

CREATION AND THE SABBATH

An unfounded remark often made by Sunday-keepers is the statement that “the seventh-day Sabbath was not known as a day of rest to Adam, Eve, Cain or to any of their kindred, nor to any of mankind up to the time of Moses.” Before proceeding, read Genesis 2:2, 3: ***“And on the seventh day God ended his work which he had made; and he rested on the seventh day from all his work which he had made. And God blessed the seventh day, and sanctified: because that in it he had rested from all his work which God created and made.”*** Now meditate on these verses for a moment.

Take notice of two words that are very important for our understanding of what the seventh-day Sabbath should represent to us: “blessed” and “sanctified”. According to Funk and Wagnalls Canadian Standard College Dictionary, “blessed” means “made holy by a religious rite; consecrated”. As for “sanctified”, it means “made holy; freed from sin; consecrated”. Further, “sanctify” means “to set apart as holy or for holy purposes; purify or make holy; to give religious sanction to; render sacred”. The main point that needs to be made is that sanctification means something that has been set apart, not only as holy, but for a holy purpose. Remember it was God who set this day apart and not man.

Adam and Eve were created as part of the Father’s creative works and both were present for the dawning of the seventh-day of the week as they had been created on the sixth day of Creation week. Before delving deeper into the Sabbath, keep in mind the following text from 2 Peter 3:8: ***“But beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.”***

The Omnipotent is not bound and subject to the 24-hours cycle as the man and woman He created; for proper function, they must rest their bodies. The Father completed His work on the sixth day, therefore we are to cease from our labour and set apart the seventh day for our own rest. On this day, we should remember the creative works of God and that mankind was created in that state of a co-existing order with his environment. By observing the seventh day Sabbath, we are giving praise to our Creator by recognition of His works. The Sabbath was also made for our physical and mental rest as previously mentioned: ***“And he said unto them, The sabbath was made for man, and not man for the sabbath.”*** Mark 2:27.

Did God separate the seventh-day just so He could reflect upon His own work, and no one else? No, certainly not; as Jesus said, the Sabbath was made for man. There are those who say that Adam and Eve were ignorant of the seventh day being a Sabbath for mankind. Keep in mind that the coming into existence of Adam and Eve preceded the sanctification of the seventh day, thus, it is reasonable to conclude they knew of the seventh day being instituted as a holy day of rest. To suggest that the Father made the Sabbath for His own observance

is not logical; God is eternal and not confined to time as we are. Mankind is subject to the 24 hour day cycle and his very existence is dependent upon his surrounding environment. Mankind, the air, earth, time and the sun's energy all have a relationship with one another.

Thinking of it in another way, would it make sense for a king who ruled over a great nation, to set aside a day and then have none of his subjects observe it or even recognize it as a special day? Of course not. There is no doubt that the law of the Sabbath was known and kept and observed from the beginning and is still to this day. It is a mockery of God's Word when mankind tries to abrogate any of the Ten Words of God. Jesus did not come into the world to change or annul His Father's Words as some would lead us to believe. Read Matthew 5:17, 18: ***“Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfill. For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law till all be fulfilled.”*** The abrogators use every means, from fabricated fables to unsound theories, to try and do away with God's Sabbath, but we are told that God's Sabbath will not disappear: ***“And it shall come to pass, that from one new moon to another, and from one sabbath to another, shall all flesh come to worship before me, saith the LORD.”*** Isaiah 66:23.

Another commonly used expression is “The seventh day Sabbath is of Jewish origin” or is a “Jewish day”. As we have already shown, the seventh-day Sabbath existed right from Creation, long before any Hebrew or Jew existed. There is no doubt that Adam, Eve, Enos, Enoch, Noah and Abraham knew of God's sanctified day. We are told that Enos, Enoch, Noah and Abraham all walked with God. Note the following passages: ***“And to Seth, to him also there was born a son; and he called his name Enos: then began men [plural] to call upon the name of the LORD.”*** Genesis 4:26; ***“And Enoch walked with God: and he was not; for God took him”*** Genesis 5:24; ***“And the LORD said unto Noah, Come thou and all thy house into the ark; for thee have I seen righteous before me in this generation.”*** Genesis 7:1; ***“Because that Abraham obeyed my voice, and kept my charge, my commandments, my statutes, and my laws.”*** Genesis 26:5. Given all this evidence, let us put aside unsubstantiated remarks and believe in the scriptures that were written by men who were inspired by God. We should understand from scripture that the Sabbath was given to all those who obeyed God. ***“Thou hast despised mine holy things, and hast profaned my sabbaths...Her priests have violated my law, and have profaned mine holy things: they have put no difference between the holy and profane, neither have they shewed difference between the unclean and the clean, and have hid their eyes from my sabbaths, and I am profaned among them.”*** Ezekiel 22:8, 26; ***“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...it is a sign between me and the children of Israel for ever: for in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, and on the seventh day he rested and was refreshed.”***

Exodus 31:13, 17. The Sabbath was made for all mankind, but when mankind had fallen away from God's Truth, God called out a people that should do His Will and be an example to all of mankind. And sad to say, we Gentiles of today have failed after having been called out. The Sabbath is made known to the children of God and it is also a sign of being His people. This does not mean that every person who claims to believe in God's Sabbath lives the day of rest with God as they should. That is one of the reasons that the Church of God will be judged first.

Another issue that shows the supremacy of the seventh-day Sabbath is that element of time which makes the week. The orbit of planets and the sun measure out time as the day, the month and the year. But it is very interesting to note that from the beginning, the weekly cycle of seven days is only known unto us through the sanctification of the seventh day. Yes, we know of a seven day week existence only by the sanctification and blessing of it by God; this is a scriptural fact whether mankind wants to believe it or not. Refer to Genesis 2:2 and 3 cited at the start of this booklet. Since after that time, men have tried making 5, 6 and 8 day weeks; even in Europe, certain men were working on trying to enforce a ten-day week.

Despite this, we should take notice of the fact that the day is measured by the earth making one complete rotation on its axis, returning to its fixed point of start, and the month is determined by the moon revolving around the earth. The year is determined by the time it takes the earth to make one revolution around the sun. Thus, all our time elements are determined by celestial movements. The seven day week, however, is not determined by celestial movement per se, but by the lapsing of seven, 24 hours days (or seven complete rotations on its axis), which was manifested unto the children of God and remembered by them because God sanctified it, making it holy. ***“Let us therefore fear, lest, a promise being left us of entering into his rest, any of you should seem to come short of it. For unto us was the gospel preached, as well as unto them: but the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard it. For we which have believed do enter into rest, as he said, As I have sworn in my wrath, if they shall enter into my rest: although the works were finished from the foundation of the world. For he spake in a certain place of the seventh day on this wise, And God did rest the seventh day from all his works. And in this place again, If they shall enter into my rest. Seeing therefore it remaineth that some must enter therein, and they to whom it was first preached [ie. the Jews] entered not in because of unbelief...For if Jesus had given them rest, then would he not afterward have spoken of another day. There remaineth therefore a rest [ie. a keeping of the sabbath] to the people of God. For he that is entered into his rest, he also hath ceased from his own works, as God did from his. Let us labour therefore to enter into that rest, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief.”*** Hebrews 4:1 to 6, 8 to 11. For those led by the Holy Spirit, there is only one day that was blessed and set aside for all mankind to observe since creation. It had been given to them who believe and love God that they may rest

with the Father in peace and have comfort of mind and soul. The seventh-day was sanctified and blessed for the benefit of all mankind since the beginning in the hope that every individual may be one with God the Father.

END