

A person wearing white robes with gold trim is shown from the chest down, holding a glowing globe of the Earth. The globe is illuminated with a bright blue and white light, and the continents are visible. The background is a dark blue night sky filled with stars and a bright sun or moon in the upper left corner. The person's hands are positioned around the globe, one on the left and one on the right. The overall scene is ethereal and spiritual.

*The Greatest Story  
Ever Told*

*Sabbath: The Law of Love 2*

*Harold Sykes*

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Ever Told*

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# ASCRIBE PUBLICATIONS

— Matt. 13:44-52 —

“BECAUSE I WILL PUBLISH THE NAME OF THE LORD:  
ASCRIBE YE GREATNESS UNTO OUR GOD”

## “Sabbath: The Law of Love 2”



*“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 it: because that in it he had rested from all his work which God created and made.” (Genesis 2:2-3)*

Here in the very beginning of the Scriptures do we have the origin of the most controversial of all the Ten Commandments. Before any nations were formed, before the classifications of Jew and Gentile, or Catholic and protestant, before sin and rebellion ruined humanity, God created a perfect world in six days, and on the seventh day He “rested,” and thus the Sabbath was born, the second monument of love that was given to mankind from the days of Eden

The creation story as it is recorded in Genesis 1 is reminiscent of parents preparing for the child they are “expecting.” A record of the first baby shower. The “child” that was soon to come into existence in this case was mankind, and each day this baby was being “showered” with tokens of God’s thoughtful love. Whereas parents prepare a room with a crib, God prepared a beautiful garden. Parents may include a carousel of glow in the dark stars that light up above the crib, a night light, and maybe some stuffed animals within the crib. God however made a carousel of millions of stars to circle the entire globe, the moon as a night light, and real animals of every sort that even to this day fill us with excitement and wonder. This paternal care is surely reflected in the compassionate title by which Jesus taught us to address God, “our Father.” As God looks upon the things He created for mankind's benefit and

enjoyment day by day, we can hear His smile echoed in the words, “and God saw that it was good.”

But although everyday of creation was decreed to be good, only the seventh day was decreed to be sanctified and blessed. It was established to be a weekly appointment for mankind to express their vertical love toward God as a family unit, in appreciation for all the blessings He bestowed the six previous days. One can not ignore the strong emphasis upon family, and indeed the entire household in the verbiage of the Sabbath commandment when God spoke His law from Sinai.

*“Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work: 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: 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.” (Exodus 20:8-11)*

The Seventh day Sabbath was given to all mankind through Adam prior to sin. However, after sin led the various families of humanity progressively away from honoring God, the Sabbath became a special sign of distinction for those who worshipped the Creator of heaven and earth, as opposed to the plethora of pagan deities exalted throughout the world. This is reflected in the words penned by Moses, and later repeated by Ezekiel..

*“And the Lord spake unto Moses, saying, 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.” (Exodus 31:12-13)*

*“Moreover also I gave them my sabbaths, to be a sign between me and them, that they might know that I am the Lord that sanctify them; And hallow my sabbaths; and they shall be a sign between me and you, that ye may know that I am the Lord your God.” (Ezekiel 20:12, 20)*

Although God repeatedly refers to the seventh day Sabbath as “His” (“my Sabbaths” “the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord” “My holy Day” - Isaiah 58:13), many somehow believe that the seventh day Sabbath was given exclusively to the Israelites and call it the Hebrew/Jewish Sabbath (instead of the Creator’s memorial), when in fact it was simply being restored through them along with of all the other truths God designed for them to convey to the rest of the human family. The Sabbath was meant to be sign between God and all who would accept Him as their Creator and Redeemer, As seen in the words of the prophet Isaiah.

*“Blessed is the man that doeth this, and the son of man that layeth hold on it; that keepeth the sabbath from polluting it, and keepeth his hand from doing any evil. Neither let the son of the stranger, that hath joined himself to the Lord, speak, saying, The Lord hath utterly separated me from his people: neither let the eunuch say, Behold, I am a dry tree. For thus saith the Lord unto the eunuchs that keep my sabbaths, and choose the things that please me, and take hold of my covenant; Even unto them will I give in mine house and within my walls a place and a name better than of sons and of daughters: I will give them an everlasting name, that shall not be cut off. Also the sons of the stranger, that join themselves to the Lord, to serve him, and to love the name of the Lord, to be his servants, every one that keepeth the sabbath from polluting it, and taketh hold of my covenant; Even them will I bring to my holy mountain, and make them joyful in my house of prayer... for mine house shall be called an house of prayer for all people.” (Isaiah 56:2-7)*

Notice the phrase “to love the name of the Lord” connected to the Sabbath in Isaiah’s quote, drawing our minds to the first great commandment to love God with all the heart, mind, soul, and strength. The language of the Sabbath commandments implies that the love and respect shown to God by honoring the seventh day is a reciprocal act. A response of appreciation because of all the gifts He showered humanity with at creation.

*“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.” (Exodus 20:8-11)*

All the commandments that detail our horizontal love toward humanity contained in the last six commandments from the honoring of parents to thou shalt not covet, make sense to most intelligent minded people. Even first three commandments (1. No other gods; 2. No graven images; 3. Take not the Lord’s name in vain) which outline the vertical love God is to receive from mankind makes sense to the majority who profess to serve Him. However the Sabbath commandment remains a point of controversy.

Many ignore the fact that the Sabbath commandment is the only commandment that states clearly why God has the authority to decree commandments at all. As the Creator of all things God has the Sovereign right to make decrees according to His infinite wisdom which may not fully make sense to us in our finite understanding.

*“..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.” (Exodus 20:8-11)*

The Sabbath is the only commandments which begins with the word “remember.” Whereas God could have said, “Thou shalt not desecrate the Sabbath day.” If we take into account that God knows all things that shall occur from beginning to end, and that the Sabbath commandment is the one commandment of the ten that many of His profess followers have forgotten (or at the very least treat as unimportant), the word “remember” begins to make the fourth commandment stand out above all others. But why?

The answer can be ascertained from the two trees by which mankind's destiny was forever transformed. One small disobedience gave Satan full access to everything Adam (and by extension mankind) was given authority over. Satan knows that if he can convince humanity through his deceptive reasoning to make any deviation from God's expressed will, that choice to obey his reasoning above God's command gives him the victory. The scriptures clearly state...

*“While they promise them liberty, they themselves are the servants of corruption: for of whom a man is overcome, of the same is he brought in bondage.” (2 Peter 2:19)*

*“For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all. For he that said, Do not commit adultery; said also, Do not kill. Now if thou commit no adultery; yet if thou kill, thou art become a transgressor of the law.” (James 2:10-11)*

“Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law” (1 John 3:4)

Satan knows all of this well, and this is why the Sabbath commandment has been throughout history a special point of attack, just as the marriage covenant, both which were given to mankind prior to sin. When kept according to God's specifications both marriage and the



Sabbath guides the thoughts back to that original experience we were intended to have.

Satan's attack upon the Lord's Sabbath is camouflaged behind different strategies depending upon the landscape of the mentality of the people being targeted. In the days of Christ among the Jewish nation, satan led religious leaders to add stipulations upon the Sabbath not contained in the fourth commandment, which made the Creator's Memorial a burden more than a blessing. Christ Himself was accused by these religious leaders as a Sabbath breaker, not according to what God Himself stated in the fourth commandment, but according to their additions which included the "work" of miracles as a violation of what God required. (Which in itself is ridiculous because if the "work" done was truly miraculous, then the work was done by God's power and authority).

In those days Christ sought to restore the Sabbath to its original purpose, a blessing and not a burden to humanity. The word "Sabbath" means "rest" which is the root word of "restore." In His miraculous work of "restoration" from disease on the Sabbath, Christ allowed the recipients of His healings to experience just what God intended them to experience, not only rest, but appreciation and love for the blessings of God.

In the Christian dispensation however, satan has adopted the opposite approach. He uses the controversy surrounding the miracles of Christ on the Sabbath, and the accusations that He Himself broke the Sabbath, as proof that the seventh day Sabbath is no longer important to God. In the past satan attacked the Creator's Memorial from the far right adding more and more burdensome restrictions until the original blessing of the Sabbath was lost sight of. In present day satan attacks the Creator's Memorial from the far left, convincing the masses to totally disregard His Sabbath.

Anyone familiar with the ideas of the German philosopher Hegel (the Hegelian dialectic) should be able to see that the final strategy will be a synthesis, a rigid enforcement of a replacement sabbath which disregards the Sabbath God commanded. Plainly stated, a first day sabbath, in place of God's seventh day Sabbath. The justification for this change? Surely not the command of God, but the deceptive reasoning, "since Christ rose on the first day, that should be the Christian sabbath." That reasoning may sound good and make sense to some, but any reasoning that leads away from obedience to God's clearly stated will, should be treated with extreme suspicion.

In the Sabbath commandment God is specifying exactly how He wants His children, to show love and honor Him. This commandment makes it clear that the foundation of the Sabbath rest upon the creation of the heavens and the earth, not upon the formation of the Israelite nation. Consider these words from Christ in connection with the Sabbath commandment.

*"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." (Matthew 5:18)*

Of all the commandments of the law, the one that would more than any other require for heaven and earth to pass away before it could be changed is the Sabbath which was establish because the Lord made heaven and earth in six days and rested on the seventh. Jesus said again..

*"But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men." (Matthew 15:9)*

*"IF ye love ME, keep MY commandments." (John 14:15)*

We often think of these words as a New Testament concept, but many may be surprised to find how often this idea is repeated in both the New and Old Testaments.

*“Know therefore that the Lord thy God, he is God, the faithful God, which keepeth covenant and mercy with them that love him and keep his commandments to a thousand generations.” (Deuteronomy 7:9)*

*“Therefore thou shalt love the Lord thy God, and keep his charge, and his statutes, and his judgments, and his commandments, alway.” (Deuteronomy 11:1)*

*“In that I command thee this day to love the Lord thy God, to walk in his ways, and to keep his commandments and his statutes and his judgments, that thou mayest live and multiply...” (Deuteronomy 30:16)*

*“He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me:” (John 14:21)*

*“If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love.” (John 15:10)*

*“By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God, and keep his commandments. For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous.” (1 John 5:2-3)*

In no way do I want imply that those who do not presently keep the Lord's Sabbath, were not sincere in their love for God when they committed themselves to Him. On the contrary, it is that sincere love that is being appeal to. The Lord's cause requires obedience in all things for the final overthrow of satan. If we look to the first transgression at the forbidden tree, we should understand that willingness to disobey God in something as small as eating a piece of fruit, was enough for satan to gain the dominion and Adam to

lose it. It is not the size of the disobedience, but the willingness to disregard what God commands that matters.

*“He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much: and he that is unjust in the least is unjust also in much.” (Luke 16:10)*

A careful observation of the language which warned mankind of the test which would determine his destiny for life or death in the beginning of earth’s history, might help many to see in the language of the Sabbath commandment how this will serve as the final test at the close of earth’s history.

*“And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.” (Genesis 2:16-17).*

Notice that the warning against eating from this one forbidden tree, was preceded by a command allowing the free exercise to eat from every other tree. Only one out of the many did God reserve to Himself, so that mankind would have no justified reason to violate His command by exercising his free will in disobedience. Now compare this insight with the language of the Sabbath commandment.

*“Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work: 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: 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.” (Exodus 20:8-11).*

Parallel to the pattern of warning concerning the tree of knowledge, the command not to work on the His seventh day Sabbath is preceded by a command to freely labor and work on all the other six days. Only one out of the many did God reserve to Himself, so that mankind has no justified reason to violate His command by exercising his free will in disobedience. He ends by stating emphatically “the Lord blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it.” Not the first day, but the seventh.

“Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.” (John 17:17)

As only God’s word alone can sanctify and make “hallow,” so only His word alone can remove that sanctity, or transfer that sanctity to another day. It is a glorious gospel truth that Jesus rose from the grave on the first day of the week, but God’s word has not sanctified that day as His Sabbath, nor is it the day He expressly commanded us to remember. To offer God a day in place of that which He has specified is a reflection of the offering of Cain who brought the first fruits of the ground and was rejected, as opposed to Abel who brought the sacrificial lamb that God required. These words are not being conveyed with a motive to stir up controversy, but to inform all who are sincerely mistaken on this point. However, it has been said that when a person who is sincerely mistaken hears the truth, that person either ceases to be mistaken, or ceases to be sincere.

*“If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself.”*  
(John 7:17)

*“My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me:”* (John 10:27)

The keeping of the Sabbath commandment from the days of Israel is divisive in more ways than one. The

theological divide is very obvious, but much more subtle is how it separates those who are willing to be inconvenienced to obey God, from those who obey God only when it's convenient to do so. An example of this seen in the falling of the manna in which the Sabbath was revealed to be the test which God proved whether those who professed to follow Him to the promised land would obey His law or not.

*“Then said the Lord unto Moses, Behold, I will rain bread from heaven for you; and the people shall go out and gather a certain rate every day, that I may prove them, whether they will walk in my law, or no. And it shall come to pass, that on the sixth day they shall prepare that which they bring in; and it shall be twice as much as they gather daily.” (Exodus 16:4-5)*

Here God announces He will provide for His people by miraculous power, and makes it known that within this providence He will prove or test them to see if by this simple request they will be truly obedient to all His requirements. The test is that on the sixth day He will give a double portion of manna to prepare them to keep the Sabbath on the seventh day.

*“And it came to pass, that on the sixth day they gathered twice as much bread, two omers for one man: and all the rulers of the congregation came and told Moses. And he said unto them, This is that which the Lord hath said, To morrow is the rest of the holy sabbath unto the Lord: bake that which ye will bake to day, and seethe that ye will seethe; and that which remaineth over lay up for you to be kept until the morning. And they laid it up till the morning, as Moses bade: and it did not stink, neither was there any worm therein. And Moses said, Eat that to day; for to day is a sabbath unto the Lord: to day ye shall not find it in the field. Six days ye shall gather it; but on the seventh day, which is the sabbath, in it there shall be none. And it came to pass, that there went out some of the people on the seventh*

*day for to gather, and they found none. And the Lord said unto Moses, How long refuse ye to keep my commandments and my laws?” (Exodus 16:22-28)*

One commandment was chosen to test whether or not His people would truly keep all His commandments and laws. The test of loving obedience from the perspective of God requires that His profess followers obey because they trust His infinite wisdom above their finite understanding.

This is reflected in the counsel given to us through Solomon...

*“Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.” (Proverbs 3:5-6)*

This counsel will be vitally important to those of us who find ourselves alive as the world embarks upon the closing scenes of earth’s history when the final test of obedience will be urged upon every living human being, when the political enforcement of what is commonly known as the mark of the beast is legislated. Those who escape being branded with this mark are twice described in the book of Revelation using similar language.

*“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 12:17)*

*“And the third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand, The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb: And the*

*smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name. Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.” (Revelation 14:9-12).* (A full explanation of the mark of the beast will be given in a future volume of this series dedicated to that subject).

Satan is furious with those who “keep the commandments of God,” and the saints who will not receive the mark of the beast “keep the commandments of God.” No one has the mark of the beast until the issue of a universal sabbath enters legislation, and in the light of the issue at stake, each person makes a decision for Creator’s Memorial or Sunday sacredness. The connection of the mark of the beast to God’s law becomes even clearer when we give attention to where this mark is to be received (the forehead or the hand) is compared to where God symbolically told His people to place His law.

*”And these words, which I command thee this day; shall be in thine heart: And thou shalt bind them for a sign upon thine hand, and they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes (forehead).” (Deuteronomy 6:6-8)*

The “hand” is to symbolize that God’s commandments are to govern our actions. The “forehead” is to symbolize that God’s commandments are to govern our decision making. In this final conflict, those who stand in contrast to those who receive the mark of the beast are described as having the seal of God.

*”And I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the living God: and he cried with a loud voice to the four angels, to whom it was given to hurt the earth and the sea, Saying, Hurt not the earth, neither the*



*sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads.” (Revelation 7:2-3)*

But again other passages of Scripture connect the law of God with His Seal.

“Bind up the testimony, seal the law among my disciples.” (Isaiah 8:16)

*“...we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ. In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise,” (Ephesians 1:12-13)*

The Holy Spirit is the instrument with which we are sealed but what does the Spirit’s sealing entail?

*“Forasmuch as ye are manifestly declared to be the epistle of Christ ministered by us, written not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God; not in tables of stone, but in fleshy tables of the heart.” (2 Corinthians 3:3)*

The transference of Gods commandments from tables of stone to the seat of love which is the “fleshy tables of the heart” includes His seventh day Sabbath, the monument of love which is the “sign” or “mark” of distinction between God and His sanctified people. This is the the only transference of the Sabbath under the new covenant revealed in God’s word, not from the seventh day to the first day, but from tables of stone to the the tables of the heart.

Satan who is full of wrath against those who keep the commandments of God, will in the final conflict exert his influence over the minds of law makers to decree legislation that will be opposed to God’s commandments. As this begins to take shape, the first day sabbath is being promoted as an environmental sabbath in response to climate change.

Prayerfully as the “whole world” gathers together to accept this replacement Sabbath, the warning in the following scripture verse will be realized.

*“And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world..” (Revelation 12:9)*

After the crisis of the mark of the beast is described in Revelation 14:9-12, the next major event pictured in that same chapter is the second coming of the Beloved Son. This topic of His soon return will comprise the subject matter in the next volume of this series.

*“And I looked, and behold a white cloud, and upon the cloud one sat like unto the Son of man, having on his head a golden crown, and in his hand a sharp sickle. And another angel came out of the temple, crying with a loud voice to him that sat on the cloud, Thrust in thy sickle, and reap: for the time is come for thee to reap; for the harvest of the earth is ripe. And he that sat on the cloud thrust in his sickle on the earth; and the earth was reaped.” (Revelation 14:14-16).*

Will you take the simple step of asking God to give you the Holy Spirit to guide you into all the truth of the Bible, and investigate if the things you just read are true?

Yes? \_\_\_\_\_

*“These were more noble...in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.” (Acts 17:11)*

Or No? \_\_\_\_\_

*“Then said Jesus, Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do.” (Luke 23:34)*



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