

Sabbath

Created & Designed Perfectly for You

“¹² And the Lord said . . . “Above all you shall keep my Sabbaths,
for this is a sign between me and you throughout your generations,
that you may know that I, the Lord, sanctify you . . .

¹⁶ Therefore . . . keep the Sabbath, observing the Sabbath throughout (your) . . . generations, as a covenant forever.

¹⁷ It is a sign forever between me and the people . . . that in six days the Lord made heaven and earth,
and on the seventh day
he rested and was refreshed.” Exodus 31:12-18

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“² My goal is that they may be encouraged in heart and united in love,
so that they may have the full riches of complete understanding,

in order that they may know the mystery of God, namely, Christ,³ in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.”

Colossians 2:2-3

- Have you been *Taught* to **Rest**?
- Have you been *Taught* to be **Refreshed**?
- Have you been *Taught* to **Not Work Yourself to Death**?
- Have you been *Taught* to **Find Peace in a Chaotic World**?
- Are you *Living* the **Full Potential God has for your Life Today**?

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Secular Weekday Name: **Saturday**

Hebrew "Name": **Shabbat**

Hebrew Meaning: **Rest**

Secular Weekday Name	Hebrew "Name"	Hebrew Meaning
Sunday	Yom Reeshone	First day
Monday	Yom Shaynee	Second day
Tuesday	Yom Shlee'shee	Third day
Wednesday	Yom Revee'ee	Fourth day
Thursday	Yom Khah'mee'shee	Fifth day
Friday	Yom Ha'shee'shee	Sixth day
Saturday	Shabbat	Rest

The Goal

Hidden Treasures of Wisdom and Knowledge

“²**My goal** is that they may **be encouraged in heart and united in love**, so that they may **have the full riches of complete understanding**, in order that they may **know the mystery of God, namely, Christ**, ³**in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.**” Colossians 2:2-3

Shadows

Freedom from Human Rules

“Let no one therefore judge you in eating or in drinking, or in respect of a festival or a new moon or Sabbaths **which are a shadow of what is to come but the Body of the Messiah.**” Colossians 2:16-17 (KJV)

Here, he is telling us that the **Appointed Times** (Feast Days) and the **Sabbath** are a **shadow of things to come**. A shadow is of the same image as what it is portraying. So, doesn't this imply these will be observed in the future kingdom? And note the text says that these commands **ARE** a **shadow of things to come**, **not** “*were a shadow*” or “*used to be a shadow*” of things to come. He then says, ‘*let no man judge you*’ (in these things: new moon; Sabbath; feasts) ‘*but the Body of Messiah.*’ The word “is” has been added to the original text and did not appear in the Greek.

The **Body of Messiah** is to judge each other with regard to these things. A second witness to this can be found in the following verses:

“But now I have written to you not to keep company with anyone called ‘a brother,’ if he is one who whores, or greedy of gain, or an idolater, or a reviler, or a drunkard, or a swindler – not even to eat with such a one. For what have I to do with judging outsiders? **Do you not judge** (*krinō* (2919): to distinguish (*to approve what is correct and reject what is wrong - discern*), to pick out (*choose*) by separating, to be of opinion (*decide*), to judge (“*bringing to trial*” - expressing

severe disapproval of (someone or something), typically in a formal statement).) **those who are inside?** But Elohim judges those who are outside. And put away the wicked one from among you!" **1 Corinthians 5:11-13**

Jesus Lord of the Sabbath

"For the **Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath.**" **Matthew 12:8**

And if Christ be the *Lord of the sabbath*, it is fit the day and all the work of it should be dedicated to him. By virtue of this power Christ here enacts, that works of necessity, if they be really such, and not a pretended and self-created necessity, are lawful on the sabbath day; and this explication of the law plainly shows that it was to be perpetual.

Christ, (*then*), by *healing the man that had the withered hand on the sabbath day (Matthew 12:9-13)*, shows that works of mercy are lawful and proper to be done on that day (Leviticus 23:3, Numbers 28:9-10, Leviticus 24:8, Numbers 4:7). The work of necessity was done by the disciples and justified by him; the work of mercy was done by himself; the works of mercy were his works of necessity; it was his *meat and drink to do good*. "*I must proclaim the good news of the kingdom of God . . .*" (Luke 4:43).

The rest of the sabbath was ordained for man's good, in favor of the body. Now no law must be construed so as to contradict its own end.

That you may rest

"¹⁴but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord your God. On 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 livestock, or the sojourner who is within your gates, *that your male servant and your female servant may rest as well as you.*" **Deuteronomy 5:14**

The Sabbath was made for man

"²⁷ And he said to them, "**The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath.**" ²⁸ So the Son of Man is lord even of the Sabbath." **Mark 2:27-28**

Finding Joy in Sabbath

"¹³ '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 honorable, and if you honor it by not going your own way and not doing as you please or speaking idle words,* ¹⁴ *then you will find your joy in the LORD,* and I will *cause* you to ride in triumph on the heights of the land and to feast on the inheritance of your father Jacob.' For the mouth of the LORD has spoken." **Isaiah 58:13-14**

Choose the things that please me

"Thus says the Lord: Keep justice, and do righteousness, for soon my salvation will come, and my righteousness be revealed. ² Blessed is the man who does this, and the son of man who holds it fast, who keeps the Sabbath, not profaning it, and keeps his hand from doing any evil." ³ Let not the foreigner who has joined himself to the Lord say, "The Lord will surely separate me from his people"; and let not the eunuch say, "Behold, I am a dry tree." ⁴ **For thus says the Lord: "To the eunuchs who keep my Sabbaths, who choose the things that please me and hold fast my covenant, ⁵ I will give in my house and within my walls a monument and a name better than sons and daughters; I will give them an everlasting name that shall not be cut off. ⁶ "And the foreigners who join themselves to the Lord, to minister to him, to love the name of the Lord, and to be his servants, everyone who keeps the Sabbath and does not profane it, and holds fast my covenant - ⁷ these I will bring to my holy mountain, and make them joyful in my house of prayer; their burnt offerings and their sacrifices will be accepted on my altar; for my house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples."** ⁸ The Lord God, who gathers the outcasts of Israel, declares, "I will gather yet others to him besides those already gathered." **Isaiah 56:1-8**

Lawful to do good on the Sabbath

"So it is lawful to do good on the Sabbath," **Matthew 12:12**

Mark 3:4

Jesus Heals on the Sabbath

"⁴ 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." **Mark 3:4**

Christ's answer to this question, by way of appeal to themselves, and their own opinion and practice reads: "11 He said to them, 'Which one of you who has a sheep, if it falls into a pit on the Sabbath, will not take hold of it and lift it out? 12 Of how much more value is a man than a sheep! So it is lawful to do good on the Sabbath,'" Matthew 12:11-12. In case a *sheep* (though but one, of which the loss would not be very great) should fall into a pit on the sabbath day, *would they not lift it out?* No doubt they might do it, the fourth commandment allows it; they must do it, for a *merciful man regardeth the life of his beast*, and for their parts they would do it, rather than lose a sheep; does **Christ take care for sheep?** *Yes, he does;* he preserves and provides for both man and beast. But here he says it for our sakes (1 Corinthians 9:9-10), and hence argues, *How much then is a man better than a sheep?* Sheep are not only harmless but useful creatures and are prized and tended accordingly; yet a man is here preferred far before them. Note, Man, in respect of his being, is a great deal better, and more valuable, than the best of the brute creatures: man is a reasonable creature, capable of knowing, loving, and glorifying God, and therefore is better than a sheep. They do not consider this, who are more solicitous for the education, preservation, and supply of their horses and dogs than of God's poor, or perhaps their own household.

Hence Christ infers a truth, which, even at first sight, appears very reasonable and good-natured; that *it is lawful to do well on the sabbath days;* they had asked, *is it lawful to hear?* ("And he said to them, 'Is it lawful on the Sabbath to do good or to do harm, to save life or to kill?'" **Mark 3:4**) Christ proves it is lawful to *do well*, and let any one judge whether healing, as Christ healed, was not *doing well*. **Note, There are more ways of doing well** upon sabbath days, than by the duties of God's immediate worship; *attending the sick, relieving the poor, helping those who are fallen into sudden distress, and call for speedy relief;* this is *doing good*: and this must be done from a principle of love and charity, with humility and self-denial, and a heavenly frame of spirit, and this is *doing well*, and it shall be accepted, *'If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door. Its desire is contrary to you, but you must rule over it.'* But they were silent," **Genesis 4:7**.

Christ's curing of the man, notwithstanding the offence which he foresaw the Pharisees would take at it, "*Then he said to the man, 'Stretch out your hand.'* And the man stretched it out, and it was restored, healthy like the other," Matthew 12:13. Though they could not answer Christ's arguments, they were resolved to persist in their prejudice and enmity; but Christ went on with his work notwithstanding. **Note, Duty is not to be left undone, nor opportunities of doing good neglected, for fear of giving offence.** Now the manner of the cure is observable; he said to the man, "*Stretch forth thy hand, exert thyself as well as thou canst;*" and he did so, *and it was restored whole*. This, as other cures Christ wrought, had a spiritual significancy. (1.) By nature our hands are withered, we are utterly unable of ourselves to doing anything that is good. (2.) It is Christ only, by the power of his grace, that cures us; he heals the withered hand by putting life into the dead soul, works in us both to will and to do. (3.) *In order to our cure, he commands us to stretch forth our hands, to improve our natural powers, and do as well as we can; to stretch them out in prayer to God, to stretch them out to lay hold on Christ by faith, to stretch them out in holy endeavours.* Now this man could not stretch forth his withered hand of himself, any more than the impotent man could arise and carry his bed, or Lazarus come forth out of his grave; yet Christ bid him do it. God's commands to us to do the duty which of ourselves we are not able to do are no more absurd or unjust, than this command to the man with the withered hand, *to stretch it forth;* for with the command, there is a promise of grace which is given by the word. *Turn ye at my reproof, and I will pour out my Spirit,* Proverbs 1:23. Those who perish are as inexcusable as this man would have been, if he had not attempted to stretch forth his hand, and so had not been healed. But those who are saved have no more to boast of than this man had of contributing to his own cure, by stretching forth his hand, but are as much indebted to the power and grace of Christ as he was.

Matthew Henry's Commentary – Chapter 12 - Verses 1-13

Creation

The Seventh Day made holy – because on it He (God) rested

"2 By the seventh day God had finished the work he had been doing; so on the seventh day he rested from all his work. 3 Then God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it he rested from all the work of creating that he had done." **Genesis 2:2-3**

God here was not finished with his creation until He had *created "Rest"*, which completed His creation, in accordance to His very nature, which never changes, and in perspective, *2,500 years* before any Law was given to His people on Mount Saini. The same Sabbath Rest we will be observing during the 1,000 year reign of Christ on Earth, *and on into Eternity*.

AND G-D COMPLETED ON THE SEVENTH DAY HIS WORK WHICH HE HAD DONE; AND HE RESTED ON THE SEVENTH DAY FROM ALL HIS WORK WHICH HE HAD DONE (2:2)

What was the world lacking? Rest. When Shabbat came, rest came.

[This is to explain the apparent contradiction between the first and second part of this verse: Did G-d conclude His work on or before the seventh day? Were there six or seven days of creation? The answer is that “rest”, too, is a creation.]

<https://w2.chabad.org/media/pdf/6205.pdf>

The Lord’s Feasts

“There are six days when you may work, but **the seventh day is a day of sabbath rest, a day of sacred assembly**. You are not to do any work; wherever you live, it is a sabbath to the Lord.” **Leviticus 23:3**

“²³ *They are to teach my people the difference between the holy and the common and show them how to distinguish between the unclean and the clean.*

²⁴ In any dispute, the priests are to serve as judges and decide it according to my ordinances. *They are to keep my laws and my decrees for all my appointed festivals, and they are to keep my Sabbaths holy.*” **Ezekiel 44:23-24**

This was not only a day of “Rest”, but one of the *Lord’s eight Appointed Times*, as found in Leviticus 23, when God personally reveals Himself to His people in fulfillment of His *Prophetic Redemptive* work in the Earth, an event that does not just represent just one time in history, but weekly, every seven years, every 50 years, of His *everlasting* (always remember and never breaking) “Rest” and “Refreshment” of His people, like anchors for each one of his annually Celebrated Feasts, for his people to rehearse these set times in history, of which the first four were fulfilled in Christ’s first coming, and which two of the remaining four will be fulfilled in Christ’s second coming, with the remaining two, being Celebrated on into Eternity.

Commandment

⁸ “Remember the **Sabbath day** by *keeping it holy*.” **Exodus 20:8**

¹² “**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 male or female servant, nor your ox, your donkey or any of your animals, nor any foreigner residing in your towns, so that your male and female servants 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.**” **Deuteronomy 5:12-15**

¹² “And the Lord said to Moses, ¹³ ‘You are to speak to the people of Israel and say, “**Above all you shall keep my Sabbaths**, for this is a sign between me and you throughout your generations, *that you may know that I, the Lord, sanctify you.*” ¹⁴ **You shall keep the Sabbath**, because it is holy for you. Everyone who profanes it shall be put to death. Whoever does any work on it, that soul shall be cut off from among his people. ¹⁵ Six days shall work be done, but the seventh day is a Sabbath of solemn rest, holy to the Lord. Whoever does any work on the Sabbath day shall be put to death. ¹⁶ **Therefore the people of Israel shall keep the Sabbath, observing the Sabbath throughout their generations, as a covenant forever** (always remember and never breaking). ¹⁷ **It is a sign forever between me and the people** of Israel that in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, and **on the seventh day he rested** and was **refreshed**.”

¹⁸ “And he gave to Moses, when he had finished speaking with him on Mount Sinai, the two tablets of the testimony, tablets of stone, written with the *finger of God* (Divine law was first given to us encapsulated in the Ten Commandments, which were etched by the hand of God (*finger of God*) in two tablets of stone . . . When something is written, the substance of the letters that express it – the ink – remains a separate entity from the substance upon which they have been set – the parchment. On the other hand, letters engraved in stone are forged in it: the words are stone and the stone is words . . . By the same token, there is an aspect of Torah/Divine law that is “inked” on our soul; we understand it, our emotions are roused by it; it becomes our “lifestyle” or even our “personality”; but it remains something additional to ourselves. But there is a dimension of Torah/Divine law that is engraved in our being. There is a dimension of Torah/Divine law which expresses a bond with G-d that is the very essence of a believer’s soul (ex. Exodus 31:18, Exodus 32:16, Jeremiah 31:33, 2 Corinthians 3:3-9). This teaching and instruction (Torah/Divine law) is more than a divinely ordained behavior pattern for life on earth: it also describes G-d’s own “behavior pattern”, the manner in which He chooses to relate to His creation. When we order our lives after Torah’s directives, we are not only fulfilling G-d’s will – we are also emulating His “behavior”, translating the divine relationship with creation into human/physical terms. In the words of the Midrash, “G-d’s manner is not like the manner of flesh and blood. The manner of flesh and blood is that he instructs others to do, but does not do himself; G-d, however, what He Himself does, that is what He tell his people to do and observe.” (ex. 1 John 1:3-6, “And by this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments. Whoever says “I know him” but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him, but

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whoever keeps his word, in him truly the love of God is perfected. By this we may know that we are in him: whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked.”) **Exodus 31:12-18**

“²³ Yet they did not listen or pay attention; they were stiff-necked and would not listen or respond to discipline. ²⁴ **But if you are careful to obey me, declares the LORD**, and bring no load through the gates of this city on **the Sabbath**, but keep the **Sabbath day holy** by not doing any work on it, ²⁵ then kings who sit on David’s throne will come through the gates of this city with their officials. They and their officials will come riding in chariots and on horses, accompanied by the men of Judah and those living in Jerusalem, and this city will be inhabited forever. ²⁶ People will come from the towns of Judah and the villages around Jerusalem, from the territory of Benjamin and the western foothills, from the hill country and the Negev, bringing burnt offerings and sacrifices, grain offerings and incense, and bringing thank offerings to the house of the LORD. ²⁷ **But if you do not obey me to keep the Sabbath day holy** by not carrying any load as you come through the gates of Jerusalem on **the Sabbath day**, then I will kindle an unquenchable fire in the gates of Jerusalem that will consume her fortresses.” **Jeremiah 17:23-27**

Teach No Difference of Sabbaths

²⁵ “There is a conspiracy of her princes within her like a roaring lion tearing its prey; they devour people, take treasures and precious things and make many widows within her. ²⁶ Her priests do violence to my law and profane my holy things; they do not distinguish between the holy and the common; they teach that there is no difference between the unclean and the clean; and **they shut their eyes to the keeping of my Sabbaths, so that I am profaned among them**. ²⁷ Her officials within her are like wolves tearing their prey; they shed blood and kill people to make unjust gain. ²⁸ Her prophets whitewash these deeds for them by false visions and lying divinations. **They say, ‘This is what the Sovereign Lord says’—when the Lord has not spoken**. ²⁹ The people of the land practice extortion and commit robbery; they oppress the poor and needy and mistreat the foreigner, denying them justice.

³⁰ I looked for someone among them who would build up the wall and stand before me in the gap on behalf of the land so I would not have to destroy it, but I found no one. ³¹ So I will pour out my wrath on them and consume them with my fiery anger, bringing down on their own heads all they have done, declares the Sovereign LORD.” **Ezekiel 22:25-30**

Teach my people to keep my Sabbaths holy

“²³ They are to teach my people the difference between the holy and the common and show them how to distinguish between the unclean and the clean. ²⁴ “In any dispute, the priests are to serve as judges and decide it according to my ordinances. They are to keep my laws and my decrees for all my appointed festivals, and they are to keep my Sabbaths holy.” **Ezekiel 44:23-24**

Enter God’s Rest

A Sabbath-Rest for the People of God

“Therefore, since the promise of entering his **rest still stands, let us be careful that none of you be found to have fallen short of it** . . . ⁷ God again set a certain day, calling it “*Today*”: . . . ‘*Today*, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts (“ . . . *harden your hearts* as in the rebellion, on the day of testing in the wilderness,” Hebrews 3:8)’ . . . ⁹ There remains, then, a **Sabbath-rest** for the people of God; ¹⁰ for anyone who enters God’s **rest** also rests from their works, just as God did from his. ¹¹ **Let us, therefore, make every effort to enter that rest, so that no one will perish by following their** (“those who left Egypt led by Moses,” Hebrews 3:16) example of disobedience. ¹² *For the word of God is alive and active*. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. ¹³ Nothing in all creation is hidden from God’s sight. *Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account*.” **Hebrews 4:1-13**

Be on your guard *(that you may not fall from your secure position)*

¹⁶ “. . . His (Paul) letters contain some things that are **hard to understand, which ignorant and unstable people distort, as they do the other Scriptures, to their own destruction**. ¹⁷ Therefore, dear friends, *since you have been forewarned, be on your guard so that you may not be carried away by the error of the lawless (man’s ways and not God’s ways – absent of God’s teaching and instruction) and fall from your secure position*. ¹⁸ *But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ*. To him be glory both now and forever! Amen.” **2 Peter 3:16-18**

Satan Will Change the Times and Seasons

²⁵ “He will speak against the Most High and oppress his holy people and try to **change the set times (Appointed Times) and the laws (teaching and instruction of God)**. The holy people will be delivered into his hands for a time, times and half a time.” **Daniel 7:25**

History of the Changing of the Seasons and Law

The first issue we need to deal with is time. We in Western cultures base our time on the Gregorian calendar. This calendar was derived from the Julian calendar developed by Julius Caesar in 46 BC and modified by Pope Gregory XIII in 1582 AD. The Gregorian calendar is a solar calendar, basing its calculations on the earth's movement around the sun, which makes a complete cycle about every 365 days. The calendar consists of twelve months: 7 of 31 days, 4 of 30 days and 1 of 28 days. An extra day is added to the 28-day month every 4th year and every 100th year to keep it accurate. The Gregorian calendar does not have a recurring cycle of dates.

The Hebrew or Jewish calendar is a lunar calendar. It is based on the movement of the moon around the earth, which makes a complete cycle about every 29-1/2 days. This calendar also consists of twelve months, but the beginning of each month is determined by visual observation of a new moon. In order to maintain accuracy with the solar year, an extra (13th) month is added seven times within a nineteen-year period. This extra month follows the twelfth month, Adar and is called Ve Adar or "second" Adar. The Hebrew or Jewish calendar has a recurring cycle of dates every nineteen years.

January 1st is New Years Day on the Gregorian calendar but the Hebrew year contains two New Years Days. In Exodus 12:2, God ordained that the first month of the year for Israelites would be Abib. The name Abib means "green ears" and was used to indicate the time of year when the corn of grain first appears in the head of wheat and barley. It is from the new moon of Abib that all the Feasts of the Lord ("appointed times of Jesus Christ") as ordained by God in Leviticus 23, are determined. The Jewish people currently call this month Nisan and it corresponds to our March/April time frame.

The Jewish people also have a civil calendar, which begins at the new moon of Ethanim, the supposed birth date of Adam. We know this date as Rosh Hashanah meaning "Head of the Year". They use this New Year's date to mark the beginning of the year for kings, childbirth and contracts. The name Ethanim means "permanent" and is the seventh month of the God ordained year. The Jewish people currently call this month Tishri and it corresponds to our September/October time frame.

In Western cultures our day begins at 12:00 am or midnight. In Hebrew or Jewish culture the day begins with the appearance of three stars in the evening (about 6:00 pm), which is six hours earlier than ours.

The days of the week on the Gregorian calendar are named after various gods. The Hebrews simply numbered their days . . . 1st, 2nd, 3rd, etc. The 7th day of the week is the Sabbath ("Rest"); it begins at approximately 6:00 pm on Friday night and ends at approximately 6:00 pm on Saturday night.

Children of Light

The Day of the Lord

"Now, brothers and sisters, **about times and dates** (*times*: Appointed Times/Feasts of the Lord; *dates*: Biblical Calendar) we do not need to write to you, ² for you know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. ³ While people are saying, "Peace and safety," destruction will come on them suddenly, as labor pains on a pregnant woman, and they will not escape.

⁴ **But you, brothers and sisters, are not in darkness so that this day should surprise you like a thief.** ⁵ **You are all children of the light and children of the day.** We do not belong to the night or to the darkness. ⁶ So then, let us not be like others, who are asleep, but let us be awake and sober. ⁷ For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, get drunk at night. ⁸ *But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, putting on faith and love as a breastplate, and the hope of salvation as a helmet.* ⁹ For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. ¹⁰ He died for us so that, whether we are awake or asleep, we may live together with him. ¹¹ Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing." **1 Thessalonians 5:1-11**

Catholic Church Admits They Made the Change

About 100 years before Christianity, Egyptian Mithraists introduced the festival of Sunday, dedicated to worshiping the sun, into the Roman Empire. Later, as Christianity grew, church leaders wished to increase the numbers of the church. In order to make the gospel more attractive to non-Christians, pagan customs were incorporated into the church's ceremonies. The custom of Sunday worship was welcomed by Christians who desired to differentiate themselves from the Jews, whom they hated because of the Jews' rejection of the Savior. The first day of the week began to be recognized as both a religious and civil holiday. By the end of the second century, Christians considered it sinful to work on Sunday.

The Roman emperor Constantine, a former sun-worshiper, professed conversion to Christianity, though his subsequent actions suggest the "conversion" was more of a political move than a genuine heart change. Constantine named himself Bishop of the Catholic Church and enacted the first civil law regarding Sunday observance in A.D. 321.

On the venerable day of the sun let the magistrate and people residing in cities rest, and let all workshops be closed. In the country however, persons engaged in agricultural work may freely and lawfully continue their pursuits; because it often happens that another day is not so suitable for grain growing or for vine planting; lest by neglecting the proper moment for such operations the bounty of heaven should be lost. —Schaff's History of the Christian Church, vol. III, chap. 75.

Note that Constantine's law did not even mention Sabbath but referred to the mandated rest day as a "the venerable day of the sun." And how kind he was to allow people to observe it as it was convenient. Contrast this with God's command to observe the Sabbath "even during the plowing season and harvest" **Exodus 34:21!** Perhaps the church leaders noticed this laxity as well, for just four years later, in A.D. 325, Pope Sylvester officially named Sunday "the Lord's Day," and in A.D. 338, Eusebius, the court bishop of Constantine, wrote, "All things whatsoever that it was the duty to do on the Sabbath (the seventh day of the week) we (Constantine, Eusebius, and other bishops) have transferred to the Lord's Day (the first day of the week) as more appropriately belonging to it."

Instead of the humble lives of persecution and self-sacrifice led by the apostles, church leaders now exalted themselves to the place of God.

"⁴Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. ⁵They are from the world; therefore they speak from the world, and the world listens to them. ⁶We are from God. Whoever knows God listens to us; whoever is not from God does not listen to us. By this we know the Spirit of truth and the spirit of error." **1 John 4:4-6**

The Catechism

Recall the ceremony with which God made known His Law, containing the blessing of the seventh-day Sabbath, by which all humanity is to be judged. Contrast this with the unannounced, unnoticed anticlimax with which the church gradually adopted Sunday at the command of "Christian" emperors and Roman bishops. And these freely admit that they made the change from Sabbath to Sunday.

In the *Convert's Catechism of Catholic Doctrine*, we read:

Q. Which is the Sabbath day?

A. Saturday is the Sabbath day.

Q. Why do we observe Sunday instead of Saturday?

A. We observe Sunday instead of Saturday because the Catholic Church, in the Council of Laodicea, (AD 336) transferred the solemnity from Saturday to Sunday...

Q. Why did the Catholic Church substitute Sunday for Saturday?

A. The Church substituted Sunday for Saturday, because Christ rose from the dead on a Sunday, and the Holy Ghost descended upon the Apostles on a Sunday.

Q. By what authority did the Church substitute Sunday for Saturday?

A. The Church substituted Sunday for Saturday by the plenitude of that divine power which Jesus Christ bestowed upon her!

—Rev. Peter Geiermann, C.S.S.R., (1946), p. 50.

In *Catholic Christian Instructed*,

Q. Has the [Catholic] church power to make any alterations in the commandments of God?

A. ...Instead of the seventh day, and other festivals appointed by the old law, the church has prescribed the Sundays and holy days to be set apart for God's worship; and these we are now obliged to keep in consequence of God's commandment, instead of the ancient Sabbath.

—The Catholic Christian Instructed in the Sacraments, Sacrifices, Ceremonies, and Observances of the Church By Way of Question and Answer, RT Rev. Dr. Challoner, p. 204.

⁶ And he said to them, "Well did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written,
 "'This people honors me with their lips,
 but their heart is far from me;

⁷ in vain do they worship me,
 teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.'

⁸ You leave the commandment of God and hold to the tradition of men."

⁹ And he said to them, “You have a fine way of rejecting the commandment of God in order to establish your tradition! **Mark 7:6-9**

In *An Abridgment of the Christian Doctrine*,

Q. How prove you that the church hath power to command feasts and holy days?

A. By the very act of changing the Sabbath into Sunday, which Protestants allow of; and therefore they fondly contradict themselves, by keeping Sunday strictly, and breaking most other feasts commanded by the same church.

Q. How prove you that?

A. Because by keeping Sunday, they acknowledge the church’s power to ordain feasts, and to command them under sin; and by not keeping the rest [of the feasts] by her commanded, they again deny, in fact, the same power.

–Rev. Henry Tuberville, D.D. (R.C.), (1833), page 58.

In *A Doctrinal Catechism*,

Q. Have you any other way of proving that the Church has power to institute festivals of precept?

A. Had she not such power, she could not have done that in which all modern religionists agree with her. She could not have substituted the observance of Sunday the first day of the week, for the observance of Saturday the seventh day, a change for which there is no Scriptural authority.

–Rev. Stephen Keenan, (1851), p. 174.

In the *Catechism of the Council of Trent*,

The Church of God has thought it well to transfer the celebration and observance of the Sabbath to Sunday!

–p 402, second revised edition (English), 1937. (First published in 1566)

In the *Augsburg Confession*,

They [the Catholics] allege the Sabbath changed into Sunday, the Lord’s day, contrary to the decalogue, as it appears; neither is there any example more boasted of than the changing of the Sabbath day. Great, they say, is the power and authority of the church, since it dispensed with one of the ten commandments.

- Art. 28.

God warned that a blasphemous power would “*seek to change times and laws*,” (Daniel 7:25) and the Catholic Church openly admits doing it, even boasts about it. In a sermon at the Council of Trent in 1562, the Archbishop of Reggia, Caspar del Fossa, claimed that *the Catholic Church’s whole authority is based upon the fact that they changed the Sabbath to Sunday*.

Does this not fulfill the prophecies of Daniel and Paul?

“For centuries millions of Christians have gathered to worship God on the first day of the week. Graciously He has accepted this worship. He has poured out His blessings upon Christian people as they have sought to serve Him. However, as one searches the Scriptures, he is forced to recognize that Sunday is not a day of God’s appointment... It has no foundation in Scripture, but has arisen entirely as a result of custom,”

- says Frank H. Yost, Ph.D. in *The Early Christian Sabbath*.

Let us ask the question again: Was the Sabbath changed from the seventh day of the week to the first? The Bible is clear: “*And God blessed the seventh day and made it holy*” **Genesis 2:3**. “*Therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy*” **Exodus 20:11**. If God intended for another day to become the Sabbath, He must have removed the blessing from the seventh day and placed it on the day which was to replace it. But when God bestows a blessing, it is forever. “*... You, O Lord, have blessed it, and it will be blessed forever*” **1 Chronicles 17:27**. “*I have received a command to bless; He has blessed, and I cannot change it*” **Numbers 23:20**. Your birthday, a memorial of your birth, can’t be changed, though you may celebrate it on a different day. Neither can the Sabbath, a memorial of creation **Exodus 20:11**, be changed, though some may celebrate it on a different day.

God instructed Moses to construct the earthly sanctuary, all its furniture, and the ark according to “the pattern” he was shown. (Exodus 25:9, 40) The ark was called the “ark of the covenant” (Numbers 10:33, Deuteronomy 10:8, Hebrews 9:4), and the “ark of the testimony” (Exodus 25:22), because in it Moses placed the tablets of stone on which God wrote His Law. (Exodus 25:16, 31:18) John, in Revelation 11:19, describes the scene before him when “the temple of God was opened in Heaven.” John saw the ark of the covenant in the heavenly sanctuary. David wrote, “Your word, O Lord, is eternal; it stands firm in the heavens” (Psalm 119:89). It is safe to assume that God’s Law remains, contained within the ark of the covenant in the heavenly sanctuary.

When God says, “The seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord your God” (Exodus 20:10), that ends all controversy. We cannot change God’s Word for our own convenience. “But if serving the Lord seems undesirable to you, then choose for

Sabbath – Created & Designed Perfectly for You

yourselves this day whom you will serve” (Joshua 24:15).

<https://www.sabbathtruth.com/free-resources/article-library/id/916/catholic-church-admits-they-made-the-change>

Example Consequence(s) of Not Keeping the Sabbath

God said the captivity in Babylon was for 70 years (*Jeremiah 25:1,11*).

Seventy Years of Captivity

The word that came to Jeremiah concerning all the people of Judah, in the fourth year of Jehoiakim the son of Josiah, king of Judah (that was the first year of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon), ¹¹This whole land shall become a ruin and a waste, and these nations shall serve the king of Babylon seventy years. *Jeremiah 25:1,11*

The 70 years of exile were due to Israel not keeping the sabbatical year for the land (*II Chronicles 36:20-21, Leviticus 25:1-4*).

²⁰He took into exile in Babylon those who had escaped from the sword, and they became servants to him and to his sons until the establishment of the kingdom of Persia, ²¹to fulfill the word of the Lord by the mouth of Jeremiah, until the land had enjoyed its Sabbaths. All the days that it lay desolate it kept Sabbath, to fulfill seventy years. *2 Chronicles 36:20-21*

The Lord spoke to Moses on Mount Sinai, saying, ²“Speak to the people of Israel and say to them, When you come into the land that I give you, the land shall keep a Sabbath to the Lord. ³For six years you shall sow your field, and for six years you shall prune your vineyard and gather in its fruits, ⁴but in the seventh year there shall be a Sabbath of solemn rest for the land, a Sabbath to the Lord. You shall not sow your field or prune your vineyard. *Leviticus 25:1-4*

At the end of 70 years of captivity in Babylon, Cyrus, King of Persia, will defeat Babylon and allow the Jews to return to Jerusalem to rebuild the temple (*Jeremiah 29:10, Daniel 9:2, II Chronicles 36:22-23, Ezra 1:1-3, 5:13-14*).

¹⁰“For thus says the Lord: When seventy years are completed for Babylon, I will visit you, and I will fulfill to you my promise and bring you back to this place. *Jeremiah 29:10*

Cyrus made the decree in 538 B.C.E. The building of the temple will begin 2 years later (*Ezra 3:8*) in 536 B.C.E.

The Jews did not return to Israel as a corporate people after the 70 years of captivity *which God required to fulfill the sabbath rest for the land. Only a remnant returned.*

Everlasting Covenant

The Sabbath

¹²Then the LORD said to Moses, ¹³“Say to the Israelites, ‘You must observe my Sabbaths. This will be a sign between me and you for the generations (everlasting covenant) to come, so you may know that I am the LORD, who makes you holy.

¹⁴“**Observe the Sabbath, because it is holy to you.** Anyone who desecrates it is to be put to death; those who do any work on that day must be cut off from their people. ¹⁵For six days work is to be done, *but the seventh day is a day of sabbath rest, holy to the LORD.* Whoever does any work on the Sabbath day is to be put to death. ¹⁶The Israelites (striven with **God** and with **men** and have **prevailed** – one who **crosses over** from this world to the next) *are to observe the Sabbath, celebrating it for the generations to come as a lasting covenant.* ¹⁷*It will be a sign between me and the Israelites forever (everlasting covenant), for in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, and on the seventh day he rested and was refreshed.” Exodus 31:12-17*

¹¹“I gave them my decrees and made known to them my laws, by which the person who obeys them will live. ¹²Also **I gave them my Sabbaths as a sign between us, so they would know that I the LORD made them holy.**

¹³“Yet the people of Israel rebelled against me in the wilderness. *They did not follow my decrees but rejected my laws—by which the person who obeys them will live—and they utterly desecrated my Sabbaths.* So I said I would pour out my wrath on them and destroy them in the wilderness. ¹⁴*But for the sake of my name I did what would keep it from being profaned in the eyes of the nations in whose sight I had brought them out.* ¹⁵Also with uplifted hand I swore to them in the wilderness that I would not bring them into the land I had given them—a land flowing with milk and honey, the most beautiful of all lands—¹⁶*because they rejected my laws and did not follow my decrees and desecrated my Sabbaths. For their hearts were devoted to their idols.* ¹⁷Yet I looked on them with pity and did not destroy them or put an end to them in the wilderness. ¹⁸I said to their children in the wilderness, “Do not follow the statutes of your parents or keep their laws or defile yourselves with their

idols. ¹⁹ I am the LORD your God; follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws. ²⁰ **Keep my Sabbaths holy, that they may be a sign between us.** Then you will know that I am the LORD your God.”

²¹ “But the children rebelled against me: They did not follow my decrees, they were not careful to keep my laws, of which I said, “The person who obeys them will live by them,” and they desecrated my Sabbaths. So I said I would pour out my wrath on them and spend my anger against them in the wilderness. ²² But I withheld my hand, and for the sake of my name I did what would keep it from being profaned in the eyes of the nations in whose sight I had brought them out.” **Ezekiel 20:11-22**

A Sabbath-Rest for the People of God

“Therefore, since the promise of entering his rest still stands, let us be careful that none of you be found to have fallen short of it.” **Hebrews 4:1**

⁹ There remains, then, a Sabbath-rest for the people of God; ¹⁰ for anyone who enters God’s rest also rests from their works, just as God did from his. ¹¹ Let us, therefore, make every effort to enter that rest, so that no one will perish by following their example of disobedience.” **Hebrews 4:9-11**

Tabernacles/New Earth/2nd Coming

Final Judgment and Glory of the Lord

²² As the **new heavens** and the **new earth** that I make will endure before me,” declares the LORD, “so will your name and descendants endure. ²³ From *one New Moon to another* and from *one Sabbath to another,* all mankind will come and bow down before me,” says the LORD.” **Isaiah 66:22-23**

¹⁶ Then the survivors from all the nations that have attacked Jerusalem will go up *year after year to worship the King, the LORD Almighty,* and to celebrate the Festival of Tabernacles. ¹⁷ If any of the peoples of the earth do not go up to Jerusalem to worship the King, the LORD Almighty, they will have no rain. ¹⁸ If the Egyptian people do not go up and take part, they will have no rain. The LORD will bring on them the plague he inflicts on the nations that do not go up to celebrate the Festival of Tabernacles. ¹⁹ This will be the punishment of Egypt and the punishment of all the nations that do not go up to celebrate the Festival of Tabernacles. **Zechariah 14:16-19**

The Prince and the Feasts – (The Future 3rd Temple)

“This is what the Sovereign LORD says: The gate of the inner court facing east is to be shut on the six working days, but on **the Sabbath day** and on the day of the **New Moon** it is to be opened. ² **The prince** (prophetic picture of the messiah in fulfillment of the Millennial reign) *is to enter* from the outside through the portico of the gateway and stand by the gatepost. The priests are to sacrifice his burnt offering and his fellowship offerings. He is to bow down in worship at the threshold of the gateway and then go out, but the gate will not be shut until evening. ³ On **the Sabbaths** and **New Moons** *the people of the land are to worship in the presence of the LORD at the entrance of that gateway.* ⁴ The burnt offering **the prince brings to the LORD on the Sabbath day** is to be six male lambs and a ram, all without defect. ⁵ The grain offering given with the ram is to be an ephah, and the grain offering with the lambs is to be as much as he pleases, along with a hin of olive oil for each ephah. ⁶ On the day of the **New Moon** he is to offer a young bull, six lambs and a ram, all without defect. ⁷ He is to provide as a grain offering one ephah with the bull, one ephah with the ram, and with the lambs as much as he wants to give, along with a hin of oil for each ephah. ⁸ When **the prince enters,** he is to go in through the portico of the gateway, and he is to come out the same way.

⁹ “When the people of the land come before the LORD at the appointed festivals, whoever enters by the north gate to worship is to go out the south gate; and whoever enters by the south gate is to go out the north gate. *No one is to return through the gate by which they entered,* but each is to go out the opposite gate. ¹⁰ **The prince is to be among them, going in when they go in and going out when they go out.** ¹¹ At the feasts and the appointed festivals, the grain offering is to be an ephah with a bull, an ephah with a ram, and with the lambs as much as he pleases, along with a hin of oil for each ephah.

¹² “When the prince provides a freewill offering to the LORD—whether a burnt offering or fellowship offerings—the gate facing east is to be opened for him. He shall offer his burnt offering or his fellowship offerings as he does on **the Sabbath day.** Then he shall go out, and after he has gone out, the gate will be shut.

¹³ “Every day you are to provide a year-old lamb without defect for a burnt offering to the LORD; morning by morning you shall provide it. ¹⁴ You are also to provide with it morning by morning a grain offering, consisting of a sixth of an ephah with a third of a hin of oil to moisten the flour. The presenting of this grain offering to the LORD is a lasting ordinance. ¹⁵ So the lamb and the grain offering and the oil shall be provided morning by morning for a regular burnt offering.

¹⁶ “This is what the Sovereign LORD says: If the prince makes a gift from his inheritance to one of his sons, it will also belong to his descendants; it is to be their property by inheritance. ¹⁷ If, however, he makes a gift from his inheritance to one of his servants, the servant may keep it until the year of freedom; then it will revert to **the prince.** His inheritance belongs to his sons only; it is theirs. ¹⁸ **The prince** must not take any of the inheritance of the people, driving them off their property. He is to give

his sons their inheritance out of his own property, so that not one of my people will be separated from their property.” **Ezekiel 46:1-18**

Understanding Jesus’ 2nd Coming Prophecy

“²⁰ Pray that your flight will not take place *in winter or on the Sabbath*.” **Matthew 24:20**

New Heaven Sabbath

“²² As the **new heavens** and the **new earth** that *I make will endure before me*,’ declares the LORD, ‘so will your name and descendants endure. ²³ From *one New Moon to another* and from *one Sabbath to another*, all mankind will come and bow down before me,’ says the LORD.” **Isaiah 66:22-23**

Walk as Jesus Walked

“⁶ *Whoever claims to live in him must live as Jesus did*.” **1 John 2:6**

“When the Sabbath came, he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were amazed. ‘Where did this man get these things?’ they asked. ‘What’s this wisdom that has been given him? What are these remarkable miracles he is performing?’” **Mark 6:2**

“He (*Jesus*) went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day *he went into the synagogue, as was his custom* (as is his wont). He stood up to read,” **Luke 4:16**

“[*Jesus Drives Out an Impure Spirit*] Then he went down to Capernaum, a town in Galilee, and on the Sabbath *he taught the people*.” **Luke 4:31**

“And **beginning with Moses** and all the Prophets, **he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself**. ²⁹ but they urged him strongly, saying, ‘Stay with us, for it is toward evening and the day is now far spent.’ So he went in to stay with them. ³⁰ When he was at table with them, he took the bread and blessed and broke it and gave it to them. ³¹ And **their eyes were opened, and they recognized him**. And he vanished from their sight. ³² They said to each other, ‘**Did not our hearts burn within us while he talked to us on the road, while he opened to us the Scriptures?**’” **Luke 24:27**

“For *if you believed Moses, you would believe me*; for *he wrote of me*.” **John 5:46**

The Gospels and the Sabbath(s)

Matthew 24:20

²⁰ Pray that your flight will not take place in winter or on the Sabbath.

Matthew 28:1

¹ [*Jesus Has Risen*] After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb.

Mark 3:4

⁴ 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.

Mark 15:42

⁴² [*The Burial of Jesus*] It was Preparation Day (that is, the day before the Sabbath). So as evening approached,

Mark 16:1

¹ [*Jesus Has Risen*] When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices so that they might go to anoint Jesus’ body.

Luke 6:2

² Some of the Pharisees asked, “Why are you doing what is unlawful on the Sabbath?”

Luke 6:9

⁹ Then Jesus said to them, “I ask you, which is lawful on the Sabbath: to do good or to do evil, to save life or to destroy it?”

Luke 13:10

¹⁰ [*Jesus Heals a Crippled Woman on the Sabbath*] On a Sabbath Jesus was teaching in one of the synagogues,

Luke 13:14

¹⁴ Indignant because Jesus had healed on the Sabbath, the synagogue leader said to the people, “There are six days for work. So come and be healed on those days, not on the Sabbath.”

Luke 13:15

¹⁵ The Lord answered him, “You hypocrites! Doesn’t each of you on the Sabbath untie your ox or donkey from the stall and lead it out to give it water?”

Luke 13:16

Then should not this woman, a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan has kept bound for eighteen long years, be set free on the Sabbath day from what bound her?”

Luke 14:5

⁵ Then he asked them, “If one of you has a child^l or an ox that falls into a well on the Sabbath day, will you not immediately pull it out?”

Luke 23:54

⁵⁴ It was Preparation Day, and the Sabbath was about to begin.

Luke 23:56

⁵⁶ Then they went home and prepared spices and perfumes. But they rested on the Sabbath in obedience to the commandment.

John 5:16

¹⁶ [*The Authority of the Son*] So, because Jesus was doing these things on the Sabbath, the Jewish leaders began to persecute him.

John 7:23

²³ Now if a boy can be circumcised on the Sabbath so that the law of Moses may not be broken, why are you angry with me for healing a man’s whole body on the Sabbath?

John 9:14

¹⁴ Now the day on which Jesus had made the mud and opened the man’s eyes was a Sabbath.

John 19:31

³¹ Now it was the day of Preparation, and the next day was to be *a special Sabbath*. Because the Jewish leaders did not want the bodies left on the crosses during the Sabbath, they asked Pilate to have the legs broken and the bodies taken down.

Acts and the Sabbath(s)

Acts 1:12

¹² Then the apostles returned to Jerusalem from the hill called the Mount of Olives, a Sabbath day’s walk from the city.

Acts 13:14

¹⁴ From Perga they went on to Pisidian Antioch. On the Sabbath they entered the synagogue and sat down.

Acts 13:27

²⁷ The people of Jerusalem and their rulers did not recognize Jesus, yet in condemning him they fulfilled the words of the prophets that are *read every Sabbath*.

Acts 13:42

⁴² As Paul and Barnabas were leaving the synagogue, the people invited them to speak further about these things on the next Sabbath.

Acts 13:44

⁴⁴ On the next Sabbath almost the whole city gathered to hear the word of the Lord.

Acts 15:21

²¹ For the law of Moses has been preached in every city from the earliest times and is read in the synagogues on every Sabbath.”

Acts 16:13

¹³ On **the Sabbath** we went outside the city gate to the river, where we expected to find a place of prayer. We sat down and began to speak to the women who had gathered there.

Acts 17:2

² As was his custom, Paul went into the synagogue, and on three **Sabbath days** he reasoned with them from the Scriptures,

Acts 18:4

⁴ **Every Sabbath** he reasoned in the synagogue, trying to persuade Jews and Greeks.

The Lord Made His People Forget (her Appointed Times & Sabbaths) do to Anger:

“¹⁸The Lord is in the right,
for I have rebelled against the word . . .
“⁶He has laid waste his dwelling like a garden;
he has destroyed his place of meeting.
The LORD has made Zion forget
her **appointed festivals** and her **Sabbaths**;
in his fierce anger he has spurned
both king and priest.” **Lamentations 1:18, 2:6**

Keep My Commands

Matthew 28:20, “teaching them to **observe** all the **I have commanded** you,” **observe**: I keep, guard, observe, keep watch over, continue keeping guard over, preserve, and **I have commanded**: to order, command to be done, enjoin (to direct or impose by authoritative order or with urgent admonition (gentle or friendly reproof, counsel or warning against fault or oversight)); ex. Deuteronomy 30:11-20, “If you obey the commandments of the Lord your God that I command you today, by loving the Lord your God, by walking in his ways, and by keeping his commandments and his **statutes** and his rules, then you shall live and multiply, and the Lord your God will bless you,” **statutes**: Divine law was first given to us encapsulated in the Ten Commandments, which were etched by the hand of God in two tablets of stone . . . When something is written, the substance of the letters that express it – the ink – remains a separate entity from the substance upon which they have been set – the parchment. On the other hand, letters engraved in stone are forged in it: the words are stone and the stone is words . . . By the same token, there is an aspect of Torah that is “inked” on our soul; we understand it, our emotions are roused by it; it becomes our “lifestyle” or even our “personality”; but it remains something additional to ourselves. But there is a dimension of Torah that is **statutes**, engrave in our being. There is a dimension of Torah which expresses a bond with G-d that is the very essence of a believers soul (ex. Exodus 31:18, Exodus 32:16, Jeremiah 31:33, 2 Corinthians 3:3-9).

John 1:1-5**The Word Became Flesh**

¹ *In the beginning was **the Word** (the cause of all the world's life both physical and ethical, which for the procurement of man's salvation put on human nature in the person of Jesus the Messiah and shone forth conspicuously from his words and deeds), and **the Word** was *with God*, and **the Word** was *God*. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ **All things were made through him**, and **without him was not anything made that was made**. ⁴ *In him was life*, and *the life was the light of men*. ⁵ **The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.***

Matthew 28:20

²⁰ and **teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you**. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

John 14:15

¹⁵ “*If you love me, **keep my commands**.*”

John 14:21

²¹ **Whoever has my commands and keeps them** *is the one who loves me*. The one who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love them and show myself to them.”

John 14:23

²³ Jesus replied, “*Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching. My Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them.*”

John 15:5-7

⁵ “I am the vine; you are the branches. *If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.* ⁶ If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. ⁷ *If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.*”

John 15:10-11

¹⁰ **If you keep my commands**, *you will remain in my love*, just as I have kept my Father’s commands and remain in his love.

¹¹ *I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.*

John 16:1

¹ “*All this I have told you so that you will not fall away.*”

Revelation 22:14 King James Version (KJV)

¹⁴ Blessed are they that **do his commandments**, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city.

Revelation 14:12 King James Version (KJV)

¹² Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that **keep the commandments** of God, and the faith of Jesus.

Revelation 12:17 King James Version (KJV)

¹⁷ And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which **keep the commandments** of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.

Revelation 7:14 King James Version (KJV)

¹⁴ And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and **have washed their robes** (do his commandments), and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

The Fellowship of the Believers

“⁴² They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching (“**teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you**.” Matthew 28:20 – they were literally teaching these believers everything that they had just been taught by their Master Teacher, Jesus, over the course of the past three and a half years, as he instructed them to do in the Great Commission.) and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.” ⁴³ Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. ⁴⁴ All the believers were together and had everything in common. ⁴⁵ They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. ⁴⁶ Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, ⁴⁷ praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. **And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.” Acts 2:42-47**

Without Faith it is Impossible to Please God**Faith in Action**

“¹ Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see . . . ⁶ **And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him** . . . ⁸ By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going. ⁹ By faith he made his home in the promised land like a stranger in a foreign country; he lived in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. ¹⁰ For he was looking forward to the city with foundations, *whose architect and builder is God.* ¹¹ And by faith even Sarah, who was past childbearing age, was enabled to bear children because she considered him faithful who had made the promise. ¹² And so from this one man, and he as good as dead, came descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as countless as the sand on the seashore.

¹³ All these people were still living by faith when they died. **They did not receive the things promised; they only saw them and welcomed them from a distance, admitting that they were foreigners and strangers on earth.** ¹⁴ People who say such things show that they are looking for a country of their own. ¹⁵ If they had been thinking of the country they had left, they would have had opportunity to return. ¹⁶ Instead, they were longing for a better country—a heavenly one. *Therefore, God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared a city for them.” Hebrews 11:1-16*

Overcome the World

“²With a mighty voice he shouted:
 ‘Fallen! Fallen is Babylon the Great!’
 She has become a dwelling for demons
 and a haunt for every impure spirit,
 a haunt for every unclean bird,
 a haunt for every unclean and detestable animal.
³For all the nations have drunk
 the maddening wine of her adulteries.
 The kings of the earth committed adultery with her,
 and the merchants of the earth grew rich from her excessive luxuries.”
 Warning to Escape Babylon’s Judgment
⁴Then I heard another voice from heaven say:
 “‘Come out of her, my people,’
 so that you will not share in her sins,
 so that you will not receive any of her plagues;
⁵for her sins are piled up to heaven,
 and God has remembered her crimes.” Revelation 18:2-5

³³“I have told you these things,
 so that in me you may have peace.
 In this world you will have trouble.

But take heart!

I have overcome the world.” John 16:33

Purpose for Following God's Word

“All this I have told you so that you will not fall away.” John 16:1

Jesus’ Teaching on the Law

Jesus, the Fulfillment of the Law and the Prophets

“Who makes the laws?” . . . and . . . “Why do you think we have laws?”

Jesus introduces His next subject in the Sermon on Mount by talking about the Law and the Prophets.

It is in Matthew 5:17-20, that we find Jesus’ next command, “Do not think that I came to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I did not come to abolish, but to fulfill.”

The Sermon on the Mount Matthew 5:17-20

Do not think that I came to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I did not come to abolish, but to fulfill. For truly I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or stroke shall pass away from the Law, until all is accomplished. Whoever then annuls one of the least of these commandments, and so teaches others, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever keeps and teaches them, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I say to you, that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the scribes and Pharisees, you shall not enter the kingdom of heaven.

The Law or the Prophets - Jesus is saying that He has not come to do away with the Scriptures (the Words of God) but to fulfill all that was spoken in them. The Scriptures that He spoke about are what is called the Old Testament portion of the Bible. This was the total of revealed Scripture (God’s Word) until He, Jesus (The Word of God) came alive in the flesh. The Jews divide this Scripture (Old Testament) into three parts and it is called the Tanakh, which is an acronym formed from the first letters of the three parts: 1. Torah (“Teaching” or “the Law”), the Five Books of Moses or Pentateuch (Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy). 2. N’vi’im (“Prophets”), the Historical Books (Joshua, Judges, 1 & 2 Samuel, and 1 & 2 Kings), the Major Prophets (Isaiah, Jeremiah, and Ezekiel), the Minor Prophets (Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, and Malachi). 3. K’tuvim (“Writings”), the Five Scrolls (Ruth, Esther, Ecclesiastes, Song of

Songs, and Lamentations), the Other Writings (1 & 2 Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, Job, Psalms, Proverbs, and Daniel).

Torah law (*G-d's teaching and instruction*) - is more than a divinely ordained behavior pattern for life on earth: it also describes G-d's own "behavior pattern," the manner in which He chooses to relate to His creation. When we order our lives after Torah's directives, we are not only fulfilling G-d's will—we are also emulating His "behavior," translating the divine relationship with creation into human/physical terms. In the words of the Midrash, "G-d's manner is not like the manner of flesh and blood. The manner of flesh and blood is that he instructs others to do, but does not do himself; G-d, however, what He Himself does, that is what He tells *his people* to do and observe." (ex. 1 John 1:3-6, "And by this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments. ⁴Whoever says "I know him" but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him, ⁵but whoever keeps his word, in him truly the love of God is perfected. By this we may know that we are in him:⁶ whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked.")

fulfill - to be obeyed as it should be (ex. Matthew 3:13-15, "Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to John, to be baptized by him.¹⁴ John would have prevented him, saying, 'I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?' ¹⁵But Jesus answered him, 'Let it be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness.' Then he consented."").

Parallel Biblical Law definitions - ex. Matthew 28:20, "teaching them to **observe** all the **I have commanded** you," **observe**: I keep, guard, observe, keep watch over, continue keeping guard over, preserve, and **I have commanded**: to order, command to be done, enjoin (to direct or impose by authoritative order or with urgent admonition (gentle or friendly reproof, counsel or warning against fault or oversight)); ex. Deuteronomy 30:11-20, "If you obey the commandments of the Lord your God that I command you today, by loving the Lord your God, by walking in his ways, and by keeping his commandments and his **statutes** and his rules, then you shall live and multiply, and the Lord your God will bless you," **statutes**: Divine law was first given to us encapsulated in the Ten Commandments, which were etched by the hand of God in two tablets of stone . . . When something is written, the substance of the letters that express it – the ink – remains a separate entity from the substance upon which they have been set – the parchment. On the other hand, letters engraved in stone are forged in it: the words are stone and the stone is words . . . By the same token, there is an aspect of Torah that is "inked" on our soul; we understand it, our emotions are roused by it; it becomes our "lifestyle" or even our "personality"; but it remains something additional to ourselves. But there is a dimension of Torah that is **statutes**, engrave in our being. There is a dimension of Torah which expresses a bond with G-d that is the very essence of a believers soul (ex. Exodus 31:18, Exodus 32:16, Jeremiah 31:33, 2 Corinthians 3:3-9).

Many in the Church today are saying that Christians are no longer under law but grace . . . but for Jesus, he does not want His disciples to think that He is doing away with everything they have been taught in order to establish His own religion. He isn't doing that! But like parents towards their children He wants them to gain in wisdom and understanding.

When Jesus spoke concerning the Law and the Prophets He was talking about the sum total of all that was written in Scripture. Jesus was referring to everything that His Father had established (the Law) and everything that His Father wanted brought to pass (the Prophets). And Jesus declared that He alone would fulfill them!

The Scriptures are the revealed ideas and plans of our Father in heaven; it is up to the Word of God to bring them to pass. We know the Word of God by the name He was given at birth, Jesus or Yashua or Joshua. The meaning of the name is "I Am Salvation" or "God's Salvation". He is the Son of God, the creator of all things, and one with God, His Father. He is the expression of all that God is. He is Immanuel or "God With Us".

Jesus goes on to say, "*Whoever then annuls one of the least of these commandments, and so teaches others, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever keeps and teaches them, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.*" Did you notice something interesting in His statement? A person can be in the kingdom of heaven and not keep the commandments and even teach others to do the same thing. The keeping or not keeping of the commandments is not the requirement of remaining in the kingdom of heaven. The observance of them only determines a person's stature within the kingdom of heaven.

Jesus' next statement is a blockbuster! *"For I say to you, that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the scribes and Pharisees, you shall not enter the kingdom of heaven."* Entrance into the kingdom of heaven cannot be gained by keeping the laws and commandments. Jesus said righteousness greater than that of the scribes and Pharisees, who tried to keep, each law perfectly, was required.

What is this righteousness? The Apostle Paul answers the question. *"ABRAHAM BELIEVED GOD, AND IT WAS RECKONED TO HIM AS RIGHTEOUSNESS."* Abraham believed the Word of God. Jesus is the Word of God. Abraham trusted God and His Word, the Father and the Son. This trust, belief or confidence is called faith.

The point of the lesson is, Jesus Christ fulfills all the requirements of the Law and the Prophets. An individual does not gain entrance into the kingdom of heaven by fulfilling those requirements, but by a belief in and dependence on Jesus Christ, the Word of God.

The question regarding the Law then is simply based on love and obedience and not salvation, to grow in our relationship with the Father and boldly proclaim the power of that relationship to others, as we find in Jesus' statements in John 14:15-15:10.

Law is Hitting the Mark while Sin is Missing the Mark – Insights from Hebrew

LAW! Such a harsh word. A word disliked and abhorred by many Christians. But was this always the case? Why did David delight in the "Law"? (Psa 1:2, 119:70,77,174) Why did Paul – the misunderstood apostle say the same thing? (Rom 7:22). A simple word study into the original Manuscripts of the Scriptures can help us understand God's Law in new light.

The word commonly translated as "LAW" in our English versions of the Scriptures is "Torah" in the Original Hebrew and derives from the root word "Yarah".

Strong's Hebrew Concordance H8451 – תורה – tôrâh

From H3384; a precept or statute, especially the Decalogue or Pentateuch: – law. (Brown-Driver-Briggs' Hebrew Lexicon – law, direction, instruction)

Strong's Hebrew Concordance H3384 – ירה – yârâh

A primitive root; properly to flow as water (that is, to rain); transitively to lay or throw (especially an arrow, that is, to shoot); figuratively to point out (as if by aiming the finger), to teach: – (+) archer, cast, direct, inform, instruct, lay, shew, shoot, teach (-er, -ing), through. (Brown-Driver-Briggs' Hebrew Lexicon – to throw, shoot, cast, pour)

Looking at the definitions given on the Strong's Concordance and BDB Lexicon, it is clear that Torah and it's root word Yarah are connected to "direction & instruction". And not only is it connected to these ideas, it also denotes "shooting an arrow" or "taking aim". A few examples of usage of the word "Yarah" is given below.

Genesis 46:28 And he sent Judah before him unto Joseph, to **direct** (H3384) his face unto Goshen; and they came into the land of Goshen.

1 Samuel 20:20 And I will **shoot** (H3384) three arrows on the side thereof, as though I shot at a mark.

Psalms 64:7 But God shall **shoot** (H3384) at them with an arrow; suddenly shall they be wounded.

Exodus 4:12 Now therefore go, and I will be with thy mouth, and **teach** (H3384) thee what thou shalt say.

Leviticus 10:11 And that ye may **teach** (H3384) the children of Israel all the statutes which the LORD hath spoken unto them by the hand of Moses.

Psalms 119:102 I have not departed from thy judgments: for thou hast **taught** (H3384) me.

Since we have looked at the meaning of Torah, let us look at another word which is closely connected with it in Scripture – the word "SIN". The word commonly translated as "SIN" in our English versions of the Scriptures is "Chatta'ah" in the Original Hebrew and derives from the root word "Chatta".

Strong's Hebrew Concordance H2403 – חָטָאָה – chatta'ah

From H2398; an offence (sometimes habitual sinfulness), and its penalty, occasion, sacrifice, or expiation; also (concretely) an offender: – punishment (of sin), purifying (-fication for sin), sin (-ner, offering). (Brown-Driver-Briggs' Hebrew Lexicon – sin, sinful, sin offering)

Strong's Hebrew Concordance H2398 – חָטָאָה – chata'

A primitive root; properly to miss; hence (figuratively and generally) to sin; by inference to forfeit, lack, expiate, repent, (causatively) lead astray, condemn: – bear the blame, cleanse, commit [sin], by fault, harm he hath done, loss, miss, (make) offend (-er), offer for sin, purge, purify (self), make reconciliation, (cause, make) sin (-ful, -ness), trespassive. (Brown-Driver-Briggs' Hebrew Lexicon – to sin, miss, miss the way, go wrong, incur guilt, forfeit, purify from uncleanness)

Looking at the definitions given on the Strong's Concordance and BDB Lexicon, it is clear that Chatta'ah and its root word Chatta are connected to “missing & going astray”. It denotes “missing the mark”. An example is given below.

Judges 20:16 Among all this people there were seven hundred chosen men left handed; everyone could sling stones at a hair breadth, and not **miss (H2398)**

The relationship between Sin and Law

As per John's explanation in his 1st Epistle, Sin = Breaking the Law (**1 John 3:4** “⁴Everyone who makes a practice of sinning also practices lawlessness; sin is lawlessness.”).

While “Law” means to “shoot”, “take aim”, “direct” and “instruct”, “Sin” means to “miss” or “go astray”. If we put this thought in a picture form, “Torah” is an archer who aims/shoots at a target, while “Sin” is the same archer “missing the mark”. If we stop taking aim at the perfect instructions of God, we stand to miss the mark, thereby falling into “Sin”.

Children are like arrows

We see that the teaching of YHVH's Law to ones child was of utmost importance, being mentioned throughout the Scriptures multiple times (Genesis 18:19, Deuteronomy 4:9, 6:7, Psalm 78:3-6, Ephesians 6:4, 2 Timothy 3:15). God wanted His people to guide their children in His ways, and this would have been the reason for the Psalmist to have compared children to arrows held in the hand of a mighty man (**Psalm 127:4** As arrows are in the hand of a mighty man; so are children of the youth.)

Conclusion

While referring to God's instructions/directions as “Law” has caused His words to be seen in a negative light, looking at the Original Hebrew Manuscripts open up the words in full color, providing a picture of shooting an arrow at a target. It also helps us understand the reality, that we may miss once in a while, falling into “sin”, but we must keep aiming at the target given to us by our Heavenly Father. We must ask the Holy Spirit to help us and teach us to take aim, and even if we miss, Yeshua (Jesus' true name) is there to help us at every turn.

<https://biblethingsinbibleways.wordpress.com/2015/02/06/law-is-hitting-the-mark-while-sin-is-missing-the-mark-insights-from-hebrew/>

Know that he who turns a sinner from the straying of his way shall save a life

“Brothers, if a man is overtaken in some trespass, you the spiritual ones, set such a one straight in a spirit of meekness, looking at yourself lest you be tried too.” **Galatians 6:1**

“Brothers, if anyone among you goes astray from the truth, and someone turns him back, let him know that he who turns a sinner from the straying of his way shall save a life from death and cover a great number of sins.” **James 5:19-20**

“¹¹**Rescue those who are being taken away to death; hold back those who are stumbling to the slaughter.** ¹²If you say, ‘Behold, we did not know this,’ does not he who weighs the heart perceive it? Does not he who keeps watch over your soul know it, and will he not repay man according to his work?” **Proverbs 24:11-12**

Ezekiel Is Israel's Watchman

“¹**The word of the Lord** came to me: ²‘Son of man, speak to your people and say to them, If I bring the sword upon a land, and the people of the land take a man from among them, and make him their **watchman**, ³and if he sees the sword coming upon the land and blows the trumpet and warns the people, ⁴then if anyone who hears the sound of the trumpet does not take warning, and the sword comes and takes him away, his blood shall be upon his own head. ⁵He heard the sound of the trumpet and did not take warning; his blood shall be upon himself. But if he had taken warning, he would have saved his life. ⁶But if

the watchman sees the sword coming and does not blow the trumpet, so that the people are not warned, and the sword comes and takes any one of them, that person is taken away in his iniquity, but his blood I will require at the watchman's hand.

⁷ ‘So you, son of man, I have made a **watchman** for the house of Israel. **Whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me.** ⁸ If I say to the wicked, O wicked one, you shall surely die, and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from his way, that wicked person shall die in his iniquity, *but his blood I will require at your hand.* ⁹ But if you warn the wicked to turn from his way, and he does not turn from his way, that person shall die in his iniquity, *but you will have delivered your soul.*

Why Will You Die, Israel?

¹⁰ ‘And you, son of man, say to the house of Israel, Thus have you said: “Surely our transgressions and our sins are upon us, and we rot away because of them. How then can we live?” ¹¹ *Say to them, As I live, declares the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways, for why will you die, O house of Israel?”*” **Ezekiel 33:1-11**

Testimony of Beginning to Keep Sabbath

For the first 35 years of my Following Jesus and Faith in God I never Observed “Sabbath”, primarily because I was Never Taught to Observe “Sabbath” do to the fact that I was always Taught “I am not Under the Law”. It was in my late Teens that I began the Exploration of my Hebrew Roots, not as a point of leaving my Faith, but to better understand my Faith, without Compromise, as a truly “Set Apart” (Hebrew) one as God was Calling me.

I joined a Messianic Congregation to Learn these Hebraic Roots for two years. I then enrolled into Bible College to Learn these Hebraic Roots. And although along the way I Learned many valuable things, the one thing I was missing was a Personal Walk in my Faith with a Living God, instead of the Many Traditions that I was being Taught and Modeled along the Way.

It was in this constant searching that I began to Discover the Real Truth, which was Liberating and not Legalistic. Ignorance was no longer “Bliss”, but the Greatest Days of my Faith. I was Blind, but I now began to See. See Truth like I had never seen, nor been taught. I began to not just know my Hebraic Roots, but more importantly Understand them. The “Feasts of the Lord” were “Revolutionary”, a “Great Awakening”. The Word of God began to become “Alive” and “Add Up”. The Truths I was Missing became Anker’s of my Faith and Understanding. It was Exciting!

Then “It” happened. I was Managing a Joseph A. Bank Clothier, a men’s clothing shop, working 75+ hours a week, and was struggling with the area of “Rest” and “Refreshment”, that the Scriptures spoke of, and a man by the name of “Rocky” came into my shop on a “Sabbath” (Saturday), and Changed my Life and Understanding of God’s “Rest” and “Refreshment”, although it would not be realized for another year and a half. Rocky was a Stuntman from Hollywood, CA, recovering from a severe stunt injury, where he had broken his back in 17 different areas.

Our initial conversation was very surface but began to go deeper as we began to share like understanding of our Hebraic Roots. Following a 60-minute conversation, Rocky asked me why I was working on the “Sabbath”, which “Pierced me to the Heart”, and of which all I could say is that I did not know how to “do it”, at which he briefly explained, “FAITH”.

You would think that encounter with Rocky, would have had an immediate impact, but only continued my internal struggle of “Faith” in the area of “Is God Truly my Provider”, as I was the sole income of a family of four, working in a Retail Industry, in which “Saturdays” were King.

It was almost a year to the date, in the same store, on the same day, “Sabbath” (Saturday), that Rocky walked back into my Shop and made the statement, “What are you Doing sill here”, at which I knew God was serious about Him being my “True Provider” and no longer myself, still not fully understanding the full ramifications of what allowing God to be my “Provider” really meant. We enjoyed our re-union, and yet, I do not believe Rocky fully knew what his timing and words truly meant in one of the Greatest Steps of Faith I would take in my life, and those around me.

Over the course of the next two months I could not get this encounter out of my thoughts and dreams, nor forget the words, they were “Changing” me, with much Resistance. It was late July, and I was on my way home, following almost two weeks of open-to-closes at work, it was about 6pm, and I was driving down I-25 from North Colorado Springs to just North of Downtown Colorado Springs, and I went “Blind” at about 68 miles an hour with vehicles all around me, while at the same time, my heart was beating out of my chest. If that was not safe enough, I picked up my “Flip Phone” and speed-dialed my wife and explained what was happening. I told her to stay on the phone with me until I came to some solution to my “Life Threatening” situation. Somehow, through God’s Mercy and Strength, I was able to navigate off of the Freeway, on my Exit home, nearly two-miles from where I went “Blind”, turned Left down the main road to my house, through six traffic lights, and then a Right onto my street to my house, at which point the only thing I “Hit” over the course

of those 4-miles, was the curb in front of my house. I am sure I had to have been able to “See” during the trip to my house, but I do not even remember, other than when I went “Blind” and then when I remember “Seeing” as I “Hit” the curb in front of my house; either way, it was truly God who miraculously got me home safely. It was at the house that I stumbled out of my car, like a drunken man (which I have never drank alcohol in my life), vomiting profusely, my wife met me in the middle of our front yard with amazement and great concern. She immediately drove me to the ER, where they rushed me straight to one of the rooms and hooked me up to all types of heart monitoring machines to confirm their concerns that I was having a Heart Attack. It was at that point that I passed out and woke up nearly seven hours later to a Doctor coming into an empty room, no wife, no family, explaining to me that I had a Stress Attack, that acts very much like a Heart Attack, and that I was good to go home. I asked the Doctor what he might recommend to me to prevent this going forward, and he simply replied, “Do not work so much”, which could not have been more profound a statement to me at this searching time in my life. The even more sobering event that was happening simultaneously at this time, was my wife and family were nowhere to be found, as I began my two and a half miles walk back home from the ER at 2:30 am in the morning.

If the above event was not enough to get my attention, just a week later my wife gave me the ultimatum of changing my excessive hours at work or she and my son were going to leave me. The desperate thoughts of “How am I going to provide for all the needs of my family if I do not keep this well-paying job?” jumped through my head, as I began to hear my God say to me, “I Will Provide”. I finally got the message after over 35 years, “God is my Provider, and I am not.” That Monday morning I set up a meeting with my boss and explained to him all of the above and proposed to him that I could still work six days a week, but would not be able to work from Friday night to Saturday night, still being available to close up on Saturday after my “Sabbath Rest”, of which he explained to me that I could not be a Store Manager and not work Saturdays. I told him I understood and within a Week I began my new Journey of “Sabbath Keeping”, losing my position of nearly \$70,000 a year to a position of about \$24,000 a year, and just “Trusting God to Provide”, with my wife even more uncertain than before.

You may ask, “How long before you began to see God’s provisions,” and I can tell you it was “Immediately”. Ironically enough, during the course of the past two or three months my wife had been watching those “Extreme Couponing” shows and decided “That Week”, of my position change, to try it for herself. Our previous groceries budget was about \$600 a month, but now was only \$100 a month. In her first outing she got \$880 worth of groceries for only \$65 with the “Coupons”. It was from that point forward, and for the next eleven months that for less than \$100 a month, my wife was feeding not only our house, but two other homes, with the “Amazing Provision” of the Lord through this “Extreme Couponing” strategy. We had months where my wife would buy over \$4,000 worth of groceries, and would be gifted \$50, \$100, or even \$150 worth of Visa Gift Cards, with absolutely no money spent out of pocket. In fact, those specific months included my wife preparing all week for a six hour shopping time, with over two hours at checkout, where the store would have to shut down an entire lane for them to check her out, and then filling up our car from top to bottom leaving no room for anyone other than the driver to be in the car, with a small window of visibility to see out the back window and side mirrors. Once home, it was another three or more hours of organizing the purchase and then distributing the goods to the other families, as well as, organizing our now growing stock pile in our garage.

In addition, at the end of that first year, we were about to be foreclosed on our home, as I was unable to meet our mortgage payments every month, and it was December 30th, and although I never read any Junk Mail before, that day was the day that I decided I would look through every piece of mail I got, hoping I might find a Check to get us out of this “Life Changing” dilemma. And although I did not find a Check, I did find one of those “Too Good to Be True” flyers that said, “Do Not Pay Your Mortgage for the Next Seven Months”, which under any normal circumstance I would not have given a second thought, but this was no “Normal Circumstance”. I desperately called the phone number listed on the flyer and spoke to a consultant who told me to fill out the application and that they could give me an answer before the end of the year, which was just days before our foreclosure notice would be posted. It was not 24-hours later that we got approved for the Mortgage Program, and for the next seven months, “I did Not Pay One Dime” on my Mortgage, did not receive a foreclosure notice, and in fact, sold our home of nearly 12 years, at the end of that seven month period, and made a \$25,000 profit.

Amazing? I do not think that word can’t even touch what I experienced over the course of that first year of seeing God be my “Provider”, in spite of anything I could have done, other than just be “Obedient” and having “Faith” in God’s Ways being “Higher” than my own, or than any man’s understanding.

Over the course of the next two years God continued to meet every one of our needs, exceeding any one’s expectations, from places to live, supplemental incomes, and “Growth Spiritually”, greater than I had ever experienced at any time in my life, to date. The Doors of Ministry Opportunities began to open and breakthrough in ways I had only Prayed, reaching in to areas and regions I had only “Dreamed” of, and I believe the Journey has only just begun.

Learning how to “Keep Sabbath” has been “Breathtaking”, and “Experiencing” God’s Faithful “Provision” beyond any measure I could have ever done on my own, with result of “Daily Miracles”, “Rest”, “Refreshment”, and “Power from on High”. Why I had never exercised my Faith in this way every before, I can only say, “I Missed Out”, but now can say, “I Will Never Miss Out Again”. As Jesus says, “seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you,” Matthew 6:33, and “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also,” Matthew 6:19-21, in addition to the words of James, Jesus own brother, “What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? . . . So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead. But someone will say, ‘You have faith and I have works.’ Show me your faith apart from your works, and I will show you my faith by my works. You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe—and shudder! Do you want to be shown, you foolish person, that faith apart from works is useless? Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered up his son Isaac on the altar? You see that faith was active along with his works, and faith was completed by his works; and the Scripture was fulfilled that says, ‘Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness’- and he was called a friend of God. You see that a person is justified by works and not by faith alone . . . For as the body apart from the spirit is dead, so also faith apart from works is dead,” James 2:14-26. **With that, I Challenge you to Begin Exercising your Faith Today, and begin Experiencing the Miraculous “Provision” of our Lord and Savior, on His terms:**

¹² **And the Lord said . . . “Above all you shall keep my Sabbaths,**
for this is a sign between me and you throughout your generations,
that you may know that I, the Lord, sanctify you . . .

¹⁶ **Therefore . . . keep the Sabbath, observing the Sabbath throughout (your) . . . generations, as a covenant forever.**

¹⁷ **It is a sign forever between me and the people . . . that in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, and on the seventh day he rested and was refreshed.” Exodus 31:12-18**