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Rice Memorial MBC

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Sabbath Observance

Definitions in **bold letters** are from **Strong's** Exhaustive Concordance
Other definitions are from **Webster's** Dictionary, 1828 /1913 Edition
or Roget's Thesaurus – **September 17, 2017**

Worship with us at 3201 Mary St until we rebuild our sanctuary at 15th & State.
...We're located just behind Kaufman's Lumber Company in Little Rock Arkansas...

Exodus 31:12-18

Introduction: God is here drawing towards a conclusion of what he had to say to **Moses** upon the mount, where he had now been with him **forty days** and **forty nights** and yet no more is recorded of what was said to him in all that time than what we have read in the six chapters foregoing. In this, **I.** He appoints what workmen should be employed in the building and furnishing of the tabernacle, Exodus 31:1-11. **II.** He repeats the **law of the sabbath**, and the religious observance of it, Exodus 31:12-17. **III.** He delivers to him the TWO TABLES of the testimony at parting, Exodus 31:18.

(Source: <https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/mhm/exodus-31.html>)

Exodus 31:12-16, And the LORD (Yahweh) spake unto Moses, saying, Speak thou also unto the children of Israel, saying, Verily **my SABBATHS** ye shall keep: for it is a **sign** between me and you throughout your generations; that ye may KNOW that I am the LORD (Yahweh) that doth **sanctify (purify, keep clean, consecrate [set apart])** you. Ye shall keep the sabbath therefore; for it is HOLY unto you: every one that **defileth it** shall surely be **put to death:** for whosoever doeth **ANY work (employment)** therein, that soul shall be **cut off** from among his people. **Six days** may **WORK** be done; but in the **seventh** is the **sabbath** of **REST**, HOLY to the LORD: whosoever doeth **any work (employment)** in the sabbath day, he shall surely be **put to death.** Wherefore the children of Israel shall KEEP the sabbath, to observe the **sabbath** throughout **their generations,** for a **perpetual COVENANT.**

NOTE: my sabbaths ye shall keep NOT sabbaths of years, as the seventh year and the fiftieth year, but of WEEKS, expressed by the plural number, because there are many of them in course throughout the year, no less than **fifty two...;**

(Source: <https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/geb/exodus-31.html>)

NOTE: Orders were now given that a **tabernacle** should be **set up** and **furnished** for the service of God with all possible expedition but lest they should think that the nature of the work, and the **haste** that was required, would justify them in **working at it on sabbath** days, that they might get it done the sooner, **this caution** is seasonably inserted, *Verily, or nevertheless, my sabbaths you shall keep.* Though they must hasten the work, yet they must NOT make more haste than good speed they must NOT break the law of the sabbath in their haste: even **tabernacle-work** **MUST give way** to the **sabbath-rest** **so jealous** is God for the **honour** of **his sabbaths.** Observe what is here said concerning the sabbath day. **1.** The nature, meaning, and intention, of the sabbath, by the declaration of which

God puts an honour upon it, and teaches us to value it. Divers things are here said of the **sabbath**. **(1.)** *It is a sign between me and you* (Exodus 31:13), and again, Exodus 31:17. The institution of the sabbath was a great instance of God's favour to them, and a SIGN that he had distinguished them from all other people and their religious observance of the sabbath was a great instance of **their duty** and **obedience** to him. God, by sanctifying this day among them, let them know that he sanctified them, and **set them apart for himself** and **his service**. Otherwise, he would NOT have revealed to them his HOLY SABBATHS, to be the support of religion among them. Or it may refer to the law concerning the sabbath, *Keep my sabbaths, that you may know that I the Lord do sanctify you*. Note.... The Jews, by observing **ONE day** in **SEVEN**, **after SIX days' labour**, **testified** and **declared** that they worshipped the God who MADE the world in SIX days, and RESTED the seventh and so distinguished themselves from other nations... **(2.)** *It is holy unto you* (Exodus 31:14), that is, "**It is designed for YOUR benefit** as well as for **God's honour**" **the sabbath was made for MAN**. **(3.)** It is the *sabbath of REST, holy to the Lord*, Exodus 31:15. It is separated from COMMON USE, and designed for the honour and service of God...

(Source: <https://www.study-light.org/commentaries/mhm/exodus-31.html>)

Thought 1. To help clarify what WORK was ALLOWED on the Sabbath days, as well as, holy convocations, God healed people on a Sabbath day, as Jesus (Yahshua) obeyed him.

John 14:10, Believest thou not that I am IN the Father, and the **Father IN me?** the words that I speak unto you I speak NOT of myself: but the **Father** that **dwelleth in me**, **HE doeth the WORKS**.

Matthew 12:9-13, And they asked him, saying, Is it LAWFUL to **heal** on **the Sabbath** days? that they might accuse him. And he said unto them, What man shall there be among you, that shall have ONE SHEEP, and if it **fall into a pit** on the **Sabbath day**, will he NOT **lay hold on it**, and **lift it out?** How much then is a MAN better than a SHEEP? Wherefore **it is lawful to DO WELL** on the **Sabbath days**. Then saith he to the man, Stretch forth thine hand. And he stretched it forth; and it was RESTORED WHOLE, like as the other.

Luke 13:10-17, And he was teaching in one of the synagogues on the **SABBATH**. And, behold, there was a **woman** which had a **spirit of infirmity** eighteen years, and was **bowed together**, and could in no wise lift up herself. And when Jesus saw her, he called her to him, and said unto her, Woman, thou art **loosed** from thine infirmity. And he laid his hands on her: and immediately she was made straight, and glorified God. And the ruler of the synagogue answered with indignation, because that Jesus had **healed** on the **SABBATH DAY**, and said unto the people, There are **six days** in which men ought to WORK: in them therefore come and be healed, and not on the sabbath day. The Lord then answered him, and said, Thou **hypocrite**, doth not each one of you on **the sabbath** loose his ox or his ass from the stall, and lead him away to watering? And ought not this woman, being a daughter of **Abraham**, whom Satan hath bound, lo, these eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the **sabbath day?** And when he had said these things, all his adversaries were **ashamed**: and all the **people rejoiced** for all the glorious things that were **done** by him.

Thought 2. When Jesus (Yahshua) died, the New Covenant was brought into force by God (Yahweh). In it, he required LESS of man in regard to "ceremonies, traditions, and duties. This included laying aside the requirement to observe the "Sabbaths" in the Old covenant. However the MORALITY of the Old Covenant is still required! And is fulfilled in the commandment to BELIEVE on Jesus (Yahshua) and to LOVE as he commanded. Today, SOME Christians, who are not aware of this truth, still observe some OT traditions.

Hebrews 8:7-8, 13, For if that **FIRST covenant** had been **faultless**, then should no

place have been sought for **the SECOND**. For finding fault with them, he saith, Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, when I will make a **NEW covenant** with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah... .. In that he saith, A **NEW covenant, HE** hath made the FIRST **old (declare obsolete [GONE INTO DISUSE])**.

Hebrews 10:9, He **taketh AWAY** the **FIRST**, that he may establish the **SECOND**...

1 John 3:23, And THIS is **his COMMANDMENT**, That we should **BELIEVE** on the name of his Son Jesus and **LOVE** one another, as he gave us commandment.

Colossians 2:13-16, And you, being **dead** in your **sins** and the uncircumcision of your **FLESH (human nature)**, hath he **quicken**ed (make ALIVE) together with HIM, having forgiven you ALL trespasses;

Blotting out (wiping away) the handwriting of **ordinances (LAW)** was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to **his cross**... ..Let no man therefore **JUDGE (condemn)** you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an **HOLYDAY**, or of the new moon, or of the **SABBATH DAYS**...

Romans 10:1-4, Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for **Israel** is, that they might be saved. For I bear them record that they have a **ZEAL** of God, but not according to knowledge. For they being ignorant of **God's righteousness**, and going about to establish their OWN righteousness, have NOT submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God. For Christ is the **end (GOAL)** of **the law for righteousness** to **every one** that **BELIEVETH**.

Romans 13:8-10, Owe no man any thing, but to **LOVE** one another: for he that **loveth** another hath **fulfilled the law**. For this, Thou shalt not commit adultery....., and IF there be any other commandment, it is briefly comprehended in this saying, namely, Thou **shalt love** thy neighbour as thyself. LOVE worketh NO ill to his neighbour: therefore (for this reason) **LOVE is the fulfilling of the law**.

Exodus 31:17, It is a **SIGN** between me and the children of Israel **for ever**: for in **six days** the LORD made heaven and earth, and on the **seventh day** **he RESTED**, and was **REFRESHED**.

NOTE: It is a **sign** between me and the children ... for ever. The **Sabbath** was a **sign** between God and the people of Israel which they were always to be careful in observing—a national peculiarity evinced (proved) by its being always prominently associated with the sanctity of the temple, **new moons**, and other **feasts** (Lev. 19:30; Isaiah 1:13; 66:23; Ezekiel 45:17; Hosea 2:11), and by its being one of the pledges which the proselyte had for participating in the blessings of the covenant (Isaiah 56:6-8).

"**FOR EVER**," of course, means only commensurate with the duration of the **Jewish** economy (cf. Exodus 12:14; Exodus 12:17; Exodus 12:24; Leviticus 16:34; Num. 10:8). When the **covenant** was **disannulled**, the **sign could NOT remain**; and accordingly the seventh-day Sabbath is GONE with the covenant (cf. Leviticus 26:15; Lev. 27:1-34; Deuteronomy 28:1 with Ezekiel 20:1-49; Hosea 2:11): it was a type or shadow of the **blessed REST IN CHRIST**; "for we who **have BELIEVED** do enter into **REST**." (Source: <http://www.studyLight.org/commentaries/jfu/view.cgi?bk=ex&ch=31#1>)

Hebrews 4:1-3, 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. 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. For we which **have BELIEVED** DO enter into **REST**...

Galatians 4:10-11, Ye observe **DAYS**, and **months**, and **times**, and **years**. I am

afraid (alarmed) of you, lest I have bestowed upon you labour in VAIN.

NOTE: **Ye observe days and months and seasons and years** – Sabbatarians (one who observes the SEVENTH DAY of the week as the SABBATH, instead of the FIRST. A **sect of Baptists** are called **SABBATARIANS**) have done their best to eliminate the meaning of this passage, but as Huxtable tells us, the words used here "were used by Josephus for the **keeping of sabbath days**";^[7] and when read in conjunction with Colossians 2:16, there cannot be any doubt that the sin of the Galatians was simply that of keeping, after the **Jewish manner**, the **sabbaths, festivals and special days of the Old Covenant**, which if persisted in, would mean their TOTAL LOSS to Christianity. The whole thesis (position maintained by argument) of this epistle is that "**Judaism and Christianity do NOT mix.**"
(Source: <https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/bcc/galatians-4.html>)

Thought 1. Most Christians who KNOW the TRUTH come together for worship on Sunday.

Mark 16:9, Now when **Jesus** was risen early the **FIRST day** of the **week**, he appeared first to Mary Magdalene, out of whom he had cast seven devils.

Acts 20:7, And upon the **FIRST DAY of the week (SUNDAY)**, when the DISCIPLES came together to break bread, Paul PREACHED unto them, ready to depart on the morrow; and continued his **speech (doctrine, preaching)** until midnight.

Revelation 1:10, I was in the Spirit on the **LORD'S DAY**, and heard behind me...

NOTE: ...on the **Lord's day**, **NOT** on the **JEWISH SABBATH**, which was now ABOLISHED nor was that ever called the Lord's day, and had John meant that, he would have said on the **sabbath day**; much less the Jewish Passover, but the **FIRST DAY of the WEEK** is designed;... so the Ethiopic version renders it "on the **first day**"; and that because it was the **day** in which our Lord **ROSE** from the dead; Mk. 16:9; and in which he appeared at different times to his disciples, John 20:19, and which the primitive churches **SET APART** for **his worship and service**, and on which they MET together to HEAR the word, and attend on ordinances, Acts 20:7; and Justin Martyr Apolog. 2. p. 98, 99. tells us, who **lived** within about **fifty years after this time**, that on the day called, "**Sunday**", (by the Greeks,) the Christians met together in one place, and read the Scriptures, and prayed together, and administered the **ordinance of the supper**; and this, he adds, was the **FIRST DAY** in which God **CREATED** the World, and our Saviour Jesus Christ rose from the dead; yea, Barnabas Epist. c. 11. p. 244. Ed. Voss., the companion of the Apostle Paul, calls this day the **eighth day**, in distinction from the **seventh day sabbath** of the **Jews**, and which he says is the beginning of another world; and therefore we keep the **EIGHTH DAY**, adds he, joyfully, in which Jesus rose from the dead, and being manifested, ascended unto heaven: and this day was known by the ancients by the name of "**the Lord's day**"...
(Source: <https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/geb/revelation-1.html>)

Exodus 31:18, And he gave unto **Moses**, when he had made an end of **communing (talk, teach, command)** with him upon mount Sinai, **two tables of testimony, tables of stone, written** with the **finger** of God.

NOTE: They were written with the finger of God, that is, by his WILL and POWER immediately, without the use of any instrument. It is God only that can **write his law in the heart** he gives a **heart of flesh**, and then, by his Spirit, which is the finger of God, he writes his will in the fleshly tables of the **heart**, 2 Cor. 3:3. 4. They were written in **TWO** tables, being designed to direct us in our **DUTY** both towards God and towards man.
(Source: <https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/geb/exodus-31.html>)