

# HOLDING ON TO PRINCIPLES / Sunday, December 6, 2015

## Unifying Topic: THE LORD'S DAY

I. Observe The Lord's Day Because God Consecrated It (Exodus 20:8-11)

II. Observe The Lord's Day To Honor Our Agreement With God (Exodus 31:12-16)

**The Main Thought:** Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy (Exodus 20:8, KJV).

**Unifying Principle:** In this new age, some people have turned away from the traditions that provide firm underpinnings for their lives. How can they maintain spiritual stability in a rapidly changing world? Scripture informs them of a God who set aside the Sabbath as a day to remember and for them to recommit to holy living.

**Lesson Aim:** To explore God's establishment of the Lord's Day and His reasons for wanting us to keep it.

**Life Aim:** To gain a deeper perspective on why Christians are wise to observe the Lord's Day.

### HISTORY:

**Chapter 19** Moses had brought the children of Israel out of Egypt. They crossed the Red Sea; travelled into the wilderness and camped at the foot of the Mount of Sinai. On the third day as the people anxiously waited, there was thunder and lightning and the people trembled, and the voice of the trumpet got louder. God descended upon the fire and earthquake that rocked the mountain, calling Moses to climb up Mount Sinai a third time, while the people waited below petrified. God's message was that the people learn to respect God and to reverence Him. Then Moses went down to the people and spoke to them these Ten Commandments proclaiming who God is: I am the LORD thy God (v.1)

1. Thou shalt have no other gods (v.3) - The first four commandments stress relationship and reverence unto the One true God, for there is no other God to worship; no false gods or images to take His place in our lives.
2. No graven images or likenesses (v.4)
3. Not take the LORD's name in vain (v.7)
4. Remember the sabbath day (v.8) -
5. Honour thy father and thy mother (v.12) - The next six commandments stress relationship and respect upon others.
6. Thou shalt not kill (v.13) -
7. Thou shalt not commit adultery (v.14) -
8. Thou shalt not steal (v.15) -
9. Thou shalt not bear false witness (v.16) -
10. Thou shalt not covet (v.17) -

### LESSON:

#### Exodus 20:8-11 Observe The Lord's Day Because God Consecrated It

**20:8 Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy.** This is the 4<sup>th</sup> Commandment: Israel was to "Remember" the Sabbath by keeping it holy. The term "*Sabbath*" is derived from "*to rest or cease from work.*" Keeping the Sabbath involves much more than abstinence from labor. It requires the acknowledgment of the sacredness, the sanctity of this day because of God's deeds and declaration. They were challenged to "*bring to mind*" the pattern God Himself set forth. <sup>1</sup>To set aside one day of the week for rest and worship is not just convenient, good for you, and expedient, it is God's Will and His commandment. Our reflection would be on who God is, what He's done, how He's done it so unconditionally, and even His promise to still be with us.

**20:9 Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work:**— The commandment was work for six days, and rest for one.

<sup>1</sup> [http://doulomen.tripod.com/sermons/Ex20\\_8-11.htm](http://doulomen.tripod.com/sermons/Ex20_8-11.htm)  
<http://www.pitwm.net/pitwm-sunday-school.html>

This is exactly what God did when He created the world and all in it. God finished His great work — Creation, six days. All that needed to be done, He labored, and then He rested.

**20:10 But the seventh day is the sabbath of the Lord thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates:—**<sup>2</sup>The purpose in God's command is to allow man time to refresh his body for the six days of work that was done. God didn't give this Commandment to interfere with our pleasure, but to insure man's health!

**20:11 For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the Lord blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it.** God created all in six days.

THE SIX DAYS OF CREATION	
Days of Forming (Habitats)	Days of Filling (Inhabitants)
<b>Day 1</b> The Earth in the Deep Light & Darkness Day & Night	<b>Day 4</b> The Lights of Heaven: Sun, Moon, Stars
<b>Day 2</b> The Expanse of Heaven: Sky, Air	<b>Day 5</b> Fish Birds
<b>Day 3</b> Earth Seas Vegetation	<b>Day 6</b> Insects Land Animals Man

**Day 1:** The heavens, the earth, light and darkness (Gen.1:1-5).

**Day 2:** Heaven (Gen.1:6-8).

**Day 3:** Dry land, the seas, and vegetation (Gen.1:9-13).

**Day 4:** The sun, the moon and the stars (Gen.1:14-19).

**Day 5:** Living creatures in the water, birds in the air (Gen.1:20-23).

**Day 6:** Land animals and people (Gen.1:24-31).

**Day 7:** God "rested".

God then paused to rest and reflect upon all that He had done, Gen. 2:2. We know He didn't need the rest, yet He knows we do! Therefore He Himself set the pattern that we are to follow. He blessed all He had done which meant He was pleased. In Genesis 1:31 And God saw every thing that he had made, and "*behold it was very good...*" Genesis 2:3 And God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it. His blessing is on all He had done!

### NOT APART OF THE LESSON CHAPTER 31:1-11

God had informed Moses that He had called Bezaleel, the son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah by name, and filled him with the Spirit of God in wisdom, and in understanding, and in knowledge, and in all manner of workmanship (**vv.1-3**). His filling him was for service, not speaking, but working with his hands in which God gave him the skill. He was to devise ingenious, skillful works with gold, silver, and brass; cutting of stones, and in the carving of timber (**vv.4-5**). God gave Bezaleel helpers, including Aholiab and others in whom God also gave wisdom. They were to construct all the furniture in the tabernacle of the congregation, the ark of the testimony, the mercy seat, the table and its furniture; the pure gold lampstand, the altar of burnt offering with all its furniture; the laver and its pedestal, the cloths of service, the holy garments for Aaron the priest, and the garments for his sons to minister in the priest's office (**vv.6-10**). And lastly, God chose them to execute and follow according to all God had commanded them to do including the anointing oil, and sweet incense for the holy place (**v.11**).

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## Exodus 31:12-16 Observe The Lord's Day To Honor Our Agreement With God

**31:12 And the Lord spake unto Moses, saying,—** This, too is God speaking, giving further instructions to Moses.

**31:13 Speak thou also unto the children of Israel, saying, Verily my sabbaths ye shall keep: for it is a sign between me and you throughout your generations; that ye may know that I am the Lord that doth sanctify you.** Moses was to speak to the children of Israel concerning the Sabbaths. Though God gave Israel a work to do in building the tabernacle He did not want them to do that work on the Sabbaths; from one period of week to the next. I gather it would be the weekly Sabbaths. They were to still keep the Sabbaths; still had to

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<sup>2</sup> [http://www.sermonnotebook.org/old%20testament/exodus\\_20\\_8.htm](http://www.sermonnotebook.org/old%20testament/exodus_20_8.htm)  
<http://www.pitwm.net/pitwm-sunday-school.html>

observe and respect the Lord's Day. The Sabbath had two purposes: it was a time to rest and a time to remember what God had done. It was a sign about the special promise (the covenant) that God had made to Israel throughout their generations. This sign of keeping the Sabbath shows the world that the Jews belonged to God; they were separated unto God as a holy nation from other nations; distinguishing them from all other people.

**31:14 Ye shall keep the sabbath therefore; for it is holy unto you: every one that defileth it shall surely be put to death: for whosoever doeth any work therein, that soul shall be cut off from among his people.**

The keeping of the Sabbath was meant for the children of Israel. Anyone who violated the Sabbath was to be cut off from among God's people; indicating death. It was to be a rest, centered on drawing near to God. It was "*holy unto the Lord*", set apart for God's use. This made them different from the rest of the world.

**31:15 Six days may work be done; but in the seventh is the sabbath of rest, holy to the Lord: whosoever doeth any work in the sabbath day, he shall surely be put to death.** Work may be done for six days, but on that Sabbath Day they were to rest. This rest one day a week is for man's benefit as well as being a time set aside to worship God. The Jews, by observing one day in seven, after six days' labor, testified and declared that they worshipped the God who made the world in six days, and rested the seventh. Those who broke this Sabbath were put to death. It was important for them to keep the Sabbath for this distinguished them from other nations.

**31:16 Wherefore the children of Israel shall keep the sabbath, to observe the sabbath throughout their generations, for a perpetual covenant.** The Sabbath was to be kept by the children of Israel and observed throughout their generations, in every age, for an eternal covenant.

- God's example was from the very beginning Gen.2:1-3. It was on the seventh day God rested. Has anything changed concerning this? No, because God has said that he will not alter what he has said (Psalm 89:34), so the Sabbath must still be his holy day. "*Whatever God does, it shall be for ever: nothing can be put to it, nor anything taken from it.*" (Ecclesiastes 3:14). God does not change.

## **SUMMARY:**

**20:8-11** Remember that the Sabbath day. The word Sabbath means rest; keep it holy, for it belongs to God (**vv.8-9**). Work 6 days of the week, but the 7th day in each week is the Sabbath day. This applied to their sons, daughters, manservants, maidservants, cattle, and the stranger within the gates. On that day honor God and do no work on that day (**vv.9-10**). The Lord God made the sky and the earth and the sea in 6 days. He made everything in them, but rested on the 7th day, and He blessed the Sabbath and made it holy because it belonged to Him (**v.11**).

**31:12-16** God again speaks instructions to Moses. He told the children of Israel that they must keep God's Sabbath days, for this would be a sign between He and them throughout their generations. Then they will know that He is the Lord that consecrated them. They were to keep the Sabbath for it is holy unto them. But anyone who does not honor the Sabbath must die. Anyone who does any work on the Sabbath day will not continue to be His people (**vv.12-14**). They must work for 6 days, but on the 7th day they must rest, because it is the Sabbath of rest; holy to God. Anyone who does any work on the Sabbath day must surely die. The Sabbath was to be kept by the children of Israel and observed throughout their generations, in every age, for an eternal covenant (**vv.15-16**).