

REMEMBER THE SABBATH DAY, TO KEEP IT HOLY MEANING FOR THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL

Introduction:

1. Throughout this study, it must be emphasized that man today is not under the Law of Moses – including the Ten Commandments.
2. However, the things that “were written aforetime were written for our learning” (Rom. 15:4).
3. THOU SHALT HAVE NO OTHER GODS BEFORE ME
4. THOU SHALT NOT MAKE ANY GRAVEN IMAGE
5. THOU SHALT NOT TAKE THE NAME OF THE LORD THY GOD IN VAIN

Overview:

1. In the religious world, there is much misunderstanding concerning the division between the Old Law and the New Testament.
2. Because of this, many mix parts of the two covenants when trying to determine what should be practiced in religion.
 - a. It is interesting that this problem does not seem to exist with relation to the Patriarchal Age.
 - b. Men seldom seek to bind commandments given before the Law of Moses onto the church today.
3. Thus, there are those who teach that Christians today should keep the Sabbath Day.
 - a. In fact, they mean that Christians should assemble to worship on Saturday instead of Sunday.
 - b. They do not keep the many, many restrictions that were a part of observing the Sabbath Day under the Law of Moses.
4. This lesson will consider what it meant truly to keep the Sabbath under the Law of Moses.
 - I. What Was the Purpose of the Sabbath?
 - A. To remind them of the power of God (Exo. 20:8-11; Gen. 2:1-3)
 1. As they kept the Sabbath, they were to remember God’s power displayed in the creation of the world.
 2. It was a reminder that God is in control and that His word is to be obeyed.
 3. It also demonstrated that His power was directed toward the care of His creation – namely, man.
 - B. To remind them of the protection of God (Deut. 5:12-15)
 1. As they kept the Sabbath, they were to remember God’s protection in delivering them from bondage in Egypt.
 2. In fact, they were to focus on their time as servants in Egypt.
 3. This was to create within them an attitude of dependence upon God and compassion for others, especially their servants and the downtrodden.
 4. Since God had cared for them, they should care for others.
 - C. To remind them of the provision of God (Exo. 16:23-29)

1. As they kept the Sabbath, they were to remember God's provision of manna in the wilderness.
 2. This was to encourage their complete faith and trust in God.
 3. It was also to keep them from becoming self-reliant and self-righteous.
 4. This was emphasized even more strongly in the command concerning the Sabbath year (Exo. 23:10-11; Lev. 25:1-12, 19-22).
- D. To remind them of the promise of God (Isa. 56:1-7; 58:13-14)
1. As they kept the Sabbath, they were to remember God's promise of blessing to those who obey His word.
 2. These promises were even offered to the Gentiles!
 3. Ultimately, it looked forward to the time of Christ and the blessing of salvation to the whole world.
- E. To remind them of the purpose of God (Exo. 31:13; Eze. 20:12)
1. As they kept the Sabbath, they were to remember God's purpose in choosing them as His holy nation.
 2. This was not to cause them to become arrogant or prideful.
 3. Rather, it was to encourage their separation from the world in anticipation of the coming Messiah.
 4. Also, it was to emphasize the true rest of God – in Heaven.

II. What Was Not To Be Done on the Sabbath?

- A. No work was to be done (Exo. 16:26; 20:10; 31:14-15; 35:2; Lev. 23:3).
- B. No fire was to be kindled (Exo. 16:23; 35:3).
- C. No travelling was to take place (Exo. 16:29; cf. Acts 1:12; Matt. 24:20).
- D. No buying or selling was to be done (Amos 8:5; Neh. 10:31; 13:15-19).
- E. No burden was to be borne (Jer. 17:21-22).
- F. One's own pleasure was not to be done (Isa. 58:13).

III. What Was To Be Done on the Sabbath?

- A. The Sabbath was to be remembered or kept (Exo. 20:8; Deut. 5:12).
- B. The Sabbath was to be kept holy or sanctified (Exo. 20:8; Deut. 5:12).
- C. The Sabbath was to be a day of rest.
- D. New shewbread was to be placed in the Tabernacle (Lev. 24:8; 1 Chr. 9:32).
- E. Sacrifice was to be made (Num. 28:9-10).

Conclusion:

1. The Sabbath was made for man (Mark 2:27).
2. Jesus is Lord of the Sabbath (Mark 2:28).
3. The Sabbath is fulfilled in Christ (Matt. 11:28-30).
4. God's true Sabbath rest is Heaven (Heb. 4:1-11).
5. Let no man judge you in respect of the Sabbath (Col. 2:16).