

S.O.P.: In the City of God "there shall be no night." None will need or desire repose. There will be no weariness in doing the will of God and offering praise to His name. We shall ever feel the freshness of the morning and shall ever be far from its close. "And they need no candle, neither light of the sun; for the Lord God giveth them light." Rev. 22:5. The light of the sun will be superseded by a radiance which is not painfully dazzling, yet which immeasurably surpasses the brightness of our noontide. The glory of God and the Lamb floods the Holy City with unfading light. The redeemed walk in the sunless glory of perpetual day.
- *Great Controversy, ch. 42 p. 676.*

S.O.P.: Let your imagination picture the home of the saved, and remember that it will be more glorious than your brightest imagination can portray. Human language is inadequate to describe the reward of the righteous. It will be known only to those who behold it.
- *Maranatha, p. 355. para 6 & 7*



1 Corinthians 2:9: "But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him."

This study has been compiled by Higher Level Ministries

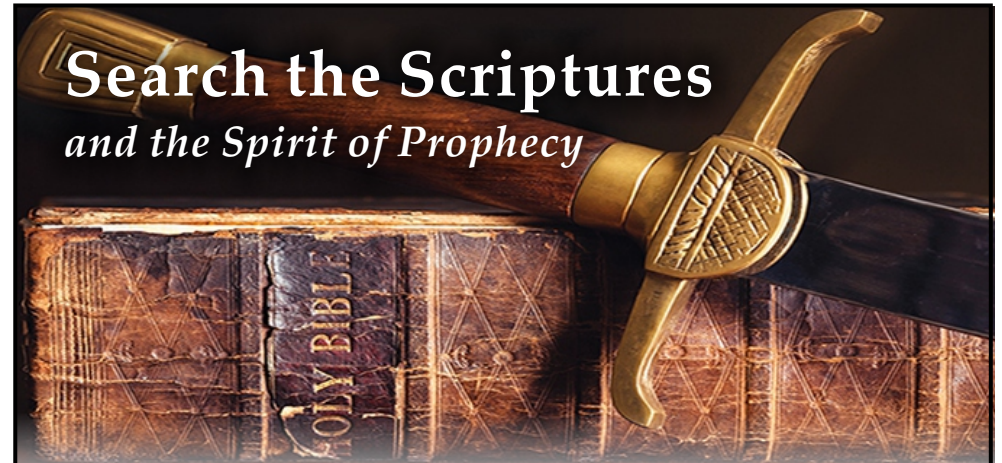
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In this study we will look at how God blessed and sanctified the first Sabbath...
And how we can find true happiness in keeping God's Sabbath as part of a Divine relationship with our Creator.

Creation and the 1st Sabbath



HIGHER LEVEL MINISTRIES

Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus

Philippians Chapter 2 verse 5

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When looking at the creation week issue that many Christians are now debating, it is easy to miss the most important part of the issue... It was God who worked in those first six days and then rested on the seventh day. The focus then is God and not mankind.

Does Genesis reveal to us that God really did set aside a special day for mankind to worship Him on and if so, what are the implications? In this study we will look at the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy for the answer.

Let's begin...

1. Who's work was completed on the seventh day? **Genesis 1:31 - 2:1-3** -

S.O.P.: The creation was now complete. "The heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them." "And God saw everything that He had made, and, behold, it was very good." Eden bloomed on earth.

- *Patriarchs and Prophets Ch. 2 p.47 para 2a.*

S.O.P.: The Sabbath was hallowed at the creation. As ordained for man, it had its origin when "the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy." (Job 38:7) Peace brooded over the world; for earth was in harmony with heaven. "God saw everything that He had made, and, behold, it was very good;" and He rested in the joy of His completed work. (Genesis 1:31).

- *Desire of Ages Ch. 29 p.281 para 1.*

2. Who was present on the first Sabbath? **Job 38:4-7** -

"...The morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy."

NOTE: We know that Adam was present with God on that first Sabbath. The book of Job tells us that the angels were also present with God as He showed Adam how to experience the Sabbath. As God rested through every moment of that first Sabbath, Adam looked on taking in the scenes of glory...

God Himself was present with all the angelic host and the sons of God, singing together in triumphant song at what God had created!

9. At the completion of the first week, why is there no night or day on the first Sabbath? **1 Timothy 6:16** - _____

NOTE: In Genesis 1 as each day of creation is finished we see they are clearly defined by an evening and morning measuring a 24 hour period. However in **Genesis 2:1-3** there is no mention of an evening or morning regarding the seventh day of creation. Is this an oversight on the part of the writer of Genesis or is there another reason that prevents there being the usual dividing of the evening and morning?

Let's compare the following verses:

Psalm 104:2 1 John 1:5 Revelation 21:22-24 Revelation 22:5

NOTE: We see that each of the first six days had a literal 24 hour period that was evident from the evening and morning as it refers to the days of creation. The seventh day was still measured off as a 24 hour period in the same way that the first six days of creation were in reference to the weekly cycle that would govern mankind. However, because God dwells in perpetual light, there is no evening and morning in the presence of God.

S.O.P.: Sorrow filled heaven, as it was realized that man was lost and that world which God had created was to be filled with mortals doomed to misery, sickness, and death... I saw the lovely Jesus and beheld an expression of sympathy and sorrow upon His countenance. Soon I saw Him approach the exceeding bright light which enshrouded the Father. Said my accompanying angel, He is in close converse with His Father. The anxiety of the angels seemed to be intense while Jesus was communing with His Father. Three times He was shut in by the glorious light about the Father, and the third time He came out from the Father, His person could be seen. His countenance was calm, free from all perplexity and doubt, and shone with benevolence and loveliness, such as words cannot express.

- *Story Of Redemption Ch. 5 p. 42.*

8. When will God recreate again? **Isaiah 66:22-23** -

Compare: **2 Peter 3:12-13** and **Revelation 21:1-5**.

In the texts, we see that the previous heavens and Earth have ceased to exist as we know them. But God now breaks from His rest of sustaining the earth and moves into His final act of recreation and restoration. God now recreates a new heaven and a new Earth.

S.O.P.: The Garden of Eden remained upon the earth long after man had become an outcast from its pleasant paths. The fallen race were long permitted to gaze upon the home of innocence, their entrance barred only by the watching angels... When the tide of iniquity overspread the world, and the wickedness of men determined their destruction by a flood of waters, the hand that had planted Eden withdrew it from the earth. But in the final restitution, when there shall be "a new heaven and a new earth" (Revelation 21:1), it is to be restored more gloriously adorned than at the beginning. *- Patriarchs & Prophets, p62 (Heaven, ch.9 p.27)*

S.O.P.: The saints will have crowns of glory upon their heads, and harps of gold in their hands. They will play upon the golden harp, and sing redeeming love, and make melody unto God. Their former trials and suffering in this world will be forgotten and lost amid the glories of the New Earth. Let all that is beautiful in our earthly home remind us of the crystal river and green fields, the waving trees and the living fountains, the shining city and the white-robed singers, of our heavenly home - that world of beauty which no artist can picture and no mortal tongue describe. Let your imagination picture the home of the saved, and remember that it will be more glorious than your brightest imagination can portray. *- Heaven, ch.15 p.133/134*

Read: **1 Corinthians 2:9**

3. Who does the Bible say worked six days and rested on the seventh day in verse 2? **Genesis 2:2** -

S.O.P.: Because He had rested upon the Sabbath, "God blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it," and set it apart to a holy use. He gave it to Adam as a day of rest. It was a memorial of the work of creation, and thus a sign of God's power and His love. *- Desire of Ages, Ch. 29 p.281 para 2.*

NOTE: Nowhere in verse 2 or 3 do we see it recorded that Adam was to keep or kept the first Sabbath. In **Exodus 20:8-11** the clear command is six days of labour and then rest the seventh day. Adam was created on the sixth day and therefore it could not apply to him at this stage, the only person who had been working in Genesis chapter 1 and 2 was God. Adam was present during the hours of that first Sabbath, but he had only **observer** status. Adam watched God rest during that first Sabbath, second by second and minute by minute, from ALL of His work.

4. When God rested... Was He tired from His labour?

Exodus 31:17 -

Isaiah 40:28 -

S.O.P.: The great Jehovah had laid the foundations of the earth; He had dressed the whole world in the garb of beauty and had filled it with things useful to man; He had created all the wonders of the land and of the sea. In six days the great work of creation had been accomplished. And God "rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had made. And God blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it: because that in it He had rested from all His work which God created and made." God looked with satisfaction upon the work of His hands. All was perfect, worthy of its divine Author, and He rested, not as one weary, but as well pleased with the fruits of His wisdom and goodness and the manifestations of His glory. *- Patriarchs & Prophets, Ch. 2 P. 47 para 1*

NOTE: In the Hebrew language the primary word for rest is **Shabbat** which means to **cease** or **stop**. Sabbath is a day when we can take time out from the regular labors of the week and spend it contemplating on our relationship with God the creator. It also offers an opportunity to spend quality time with our families.

5. At what point did God bless the seventh day? **Genesis 2:3** -

S.O.P.: After resting upon the seventh day, God sanctified it, or set it apart, as a day of rest for man. Following the example of the Creator, man was to rest upon this sacred day, that as he should look upon the heavens and the earth, he might reflect upon God's great work of creation; and that as he should behold the evidences of God's wisdom and goodness, his heart might be filled with love and reverence for his Maker. In Eden God set up the memorial of the work of His creation, He placed His blessings on the seventh day. The Sabbath was committed to Adam, the father and representative of the whole human family. His observance was to be an act of grateful acknowledgement, on the part of all who should dwell upon the earth, that God was their Creator and their rightful Sovereign; that they were the work of His hands and the subjects of His authority. Thus the institution was wholly commemorative and given to all mankind. There was nothing in it shadowy or of restrictive application to all people.

- *Patriarchs and Prophets Ch. 2 p.47 para 2 & 3.*

S.O.P.: Like the Sabbath, the week originated at creation, and it has been preserved and brought down to us through Bible history. God Himself measured off the first week as a sample for successive weeks to the close of time. Like every other, it consisted of seven literal days. Six days were employed in the work of creation; upon the seventh, God rested, and He then blessed this day and set it apart as a day of rest for man... After giving the command: "Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy," and specifying what shall be done on the six days, and what shall not be done on the seventh, He states the reason for thus observing the week, by pointing back to His own example: read Exodus 20:11. This reason appears beautiful and forcible when we understand the days of creation to be literal... On the seventh day man is to refrain from labor, in commemoration of the Creator's rest.

- *Patriarchs and Prophets, Ch. 9 p.111 para 1.*

NOTE: Notice that the process of resting on the seventh day had to be completed by God first, to then call it sanctified. The seventh day was not set apart, sanctified or blessed until **after** God had completed His rest on the seventh day. **Compare Hebrews 4:3.** At the end of creation week, there was nothing more that God needed to do to His design. When something is finished it's finished!

6. What can we experience from the Sabbath?

Read **Esther 9:17** -

Read **Exodus 20:11** -

NOTE: The Hebrew word "Shabbat" used in **Exodus 31:17** and **Isaiah 40:28** means to cease and rest from our usual physical labour. However in **Esther 9:17** the Hebrew word used is "Nuach", meaning to enjoy, feast and rejoice in an intimate relationship with God. This meaning also appears in the second half of **Exodus 20:11** where it conveys a sense of calmness or a "soothing" experience as we enjoy the Sabbath rest offered to us.

S.O.P.: God saw that the Sabbath was essential for man, even in Paradise. He needed to lay aside his own interests and pursuits for one day of the seven, that he might more fully contemplate the works of God and meditate upon His power and goodness. He needed a Sabbath to remind him more vividly of God and to awaken gratitude because all that he enjoyed and possessed came from the beneficent hand of the Creator.

- *Patriarchs and Prophets, Ch. 48 para 1.*

7. What is God doing now regarding His creation? **Psalms 104:1-19; 147:8-9** -

Study the following texts:

Old Testament:
Psalms 104:10-14

Genesis 8:22
Psalms 135:6-7

Psalms 33:6-9
Psalms 145:16-17

New Testament:
1 Cor. 8:6 (Re: John 15:5)

Mat 10:29-30
John 1:1-3

Colossians 1:17
Hebrews 1:3

In these texts we see a God who has been continually **sustaining** the habitats, the creatures and the eco systems that He originally created at the beginning of Earth's history.