

# *The Sabbath*

## GOD'S FOURTH COMMANDMENT



shutterstock

“Then **God blessed THE SEVENTH DAY** and **SANCTIFIED IT**, because in it **HE RESTED FROM ALL HIS WORK** which He had created and made” (Genesis 2:3).

God set the seventh day apart from all other days because He rested from His work on that day.

Was God tired?

“Do you not know? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. **He will not grow tired or weary**, and his understanding no one can fathom” (Isaiah 40:28).

Why then, did God Almighty who does not tire or grow weary, rest—from what?

After six days of work and a day to God is a thousand years for mankind, God rested from **battling rebellious mankind**. “But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day” (II Peter 3:8).

Paul identified the ‘rest’ that brought God Almighty relief. **He rested from battling disobedience**. “And on the seventh day God rested from all his work [Paul quoted Genesis]” And God vowed, **“They shall never enter my rest.”** It still remains that some will enter that rest, and those who formerly had the gospel preached to them did **NOT** go in, because of **THEIR DISOBEDIENCE**” (Hebrews 4:4-6).

The seventh day of rest pictures the final one-thousand-year Millennial reign of Christ.

“And he made known to us **THE MYSTERY OF HIS WILL** according to his good pleasure, which **HE PURPOSED IN CHRIST**, to be put into effect when the times will have reached their fulfillment—to **bring all things IN HEAVEN and ON EARTH TOGETHER under ONE HEAD** [under God Almighty], **even Christ** [Christ will again at that time bend his knee to God Almighty]” (Ephesians 1:9- 10).

After Christ’s death and resurrection, God crowned Christ, King of kings and Lord of lords. “Then Jesus came to them and said, ‘**All authority IN HEAVEN and ON EARTH has been given to me**’” (Mathew 28:18).

Behind the scenes, during the six-day work week, Christ has been working with God, overthrowing rebellion and restoring truth and righteousness on earth and in the heavens. “For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him [Christ], and through him [Christ] to **reconcile to himself ALL things**, whether **THINGS ON EARTH or THINGS IN HEAVEN**, by **making peace through his blood, shed on the cross**” (Colossians 1:19-20).

Upon Christ’s return, the final one-thousand-year Millennial rule will begin and mankind will put away their rebellion and learn the way of God. It is the day when God begins His celebration of the repentance of mankind—the day that brings Him rest. “A root will come up from the stump of Jesse...with righteousness he will judge the needy, with justice he will give decisions for the poor of the earth... Righteousness will be his belt and faithfulness the sash around his waist. In that day the wolf and the lamb will live together; the leopard will lie down with the baby goat. The calf and the yearling will be safe with the lion, and a little child will lead them all... **the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea**” (Isaiah 11:1,3-6, 9b).

This period in our history will be filling up with peace, joy and love for one another. Mankind will come to know their loving, long-suffering and gracious Creator.

When iniquity on earth and in heaven is completely overthrown, Christ will bend his knee to God Almighty. Then, God who has created all things will rule supreme in peace with all of His creation in obedience to Him, again, as in times past. “Then, **when all things are under his authority, THE SON WILL PUT HIMSELF UNDER GOD'S AUTHORITY**, so that **GOD**, who gave his Son authority over all things, **WILL BE UTTERLY SUPREME OVER EVERYTHING EVERYWHERE**,” so that **GOD WILL BE ALL IN ALL** (I Corinthians 15:28).

**A NEW THING IS HAPPENING!** “Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a **new thing** [restoring all things]! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the desert and streams in the wasteland...” (Isaiah 43:18-19).

“Here God calls His restoration “a new thing” because it will be new for those experiencing it, and the relationship He will have with humanity will exceed the one He had with Adam and Eve. Though offered the opportunity to have the close relationship with God that their Creator desired, Adam and Eve foolishly decided **to make their own decisions apart from God**. They turned their backs on **the relationship** that would have provided them **peace and eternal life**.” (Chris Moen from <https://lifehopeandtruth.com>)

People who choose to work on the seventh day, are choosing to remain in rebellion against God. These people are changing six days of rebellion into a full seven days of rebellion, picturing no period of time when mankind repents to obey Him. "There remains, then, a Sabbath-rest for the people of God, for anyone who enters God's rest also rests from his own work, just as God did from his. Let us, therefore, make every effort to enter that rest, so that no one will fall by following their example of disobedience" (Hebrews 4:9-11).

The creation of the seventh day rest is God's prophesy of mankind's repentance and their desire to obey Him on a massive scale. God rejoices in that day, when mankind repents and submits to Him, for He loves His creation and longs to care for them. When we keep the Sabbath day of rest, we too, are rejoicing with God and celebrating the repentance of mankind.

"The LORD your God is in your midst, **a mighty one who will save; he will rejoice over you with gladness; he will quiet you by his love; he will exult over you with loud singing**" (Zephaniah 3:17).

"For **God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son** [heir], that whoever believes in him should **NOT PERISH** but **have eternal life**" (John 3:16).

Such is the importance of the seventh day rest!

Now, we understand!

Now, we understand why God has it recorded in the scriptures the following:

- **Keeping the Sabbath holy has a direct correlation to refraining from sin.** "How blessed is the man who does this, and the son of man who takes hold of it; **Who keeps from profaning the Sabbath, and keeps his hand from doing any evil**" (Isaiah 56:2).
- **Death for those who do not keep it.** "For six days, work may be done, but on the seventh day you shall have a holy day, a Sabbath of complete rest to the LORD; whoever does any work on it **shall be put to death**" (Exodus 35:2).

The disobedient will not receive eternal life.

- **It is a sign.** "It is a sign between Me and the sons of Israel forever; for in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, but on the seventh day He ceased from labor, and was refreshed" (Exodus 31:17).

Keeping the Sabbath is the weekly badge worn that reaffirms your allegiance to the Almighty God to purge out rebellion and work to usher in righteousness.

- **Everyone under your care should keep the Sabbath.** "Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. 'Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath of the LORD your God; in it you shall not do any work, **you or your son or your daughter, your male or your female servant or your cattle or your sojourner who stays with you**'" (Exodus 20:8-11).

Eternal life is not limited to a gender, a class of people or one kingdom of people. All of mankind is offered salvation through the sacrifice of Christ.

- **God's house is a house of prayer for ALL nations.** "And **FOREIGNERS** who **bind themselves to the LORD to serve him**, and **love the name of the LORD**, and to **worship him**, and all who **KEEP THE SABBATH WITHOUT DESECRATING IT** and who **hold fast to my covenant—THESE I will bring to my holy mountain and give them joy in my house of prayer.** Their burnt offerings and sacrifices will be accepted on my altar; for **my house will be called A HOUSE OF PRAYER FOR ALL NATIONS"** (Isaiah 56:6-7).

Any person from any nation who binds himself to God and keeps His Sabbath holy, will be accepted by God.

- Those who joyfully keep the Sabbath with reverence to the Eternal God will be blessed generously by God.

"If because of the Sabbath, you **turn your foot from doing your own pleasure** on My holy day, and **call the Sabbath a delight**, the holy day of the LORD **honorable**, and honor it, **desisting from your own ways**, from seeking your own pleasure and speaking your own word, 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.**" The mouth of the LORD has spoken" (Isaiah 58:13-14).

- **Remaining in ignorance has a heavy penalty.** "So, if you ignore the least commandment and teach others to do the same, you will be called **THE LEAST IN THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN.** But anyone who obeys God's laws and teaches them will be called **GREAT IN THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN"** (Matthew 5:19).

Many people profess their belief in God and desire to obey God, but they are careless about keeping God's commandments. Many preachers teach Christians to ignore the commandments including the fourth. Some say that they have been "nailed to the cross" or the Sabbath is the Jewish day of rest, or that the physical keeping of the Sabbath has been replaced with the spiritual acceptance of Christ who is our rest, or that the Old Covenant has been replaced with the New Covenant. All of these points need to be studied and researched individually, as we all will stand in judgment on that day. Christ is our example. He kept the Sabbath. He is the same today as he was yesterday and into the future. Follow him everywhere he goes and you will be sure to rest with God.

*Compiled by Janette Andrejowich*