

## SABBATH

1. SABBATH comes from SHABATH and means rest, to cease activity.
2. The basic concept of the Sabbath is found in Genesis 2:1-3 where God rested after the six day creation. The 7<sup>th</sup> day was a memorial to what He had done the first six days.
  - A. God recreated the earth after the fall of Satan and restored it to livable atmosphere. He created animals, plants and man to live on the earth.
  - B. Resting does not mean that God was tired, but that He observed His grace provision for mankind and saw that it was good.
3. In Israel, under Law, the 7<sup>th</sup> day was a day of rest and called the Sabbath.

Exodus 20:9-11, “Six days you shall labor and do all of your work, [11] But the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord your God, in it you shall not do any work, you or your sons, your daughter, your manservant, your maidservant, your domestic animals, or the traveler or guest within your gates.”

4. The Sabbath was designed by God as a memorial to the spiritual purpose in creation, Isaiah 58:13-14.
  - A. There is a spiritual purpose behind the creation of the soul, marriage, family life, nationalism.
  - B. In Isaiah 58:1-12, God rebukes Israel for religion without doctrine.
    - 1) They believe there is spiritual blessing in fasting.
    - 2) They believe there is spiritual blessing in observing the Sabbath as a day of rest (without recognition of spiritual reasons for it).
    - 3) They used Sabbath as a day of amusement and pleasure rather than a day for worship and rest. People violate this today by picnicking, fishing, boating, etc. on Sunday instead of worshiping in a local church.
    - 4) People seek their own way, their own pleasure for pleasing themselves rather than God.
  - C. Isaiah 58:14, if Israel will get the right emphasis on the Sabbath they will

have establishment blessings for they are based upon knowing spiritual truth.

5. God did not remove the Jews from Egypt to relieve them of the slavery of Pharaoh, rather, He delivered them for a spiritual purpose, Exodus 20:8-11; Deuteronomy 5:12-15; Leviticus 23:3.
  - A. Some people move to where the weather is nice and the jobs are good and they forget that their purpose here is not to work for their own pleasure; they are here to serve the Lord and that means spiritual orientation.
6. The Jews could not pick up manna in the wilderness on the Sabbath, Exodus 16:26-29, for God rested the 7<sup>th</sup> day and did not provide manna on that day.
7. Sabbath observance was given to the nation of Israel only as a ritual, Exodus 31:16-17. They were given many Sabbaths (31:13) and the penalty for breaking them was death, Exodus 31:14-15; Numbers 15:32-36.
8. Because Israel was a Theocracy they were the only nation ever to receive a Sabbath. When they went out under the 5<sup>th</sup> cycle of discipline then the Sabbath ceased for them.
  - A. When the Sabbath is violated, people were saying that their details of life and establishment living were more important than spiritual emphasis, Numbers 13:15-21.
9. There are four categories of Sabbaths in the Bible.
  - A. Weekly Sabbath – Saturday, Exodus 20:8-11, a day of rest from labor from sundown to sundown.
  - B. Seasonal Sabbaths – Five feasts: Passover, Pentecost, Trumpets, Day of Atonement, Tabernacles. They could gather sticks for their fires on these days except the Day of Atonement, Leviticus 23:28.
  - C. Sabbatical Year – 7<sup>th</sup> year, Leviticus 25:1-7. The land was to rest this year, no crops were planted as a test to Israel to see if they would trust the Lord for His provision. They could walk into the fields and help themselves to daily food but no harvesting of crops. Leviticus 25:5-6, Exodus 23:33-36
  - D. Year of Jubilee – 50<sup>th</sup> year. Leviticus 25:8-34, all land went back to the original owners of fifty years before, for God is the true owner of the land.

Business returned to previous owners, and all Jewish slaves were to be freed for God owns the people.

10. There is no Sabbath for the church age. Sunday is not a Sabbath.
  - A. Hebrews 3:11, 4:9, the rest for the believer in the church age is day by day, moment by moment, (KATAPAUSSIN, to cease activity).
  - B. The believer enjoys a type of rest from doctrine in his soul and observing that God controls history, creation and spiritual lives of believers.
  - C. The believer views his job, family, marriage, and nation from a state of mental rest and spiritual orientation.
  - D. Unbelievers cannot enjoy this rest, they can only see things through establishment priorities.
  - E. The believer can enjoy his work because he understands God has a plan for him daily, on that job, to fulfill so he rests in his work and allows God to lead him.

Hebrews 4:10, "For he that has entered into His rest," faith-rest life, grace life, and understanding spiritual priorities in life, "he has also ceased from his own human good works," viewing life as the unbeliever does.