

We want to answer an number of questions concerning the Sabbath. We will examine the origin of the Sabbath, the observance of the Sabbath and whether the keeping of the Sabbath as a day of worship and rest applies to the Christian in the New Testament age or whether it was strictly for the the children of Israel under the law of Moses.

In our study, we will appeal to the word of God, for there we find *all things that pertain to life and Godliness* (II Pet 1:3).

All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works. (II Tim 3:16-17)

Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. (II Tim 2:15)

Looking to the word of God, we will find the answers to our questions.

The first mention of the Sabbath is in Gen 2:2 where God is said to have rested.

Ex 31:15 says that this day was a Sabbath of rest. There is no evidence that the patriarchs who lived before Moses ever observed the Sabbath.

In Ex 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.

This is reinforced by looking at whom God gave the covenant Deu 5:1-3 and examining who was in slavery Deu 5.12-15

Deu 5:1-3 *Then Moses summoned all Israel and said to them: "Hear, O Israel, the statutes and the ordinances which I am speaking today in your hearing, that you may learn them and observe them carefully. (2) "The LORD our God made a covenant with us at Horeb. (3) "The LORD did not make this covenant with our fathers, but with us, with all those of us alive here today.*

Deu 5:12-15 'Observe the sabbath day to keep it holy, as the LORD your God commanded you. (13) 'Six days you shall labor and do all your work, (14) but the seventh day is a sabbath of the LORD your God; in it you shall not do any work, you or your son or your daughter or your male servant or your female servant or your ox or your donkey or any of your cattle or your sojourner who stays with you, so that your male servant and your female servant may rest as well as you. (15) 'You shall remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt, and the LORD your God brought you out of there by a mighty hand and by an outstretched arm; therefore the LORD your God commanded you to observe the sabbath day.

The covenant which included the Sabbath was not made with their fathers, who would include Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, but with those who were gathered around the mountain there in the desert of Sinai, the children of Israel who had been delivered from Egyptian bondage.

These verses of Scripture are very clear and the covenant of which they speak was written down on stone for the children of Israel (Deut 5:16-21), very clearly making the Sabbath a day to be observed by the Israelites. These words the LORD spake unto all your assembly in the mount out of the midst of the fire, of the cloud, and of the thick darkness, with a great voice: and he added no more. And he wrote them in two tables of stone, and delivered them unto me.

Having looked at the covenant God made with his people at Sinai, we must ask whether this applies to us today.

The New Testament did not do away with the Old Testament. As Jesus said, "Do not think that I came to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I did not come to abolish but to fulfill. (18) "For truly I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or stroke shall pass from the Law until all is accomplished.

(Mt 5:17-18).

Notice however, that Jesus' words were that none of the law would pass until all of the law were fulfilled. Jesus said that this exact thing had occurred in Lk 24:44 *And he said unto them, These are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning me.*

If Jesus came to fulfill the law and then said that it had been fulfilled as he told them of his departure into the heavens, the statement that he made concerning the law passing should be expected to be fulfilled.

Jesus, having fulfilled the old covenant, then makes a new covenant with those who would be his people. The old covenant was old (obsolete), Heb 8:13 and ready to vanish away.

With the death of Jesus on the cross, followed by his entry into heaven, there to offer his blood to God, the old covenant was made of no effect. Jesus had not done away with the law of Moses, but having fulfilled it, replaced it with his own law (covenant).

Heb 9:15 For this reason He is the mediator of a new covenant, so that, since a death has taken place for the redemption of the transgressions that were committed under the first covenant, those who have been called may receive the promise of the eternal inheritance. (16) For where a covenant is, there must of necessity be the death of the one who made it. (17) For a covenant is valid only when men are dead, for it is never in force while the one who made it lives.

Heb 9:15-17 tells us that a new covenant (will or testament) is not in force while a man lives, but after a man dies his will is put in force. We must submit to the will of Jesus if we want to be pleasing to God in this new covenant and not go back to the Law of Moses.

Some will say that Jesus observed the
Sabbath

Mar 1:21 They went into Capernaum;
and immediately on the Sabbath He
entered the synagogue and began to
teach.

– He did because he was a faithful Jew
while on the earth. His covenant went
into effect after His death!

Is Sunday the Christian Sabbath? It was the 7th day, not the first.

There is no mention of an earthly Christian Sabbath in the New Testament

The Christian's Sabbath rest depends on our faithful observance of the memorials of the covenant.

Heb 4:8 For if Joshua had given them rest, He would not have spoken of another day after that.

(9) So there remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God. (10) For the one who has entered His rest has himself also rested from his works, as God did from His. (11) Therefore let us be diligent to enter that rest, so that no one will fall, through following the same example of disobedience.

Was Sunday ever set apart as a day
of rest? NO!

What was commanded? To observe
the memorial!

The command –

1Co 11:24 and when He had given thanks,
He broke it and said, "This is My body,
which is for you; do this in remembrance of
Me." (25) In the same way He took the
cup also after supper, saying, "This cup is
the new covenant in My blood; do this, as
often as you drink it, in remembrance of
Me." (26) For as often as you eat this
bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the
Lord's death until He comes.

The time –

1Co 11:20 Therefore when you meet together, it is not to eat the Lord's Supper,

When did they meet? –

1Co 16:2 On the first day of every week each one of you is to put aside and save, as he may prosper, so that no collections be made when I come.

What is the commemoration of the
Lord's death and suffering?

Not the day but the deed.

What if we willfully miss the deed?

Heb 10:26 For if we go on sinning
willfully after receiving the knowledge of
the truth, there no longer remains a
sacrifice for sins,

Are you willing to submit yourself
to God now?

Act 2:38 Then Peter said unto
them, Repent, and be baptized
every one of you in the name of
Jesus Christ for the remission of
sins, and ye shall receive the gift of
the Holy Ghost.