

OUR SABBATH REST

The first issue of the Sabbath day in Scripture comes to us in Genesis 2:1-3 in the summation of God's 6 days of creation.

1. God's work in creation was finished in 6 days.
2. On the seventh day God rested.
3. The setting apart of the Sabbath as a special celebration of the completed works of God was established before the Law was ever enacted or even considered.

HOW ARE WE TO UNDERSTAND HOW WE RELATE TO THE SABBATH DAY IN THE CHURCH AGE?

There are several groups calling themselves Christians who observe the Sabbath. The Seventh Day Adventists, Jehovah's Witnesses, and Seventh Day Baptists to mention some. The Commandment to keep the Sabbath is contained in the Ten Commandments in Exodus 20:8. The first mention of the Sabbath under Jewish law is in Exodus 16:23-29.

1. This passage as the first to mention Sabbath in relationship to Israel clearly indicates the concept of rest. Vs. 23
2. The Sabbath cannot be separated from the issue that it is unto the Lord. Vs. 23
3. The shadow of the completed work of God leading to a rest to the people of God is set forth in this passage. VV. 28-29

In the giving of the law the fourth commandment to observe the Sabbath is clearly explained as being a celebration of the completed work of God in Creation. Exodus 20:8-11

The Sabbath was established as a sign between Israel and God and is clearly taught to be unique to the nation Israel. As such it was a contract that was exclusive to Israel. Exodus 31:12-17

Of special note is the fact that there were many Sabbaths under the OT law that were not on the seventh day as we understand it in a literal sense.

1. Leviticus 23:3, 16,24,26,39
2. Leviticus 25:1-7 – If people observed the Sabbath truly they would do no work on the 7th year or the 50th year and they would forgive all debts owed to them by others at that time. The truth is that law keepers definitely keep the law selectively and not in every point.

The Sabbath was a reminder to Israel of their deliverance from Egypt. Deuteronomy 5:12-15

In the kingdom age the Sabbath will set as a sign of God's approval and choosing of Israel that all nations will observe. Isaiah 66:18-23

In the church age we are not under law but under grace. The law is fulfilled in every point in Christ Jesus. The law no longer has any effect on or in the Christian way of life. Romans 8:1-4 where we read: There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit. 2 For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death. 3 For what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, God did by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, on account of sin: He condemned sin in the flesh, 4 that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

1. The law was a shadow of things to come but the reality is in the completed work of Jesus Christ. Col 2:16-17 16 So let no one judge you in food or in drink, or regarding a festival or a new moon or sabbaths, 17 which are a shadow of things to come, but the substance is of Christ.
2. Jesus Christ as our new high priest and the Second man from heaven brings to us the heavenly things of which the law was a copy or shadow. Heb 8:3-6 For every high priest is appointed to offer both gifts and sacrifices. Therefore it is necessary that this One also have something to offer. 4 For if He were on earth, He would not be a priest, since there are priests who offer the gifts according to the law; 5 who serve the copy and shadow of the heavenly things, as Moses was divinely instructed when he was about to make the tabernacle. For He said, "See that you make all things according to the pattern shown you on the mountain."

The writer of Hebrews in Chapters 3 and 4 teaches us that the Sabbath was a picture of rest which Israel failed to enter into and then clearly explains that the Sabbath is representative of the completed works of God the Father and the Completed works of Jesus Christ who did all the works of bringing a bout our so great Salvation. Hebrews 3:9-13

1. They couldn't enter in to his rest because of unbelief. 3:18-19
2. The unbelief was lack of Salvation but was a lack of walking daily by faith in the completed works of God. Hebrews 4:1-3
3. The rest they didn't enter into is directly related to the principle daily obedience to allow God to be God and not to attempt to procure their own deliverance. Hebrews 4:4-6
4. That rest is clearly declared to be a fulfillment of the Sabbath. Hebrews 4:8-9
5. The Sabbath is therefore representative of the daily walk of the believer trusting in the completed works of God and of Jesus Christ at calvary and not struggling to think that their human works have anything to do with merit of salvation before God. It is the Word of God alone that is able to change our lives from that of self effort failure to victorious living utilizing our access to the Throne of Grace where Jesus Christ is seated in perfect rest after having completed our so great salvation and having broken down the barrier of sin allowing us access to the Father for complete provision. QUIT STRUGGLING.