



Christ and His Law Lesson 5 1Q 2014

Christ and the Sabbath

Some recent emails:

I've been so blessed the last couple of years listening to your lessons. I've started to use your material when presenting the lesson to our youth class. The young people are so excited and some of them who used to stare down at their feet and weren't interested started to share some great insights. [One friend] in particular wanted to be baptised and asked me to do the baptismal class. I've never presented any baptismal classes in my life, so I decided to use some of your material that's on your blog. He was baptized last year and even started [teaching] the lesson at church. I was so proud and wanted to cry of pure joy when he gave his first sermon this weekend. It was awesome. He [used to be] totally goth and didn't want anything to do with God before. His girlfriend brought him to our Friday youth evenings and there his life started to change. I can't believe it's the same person. God transforming people is real. Having the right picture of God changed our youth group. We just have a struggle with our older people in church to understand this message. Although I'm an elder, the church board didn't want me to preach anymore. It's all because I'm presenting the natural law and not a legal penal law. Other churches asked me to come and preach at their churches this year. When one door is closed, God opens another. This message must be spread to the whole world. If there is any spelling faults, sorry... English isn't my first language. We would like to know if you could send us 100 copies of all 3 DVDs. South Africa

I would like to request all three sets of DVD's you have offered on your website. I have purchased and read both of Dr. Jennings' books and they have been a real blessing in my life. The message he presents is a balm for the soul and a message I (unfortunately) have never heard preached in our church. I want to pass this information along to my granddaughter. CA

SABBATH

Read memory text, "The Sabbath was made for man, and not man for the Sabbath. Therefore the Son of Man is also Lord of the Sabbath." Mk 2:27,28

Thoughts about this text? To whom was Jesus referring when He said the Sabbath was made for man? Just the Jews or for all mankind?

It was made for man – when? What was the condition of the world when the Sabbath was made? What was its purpose back then?

Do we have any evidence that there was a written commandment regarding how to behave on the Sabbath before Sinai?



Was the Sabbath in Eden about avoiding work?

What kind of things do you think Adam and Eve did during the rest of the week?

- Went for walks in nature
- Studied nature
- Played or interacted with animals
- Appreciated God and all He had done in the creation of the world
- Talked with angels
- Were there any weeds to pull?
- Any planting to do?
- Any harvesting and storing in barns to do?
- Any fertilizing, irrigating, pesticides to spread?
- Were there houses to build?
- Was there banking and investments to deal with?
- Was there laundry, vacuuming, dishes to wash?
- Was there anything to do that we call work?

In other words, were their weekly activities very similar to the activities we find valuable for Sabbath?

So what did Adam and Eve do on Sabbath?

- Attend church?
- Have communion ceremony?
- Go to confession?
- Do penance?
- Pay tithe?
- Would they still walk in nature, pick fruit from the trees to eat, play and interact with the animals, converse with God and angels?
- So what was different for Adam and Eve about the Sabbath than any other day of the week?
- Was the difference primarily in their behavior or something else?

Could the difference be in what the day itself revealed? Could it be in what the day itself represented? **Could it be in what God did differently on the seventh day of creation week, not what humans did differently?** Could it be in the purpose for which the Sabbath was created?

Do we miss the point of the Sabbath when we focus on self, on our behavior, on what we should or should not do?

Do you notice how much of the Sabbath is seen through the lens of self, what we should or should not do, and if God is ever thought of in regard to the Sabbath it is typically restricted to a memorial of creation and redemption.

But we often miss the most profound elements of what creation and redemption mean about God and His law - what kind of law does the Creator utilize?



The first angel's message of Revelation 14 calls us to worship Him who "created", the builder, and what kind of law is this focusing upon? Design parameter. Only the Creator can build the fabric of the cosmos and the protocols upon which it operates. Likewise, redemption uses what kind of law? Redemption is the process of restoring defective beings back into harmony with God and His design for life; it is healing, restorative and the application and reconstruction of God's design.

Doctors cannot cure patients outside the laws of health. Doctors don't alter the laws of health; they intervene in the sick patient to alter the patient restoring the patient back into harmony with the laws of health. Likewise, God doesn't operate outside His design in our salvation, but works to restore humanity back into harmony with His design. The Sabbath, rightly understood reveals both!

The Sabbath was made – just like the earth was made, animals were made, human beings were made – the Sabbath was made holy, built that way, and what is different about the building of the Sabbath from the other first six days of Creation week?

What did God do on the first six days? What did God do on the seventh? On the first six days we see God has power. On the seventh we see the character of the One who wields the power. God didn't use power over, God stepped back and stopped using power, and instead created a time for freedom to think and consider.

The Sabbath is a gift from God to his creation. As our memory verse states, it was made for man. Consider a gift, is it a gift for our blessing, or is it a gift with strings attached?

Why do you think the commandment has the direction not to work? Prior to human sin did God have to instruct Adam and Eve not to work on Sabbath? Why did He give this instruction at Sinai? The Sabbath was made for man, what about the instruction not to work, was that also for man? Several reasons:

- To help us stop the rat wheel of life long enough to think of heavenly things, to contemplate reality, so we can be healed. Remember the parable of the sower; the seeds overtaken by weeds were choked out. And the weeds represent the cares of this life.
- AFTER sin, in bodies that degrade, get sick and die, the rest prescribed on the Sabbath at Sinai would promote better mental and physical health.
 - Many of my patients are worn out and exhausted because they never rest their minds, they work all week, and even if they go to church on Sunday, then the rest of the day is busy cleaning house, doing laundry, catching up on yard work etc.
 - The Bluezones website document the zones in the world with the highest concentration of people living over 100. Only 1 in the US, Loma Linda, CA. And on this non-Christian website, they note that Loma Linda has a high concentration of SDAs who observe a weekly Sabbath. The website recommends a weekly Sabbath rest for better health.
- To weekly have an entire period where we practice saying no to what our selfishness tempts us to do. Where we sacrifice ourselves for another, where we discipline ourselves to wait, not merely avoiding harmful things, but denying self, restraining impulse, which would mature the



brain, develop self governance, and which would then grow to be a way of life all week long. But this only works when done from love and appreciation and thankfulness, when done from fear or threat it results in rebellion.

Satan works to get us to either discard the gift of the Sabbath or experience the gift as something else, as a leash, a slave collar, a imposition, a requirement we fulfill, a burden we must endure.

The Sabbath is evidence that Satan's allegations about God, that God imposes rules, that God imposes punishments, that God abuses power are all lies. This is why Satan hates the Sabbath, because rightly seen and understood it reveals Satan as a liar. Satan hates the Sabbath in the same way Richard Nixon hated the Watergate tapes or Clinton hated Monica's dress. Nixon would have loved to destroy the tapes, and in fact tried. Clinton would have loved to destroy the dress. And Satan tries to destroy the Sabbath, to distort and twist the evidence into something it isn't. How?

First, by replacing the day as a sign or evidence of God's character of love, and His law as the design law upon which life is built, with the idea that God's law is a bunch of imposed rules and the Sabbath is an arbitrary test of obedience.

The Jews fell into this distortion and thought the Sabbath was a rule to be observed, rather than an evidence to be understood and a sign of God's methods to be practiced. Thus they burdened the Sabbath with all types of behavioral restrictions making it the most oppressive day of the week, distorting the freedom we have in God with a false sense of fear and enslavement.

Today, many Sabbath observers fall into the same trap, understanding which day is the Sabbath, but accepting lies about it such that the Sabbath is seen as an arbitrary test of obedience, a rule put upon us rather than evidence of God's law of love which frees us.

This week I received an email from one of our online listeners, Curtis Wiltse, who shared the following quote, which is from George Fifiield's book *God is Love* published in 1897:

God created all things by Jesus Christ, and therefore Christ is the "mighty God," the "everlasting Father" of all intelligent beings in all worlds. God the Father is the Father of Christ, and therefore through him of all these beings created by Christ...

Now the All-Father gave to his children certain rules or laws to regulate their conduct. These laws were not arbitrary, not designed to show his right or power to boss, or domineer, over his children, but, like the rules of well-regulated families, they were designed to promote the happiness of all the children, and the unity of the family life.

Although many might hesitate to express it thus, the thought that lingers in their minds is about like this: **"God is arbitrary and obstinate, and will not permit the slightest variation from his laws without plunging us into eternal death."** This is what Satan has ever said of God and of his government. I desire to show the contrary so that all may see. I desire to show that **it is the variation itself that plunges us into eternal death, and not the arbitrary decree of**



God. It is the love of God that will not in any way countenance that variation, because it leads to such terrible results.

The law of God is not simply fiat; it rests upon eternal principles of pleasure and pain, -- principles as unchangeable in their very nature as the laws that govern the seasons or control the motions of the planets. **The law is not so simply because God said so, but he said so because it was so,** and because it must eternally and universally be so.

On the correct understanding of these principles of the nature of God's law depends our power to comprehend God's love in all his dealings with his creatures. On this rests the whole philosophy of the purpose of creation and of the plan of redemption. The existence of misery and suffering, the need for an atonement, and how that atonement is accomplished by Christ, can be understood in the light of God's love only as the nature of his law stands revealed. It is for this reason that we purpose to dwell at some length in these pages on the nature of God's law.

We have always thought of the ten commandments as requiring our love to God and to all his creatures; **have we ever thought of them as an expression of his love to us? It would be absolutely foolish to demand our love by arbitrary fiat; love cannot be given in that way;** love is born only of love. The state might as well legislate that the sun should not shine or the water should not flow downhill, as for the Lord to make such arbitrary demands for love. In either case the law could not affect in the slightest the things legislated about.

Yet it remains true that all the law of God requires is love, and that, as the apostle says, love is the fulfilling of the law, -- of the whole law. How is this? -- Simply that the law itself, when we understand it, is the revelation of such infinite love as to beget within us a returning, responsive love that can and will fulfill the law.

“God is love.” Every word, every jot and tittle, of that law, coming from love, require only such service as love dictates. **When the same love which that law expresses to us is begotten by it in our hearts, and flows out toward God and all his creatures in loving action, then the law is fulfilled.** (Fifield, *God is Love*, p53-55, Theodore Reese, 155 LaSalle Street, Chicago, in 1897)

The Sabbath rightly understood stands as evidence of God's love, His character: truth, presented in love and leaving all His creation free. But, wrongly understood it is misrepresented as a rule that must be enforced, an arbitrary decree by an arbitrary god to test us. This is one way Satan attacks the Sabbath, twisting it. But, he attacks it in another way. How?

Second, by replacing it with another day. Any concerns as to which day is actually the Sabbath of the Bible?

Some argue that the current Sabbath was changed to Sunday when the Julian calendar was changed to the Gregorian calendar. This argument fails to realize that the Gregorian calendar is concerned with



the dates of the year, not the weekly cycle, so when the calendar went into place the “date” changed but the day of the week did not. For instance, Thursday October 4, 1582, was followed by Friday October 15, 1582. The dates changed, but the weekly cycle was not affected.

Evidences for a weekly Sabbath from sunset Friday to sunset Saturday:

- Genesis 2:2
- Exodus 16
- Exodus 20 the 10 Commandments
- The Jewish people who generation after generation, in an unbroken chain of human history worship on the same Sabbath each week since Exodus 16.
- Jesus worshipped on the same Sabbath as the Jews today
- The New Testament has many Sabbath controversies, but none revolved around which day was Sabbath. All were about what activities were appropriate for the Sabbath.
 - The point being is that if the Jewish leadership was upset because Jesus healed on Sabbath, or the disciples picked grain on Sabbath – how much more conflict would have occurred if any attempts to change the day the Sabbath was observed was taking place?
 - Also all Christians acknowledge Jesus died on Good Friday and was resurrected on Easter Sunday, and the Bible states that they took Him off the cross in order to keep or observe the Sabbath, so which day falls between Friday and Sunday? Saturday, the Bible Sabbath.
- The languages of the world, many of which have Sabbath for the name of Saturday, the seventh day of the week.

○ Arabic: <i>Sabet</i>	○ Greek: <i>Savvato</i>	○ Russian: <i>Subbota</i>
○ Armenian: <i>Shabat</i>	○ Indonesian: <i>Sabtu</i>	○ Serbian: <i>Subota</i>
○ Bosnian: <i>Subota</i>	○ Italian: <i>Sabato</i>	○ Slovak: <i>Sobota</i>
○ Bulgarian: <i>Sabota</i>	○ Latin: <i>Sabbatum</i>	○ Slovene: <i>Sobota</i>
○ Corsican: <i>Sàbatu</i>	○ Maltese: <i>is-Sibt</i>	○ Somali: <i>Sabti</i>
○ Croatian: <i>Subota</i>	○ Polish: <i>Sobota</i>	○ Spanish: <i>Sabado</i>
○ Czech: <i>Sobota</i>	○ Portuguese: <i>S ábado</i>	○ Sudanese: <i>Saptu</i>
○ Georgian: <i>Sabati</i>	○ Romanian: <i>Sambata</i>	○ Ukranian: <i>Subota</i>
- Documents of history which record the historical accuracy that Saturday is the day the Jews observed when Christ was on earth, and the early Christians observed.
- The seven day weekly cycle in history – all cultures regardless of religion operate on a seven day weekly cycle – why? Because of creation week, not astronomical events.
- The admission of the Catholic Church that the Sabbath of the Bible is Saturday. “The church after changing the day of rest from the Jewish Sabbath or seventh-day of the week to the first, made the third commandment refer to Sunday as the day to be kept holy as the Lord’s day.” Catholic Encyclopedia, Vol. 4, p. 153.

And what is so devastating about the change in the day? The change of the Bible Sabbath to another day is in actuality an attack on the entire law of God. How? Because one can only change the Sabbath,



AFTER, one accepts the idea that God's law is like human law, rules imposed and rejects the idea that God's law is the design parameters for life.

In other words, the change in the Sabbath, was really an exchange of the entire law, it is no longer protocols upon which life is constructed, but a list of rules requiring external policing and imposition of punishment. God is now seen as a cosmic dictator, who must be appeased, and Christ's mission is not taught as God's means to heal and restore humans back into harmony with Him, but as the way to pay our legal penalty and appease an angry and offended God.

Thus, with this change in the law to an imposed law, Christians claim Christ while worshipping Satan's version of God.

This has also corrupted the SDA church and its understanding of God, the purpose of Christ's mission to earth, prophecy and the meaning of the mark of the beast and seal of God.

As Fifiield said:

On the correct understanding of these principles of the nature of God's law depends our power to comprehend God's love in all his dealings with his creatures. On this rests the whole philosophy of the purpose of creation and of the plan of redemption. The existence of misery and suffering, the need for an atonement, and how that atonement is accomplished by Christ, can be understood in the light of God's love only as the nature of his law stands revealed.

When SDAs recovered the fact of which day of the week is the Sabbath, many failed to recover the truth that God's law is the law of love, the design protocols upon which life is built. Thus, they became like the Jews in Christ's day, worshipping on the right day, but still holding to a false law and false god, as Jesus told them they were of their father the devil. Why? Because it is Satan's law that is imposed, rules enforced, external coercion, force, punishment. And many SDAs teach this version of God, albeit on the Sabbath.

The Seventh-day Adventist Church has held a certain view of the importance of the Sabbath Sunday issue. I will read a view, often promoted in a misunderstood way by well meaning but misguided individuals, and would like your response. There are longer versions of this, but this gets the point across:

- The sign, or seal, of God is revealed in the observance of the seventh-day Sabbath, the Lord's memorial of creation. . . . The mark of the beast is the opposite of this--the observance of the first day of the week.--8T 117 (1904). {LDE 224.3}

Any concerns or questions about these statements? Statements like this are often misunderstood and misused, because they are viewed through the imposed law model. Let's see if we can understand such ideas accurately.

Questions:



- Is the issue in our salvation, in our preparation to meet Jesus, in our being ready to translate into heaven without seeing death as simple as which day of the week a person worships upon?
- If a person absolutely insists on worshipping on the Bible Sabbath does that guarantee they won't get the mark of the beast?
- Those who crucified Christ 2000 years ago wanted Him off the Cross by sunset why? So they could keep the Sabbath – does that mean they had the seal of God?
- Does Satan care if a group of people worships on Sabbath as long as they worship him?
- How should we understand the statements above that we just read?

What is a mark or sign?

A symbol that stands for or signifies something else:

- The sign of the cross stands for what?
- The mark of the fish stands for what?
- The goat's head symbolizes what?
- A pentagram is a mark of what?

So:

- If someone wears a cross are they saved because it is the sign of our crucified Savior?
- If someone has a fish sticker on their car does that mean they are saved because it is a sign of Jesus?
- If someone has a goat ornament hanging on their Xmas tree, does that mean they are condemned because a goat's head symbolizes Satan?
- Or, if someone has a pentagram on their car does that mean they are lost because pentagrams can represent the demonic?
- If someone worships on Sabbath are they saved because it is a sign of God?

So, the passages we read stated that the Bible Sabbath and its observance, is a sign or seal of God, whereas Sunday and its observance is a mark symbolizing the beast.

Question, are these days themselves the reality, or symbols, signs, marks of some deeper reality, just as a fish, cross, pentagram or goat's head?

Could a person wear the flag or uniform of one country, which marks them as being a member of that country; the uniform being an external visible sign of whom they serve, but could the person actually be a traitor and fighting for the other side?

US Army Major Nidal Hasan, shot and killed 13 people at Ft Hood November 2009. Whose uniform was he wearing? Whose side was he on?

Even if we accept that the day upon which one worships can be a mark of loyalty to one side or the other, does that actually inform us of whom is on which side?



Is it possible the days mentioned are signs because they symbolize something that demarcates God's government from Satan's? Could they stand as signals, signets, of the mode of governing each side uses? Could these days, in their origin as days of worship, contain the very elements of the two types of governing – God's vs Satan's?

Given what we have discussed thus far today – how do these two days stand as symbols or signs? Of what?

Here is another quote from one of our church founders:

Why are men not interested to know what constitutes the mark of the beast? Exodus 31:12-17. The Sabbath question will be the issue in the great conflict in which all the world will act a part. [How does the entire world act a part? Will Muslims give up Friday and start worshipping on Sunday? What about agnostics and atheists? Or, is it these two days stand as signs of something more, and everyone will choose one or the other of two methods, of which these days stand as symbols?] Revelation 13:4-17. {RH, April 27, 1911 par. 3}

"Christ died to save sinners, not in their sins, but from their sins. [Imposed law constructs teach that we are saved in our sins, from the legal penalty, but not saved from our sins, that we continue to live sinfully until Christ returns. The truth is that God actually transforms us here and now and we stop living for self, and live to love God and others more than self. This is the heart of the Sabbath, a sign of design law, restoration, healing and that God is making us right in heart again.] The warning given in Revelation shows us the terrible consequence of transgression. By lips that will not lie, God's law is declared to be holy, just, and good. **Our duty to obey this law is to be the burden of the last message of mercy to the world.¹ God's law is not a new thing. It is not holiness created, but holiness made known. It is a code of principles expressing mercy, goodness, and love. It presents to fallen humanity the character of God, and states plainly the whole duty of man.** {RH, April 27, 1911 par. 4} "'Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength.' This command contains the principles of the first four precepts. And 'thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself.' Upon these two great principles, the Word of God declares, hang all the law and the prophets. {RH, April 27, 1911 par. 5}

"These **principles** are made known by the third angel's message, which declares that **the Creator has always required and always will require obedience to his royal law.** [Why does the Creator require obedience? Why does the Creator require we breathe? Because that is how life is built to operate. Remember the law is not holiness created but holiness made known. The commandments did not impose a law, but made the law known. As Fifield said it was an expression of God's love to us!] But this law has been disregarded and transgressed,

¹ It is the darkness of misapprehension of God that is enshrouding the world. Men are losing their knowledge of His character. It has been misunderstood and misinterpreted. At this time a message from God is to be proclaimed, a message illuminating in its influence and saving in its power. His character is to be made known. Into the darkness of the world is to be shed the light of His glory, the light of His goodness, mercy, and truth... The last rays of merciful light, the last message of mercy to be given to the world, is a revelation of His character of love. The children of God are to manifest His glory. In their own life and character they are to reveal what the grace of God has done for them. {COL 415}



and is now being ignored by the churches. **Human enactments are placed where God's law should be. [Imposed law has replaced design law in our minds and thus our view of God is one of dictator not designer]** Sunday, a child of the Papacy, has taken the place of God's holy Sabbath. As Nebuchadnezzar made a golden image, and set it up to be worshiped by all, so Sunday is placed before the people to be regarded as sacred. This day bears not a vestige of sanctity, yet it is held up to be honored by all. {RH, April 27, 1911 par. 6} **[So recognizing Sunday as sacred is an acknowledgement that God's law is like Rome's, capable of being changed by decree. This is the real problem, not going to church on Sunday and more than going to church on Wednesday is a problem].**

What is the implication of changing the Bible Sabbath for Sunday? What does this act mean in regard to how God and his government are understood? How can a church vote to change the day of worship? What must first happen concerning God's law? What church committee has ever voted to change the law of gravity, or the law of thermodynamics, or the law of respiration? Why don't they vote to change these?

So what does it mean if an ecclesiastical board votes to change the Sabbath? That they believe God's law is imposed, and therefore believe God is like a Roman emperor a cosmic dictator. And accepting this change in the law is the root to the beast system.

The Sabbath stands as evidence of God's character and therefore is symbolic, a sign, of those who value God's law of love, and practice his methods of presenting the truth in love and leaving others free.

Then what is the mark of the beast?

The time has come for the true light to shine amid moral darkness. The third angel's message has been sent forth to the world, **warning men against receiving the mark of the beast or of his image in their foreheads or in their hands. To receive this mark means to come to the same decision as the beast has done, and to advocate the same ideas, in direct opposition to the word of God.** {RH, July 13, 1897 par. 5}

What decisions did the beast make and what ideas did it advocate that are in direct opposition to the word of God?

That God's law is imposed, and as an imposed law it can be changed, amended, abrogated, altered, thus, under the imposed law construct Sabbath can be changed to Sunday. And, imposed laws require judicial proceedings, investigation, records, judgments, imposed punishments. Therefore, coercive pressure is used to punish lawbreakers and ensure obedience.

Presenting God as a being who imposes law, must punish sin, requires appeasement, requires legal penalties be paid is part of the mark of the beast system regardless of which day one worships upon!



Sunday, being established upon the basis of imposed law becomes a sign or insignia or mark of those who practice such methods. So:

- Muslims, who would kidnap and kill people who believe differently, who would gain governmental power to enforce their religious law, but never worship on Sunday, are still practicing the methods of the beast and thus will receive the mark of the beast.
- Seventh-day Adventists who worship on Sabbath but teach the Sabbath is an arbitrary test of obedience, that God's law is imposed, and God is an imperial dictator who must impose punishment, will like the Pharisees 2000 years ago, oppose the kingdom of love and receive the mark of the beast – which is what? Coming to the same conclusions about God and his law and advocate the same ideas about God!

Thus the issue in the end, of which the two days stand as signs, is the issue of God's law of love, versus Satan's imposed law construct; God's rule of love versus Satan's rule of fear and selfishness; God's design law versus worldly imposed laws. It comes down to the methods one practices and the two days are symbolic of two systems.

Here is another quote from the same founder who wrote the others we have read:

In striking contrast to the wrong and oppression so universally practised were the mission and work of Christ. Earthly kingdoms are established and upheld by physical force, but this **was not** to be the foundation of the Messiah's kingdom. **In the establishment of his government no carnal weapons were to be used, no coercion practised; no attempt would be made to force the consciences of men. These are the principles used by the prince of darkness for the government of his kingdom. His agents are actively at work, seeking in their human independence to enact laws which are in direct contrast to Christ's mercy and loving-kindness.** {RH, August 18, 1896 par. 2}

Prophecy has plainly stated the nature of Christ's kingdom. He planned a government which would use no force; his subjects would know no oppression. [no arrests, no detainments, no imposed punishments, no force, no cosmic execution of the wicked by God] The symbols of earthly governments are wild beasts, but in the kingdom of Christ, men are called upon to behold, not a ferocious beast, but the Lamb of God. **Not as a fierce tyrant did he come, but as the Son of man; not to conquer the nations by his iron power, but "to preach good tidings unto the meek;" "to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound;" "to comfort all that mourn."** He came as the divine Restorer, bringing to oppressed and downtrodden humanity the rich and abundant grace of Heaven, that by the power of his righteousness, man, fallen and degraded though he was, might be a partaker of divinity. **[which is healing and restorative, an expression of the law of love, the law life is built to operate upon]** {RH, August 18, 1896 par. 3}

Those who promote a god who acts like a Roman emperor, who imposes law, who inflicts punishment, are actively promoting the system of the beast.



Questions?

SUNDAY

The lesson points out that the commandments were given to Israel twice – and the Sabbath is stated differently in the two sets:

“Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. ⁹ Six days you shall labor and do all your work, ¹⁰ but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord your God. On it you shall not do any work, neither you, nor your son or daughter, nor your manservant or maidservant, nor your animals, nor the alien within your gates. ¹¹ **For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but he rested on the seventh day.** Therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy. Exodus 20:8-11

“Observe the Sabbath day by keeping it holy, as the Lord your God has commanded you. ¹³ Six days you shall labor and do all your work, ¹⁴ but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord your God. On it you shall not do any work, neither you, nor your son or daughter, nor your manservant or maidservant, nor your ox, your donkey or any of your animals, nor the alien within your gates, so that your manservant and maidservant may rest, as you do. ¹⁵ **Remember that you were slaves in Egypt and that the Lord your God brought you out of there with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm.** Therefore the Lord your God has commanded you to observe the Sabbath day. DT 5:12-15

Two separate reasons for the Sabbath – why? What is the reason?

What makes the Sabbath holy? Is it a declaration from God, a proclamation, a decree, an arbitrary act that says its holy? Or, is the Sabbath built, created, instituted in a way that sets it apart as being different from the other days when it, as a day, was created? And is it this difference that makes it holy?

So, the two reasons for the Sabbath – Creation and Redemption; God created and then God rested, God delivered and rested. We focus on the creative aspects, which are right to do as we are worshipping the true creator God, and also that nature operates on design law not imposed law, but more than this the Bible says that after creating God rested – this is what separates the Sabbath, God’s activity, actions of resting, not ours. And then the delivery from Egypt?

Israel was an acting troupe, acting out the drama of the plan of salvation. Egypt stood for the sinful world, with Pharaoh as Satan, the many gods the false systems of the world, delivery from Egypt was metaphorical delivery from fear and selfishness, sin.

So the Sabbath is a day that reveals God as creator and recreator, deliverer, destroyer of the defects of sin, both aspects are design law in action, not rules imposed, creating and restoring creation back to His design.



MONDAY

In the middle of the first paragraph we read, “Although Christ was central in the creative process, when He was transformed into human flesh, He subjected Himself to His Father’s commandments.”

Thoughts about this? What does this mean?

Does it mean – He who lived in infinity, outside the bounds of time/space, entered into finiteness, and lived within the confines of the laws of time/space? Christ, as a human, didn’t know the future, wasn’t able to be omni-present, etc. He was subject to fatigue, hunger, required oxygen, water, food, and had a body that could be killed.

But what about the idea of love – was Christ’s relation to the law of love different as a human, other than He struggled with temptations as a human He did not experience before His incarnation? In other words, did Christ have “obligations” or “requirements” regarding God’s law of love that were different than God Himself practiced?

Was the Sabbath to Jesus as a human restrictive or freeing?

TUESDAY

Read first paragraph, “Many who claim...” What does it mean to keep the Sabbath holy?

Can the Sabbath be kept holy by behavior, by avoiding certain activities or affirmatively doing other activities?

Or, is the Sabbath only kept holy by beings who have been reborn, recreated within, to have the law written on the hearts and minds, such that they operate in harmony with the principles that the Sabbath signifies?

WEDNESDAY

Read first paragraph, “When God created...”

Read second paragraph, “Each of the...”

THURSDAY

Read first paragraph, “Sabbath...”

Does the Sabbath reach back past creation of this planet? Is there any evidence the Sabbath existed before earth was created? Was there a need for the Sabbath, the evidence of God’s character it reveals, before Satan started his war and lied about God?



Read second paragraph, “God created...”

Yes, creation has been defiled, and God is working to heal, cleanse, and restore His creation – this is not a legal problem, but an actual condition that needs fixing.

FRIDAY

Read first paragraph, “From the very beginning...” Why is breaking the law in one point breaking in all points?

Read and discuss the questions.