

## 11 – Created For Something Better (The Sabbath)

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1

### How to Satisfy Your Deepest Desires



2

A story is told about the British biologist, Thomas Huxley, arriving late in a city where he had to deliver a lecture. He jumped into a cab, which at that time was a horse-drawn carriage, and yelled up at the driver, “Top speed!”



3

The cabby obediently cracked his whip and the vehicle went bumping along the streets at a wild clip. The frazzled Huxley settled into his seat for a second, greatly relieved, and then sat up with a jolt.

He called up to the driver, “Wait! Do you know where I want to go?”

“No, your honor,” the cabby replied, “but I’m driving as fast as I can.”



4

An awful lot of people are in motion these days. There’s a lot going on in their lives. They’re always going somewhere fast. But the fact is, too many don’t really know where they’re going; they don’t know where their lives are headed.



5

It is for precisely this reason that God gives His final appeal in the Bible’s last book, Revelation. In chapter 14, verse 7, the apostle John appeals to a world waiting for the coming of Jesus in these words . . .



6

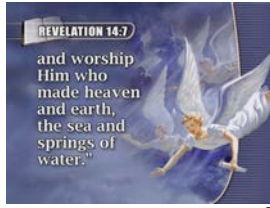
(Text: Revelation 14:7)

“...Fear God, and give glory to him, for the hour of his judgment has come;



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7

and worship him who made heaven and earth, the sea and the springs of water.”  
Revelation 14:7.



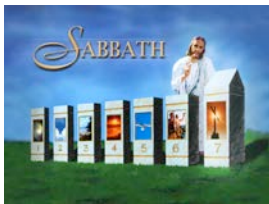
8

Worship who? Worship Him who made heaven and earth.  
Worship the Creator of everything.  
When we understand why we are here – that we were created by a loving God – it gives us a sense of who we are here and where we are going.



9

Did you know that God gave us a symbol of His work as our Creator?  
He gave us something that would remind us every week that He made us!



10

In fact, He gave us this weekly reminder right at the end of Creation week.  
But nearly the whole world has forgotten what that reminder is.



11

To a world that has forgotten, God says, “Remember—remember that I am your Creator. And to help you remember, I have given you a sign—a symbol!”



12

But, some may ask, “What is this sign or symbol that reminds us that God created us?”  
To discover the answer we must go back and review how God created the world in six days.



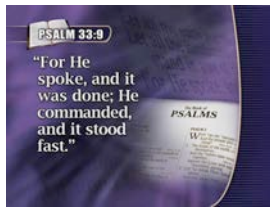
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(Text: Psalm 33:8, 9)  
Creation was awesome! How did God do it so quickly? The Bible gives the answer: “Let all the earth fear the Lord; let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of Him.



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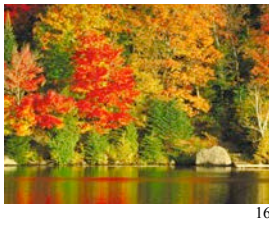
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For He spoke, and it was done; He commanded, and it stood fast.”  
Psalm 33:8, 9



We can't understand how, but God was able to bring things into existence by His spoken word. God's word, whether spoken or written down in the Bible is creative and powerful!



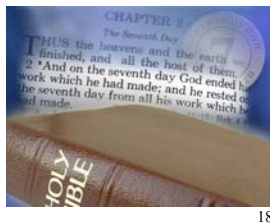
In six days, the Creator brought a world into being, clothed with shrubs and trees, flowers and streams.  
But best of all, He created two perfect people.



(Text: Genesis 1:27)

“So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created them.” Genesis 1:27.

What an honor! Created in the image of their Maker! They were created to be rulers over the earth and all that was on it!



But, God wasn't through yet!

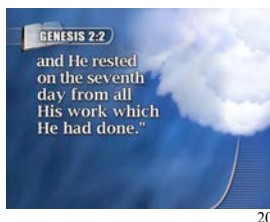
He had one more thing He wanted to do.

Notice carefully what the Bible says happened the next day--the seventh day of creation:



(Text: Genesis 2:2-4)

“And on the seventh day God ended His work which He had done,

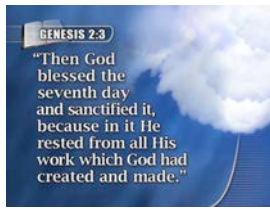


and He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had done.



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21

Then God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it, because in it He rested from all His work which God had created and made.” The Bible says that God “sanctified” the seventh day. What does that mean?



22

To sanctify something is to set it aside for a holy use. God set the Sabbath aside from all the other days. It was set aside as holy – dedicated totally to Him. But some people wonder: “Does He really care which day is remembered as His? Isn’t one day as good as another?” Maybe this illustration will help.



23

At a wedding one woman is sanctified or set apart for one man. Let’s suppose it’s your wedding day. You are so excited. You have looked forward to this day for some time.



24

Let’s also suppose your wife-to-be has six sisters. During the wedding ceremony one woman is united to one man. She is set aside. She is no longer one in seven. She is the sanctified one, consecrated to her husband in marriage.



25

What if after the marriage, one of your wife’s sisters says, “It makes no difference, we’re all sisters. Any one of the seven sisters is as good as the next. We’ll just change places for the honeymoon.”

What would you say? Does it make a difference?

It certainly does!

As a husband, you would say, “My bride was chosen, sanctified, set aside, dedicated to me.”

So God took a common, ordinary day of 24 hours – the seventh day – and sanctified and dedicated it to Himself.

The Sabbath is a blessed, sanctified day. Only a holy God can make a day holy. According to God’s word, only the seventh day has been sanctified and set apart as His holy day.

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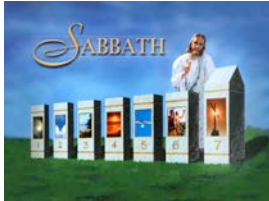
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God gave the Sabbath so that we could take time to remember our Creator.

This was to be a holy time when man and His Maker would renew their pledge of love and devotion for each other each week.

Every week, man was to “remember” that God made the heaven and the earth in six days and rested on the seventh.

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27

But as sin increased on the earth, humanity forgot where they came from, why they are here, and where they are going.

When this happened, they also forgot how they should live.

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28

By the time of Moses, the people of Israel had almost completely forgotten about their God.

They were immersed in worshiping man-made idols!

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29

God miraculously delivered them from their enemies and led them through the wilderness on the way to the “Promised Land.”

While in the wilderness, He taught them how He wanted them to keep the seventh-day Sabbath. He did so as He lovingly provided for their needs.

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30

When they ran out of food in the wilderness, they began to murmur and complain.

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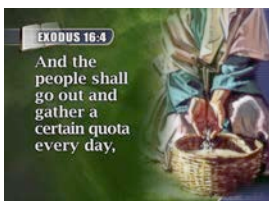


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(Text: Exodus 16:4, 5)

“Then the Lord said to Moses, Behold, I will rain bread from heaven for you.

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32

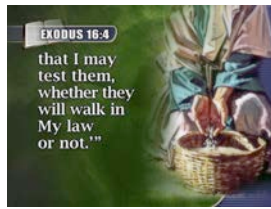
And the people shall go out and gather a certain quota every day,

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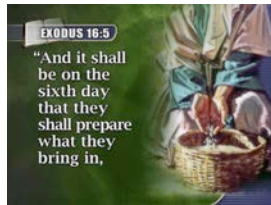


33

that I may test them, whether they will walk in My law or not.”

Exodus 16:4

The “bread” spoken of here is commonly called “manna.”



34

“And it shall be on the sixth day that they shall prepare what they bring in,



35

and it shall be twice as much as they gather daily.

Exodus 16:5



36

The manna came at night as the dew settled. In the morning, after the dew evaporated, the manna covered the ground.

The people went out and gathered it in the early morning hours and by mid day the remaining manna disappeared.

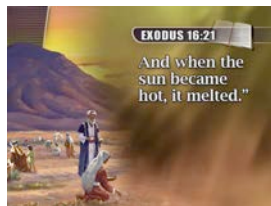
But wait – notice what happened on the sixth day of the week:



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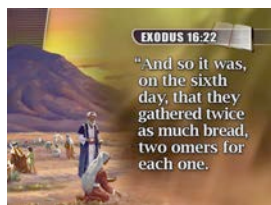
(Text: Exodus 16:21, 22)

“So they gathered it every morning, every man according to his need.



38

And when the sun became hot, it melted.



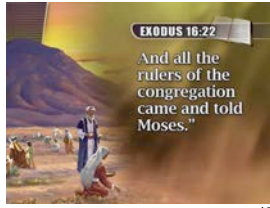
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And so it was, on the sixth day, that they gathered twice as much bread, two homers for each one.



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And all the rulers of the congregation came and told Moses.



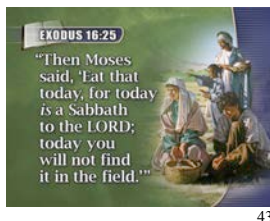
(Text: Exodus 16:23)

“Then he said to them, This is what the Lord has said: Tomorrow is a Sabbath rest, a holy Sabbath to the Lord.



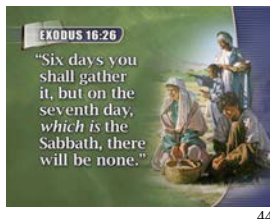
Bake what you will bake today, and boil what you will boil today; and lay up for yourselves all that remains, to be kept until morning.”

Exodus 16:21-23.



(Text: Exodus 16:25, 26)

Regarding the seventh-day: “Then Moses said, ‘Eat that today, for today is a Sabbath to the Lord; today you will not find it in the field.

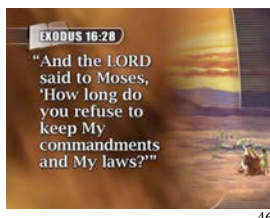


Six days you shall gather it, but on the seventh day, the Sabbath, there will be none.”

Verses 25, 26.



Most of the people did what God had commanded, but some went out on the Sabbath to gather manna. Notice what God had to say about that!



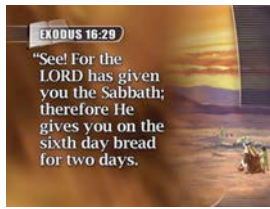
(Text: Exodus 16:28-30)

“And the Lord said to Moses, ‘How long do you refuse to keep My commandments and My laws?



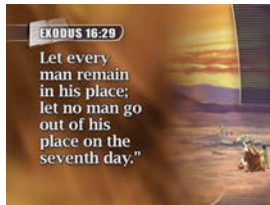
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47

See! For the Lord has given you the Sabbath; therefore He gives you on the sixth day bread for two days.



48

Let every man remain in his place; let no man go out of his place on the seventh day.'



49

So the people rested on the seventh day." Exodus 16:28-30.



So we see that the Sabbath was instituted at creation and observed by God's people before they came to Sinai, where God gave them the Ten Commandments.

When God appeared to Moses at Mt. Sinai, He gave him a message to share with the people:



51

(Text: Exodus 19:5, 6)

"Now therefore, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant,



52

then you shall be a special treasure to Me above all people; for all the earth is Mine.



53

And you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.



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54

These are the words which you shall speak to the children of Israel.” Exodus 19:5, 6.



55

God had made a most gracious offer to His people. If they obeyed His laws and commandments, they would be a special people and a holy nation!

One of those commandments was given to make certain His people would never forget their relationship to their Creator. In fact, it begins with the word “*remember*.”



56

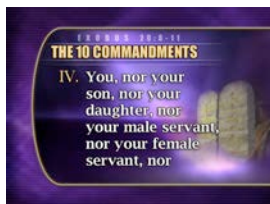
(Text: Exodus 20:8-11)

“Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work,



57

but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord your God. In it you shall do no work:



58

you, nor your son, nor your daughter, nor your male servant, nor your female servant, nor



59

your cattle, nor your stranger who is within your gates. For in six days the Lord made



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60

the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day.



61

Therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it.” Exodus 20:8-11.



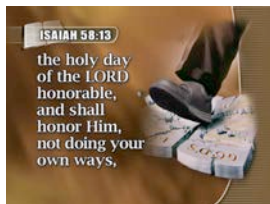
62

The Sabbath is in the center, or the heart, of those ten precepts. The Sabbath day is a memorial of creation. It is as old as the world itself! God promises His people many blessings if they obey Him and remember His memorial of creation.



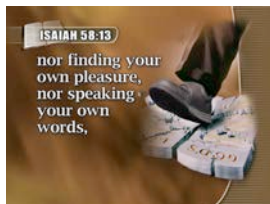
63

(Text: Isaiah 58:13, 14)  
“If you turn away your foot from the Sabbath, from doing your pleasure on My holy day, and call the Sabbath a delight,



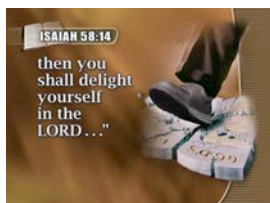
64

the holy day of the Lord honorable, and shall honor Him, not doing your own ways,



65

nor finding your own pleasure, nor speaking your own words,



66

then you shall delight yourself in the Lord...”  
Isaiah 58:13, 14



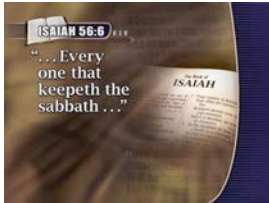
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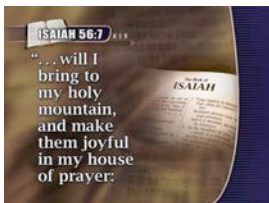
Isaiah emphasized that God never intended to give these blessings of the Sabbath exclusively to the Jewish people. He invites everyone, everywhere to remember and keep the Sabbath with Him:



68

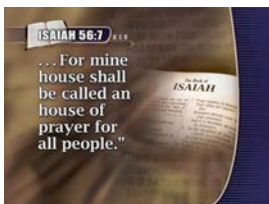
(Text: Isaiah 56:6, 7)

“...Every one that keepeth the sabbath . . . .



69

Will I bring to my holy mountain, and make them joyful in my house of prayer:



70

. . . For mine house shall be called an house of prayer for all people.

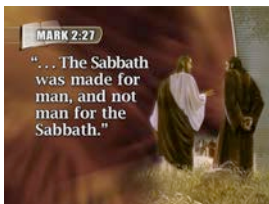
Isaiah 56:6, 7.



71

The Sabbath was instituted before the Jewish race came into being. God did not restrict such a blessing to one nation. Nowhere in the Bible is the seventh day called “the Sabbath of the Jews.”

Jesus made clear that it is a day for all mankind when He said,

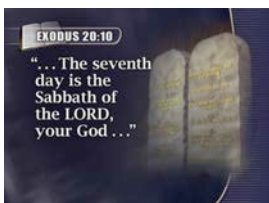


72

(Text: Mark 2:27)

“...The Sabbath was made for man, and not man for the Sabbath.”

Mark 2:27.



73

(Text: Exodus 20:10)

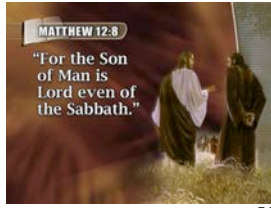
The commandment says that “...The seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord, your God...”

Exodus 20:10.



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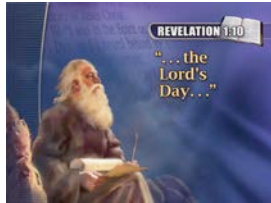
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74

(Text: Matthew 12:8)

Jesus also said that He is “Lord even of the Sabbath day” (Matthew 12:8) because He made it.

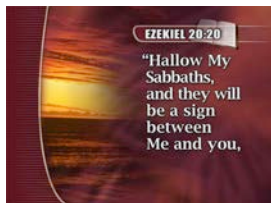


75

(Text: Revelation 1:10)

That is why John the Revelator called it “the Lord’s day.” Revelation 1:10.

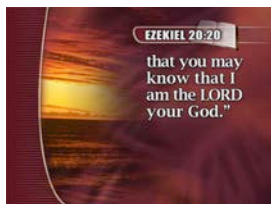
The Sabbath is more than a memorial of creation and the Creator. It is a sign between God and man.



76

(Text: Ezekiel 20:20)

“Hallow My Sabbaths; and they will be a sign between Me and you,



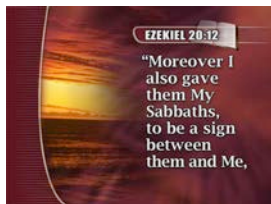
77

that you may know that I am the Lord your God.”

Ezekiel 20:20.

The One who made the Sabbath holy during creation week is the same One who makes sinful people holy.

Our Creator is also our Savior!



78

(Text: Ezekiel 20:12)

“Moreover also I gave them my Sabbaths, to be a sign between them and me,



79

that they might know that I am the Lord who sanctifies them.”

Ezekiel 20:12.



80

The Sabbath was instituted before sin came to Earth, and will also be celebrated after sin is forever banished from Earth.



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81

(Text: Isaiah 66:22, 23)

““For as the new heavens and the new earth which I will make shall remain before Me,’ says the Lord,



82

so shall your seed and your name remain.”



83

And it shall come to pass that from one New Moon to another, and from one Sabbath to another,



84

shall all flesh come to worship before Me, saith the Lord.”  
Isaiah 66:22, 23.



85

Throughout all eternity, God’s people will celebrate the Sabbath to honor Him as their Creator and Redeemer.  
If the Sabbath was celebrated before sin came to Earth, and it will be celebrated when the earth is made new, doesn’t it make sense that God’s people should celebrate it now?



86

If we have any questions about God and the Sabbath, we can look at how Jesus treated it.



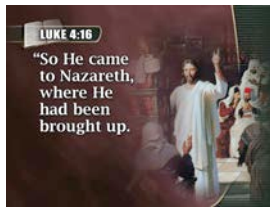
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Luke tells us what Jesus did on the Sabbath:



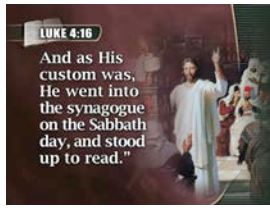
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(Text: Luke 4:16)

"He came to Nazareth, where He had been brought up:



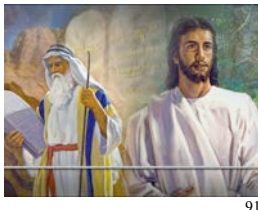
and, as His custom was, He went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and stood up for to read."

Luke 4:16.

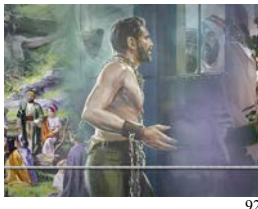
The Bible says that was Jesus' custom!



Had the day been changed or forgotten between the time of Adam and Moses, God would have remedied it when He wrote the Ten Commandments at Sinai.



Had the day been lost between the time of Moses and Jesus, Christ would surely have set the record straight.



Had the day been changed during the lifetime of the disciples they certainly would have written about it.



And, of course, the Jews, who keep a strict record of time, still worship on the seventh-day, or Saturday.



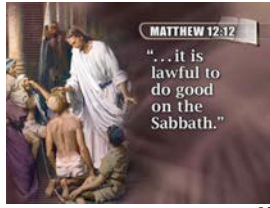
The identity of the day of rest was never questioned during Jesus' life on Earth. The only controversy arose over how He kept it. The rabbis had distorted Sabbath observance by instituting difficult, cumbersome regulations.

When they accused Jesus of breaking the Sabbath because He healed people on that day, He answered,



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95

(Text: Matthew 12:12)

“...It is lawful to do good on the Sabbath days.”

Matthew 12:12.



96

The Bible says that Jesus healed and ministered, The Sabbath is for making us whole, setting us free from guilt, prejudice, and selfishness, and giving us peace of mind; It is for restoring us to the image of God and pointing us back to our Creator!

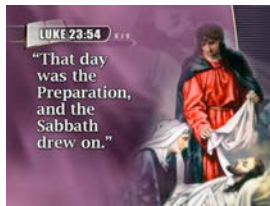
This was the work Jesus came to do, and it was the work the disciples did after He left them.



97

The practice of Sabbath observance was demonstrated by the followers of Jesus at His death.

In this crisis, Jesus' friends rested according to God's command, leaving the work of anointing Jesus' body until after the Sabbath hours.



98

(Text: Luke 23:54, 56)

“And that day was the preparation, and the Sabbath drew on....



99

Then they returned, and prepared spices and ointments, and rested the Sabbath according to the commandment.”

Luke 23:54, 56.



100

(Text: Luke 24:1)

“...Upon the first day of the week, very early in the morning, they came unto the sepulchre, bringing spices which they had prepared.”

Luke 24:1.

Let's take another look at the events of those three memorable days.

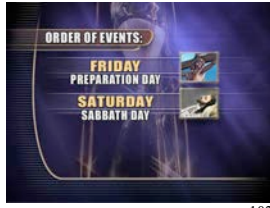


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1. Friday: Jesus died; the women prepared spices and ointments.



2. Saturday (Sabbath day): Jesus rested in the tomb; His followers rested.



3. Sunday (first day of the week): Jesus rose from the dead! Ladies came to anoint Jesus.

There can be no doubt as to which day was the Sabbath at Jesus' death. We all know which day of the week he arose! It was Sunday, the day after the Sabbath!



Not only did Jesus and His disciples keep the Sabbath, but also it is clear that He expected His followers to continue keeping it long after His resurrection. In His instructions regarding the future destruction of Jerusalem He said:



(Text: Matthew 24:20)

“And pray that your flight may not be in winter or on the Sabbath.”

Matthew 24:20.



Jesus expected that Christians in A.D. 70, when Jerusalem was destroyed, would still be keeping the Sabbath!

In fact, the New Testament records that Jesus' followers did continue to keep the Sabbath after the resurrection:



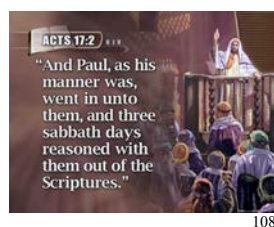
(Text: Acts 17:1, 2)

“They came to Thessalonica, where was a synagogue of the Jews:



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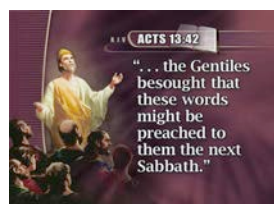


108

And Paul, as his manner was, went in to them, and three Sabbath days reasoned with them out of the scriptures.”

Acts 17:1, 2.

On another Sabbath when Paul was preaching, some Gentiles came with a request:



109

(Text: Acts 13:42, 44)

“...the Gentiles besought that these words might be preached to them the next Sabbath.

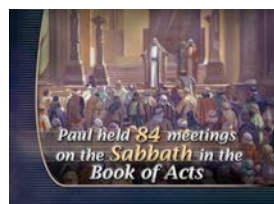


110

And the next Sabbath day came almost the whole city together to hear the word of God.”

Acts 13:42, 44.

If Paul was only in the synagogue on Sabbath because the Jews were there, he would have surely invited the Gentiles to meet together on the next day, Sunday. But he didn't!



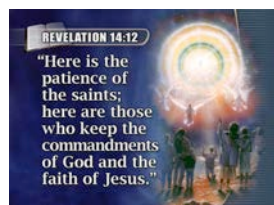
111

In fact, the book of Acts records 84 meetings that Paul held on the Sabbath.



112

The Sabbath runs like a golden thread from Genesis to the book of Revelation, which describes those who are prepared to meet Jesus at His Second Coming!



113

(Text: Revelation 14:12)

“Here is the patience of the saints: Here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.”

Revelation 14:12.



## 11 – Created For Something Better (The Sabbath)

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(Text: John 14:15)

Jesus said, “If you love Me, keep my commandments.” (John 14:15)

and one of those commandments tells us to “remember the Sabbath day.”

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If we worship God, our Creator, each week on the seventh-day Sabbath, we’ll never forget where we came from, or Who created us and the world around us.

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We’ll never need to wonder how we got here—we are here because God wanted us, because He made us.

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The same Jesus who asks you to “remember” stretches out His hands to you tonight – hands once nailed to the cross of Calvary for your sins—and gently calls, “Follow Me.”

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Will you follow your Creator now?

Would you like to enjoy the blessings to be found in joyful obedience to His will for your life?

Would you like to join Jesus and the apostles in worshiping the Creator God each seventh-day Sabbath?

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## 11 – Created For Something Better (The Sabbath)

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119

Would you like to say, “Thank you, Jesus for giving me such a wonderful gift. Thank you for thinking of my needs, for providing rest in this restless world?”

If deep within your heart you want to take advantage of His blessed hours, if you want to keep His day holy in communion with Him, I invite you simply to stand where you are as we pray.

*[SUGGESTED PRAYER]*

*“Dear Lord, we stand here before you tonight with thankful hearts. We’re grateful that You are our Creator and Redeemer. Thank you for giving us a weekly reminder of Your love and Your purpose for our lives. Tonight we want to say we love You in return. We want to hear Your invitation to keep our weekly appointment with You. Tonight You see each heart. You know each decision. I pray for each person, each home, each family represented here, that You would bless them as they seek to honor You in keeping your Sabbath day holy. Please give them Your love, Your strength, Your joy in their hearts as they commit all their ways to You. In Jesus name we pray, Amen.”*

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