

The Commandments Of Our Creator God

[Part 3]

Fourth Commandment stated –

“Remember the Sabbath Day to keep it holy. Six days you shall labour and do all your work but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord your God. In it you shall do no work, you, nor your son, nor your daughter, nor your maidservant, nor your cattle, nor the stranger who is within your gates. For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day. Therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath Day and hallowed it.”

This commandment does **not** begin with a “you shall not” but with “remember,” the “shall” command is applied to the other six days of the week.

[Please download the articles on this website under the main heading ‘Work’ for expansion on this part of the commandment.]

God said “remember,” also “keep” and “made” all indicate that this was **not** a new commandment.

To understand this we need to look at the account of the renewing of the earth’s surface [**Psalms 104:30**] for the creation of the first human beings. [**Genesis 1:26-27**]

God finished His physical creation on the seventh day and sanctified, that is, set it apart for a special use.

Genesis 2:1-3 [King James] *“Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. And on the seventh day God ended his work which he had made; and he rested on the seventh day from all his work which he had made. 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 Hebrew word translated “finished” is “kalah” meaning prepared for use, is used in **Exodus 39:32** when the tabernacle was ready for use.

God did **not** rest because He was tired but I feel this was an example of meditating on His eternal plan for all humanity.

Only the physical creation was finished, the spiritual creation of a family, that is kingdom, of created children in His “likeness,” that is character, was about to begin.

Note there was **no** “evening and morning” of the seventh day that day, the “rest” of our Creator God is still continuing. [**Hebrews 4:1-11**]

The starting point of that “rest” is found in the Sabbath Day where our minds and spirits have set aside time to meditate on the Word of God, the Christian Bible.

Mark 2:27-28 [King James] *“And he said unto them, The sabbath was made for man, and not man for the sabbath: Therefore the Son of man is Lord also of the sabbath.”*

Notice that Jesus Christ said that the Sabbath was “made.” Whatever is made must have a Maker, who was that maker?

John 1:1-3, 14 [King James] *“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.” ... “And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.”*

The Word, Jesus Christ, made all things including the Sabbath.

This is how Jesus Christ can rightly claim that He is Lord [Greek “*kuriōs*” meaning supreme authority and total dominion over] of the Sabbath.

Also note it was made for man, that is to be a benefit for humans, also for man and **not** just the Jews, that is all humanity.

In His human life, Jesus Christ kept the Sabbath, and many verses in the four gospels are devoted to His instruction of the disciples in how it should be kept, and in freeing it from the traditions which the Jews had added.

The command to keep the Sabbath is the **only** command in which we are enjoined to “*remember*” in the Old Covenant that God made with Israel.

This was, as we have already seen, that the Sabbath was commanded to be kept at creation well before there were any Jewish people and before the Old Covenant with Israel.

Yet this is the one command which many ministers and religious people seem most anxious to forget, **not** remember.

Many have reasoned that since the Sabbath was contained in the Book of the Old Covenant [**Exodus chapters 20-24**] that it is no longer binding on us today under the New Covenant.

This totally ignores that it was made a special day set apart at creation.

Such people also forget that God, [Jesus Christ, **1 Corinthians 10:4**] doubly commanded the Sabbath by making a special and separate covenant with His people to keep.

Exodus 31:15-17 [King James] “*Six days may work be done; but in the seventh is the sabbath of rest, holy to the LORD: whosoever doeth any work 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. 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.*”

Here the Sabbath is spoken of as a “*sign*” that identified the true God and His people.

This sign was to be kept through “*all generations*” that His people worshipped the Creator God, Jesus Christ, it was also a perpetual covenant.

Throughout the Old Testament, the history of the nations of Israel and Judah [the Jews] show that they were blessed in every way when they worshipped the true Creator God and kept His Sabbath holy.

But when they neglected this command to “*remember*” His Sabbath and began to worship created things instead of the Creator, they went off into pagan idolatry, human sacrifice, bloodshed and were punished by God through other tribes and nations.

Approximately 721-718 BC, the nation of Israel went into the greatest national captivity and punishment that has ever befallen any nation in all the history of humanity.

The reason for that punishment is described by God Himself through His prophet Ezekiel.

Ezekiel 20:20-26 [King James] “*And hallow my sabbaths; and they shall be a sign between me and you, that ye may know that I am the LORD your God. Notwithstanding the children rebelled against me: they walked not in my statutes, neither kept my judgments to do them, which if a man do, he shall even live in them; they polluted my sabbaths: then I said, I would pour out my fury upon them, to accomplish my anger against them in the wilderness. Nevertheless I withdrew mine hand, and wrought for my name’s sake, that it should not be polluted in the sight of the heathen, in whose sight I*

brought them forth. I lifted up mine hand unto them also in the wilderness, that I would scatter them among the heathen, and disperse them through the countries; Because they had not executed my judgments, but had despised my statutes, and had polluted my sabbaths, and their eyes were after their fathers' idols. Wherefore I gave them also statutes that were not good, and judgments whereby they should not live; And I polluted them in their own gifts, in that they caused to pass through the fire all that openeth the womb, that I might make them desolate, to the end that they might know that I am the LORD."

Note that God did **not** call them "your Sabbaths" or "Jewish Sabbaths," as many like to call them today, but "My Sabbaths," and condemns Israel for neglecting this command which He regards as extremely important.

Romans 2:28-29 [NIV] *"A man is not a Jew if he is only one outwardly, nor is circumcision merely outward and physical. No, a man is a Jew if he is one inwardly; and circumcision is circumcision of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the written code. Such a man's praise is not from men, but from God."*

Christians are "spiritual" Israelites and Jews worshipping the Creator God in "spirit and in truth." [John 4:23]

Galatians 3:28-29 [NIV] *"There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise."*

Heirs to the promise that obedience to and faith in Jesus Christ, the Maker of the Sabbath brings.

It is an undeniable fact that every nation and every individual who failed to "remember" the true Sabbath has been cut off from the God and turned to some form of pagan idolatry.

For the Sabbath-keeper, God is real, He is the living, active Creator and Ruler of the universe. He is a God of power and activity.

When we analyse the Sabbath commandment, we see that a person who idles away their time in the six days of the week is as guilty as those who work on the seventh.

Genesis 2:15 [King James] *"And the LORD God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it."*

It is part of the original intention of God, for man was to work, "dress and keep" the land.

Remember God gives us two of the essential things for life, air and water, free but the third, food, we have to work for in some form.

There are many blessings that come from keeping the Sabbath.

It keeps us in regular contact with our Creator who will then show us the purpose of our existence, and direct our life towards one that is an eternal gift from Him.

Isaiah 58:13-14 [NIV] *"If you keep your feet from breaking the Sabbath and from doing as you please on my holy day, if you call the Sabbath a delight and the LORD's holy day honourable, and if you honour it by not going your own way and not doing as you please or speaking idle words, then you will find your joy in the LORD, and I will cause you to ride on the heights of the land and to feast on the inheritance of your father Jacob.' The mouth of the LORD has spoken."*

Notice that God says we are to delight in His Sabbath Day, that is result of honouring and worshipping God.

We are **not** even to speak non-productive words, but spend the time in prayer to God, in studying, discussing and meditating on God's Word, the Christian Bible.

Literally saturating our minds and human spirit with the thoughts and character of our Creator God.

Exodus 16:22-26 [NIV] *“On the sixth day, they gathered twice as much, two omers for each person, and the leaders of the community came and reported this to Moses. He said to them, ‘This is what the LORD commanded: “Tomorrow is to be a day of rest, a holy Sabbath to the LORD. So bake what you want to bake and boil what you want to boil. Save whatever is left and keep it until morning.”’ So they saved it until morning, as Moses commanded, and it did not stink or get maggots in it. ‘Eat it today,’ Moses said, ‘because today is a Sabbath to the LORD. You will not find any of it on the ground today. Six days you are to gather it, but on the seventh day, the Sabbath, there will not be any.’”*

When God was feeding His people in the wilderness, after bringing them out of captivity in Egypt, He gave a principle for Sabbath-keeping.

Prepare ahead for the Sabbath and thus enable ourselves to have that day free from worldly cares.

Jesus gave us guidelines as to how we should keep the Sabbath by teaching and personal example.

Mark 2:23-28 [NIV] *“One Sabbath Jesus was going through the cornfields, and as his disciples walked along, they began to pick some ears of corn. The Pharisees said to him, ‘Look, why are they doing what is unlawful on the Sabbath?’ He answered, ‘Have you never read what David did when he and his companions were hungry and in need? In the days of Abiathar the high priest, he entered the house of God and ate the consecrated bread, which is lawful only for priests to eat. And he also gave some to his companions.’ Then he said to them, ‘The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath. So the Son of Man is Lord even of the Sabbath.’”*

Jesus Christ as Lord of the Sabbath showed it was alright to procure food on a journey if one is hungry and it was really necessary.

Mark 3:1-5 [NIV] *“Another time he went into the synagogue, and a man with a shrivelled hand was there. Some of them were looking for a reason to accuse Jesus, so they watched him closely to see if he would heal him on the Sabbath. Jesus said to the man with the shrivelled hand, ‘Stand up in front of everyone.’ Then Jesus asked them, ‘Which is lawful on the Sabbath: to do good or to do evil, to save life or to kill?’ But they remained silent. He looked round at them in anger and, deeply distressed at their stubborn hearts, said to the man, ‘Stretch out your hand.’ He stretched it out, and his hand was completely restored.”*

On another Sabbath Jesus showed it was lawful to do good on the Sabbath Day.

Matthew 12:9-13 [NIV] *“Going on from that place, he went into their synagogue, and a man with a shrivelled hand was there. Looking for a reason to accuse Jesus, they asked him, ‘Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath?’ He said to them, ‘If any of you has a sheep and it falls into a pit on the Sabbath, will you not take hold of it and lift it out? How much more valuable is a man than a sheep! Therefore it is lawful to do good on the Sabbath.’ Then he said to the man, ‘Stretch out your hand.’ So he stretched it out and it was completely restored, just as sound as the other.”*

Here Jesus Christ taught that it is certainly alright to relieve a human or an animal of physical suffering on the Sabbath Day.

Luke 13:15 [NIV] *“The Lord answered him, ‘You hypocrites! Doesn’t each of you on the Sabbath untie his ox or donkey from the stall and lead it out to give it water?’”*

We should feed and water stock on the Sabbath Day.

Luke 4:16 [NIV] *“He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom. And he stood up to read.”*

It was Jesus Christ’s custom to attend services on the Sabbath Day.

The Sabbath is a day for worshipping God but also for doing good to people who are in need of help.

The right balance is what is important.

We should be grateful that God has set aside a 24-hour period every week in which we can worship Him and also meditate on His Word, the Christian Bible, that teaches us what are the really important things in life.

Isaiah 58:13-14 [NIV] *“If you keep your feet from breaking the Sabbath and from doing as you please on my holy day, if you call the Sabbath a delight and the LORD’s holy day honourable, and if you honour it by not going your own way and not doing as you please or speaking idle words, then you will find your joy in the LORD, and I will cause you to ride on the heights of the land and to feast on the inheritance of your father Jacob.’ The mouth of the LORD has spoken.”*

God calls the Sabbath “*my Holy day*” therefore we should fear to break the fourth commandment and thus violate God’s Sabbath Day.

If you appropriate the Sabbath Day for your own business or pleasure you are stealing from God and coveting time that does **not** belong to you thus you are breaking both eighth and tenth commandments as well as the fourth commandment.

[Please download and study the following articles in conjunction with this article, all found under the sub-heading ‘Covenants’ and ‘Ceremonial Law’, ‘*What Day Is God’s Sabbath Day?*’, ‘*The Sabbath To Sunday Change*’, ‘*Colossians 2:16*’, ‘*Galatians 4:9-10*’, ‘*Romans 14:5-6*’ and ‘*Hosea 2:1.*’]