Psalms 78: 7, speaking of future generations " That they might set their hope in God , and not forget the works of God, but keep His commandments. 8, And might not be as their fathers, a stubborn and rebellious generation; A generation that set not their heart aright, and whose spirit was not steadfast with God.

Why did God did give them a weekly and other Sabbaths in their forty year journey? The people were chosen to be His treasure in the world. They were the first who were to set an example as the

people of God to others who they would come in contact with.
What went wrong?

When Moses was on Mount Sinai the people rebelled against him as well as God. God then took the office of the people from them and gave their responsibilities to the tribe of Levi. They didn't want to be led by a God that they couldn't see so God had to give them ordinances that would not profit them.

Colossians 2:14, "Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us , nailing it to the cross." Verse 16, " Let therefore let no man judge you in meat, or in drink, or respect of a holyday, or of the new moon, or of the sabbath days. 17, "which are a shadow of things to come; but the body is of Christ.

Ordinances were put in place because of the lack of faith of the people. These ordinances were like a parent having to spoon feed a child. God had to give them physical deeds to do that were a shadow of better things to come. Who was nailed to the cross? It was Jesus Christ.

There were more blood sacrifices of animals on the physical feasts days than at any other time.

Hebrews 10:1, For the law (of blood ordinances) having a shadow of good things to come, and not the very image of the things, can never with these sacrifices which they offered, year by year continually, make the comers perfect.

Before the law was given at Mount Sinai, God wanted to speak to the people directly.

Exodus 19:5, " Now therefore if you will obey My voice indeed, and keep My covenant, then you shall be a peculiar treasure unto Me above all people, for all the earth is mine".

They were to be God's treasure hid in the world. Why don't we read anywhere that the people ever entered God's rest (Sabbath)? God was leading the people from Egypt to the promise land. In doing so, the journey would encompass three of God's Feasts along the way. They were Passover (justification) Pentecost (Sanctification) and Tabernacles (glorification). The people rebelled and didn't have the faith to continue their journey.

The Apostle Paul tells of the people's rebellion.

Hebrews 3:7, Wherefore, as the Holy Spirit sayeth, Today if you hear His voice, 8, Harden not your hearts as in the provocation, in the day of temptation in the wilderness. 9, When your fathers tempted me, and saw my works forty years. 10, Wherefore I was grieved with that generation, and said, They do always err in their heart; And they have not known My ways. 11, So I swore in My wrath, They shall not enter into My rest.

How about today? Is there a rest for the people of God?

Hebrews 4:1. " 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." 2, "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." 3, " For we which have believed do enter into rest, as He said, " as He swore in My wrath, If they shall enter into My rest: although the works were finished from the foundation of the world." 4, " For He spoke in a certain place of the seventh day on this wise, " And God did rest on the seventh day from all His works.

Notice how the gospel was preached to them and the word preached to them did not profit them, not being mixed with faith.

Hebrews 4:8, " For if Jesus (Joshua) had given them rest then would they not have spoken of another day." 10, " For he

that is entered into his rest, he also hath ceased from his own works, as God did from His.” 11, “ Let us labor therefore to enter into that rest, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief.”

If we want to enter into God’s rest or Sabbaths, we would need to work in the same manner as God did. We need to consider that just as God rejuvenated the earth in the first chapter of Genesis, we need to do the same. We are all made of the dust of the ground therefore we are all like little earths. We all need to work on ourselves and labor toward the rest that we are promised.

11. Timothy 2:15, “Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needed not be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”

Jesus Christ is our rest, (Sabbath) and not for only one day a week. We can experience the warmth, comfort and security of trusting in Jesus Christ (God’s Savior) every day.

Matthew 12:28, “Come unto Me, all ye that labor and are heaven laden, and I will give you rest .” 29, “ Take My yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and you shall find rest for your souls.

In six days God worked to prepare man’s glory in the earth. Men work six days (Biblical number for man while we are in the flesh) to glorify God in the earth. God is already glorified in heaven, now His plan is for Him to be glorified in the earth. That’s us and He is our true rest.