

# THE BEREANS

ACTS 17:11

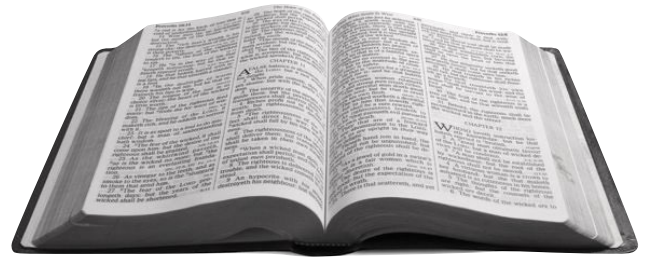
Hebrews 4:10

Lesson #13

Sabbath Rest

03/31/2019

## How to read the Old Testament



1

### How should you explain this O.T. passage?

Numbers 15

“32 Now while the sons of Israel were in the wilderness, they found a man gathering wood on the sabbath day. . . . 35 Then the Lord said to Moses, **“The man shall surely be put to death; all the congregation shall stone him with stones outside the camp.”**

36 **So all the congregation brought him outside the camp and stoned him to death with stones, just as the Lord had commanded Moses.”**



2

### Being a good “Berean” you check it out in the rest of the Scripture.

Joshua 1:8

**“be careful to do according to all that is written in it (Book of the Law); for then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have success.”**

Exodus 31:15

**“whoever does any work on the Sabbath day, he shall surely be put to death.”**



3

### Christians have died to the Law and are released from the Law.

Romans 7:1,4,6

“the law has jurisdiction over a person **as long as he lives?**”

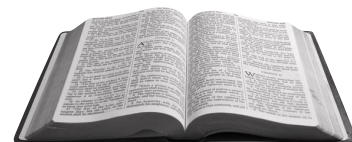
“you were **made to die to the Law** through the body of Christ,”

“But now we **have been released from the Law**, having died to that by which we were bound,”



4

## How to read the Old Testament



**The relationship of the Old & New Covenants is the biggest issue in understanding the Old Testament.**

5

## Three misunderstandings of our freedom from the Law of Moses.

1. Some say this abrogates any need to take **moral standards** seriously.  
**NOTE: Paul addresses this in Rom.6.**
2. Most say liberation applies only to the **civil and ceremonial** not the moral parts.  
**NOTE: The Jews viewed the law as a unit and Paul refers to the law written in stone.**
3. Others say liberation refers only to **legalism** or the misuse of the law.  
**NOTE: Christ freed us from the law's just condemnation (Rom.7) not its misuse.**

6

## A fourth view

Freedom from the Law applies to the the Law as a **covenant (contract)** between God and Israel only.  
(with promised curses and blessings for life choices)



Christ's substitutionary death has satisfied all the **demands** of the Law.

Our baptism into Christ's death has separated us from the **domain** of the Law.

The Law continues to provide a **guiding light** (to God's holiness) for God's kingdom and His people.  
(but not as a covenant of works righteousness)

7

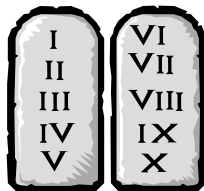
## How should Christians view the Law of Moses?

*Romans 10:4*

"For Christ is the end of the law of righteousness to everyone who believes."

**Christians are free from the Law -**

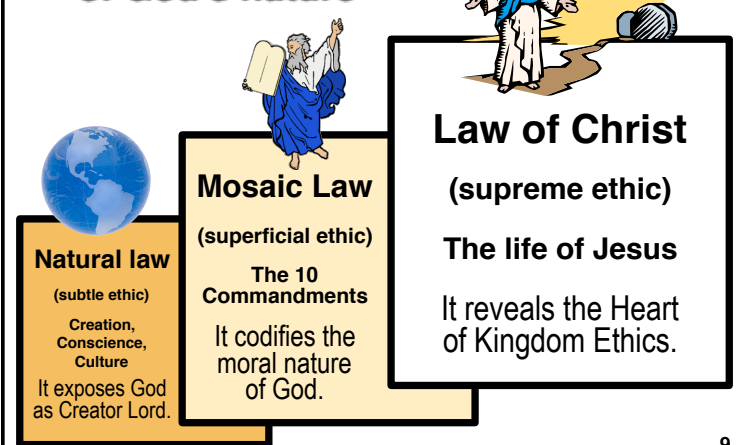
**- as a covenant of works righteousness**



**- but not as a guide for Kingdom ethics**

8

## Progressive revelation of God's nature



9

**Above the Law (Libertines)**

**Outside the Law (Gentiles)**



**UNDER THE LAW (JEWS)**

**Free from the Law (Christians)**

*Galatians 3:25*

"But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor."

10



The Law is like training wheels on a bike.

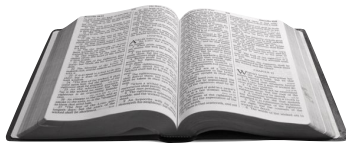
After they have done their job, a skilled rider is **FREE** to fall off but is not expected to.



See Romans 6

11

# How to read the Old Testament



How does our freedom  
from the Law relate to  
keeping the Sabbath?

12



**Sabbath Law  
started with  
Moses.**



*Nehemiah 9*

“<sup>13</sup> Then You came down on Mount Sinai, and spoke with them from heaven, You gave them just ordinances and true laws, good statutes and commandments.  
<sup>14</sup> So **You made known to them Your holy Sabbath**, and laid down for them commandments, statutes and law, **through Your servant Moses.**”

13

The O.T. is structured  
around **covenants**  
made between God  
and Israel.

The Mosaic  
Law became a  
**central focus**  
of Israel's  
culture.

**The Sabbath is at the  
heart of the Mosaic Law.**



14



**Sabbath was given  
to Israel as a sign  
along with the Law.**

*Exodus 31:13 (12-18)*

“You shall surely observe My sabbaths; for this is **a sign between Me and you** throughout your generations, that you may know that I am **the Lord who sanctifies you.**”

15

**Sabbath is the only day in the creation  
story that was blessed by God.**

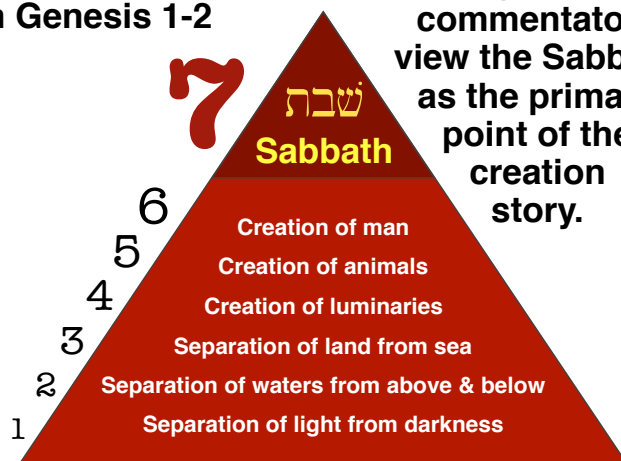
*Genesis 2*

“<sup>2</sup> By the seventh day God completed His work which He had done, and He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had done. <sup>3</sup> Then **God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it**, because in it **He rested** from all His work which God had created and made.”

16

The creation narrative  
in Genesis 1-2

Many Jewish  
commentators  
view the Sabbath  
as the primary  
point of the  
creation  
story.



17



## Sabbath commemorated REST from "Creation" and "Bondage"

*Exodus 20 (the 4th commandment)*

"8 Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. 9 Six days you shall labor and do all your work, 10 but the seventh day is a sabbath of the LORD your God; in it you shall not do any work, . . . 11 For **in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth,**"

*Deuteronomy 5:15*

"You shall **remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt**, and the Lord your God brought you out of there by a mighty hand and by an outstretched arm; therefore the Lord your God commanded you to observe the sabbath day."

18



## Sabbath was a very serious issue.



*Exodus 35:2*

"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**"

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## Two views

### 1. Saturday - Sabbath as holy.

- This is the Jewish position as outlined in the Old Testament.
- It is also the position of a small number of Christian groups.

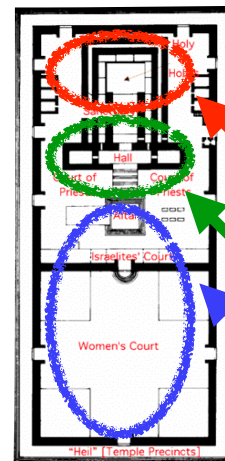
### 2. Sunday - Sabbath as Lord's day.

- This is the predominant Christian view and tradition.
- This reflects the worship pattern of the early church.

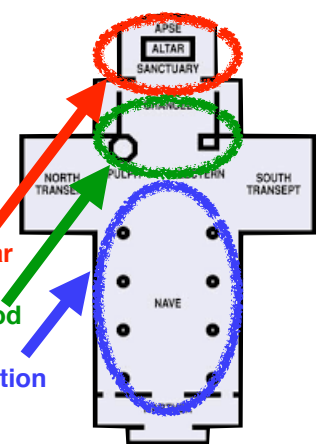
*This gives testimony to the **CONTINUITY** of Old and New Covenants?*



20



Jewish Temple



Christian cathedral

21

## Assumptions made by the Puritans

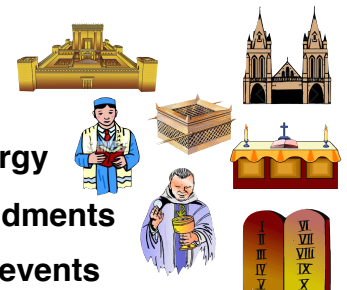
- ☐ The Sabbath laws of the Mosaic Cov. were applicable to the Christian.
- ☐ Sunday was the "Christian Sabbath".
- ☐ Labor and even recreation were not permitted on the Sabbath (Isa.58:13-14).
- ☐ Certain acts of ministry were permitted on the Sabbath.
- ☐ Keeping the Sabbath did not bring salvation but it did bear witness to one's identity as a Christian and brought blessing or judgment.



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## Historical Christian culture

- Architecture
- Altar / sacrifice
- Priestly dress / liturgy
- Law / Ten Commandments
- Holy days, places, events
- Sabbath / Sunday



*This seems to offer strong support for the continuity of O.C. and N.C.*

## or does it?



23

## A third view

### 1. Saturday - Sabbath as holy.

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### 2. Sunday - Sabbath as Lord's day.

- This is the predominant Christian view and tradition.
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## The post Pentecost teaching

### 3. Spiritual - Sabbath as faith / work.

- This is suggested in Hebrews, Romans, and Colossians

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## Why did Jesus taunt the Pharisees when he did not have to?

### Mark 2

"<sup>24</sup> And the Pharisees were saying to Him, "See here, why are they doing what is not lawful on the Sabbath?" . . . <sup>27</sup> And He was saying to them, "The Sabbath was made for man, and not man for the Sabbath. <sup>28</sup> **So the Son of Man is Lord even of the Sabbath.**"

- No Hebrew prophet would have ever made this bold claim of authority over the Law.
- This is one occasion where Jesus reveals his authority / identity as a divine, messianic figure.
- Is Jesus also hinting at a coming challenge to the Law covenant?



25

### Acts 20:7

"On **the first day of the week**, when we were gathered together to break bread, Paul began talking to them intending to leave the next day, and he prolonged his message until midnight."

**The early church met on the first day of the week (Sunday) out of respect for the finished work of Christ**



**and perhaps  
A NEW COVENANT.**

26

## The spiritual-Sabbath

- The sabbath day is tied to the Law of Moses. Ex.20
- As a day it was a sign to Israel only. Ex.31:12-17
- Jesus challenged the Sabbath law tradition, while honoring the spirit of Sabbath.
- The change in days of worship mirrored the change in covenants.

★ **The Mosaic Law had ceased as a covenant.** 2 Cor.3:7-14

★ **Paul advocated freedom with respect to Sabbath days.** Rom.14:5-8, Col.2:16-17, Gal.4:9-10

★ **The true Sabbath is a life of faith in God's work for us in Christ.** Heb.4:1-16

★ **Of the "ten commandments" the 4th is the only one NOT notarized in the epistles.**

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## Sabbath is a spiritual posture of faith.

### Hebrews 4

"<sup>1</sup> Therefore, let us fear lest, while a promise remains of entering His rest, any one of you should seem to have come short of it. . . . <sup>3</sup> For **we who have believed enter that rest**, . . . <sup>8</sup> For if Joshua had given them rest, He would not have spoken of another day after that. <sup>9</sup> There remains therefore a **Sabbath rest** for the people of God. <sup>10</sup> For **the one who has entered His rest has himself also rested from his works, as God did from His.** <sup>11</sup> **Let us therefore be diligent to enter that rest**, lest anyone fall through following the same example of disobedience."

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## The issue is not, do we work on the Sabbath

**but rather, do we bring the Sabbath rest to our work?**



29

**Be tolerant, flexible, and gracious  
with respect to Sabbath Day issues.**

*Romans 14*

“<sup>5</sup> One man regards one day above another, another regards every day alike. **Let each man be fully convinced in his own mind.** <sup>6</sup> He who observes the day, observes it for the Lord, and he who eats, does so for the Lord, for he gives thanks to God; and he who eats not, for the Lord he does not eat, and gives thanks to God. <sup>7</sup> For not one of us lives for himself, and not one dies for himself.”

*Colossians 2:16-17*

“Therefore **do not let anyone judge you** by what you eat or drink, or with regard to a religious festival, a New Moon celebration or a Sabbath day.”

30

**Paul's favored salutation**

“Grace to you  
and **Peace**”

**What does it  
suggest?**



31

**Sabbath**

**is all about the affirmation of  
what is finished**

The  
Creation

Our  
Striving

Our  
Identity

Our  
Redemption



32

shabbat  
shalom



שבת  
שלום

**“Cool It”**

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