

# The Ten Commandments - Part 15: The Fourth Commandment

## Part 1, Remember the Sabbath

The following text is a message from Corner Fringe Ministries that was presented by Daniel Joseph. The original presentation can be viewed at <https://www.cornerfringe.com/media/p4qq4f2/the-ten-commandments-part-15>.

\*Portions of this document have been edited from the video message to better present a comprehensive, written document. Special attention was given to preserving the original context, but this document is not verbatim. Scripture verses are in the red text with other quotes in blue. Therefore, it is recommended that this document is printed in color. The Hebrew words are generally accompanied by the transliterate, English word. In most cases, the Hebrew is to be read from right to left.

### Opening Videos: Various Christian Perspectives on the Sabbath

#### Dr. Robert Jeffries:

Remember the Sabbath and keep it holy. Does that commandment apply to us today, who live under grace and not the law? Are there principles that transfer to us even under the age of grace? And God is saying, just as I created the world and finished all of my work in six days and rested on the seventh, you are to do all of your work for a week in six days and you are to rest on the seventh day. But the question is, what about the Old Testament rules about the Sabbath? Should we follow those as well? You know, as you look at the New Testament, it is clear that once Jesus was raised from the dead, the early church changed its day of worship from Saturday, the last day of the week, to Sunday, the first day of the week.

Paul was saying all these Old Testament laws were simply a shadow pointing to Jesus Christ and now that Jesus has come, there is no reason to go back and keep all of these Old Testament laws. May I remind you that those of us who live under the New Testament, under grace and not the Old Testament, the law, don't operate according to a lower standard, we have a higher standard. Grace imposes a higher standard of obedience, not a lower standard.

Secondly, remember the principle behind the Sabbath. No, we're not under the Old Testament restrictions about what to do on the seventh day, but the principle still applies. There needs to be one day a week when we focus on our relationship with God.

#### Adrian Rogers:

Now, God gave the Old Testament Sabbath to Israel. It was a wonderful gift to them. God has given to us something even better. It is the Lord's Day which is the transformation of the Sabbath into something even more wonderful, and it is a fulfillment of the Sabbath. This is why the Lord's Day, Sunday, is the day that we're here today to worship. Why? because Jesus burst asunder the bonds of death and came out of that grave upon the first day of the week. And it is called in the Bible in Revelation 1:10, the Lord's Day. The Sabbath is never called the Lord's Day, not the Old Testament covenant Sabbath.

### **Andy Stanley:**

Look at this, He says for example in this fourth commandment, “Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy.” Somebody says, “Well, I've been wondering about that.” Well, first of all let me say this: if you study that carefully, it does not mean, listen, it does not mean that it has to be Saturday. For example, if that law was still in effect, now watch this carefully, as far as it being the seventh day being Saturday for everybody, and that is the day of rest being Saturday for everybody, now what are you going to say to the apostle Paul and all the disciples of the New Testament church? Then they've all violated that law and established something different. Nobody has the right to tell you, what day you set aside as a day of rest and service and the way you want to worship God.

### **Les Feldick:**

I'm just going to show that all of these things that we've got here on the board, the seventh day Sabbath, tithing and circumcision were all introduced way back in the book of Genesis, but they all three became part then of the mosaic law. So, that when Paul writes in Romans 6, “you're not under the law, you're under grace” it follows that these three as well as all the rest of the mosaic system disappeared and they're no longer valid. Seventh day Sabbath is not for us because it became part of the law, we're not in the law, we're under grace.

### **BIBLEQUESTIONS with Michael Pearl:**

Was the Sabbath given as a sign for the Jews or should it be observed today, as a day of worship by Christians?

I observe the Lord Jesus Christ every day and worship him without pause throughout the whole week, and all days are holy unto me. Now they said, “But do you set aside the Sabbath as unique as special?” Jesus is my Sabbath, He's the Lord of the Sabbath. And so no, I don't hold Saturday or Sunday as a day above any other day of the week, all days are equal.

Now, even though I was born with Jewish blood, I'm now in Christ, and being in Christ, I am no longer under the bondage of that mosaic law. So, if you want to keep Sabbath, do it God's way, but then if you do, you're falling from grace because you're coming back under the law of Moses. You're coming back under that which the Bible said brought death; the letter of the law killeth, the spirit giveth life. So no, I'm not a Sabbath keeper. Never have been and never will be.

If you're a Sabbath keeper, you're sinning. it's a sin to keep the Sabbath. It's a sin because you're falling from grace, you're ignoring the provision of God in Christ. So, he says that some people are weak, weak in faith, and because of that they feel like they can't eat meat or they feel like that they should keep a Sabbath day and they're not at liberty to love the Lord equally on all days.

### **(End of Opening Videos)**

### **Daniel Joseph:**

We will be starting on a new commandment in the Ten Commandments, and it's actually the fourth commandment. What does it say? It says this, Exodus 20:8 – <sup>8</sup> *zākōwr 'êṭ yōwm haššabbāt laqaddašōw*, *זָכוֹר אֶת-יוֹם הַשַּׁבָּת לְקַדְּשׁוֹ* – What is that? – **Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy.**

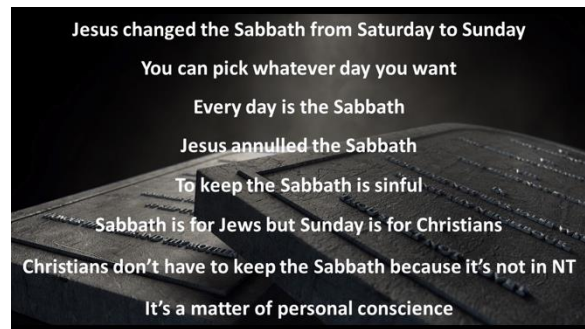
Without question, hands down, this is the most debated, the most controversial commandment found anywhere in the Ten Commandments. No other commandment that is given has been so hotly debated, more contested, or stirred more controversy than this commandment.

In fact, I want to share a little commentary with you from a renowned scholar who is known throughout the world. He has countless books, and one of his books is called *Unveiling Mysteries in the Bible*. Listen to this statement. Dr. Grant R. Jeffrey says, – **Of all the mysteries that I have been asked about over the years, the question of whether Christians should worship on Sunday or on Saturday has perplexed and bothered more believers than any other question in my experience.**

This guy is immersed in doctrine, theology, and questions. What say you, Dr. Jeffrey? What does he say? This is the most controversial, most debated issue he knows. On one side, there are Christians, and keep in mind believers are the context, that say we need to keep the Sabbath, that we are obligated to keep the commandment. Jump to the other side of the tracks, and there are other Christians, not unbelievers as they are not the context, that say you don't have to keep it.

We're given all these various reasons why Christians do not keep the Sabbath. I want to take you through some of them.

First one: Jesus changed the Sabbath from Saturday to Sunday. You read that in one of those clips in the intro video transcription. You need to understand the backdrop. There are Christian pastors and teachers that admit that Saturday was definitely the Sabbath, but when Christ came, he died and rose again. Upon that resurrection, the solemnity of the sanctity of the holiness that was on Shabbat left Shabbat and transferred to the day of resurrection, the first day of the week. This is what some believe.



Others believe that you can pick whatever day you want, whatever is most convenient to you. The concept behind this is that they understand there are principles in the Shabbat/Sabbath that are of value and should be incorporated, but you don't have to incorporate it on Saturday or even on Sunday; whatever fits with your schedule, whatever is most convenient.

Another idea being touted is that every day is a Sabbath. Again, on that last video clip, this is what the gentleman alluded to. Every day to him is holy. He makes no distinction between any day; every day is holy. The concept is that because if I follow Jesus and Jesus is my rest, is there a day that I shouldn't worship Him? So now, every day becomes a Sabbath.

There is the idea that Jesus annulled the Sabbath, such as the clip with Les Feldick. He said that it's part of the Old Testament law. This completely abrogates it. It is completely done away with. There is no Sabbath anymore.

Then you have the idea that to keep the Sabbath is sinful. As you read, the concept is that you're falling from grace. You are actually rejecting Jesus, if you try to observe the commandment or tell others, "You know what? We're obligated to keep this commandment." Then you're a Judaizer, and you're trying to bring people under the law. And to do that is a total rejection of grace.

Some teach that the Sabbath is for Jews, but Sunday is for Christians. This is dual covenant theology. They believe that the Jewish Sabbath is for the Jews, and no Gentile Christian who's accepted the gospel would keep the Sabbath because it's not for them. They believe in total separation between Jew and Gentile.

There is another quite popular idea that Christians don't have to keep the Sabbath because it isn't commanded in the New Testament. This idea is quite popular today. The litmus test is that we don't find it in the New Testament, explicitly. The common teaching is that as we go through the Ten Commandments, we see the other nine reiterated in the New Testament, but the fourth one is not reiterated, so we Christians don't need to do it. I'm not saying I agree with it, I'm just telling you that this is what is being taught.

The last one I want to share with you is this: it's a matter of personal conscience. In other words, it's a little bit different than "You can pick whatever day you want." Typically, people that carry the "pick whatever day you want" ideology believe you really should incorporate the Sabbath principles. You should at some point, whenever it's convenient, be doing this. But the "it's a matter of personal conscience" ideology is a little bit looser and much more progressive. They believe if you want to keep it, *mazel tov* (congratulations); if you don't want to keep it at all, not on Sunday, Saturday or any day of the week, you don't have to. It's a matter of personal conviction.

Notice that there are many different ideas swirling about in Christianity about not keeping the Sabbath. I will share a little personal story with you. The reason I'm here today teaching this is that – once upon a time, decades ago, I was seeking the Lord with my whole heart and starting to read things in scripture that I realized were not lining up with the atmosphere of the particular church I was going to. When you start asking other Christians, "Why is it, we don't keep the Sabbath?" and four different people give you four different answers, you have a problem.

I want you to think about something. Isn't it interesting, there's absolutely no debate about the other nine commandments, but somehow when it comes to the Shabbat, as Dr. Jeffrey noted, it's the most debated thing? Here's what I struggle with: when you go to the other side of the tracks with those Christians that say you don't have to keep the Sabbath, there is a plethora of reasons why. None of them equal the other. They're all different. If I knew nothing else, and I was just a baby Christian and noticed everybody had a different idea and interpretation in regard to why you wouldn't keep the Sabbath, that would be a red flag for me. And you know what that calls for? It calls for an investigation. May I say, it demands a full investigation.

If you're a Christian and have never heard about the Sabbath and don't know what it is, I'm telling you: you need to investigate it. And this is what we are going to do for the next couple of weeks; we will investigate this topic. We will look at scriptures all the way from Genesis to Revelation. We will look at passage after passage in the Old Testament and passage after passage in the New Testament. We will look at external sources, both Jewish sources and Christian sources. We will peel back history of the early church fathers.

We will come at this from every angle. And ultimately, there is one thing I am after. We will accomplish some others, but there's one thing I'm after: what does God say? That is because there are a lot of voices out there depending on what church you go to. You can drive five minutes down the road and find a pastor preaching, "You can pick whatever day you want." You could go to another church where the pastor says that if you keep the Sabbath, you're bringing yourself under the law, hence you're rejecting Christ. Something is very wrong, so we will dig into this.

Let's look at the commandment. Exodus 20:8 – <sup>8</sup>

**Remember** – *zāḱōwr, רִדֹּר* – **the Sabbath day**. The first thing I want to point out is that God begins this commandment in a way He begins no other commandment. He prefaces this commandment with what? Remember, (*zāḱōwr, רִדֹּר*). Notice as you go through the commandments, He doesn't say to "remember" to honor your mother and father; "remember" don't kill; "remember" don't commit adultery. There is no other commandment that He begins with "remember". That is incredible.



Is this significant? You better believe it, because this tells us that we are dealing with Bible prophecy. It's a prophetic warning. Isn't it interesting that the only commandment that begins with "remember" is the only commandment that has been forgotten? It is the only commandment that is being debated today. That is an incredible thing. God started with "Remember, (*zāḱōwr, רִדֹּר*)" as He literally knew what was going to happen to this commandment.

I think we need to be reminded of something I've mentioned before in this series: We as Christians must come to terms with the reality that we are the target. The enemy is coming to take us out. Here's the deal: if God has commanded us to remember the Sabbath, what do you think the devil's going to do? He will do everything to get you to forget it. He will use everything in his arsenal, every weapon available to him, to get you to forget the Shabbat. This is not a joke.

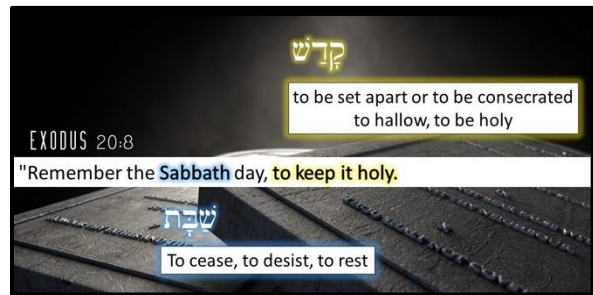
I think of the garden of Eden. What did Satan do? We are told from Isaiah 46:10 – the Lord – <sup>10</sup> **declares the end from the beginning**. The enemy came into the garden and stole the commandment of God, the truth of God, and the Word of God. Yeshua warned us that **the enemy doesn't come except to steal, kill, and destroy**. (John 10:10). Understand that the first thing Yeshua says in John 10:10 is that the enemy comes to steal because when the enemy steals, it's about death. The payment of that will be death. Then killing and destroying follows stealing because that's the name of the game. The devil wants to steal the truth and the Word of God from us.

Here's the kicker. Read the story in Genesis 3; do you know what the enemy did? He not only said to Eve, "**You will not surely die.**", in other words, you don't have to worry", but he told Eve that if she abandoned this commandment and ate that which was forbidden: you will be promoted; you will prosper; and you will be more blessed. That is the same mantra that is being touted for men and women to walk away from the Sabbath today: you will prosper and you will be more blessed. You can't even make this stuff up. We live in the garden all over again.

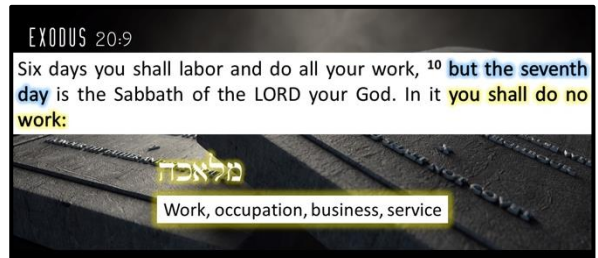
It's time for us as believers to take back the ground. We have to take back what has been taken from us. Amen. We have to fight for the truth; we fight for the kingdom of God, and we fight for the souls of men. It's an absolute fact. We have to fight to get back to a place where we remember God. I quoted this a while back: Deuteronomy 8:11 – <sup>11</sup> **Beware that you do not forget the LORD your God** – How do

you forget God? – **by not keeping His commandments**, (*emphasis added*) abandoning God. If you abandon His commandments, understand you will abandon Him.

Returning to the fourth commandment – <sup>8</sup> **Remember** (*zāḱōwr, זָכוֹר*) **the Sabbath day**, – what are we supposed to remember? – **to keep it holy**. This is what we're called to do. In Hebrew, holy is *kodesh*, *קֹדֶשׁ*, and it literally means to be set apart, to be consecrated. We are called to sanctify and hallow the Shabbat. It is to be sacred for us. The Shabbat is to be sacred. The Hebrew word “Shabbat” literally means to cease, to desist, to rest. If you put this all together, you're supposed to cease from your works, from what you're doing, and rest. The Shabbat is holy and sanctified.



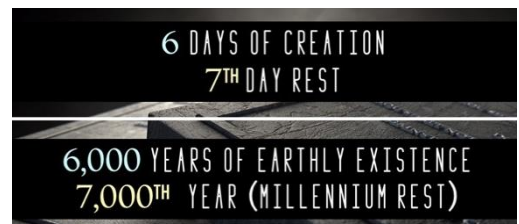
We will have a better understanding of what this means on a practical level as we read verse 9. Check this out. Exodus 20:9 – <sup>9</sup> **Six days you shall labor and do all your work**, <sup>10</sup> **but the seventh** (*haššab̄t, שַׁבְּעִי*) **day** – seventh, not the third, not the fifth, and not even the first day. This is calling the seventh day to be holy. – **is the Sabbath of the Lord your God. In it you shall do no work** (*ma·lā·kāh, מְלָאכָה*) (*emphasis added*).



There is to be no work. The term “work” is broad. It refers to your place of occupation and how you would generate income for your family. I am telling you right now that the Sabbath is so incredible because every single week you will be put to the test of where your priorities are, of who you trust in. Do you trust in your employer or your own business to generate your income more than you trust in God? Do you cease? Do you desist?

The Shabbat is such an amazing thing as it reveals what you care most about. You won't go through a week without this being revealed. Your heart will be revealed to you when all of a sudden you say, “Daniel, you don't understand. If I don't go to work, I will lose my job.” What do you trust in then? When you have the commandment of the Lord here, it is very clear, what do you trust in more? People don't like to be confronted with this reality. It is a reality. This is a scriptural truth.

Look at the photo on the right as it will help you appreciate that every time you keep the Sabbath holy and sanctify it, you become a living testimony to all humanity: your fellow brothers and sisters, your children, your spouse, people at your workplace, and everyone around you. Every time you sanctify this day and cease from work (*ma·lā·kāh, מְלָאכָה*), you become God's testimony here on earth of what? Of



prophecy, of promise, and of what Yeshua will do very soon. What do I mean? This is one of those rare moments where you can look at this vast spectrum, all the way from Orthodox Judaism to Christian pastors and scholars. All of them are in agreement in regard to what I have in the photo.

In other words, God has declared the end from the beginning. They look at the six days of creation and how God rested the seventh day, and they recognize that this is a prophetic template in that God has allotted humanity 6,000 years, but in the 7,000<sup>th</sup> year, Yeshua comes back and ushers in the eternal rest of God. Paul says this in 2 Thessalonians 1, that this is what it ushers in. Think about how every time you hold the ground, you sanctify the holiness of the day, and you stand there, you become a living testimony of the holy promise of the Lord that He will deliver us. It is coming.

There's something I want to cover today, so I just kind of put it in here. It needs to be in week one because it puts this all into context. I want to show you how serious God is about this commandment. In Exodus 31:14, we read – <sup>14</sup> **You shall keep the Shabbat, therefore, for it is holy to you. Everyone who profanes it shall surely be put to death; for whoever does any work (*mā·lā·kāh, מְלָאָה*) on it, that person shall be cut off from among his people** (*emphasis added*).

No greater emphasis could God possibly employ to get your attention, to get my attention, to get us to stop dead in our tracks, than to apply the death penalty for breach of this commandment. Before you ask the question, “What does the Sabbath mean to you?”, you have to first ask the question. “What does it mean to Him?” You'll never come to a true understanding of what the Sabbath is until you ask the question, “What does it mean to Him?”. I can tell you just by looking at the death penalty that it means everything to Him.

Let's look at the whole concept of applying the death penalty to certain sins. I challenge you to go through the Torah and look at the kinds of sins that have the death penalty attached to them. These things are absolutely vile in the eyes of God: rape is vile in the eyes of God. It requires the death penalty. If you take another man's life, it is vile in the eyes of God. Again, the death penalty. Breaking the Sabbath requires the death penalty. It seems to be so trivial in our culture today; how did we even get here when the Lord has applied the death penalty. It is absolutely mind-blowing to me.

It's no coincidence that this commandment made it in the Ten Commandments, in the “Big Ten.”

Let me put this further into context so you can appreciate this statement: **that person shall be cut off**. I will read the exact same passage in the Targums which are the Aramaic translation. It virtually reads identically, except for one point. Targum Neofiti – Exodus 31:14 — <sup>14</sup> **And you shall keep the Sabbath day because it is holy for you. Whoever profanes it shall surely be put to death; – identical – whoever does any work on it, that person shall be blotted out from the midst of his people you** (*emphasis added*). Talk about connecting dots. This is so massive. When scripture talks about being blotted out, you better pay attention because what is actually being talked about is not temporary, meaning just simply in this life. It's not putting you to death in this life; it's talking about the age to come.

In the next chapter, the Lord is having a conversation with Moses, Exodus 32:33 – <sup>33</sup> **The LORD replied to Moses, “Whoever sins against Me, I will blot him out of My book ...”** When He's talking about being blotted out, He's talking about being blotted out of the Book of Life. So, how serious should we really take this message? I think we should take it pretty seriously.

Exodus 31 is not the only time we see the Lord saying that this is the death penalty. In Numbers 15. a guy went out and treated the Shabbat as something trivial. He decided to go to work and gather sticks to kindle a fire. Moses and Aaron don't know what to do with him. They brought him to the Lord and asked the Lord what He wanted them to do with him. It was the Lord that said to put him to death. One thing I know about God is that He is a just judge. If there is any judge that we can trust in, it's Him. He

commanded this guy to be put to death. How much more could the Lord possibly grab our attention? There's no possible way.

Returning to the fourth commandment: Exodus 20:9-10 – <sup>9</sup> Six days you shall labor and do all your work, <sup>10</sup> but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the LORD your God. In it you shall do no work: – then it says – you, nor your son, nor your daughter, nor your male servant, nor your female servant, nor your cattle, nor your stranger who is within your gates.

Interesting, there is a principle here that is critically important. Not only is it forbidden for you to go forth and profane the Sabbath, but you can't cause someone else to profane it, especially someone you're in authority over. That means your children and your spouse.

Let me give you another practical application: that means business owners. If a business owner says, "Well, I'm going to rest on Shabbat. I know my employees are working and carrying the load, and that's okay." That is not okay. You are not covered. You're in breach. It's breaking the Shabbat. You have not sanctified it. You're causing someone else to work. You shut it down.

If you're at home saying, "Well, I need a new roof or siding done, and the only time they can come is on Shabbat, Saturday. I'm not doing the work, but they are."; it's forbidden. It's completely inappropriate. It's completely missing the mark with the spirit of the commandment. God is so specific in His instructions.

Exodus 20:11 – <sup>11</sup> For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day. Therefore, the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it. We were just given the reason why we're commanded to keep the Sabbath. You want to talk about a profound revelation! We are called to keep the Sabbath holy because God kept it holy. He created; He worked; our God worked six days, and then He rested.

There's a beautiful Latin phrase "*imitatio Dei*" which means "imitate God". We are called to imitate God. Some of you don't know what your calling is. Do you want to know what your calling is? It is to imitate God.

What does Yeshua say in Matthew chapter 5? He comes to the crescendo and delivers the hardest lesson for every single one of us in this room to accept. Leave it to Yeshua to lay the hammer. Matthew 5:44-45 – <sup>44</sup> But I (Yeshua) say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those that spitefully use you and persecute you – why? – <sup>45</sup> that you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. Yeshua is literally conveying that the reason why you must love your enemies is because your God has loved His enemies. "*Imitatio Dei*", imitate God.

Ephesians 4:32 – <sup>32</sup> And be kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, – Paul says why? Because – even as God in Christ has forgiven you. Paul gives the reason why we should forgive each other when someone sins against us; it's because God has forgiven us. "*Imitatio Dei*", imitate God. He is the example. We are to imitate Him. You need to understand that this is the application. There's an application to Shabbat. He's the reason.

I want to share with you some commentary from the Catholic Catechism. This is not typically a resource I draw from when I'm looking for beautiful revelation on biblical concepts in theology, I'll admit that. But



in this situation, I am making an exception and showing you one of the most beautiful articulations I've ever read in my life in regard to the Sabbath and how it corresponds to creation and the weight and gravity of what it really means. It's mind-blowing. Check this out.

**Catechism of the Catholic Church** – 345-348 [Catechism is in blue; Daniel's comments in black.]  
**The Sabbath, the end of the work of the six days** (Header)

**The sacred text says** – What does it mean by sacred text? Explicitly, the Torah, Genesis 2. Sacred text means that it is the inspired Word of the Lord.

that on the seventh day God finished his work which he had done,” that the heavens and the earth were finished,” and that God “rested” on this day and sanctified and blessed it. **These inspired words** are rich in profitable instruction: – Holy Spirit inspired words. We need to understand that. The Lord's got my attention. Read Genesis 2. He should have our attention.

In creation God laid a foundation and **established laws that remain firm**, on which a believer can rely with confidence, – At the beginning, at creation, establishing laws i.e., the Shabbat - laws that remain firm.

**for they are a sign** – We will talk about this in the coming weeks as there's no debate as you look at scripture that it's described as a sign, *לֶאֱסֹמֶל, הַיָּמִינִי*, in the Torah and the Prophets. In fact, it's the first sign given in scripture.

and a **pledge of the unshakable faithfulness of God's covenant**. For his part man must remain faithful to this foundation and respect the laws which the Creator has written into it. – I couldn't agree more. We must remain faithful and hold fast to this truth of what we've seen in the beginning.

Creation was fashioned with the view to the Sabbath – Unbelievable! All the days of creation, day one, day two, day three, ... hit a crescendo and point to the Sabbath. It's all in view of the Sabbath.

**and therefore the worship and adoration of God**. –You need to understand that the Sabbath is not simply about you just ceasing and desisting from work (*mā·lā·kāh, הַמְלָכָה*); it's about worship. This is when we start to get into the basement of things, if you will, because I've said it many times, you've heard me say it, I can boil everything down to the finest point in the following statement: the war that exists between good and evil and between light and darkness is over worship. Let that sink in. The devil wants worship. Yeshua wants worship. And now the battle wages. Who are you going to worship? How do we worship God appropriately? God's way. We're called to worship Him in the way He's instructed us. If we fail to do that, who do you worship? The devil. This is heavy stuff.

**Worship is inscribed in the order of creation**. – That means the Lord established Shabbat from the beginning.

As the rule of St. Benedict says, **nothing should take precedence over the work of God, that is, solemn worship**. This indicates the right order of human concerns. – Again, I couldn't agree more. Nothing can take priority over your observance of the Shabbat. I don't care how bad your employer needs you or if you have siding falling off of your house, when it comes to the Sabbath, you're done. There are aspects that we'll talk about later. There are aspects of caregiving where people literally need to be kept alive.

It is appropriate for someone to step onto that platform. To do that is a righteous thing, but we'll get into that later. I want you to pay close attention to the next thing that is said. It is incredible.

**The Sabbath is at the heart of Israel's law.** – It's at the heart. Now, this is coming from Catholic Commentary. My goodness. Recognize that all they're doing is reading scripture and came to the determination that this is at the heart of it all because worship is at the heart of it all. Talk about revelation.

**To keep the commandments is to correspond to the wisdom and the will of God as expressed in His work of creation.** – When you read the Torah, the Torah makes that clear. This is how it is. This is how it's supposed to go. Unbelievable exegesis of Shabbat.

*(Emphasis Added)*

### **(End of Catechism of the Catholic Church)**

Now, given what we just read, I want to peel back another layer to this discussion because so often times today we see this mantra by Christians. On one hand, I'm in 100 percent agreement; on the other hand, we have a problem. What do I mean? There is this mantra that the Sabbath isn't about Jesus; it has nothing to do with Jesus or Christianity. Therefore, we're not interested; this is not a thing for us; I'm a Christian, and my life needs to be all about Jesus.

Now with that last part I can stand with my brother, and I will, because for me the study of Torah, the study of the Word, my application into the commandments of God, and my humility is all co-dependent on my faith in Yeshua, period. I am after one thing, Yeshua; He is my focus.

But somehow the enemy has convinced Christians that the Sabbath has nothing to do with Jesus. We're going to see otherwise. Check this out.

John 1:1 – I'll say it in the Greek: <sup>1</sup> (*En archē, Ἐν ἀρχῇ*) **In the beginning** – John already captivated his audience. Every first century Jew reading the text knew John was referencing the creation because in the Septuagint, which is the Greek translation of the Hebrew Bible, these are the same Greek words that begin the Torah: *En archē*, In the beginning. – **was the Word, (ho Logos, ὁ Λόγος)** – “Word” in the Hebrew is *Dā·bar-*, דָּבָר. In the Aramaic, it is *Memra*, which is going to be important. In the Greek it's *Logos*. It's all the same thing; it is “Word”. – **and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.** <sup>2</sup> **He was in the beginning with God.** – listen to this – <sup>3</sup> **All things were made through Him and without Him nothing was made that was made** (*emphasis added*).

Massive revelation! Yeshua is the instrument of creation. That changes my whole perspective on creation. In fact, Proverbs 8:30 says that Yeshua was beside Him as a master craftsman. Why? Because He created. The Father made all things through the Son. He is the instrument of creation. It's a game changer. Here's the thing, if He is the instrument of creation, then the Sabbath has everything to do with Jesus. Am I wrong? Think about this. Yeshua worked for six days. Yeshua rested the seventh day. According to John, He blessed the seventh day and sanctified it. Who? Yeshua. If there was ever a thing to do with Jesus, it's the Shabbat. Shabbat has everything to do with Jesus; Jesus has everything to do with Shabbat.

Let me take this a step further so that you can appreciate how crafty John really is and how what John says was completely understood in the first century amongst his peers. John brings out something

amazing, and it was something that they understood. What do I mean? Let's look at the Targums. I want to show you how the Targums utilize this concept of "Word" which they called the *Memra* or in the Greek it is *Logos*. Then I will get to my point.

In Genesis 21, Abraham is entering into an oath with King Abimelech. The king wanted Abraham to swear to him an oath that Abraham wouldn't harm him. So Abraham and Abimelech enter into this oath. What's fascinating is the Targums record something Abraham said. It's incredible. Check this out.

Targum Neofiti – Genesis 21:33 – **Give thanks**, and what? – **believe in the name of the Memra of the Lord, the God of the world** (*emphasis added*). The *Memra*, the Word, is being personified. He's preaching: you must believe in the name of the Word of the Lord. That is an incredible statement.

In John 8:56, John recorded that – Yeshua said <sup>56</sup> **Abraham rejoiced to see My day, and he saw it and was glad**. Abraham knew Yeshua. He had a very personal experience with Him back in Genesis 18. This stuff is recorded in the Targums. This is incredible. This goes right along with John personifying the Word. The Word is being personified as a person; it bears a name, a name we're supposed to trust in. John talks about the Word becoming flesh.

Targum Onkelos – Genesis 28:20 – **And Jacob vowed a vow**, – It doesn't say, "if the Lord will be my help". It says – **if the Word of the Lord will be my help, and will keep me in the way which I go, and will give me bread to eat and raiment to wear, and bring me again in peace to my father's house, the Word of the Lord shall be my God** (*emphasis added*).

Think of when doubting Thomas said – <sup>28</sup> **"My Lord and My God (Ho Kyrios mou ka\_ho Theos mou, 'O Κύριός μου και ὁ Θεός μου)**. (John 20:28). This goes back to Jacob. Doubting Thomas isn't the first one to say this. Jacob says – **the Word of the Lord will be my God**.

Now that you understand how the Targums use this term, "Word" or "*Memra*", let's read about the creation account in the Targums. Targum Neofiti – Genesis 1:1 – **From the beginning with wisdom the Memra of the Lord – The Word of the Lord did what? – created and perfected the heavens and the earth** (*emphasis added*). It actually goes on to say – **And the Memra said let there be light**. Yeshua is the instrument of creation. This is a traditional Jewish understanding coming from the ancient Targums.

Jumping ahead to our main passage, Targum Neofiti - Genesis 2:2 – **And on the seventh day the Memra of the Lord completed his work which he had created and there was sabbath and repose before him on the seventh day from all his work which he had created**.

Do you understand the Sabbath is completely a Jesus thing? It is Jesus, the Word that became flesh, the *Memra* of the Lord, that blessed it and sanctified it according to the Father's perfect will. This has everything to do with Him, and that's why He's called the Lord of the Sabbath. Do you know the magnitude of that statement? We won't even dig into the depth of that today. He is the Lord of the Sabbath.

The Sabbath has no longer ceased from being holy any more than Jesus has ceased from being Lord of it! That is the truth!

In the next couple weeks, we will peel back layer after layer and you will see the how the depth of this conversation is absolutely incredible.