

The Sabbath and the New Covenant

By
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and Friends

The Sabbath and the New Covenant

The one concern I have has been our inability as a people to express the prophetic significance of the Sabbath and its relationship to the New Covenant message. This is probably due in part to a lack of understanding.

To often when asked why we observe the Sabbath, the answer is simply, “because it is the seventh day of the week.” This is certainly a true answer, although I hope that our answer would go a little deeper than that in order to help our friends who are asking these questions come away with a better understanding. Truly, the Sabbath encompasses all that our message is about.

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- **Question:** “We would do well to ask ourselves whether or not the Sabbath is central to our Gospel Message, or peripheral?”
- **Question:** If central, how so?
- **Question:** If peripheral, why is it to be of such ultimate significance in the last days?
- For centuries the Sabbath has been a debate among Christendom. We would agree that the word Sabbath means **Rest** and is **Saturday, the 7th day of the week.**

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- **Question:** But why the great controversy over this day?
 - **Question:** Could it be that Seventh-day Adventists who hold sacred the Sabbath Day don't fully realize the prophetic significance of that day? We know that this was the case of Israel of old.
 - We get a hint of this in **Ps. 95:10-11**. “Forty years long was I grieved with this generation, and said, It is a people that do err in their heart, and they have not know My ways: Vs.11, unto whom I swear in My wrath that they should not enter into my rest.”
 - **Note:** That word “rest” is making a direct reference to the Sabbath.

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- **Question:** What did God mean by this statement?
 - Jews had the Sabbath
 - Weekly they entered into those Sabbath hours.
 - But unfortunately, they failed to learn and follow God's way.
 - Heb. 4:6 says, "... They entered not in because of unbelief."
 - Bible says they were an "unsettled people", people afraid of their enemies.
 - Consequently they were never able to experience the rest that God intended for them.
 - They were afraid of their enemies, always looking over their shoulders. (They had no rest).

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- **Question:** Are we in danger of doing the same?
 - 1 John 4:8 says, ... “God is Love.” It was this love that Christ came to impart to the world.
 - Isaiah 26:3 states, “Thou will keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on Thee.”
 - Matthew 11:28, “Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden and I will give you rest.”
 - These verses are making reference to the Sabbath itself. We will find that the Sabbath embodies a message. It is the message of the New Covenant.
 - Isaiah 56:6 “Everyone that keepeth the Sabbath from polluting it, and taketh hold of My Covenant . . .” Here Isaiah equates the Sabbath with the New Covenant.
 - Exodus 31:16,17, reveals that, to us as to Israel, the Sabbath is given for a perpetual covenant.

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- **Question:** What is the Covenant that God made with Israel?
 - It is stated in the Old as well as in the New Testament that God would write His law on our hearts and in our minds.
 - Deuteronomy 10:13,18 says, “And it shall come to pass if ye shall hearken diligently unto my commandments which I command you this day, to love the Lord your God, and to serve him with all your heart and with all your soul, ... Therefore shall ye lay up these my words in your heart and in your soul, and bind them for a sign upon your hand, that they may be as frontlets between your eyes.”

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- **Question:** What is the Covenant that God made with Israel?
 - Hebrews 8:10,11 says, “For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people: Vs.11, “And they shall not teach every man his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, ‘Know the Lord: for all shall know me, from the least to the greatest.’”

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- **Question:** What is the Covenant that God made with Israel? (con't)
 - When God accomplishes this, we will choose never to sin again. We will be at rest. In other words, the Sabbath has become a reality in our lives. This is why we read in Ezekiel 20:12, “the Sabbath is a sign (or symbol) that He will sanctify us (which means to be made holy).”
 - Isaiah 66:1 ... “Where is the house he built unto me, where is the place of My rest ...?”
 - Therefore, the Sabbath is a symbol of the New Covenant.

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- **Question:** What other symbols do we have that make reference to the New Covenant?
 - **1. Circumcision**
 - **2. Baptism**
 - **3. Communion**
 - **4. Husband and Wife (the 2 become 1)**
 - **5. Miracles**
 - **6. Creating new wine at the wedding feast**
 - **7. Etc.**

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- The New Covenant promises and predicts that God will have a purified church in which there is to be no spot or wrinkle or any such thing. But this will not come without a price. Those who refuse to subject themselves to the refining process, and the refining covenant, are to be separated from among the just. The Bible says, “Two parts shall be cut off and die; but the third part shall be left therein. And I will bring the third part through the fire and will refine them as silver is refined.” Zechariah 13:7-9.

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- **The Rejected Stone:**

- Ps. 118:22 says, “The stone which the builders refused is become the head stone of the corner.
- Vs.24 says, “This is the day which the Lord hath made.”
- The stone they rejected was Christ as well as the Sabbath, because Christ is the embodiment of the Sabbath. You can’t reject one without rejecting the other, and because the Sabbath is a symbol of the New Covenant, then in reality they rejected all three – the Sabbath at that moment became a dead symbol.
- Matt. 23:38 says, “Behold your house is left unto you desolate.”

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- The New Covenant is the mighty divider of the wicked from the righteous.
- Seventh-day Adventists have long believed that the Sabbath would have produced just such a division in the world. And in this we have been correct beyond our wildest imaginations.
- But what we have not recognized is that this Sabbath is to accomplish the same within the church. We see this to be the case in Leviticus 23:26-32 concerning the Day of Atonement. The soul that is not afflicted shall be cut off.

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- **The Sabbath is a test:**
 - Since 1844. Early Writings p.42, 254, Evangelism 213.
 - As we have found, the Sabbath embodies a message: It is the message of the new covenant. This message must be such that it cannot be falsely professed, if as we expect, the last message is to give the lie to every form of falsehood, counterfeit, and hypocrisy, hypocritical acceptance of this message should be difficult at the outset and impossible over the course of time.
 - **Question:** Why?
 - **Answer:** Because this message will convict you of the sinfulness of sin.

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- **The Sabbath is a test:** (con't)
 - For if the false are as at home within this message as are the true, in what way is it a test? How does it ignite a conflict between good and evil? In other words, the message should have the same impact within our church that we expect it to have in the world at large. A message that is to so test the world as to divide it into two overt camps of good and evil, should do the same for the church (us). This message will enable God to write His law on our hearts and in our minds. So the test will show whether you have a true desire to enter into the new covenant by your willingness to comply with the message.

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- **Question:** Why is it important for God to accomplish the writing of His Law on our hearts and in our minds?
- Unless God's people (sanctuary) are at last cleansed, none who have been redeemed during the period of its defilement can at last be saved. In other words, as Hebrews 11:38-40 states, ... "they without us should not be made perfect." (See slide 19, Lecture, The Science of Sin ("The Veil")).
- The fate of the entire 6,000 year effort thus hinges upon its final hour and victory.

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- **Satan's disdain for the covenant and the victory it promises:**
 - It is therefore to be expected that Satan would concentrate his greatest effort of all time toward preventing the perfection of God's remnant people. At the end it matters not to him if they have but partially achieved, as have previous generations of the faithful. All that ultimately matters to him is that their perfection be prevented, for this is all that is necessary to destroy the entire length of the process of redemption and defeat all that God has ever done on behalf of mankind. **Satan has his eye on this church!**

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- **Satan's disdain for the covenant and the victory it promises:** (con't)
 - Desire of Ages, p.763 says, "Satan need not to assail the whole law; if he can lead man to disregard one precept, his purpose is gained." That one precept is the fourth commandment, the one commandment that bids us enter into rest precisely as did Christ upon the cross, through total victory over sin amidst this the worst of all conflicts.

This commandment, the commandment of the New Covenant, the commandment calling for total and perfect obedience, is the commandment that we have been systematically setting aside for years, even though we have professed continued loyalty to the seventh day.

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Satan hates this commandment, for upon it hangs the fate of the entire controversy. Because it is a symbol of what God wants to do in us, write His law on our hearts and in our minds! And if God accomplishes this, it seals Satan's fate. That's why he attacks the symbols of the covenant, the Sabbath, husband and wife (the two becoming one), etc.

- Early Writings p.215-216: Satan seeks to corrupt only one of the Commandments.
- 7A BC p.182, Col 1.1 speaks of Satan's contempt for the Sabbath. He says: "I will work at cross-purposes with God. I will empower my delegate, the man of sin, to take down God's memorial, the seventh-day Sabbath. Thus will I show the world that the day sanctified and blessed by God has been changed. That day shall not live in the minds of the people..."

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7A BC p.182, ... “ I will obliterate the memory of it. I will place in its stead a day bearing not the credentials of heaven, a day that cannot be a sign between God and His people. I will lead the people who accept this day, to place upon it the sanctity that God placed upon the seventh day. Through my vicegerent I will exalt myself. The first day shall be extolled, and the Protestant world shall receive this spurious Sabbath as genuine. Through the non-observance of the Sabbath God instituted, I will bring His law into contempt...

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7A BC p.182, ... “The words, ‘A sign between me and you throughout your generation,’ I will make to serve on the side of my Sabbath. Thus the world will become mine. I will be ruler of the earth, prince of the world. I will so control the minds under my power that God's Sabbath shall be an object of contempt. A *sign*? I will make the observance of the seventh day a sign of disloyalty to the authorities of the earth. Human laws shall be made so stringent that men and women will not dare to observe the seventh-day Sabbath. For fear of wanting food and clothing, they will join with the world in transgressing God’s law; and the earth will be wholly under my dominion.”

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The Gospel:

Question: What is the everlasting gospel?

Answer:

- Romans 1:16 The power of God unto salvation
- The power of God is His love for us which gives Him the ability to write His law on our hearts and in our minds. (In other words, to be recreated in His image).
 - John 12:32 says, “If I be lifted up, I will draw all men unto Me.” It is this love that empowers the human race to surrender their wills to God.

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The Gospel:

Question: When we give the gospel, are we teaching the people what they must do to be saved?

- **This is one doctrinal belief that truly separates us from all others.** The Bible teaches that we are saved from our sins, rather than in our sins.

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The Gospel: (con't)

- **Question:** Does our Gospel differ from that of Evangelicals?
- **Answer:** Yes. Their Gospel as well as apostate Seventh-Day Adventists, is summed up in Ezekiel 13:22, which reads, “Because with lies ye have made the heart of the righteous sad, whom I have not made sad;” and “The Clear Word” says, you lied to my people and kept them from doing what is right. You did not turn the wicked from their ways or try to save them.
- **Question:** What is the lie?

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The Gospel: (con't)

- **Answer:** To Eve, Satan promised a richer, fuller life than could be obtained through strict obedience. So he will do in his last deception. He will say that a religion allowing for continued sin is far more rewarding than a religion offering and requiring perfection.

But the lie of all lies of the serpent is, “ye shall not surely die.” This is the very foundation of all his lies. It is the cornerstone of his rebellion. It is with this lie, above all others, that he will strike at the new covenant...

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The Gospel: (con't)

... The new covenant, remember, is based upon the very realities of existence itself, God's as well as ours. And within that reality, sin is death, and God Himself cannot and will not alter that fact. As long as sin is sin, it will produce its sure weight of condemnation and death. But the dragon, through his lie of "ye shall not surely die," advocates a brand of atonement of which this basic reality is supposedly circumvented." Thus, sin loses its enormity and the law its force.

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The Gospel: (con't)

Question: What is the brand of atonement that Satan is advocating?

Answer: The prostitution of substitutionary atonement. Remember, you cannot circumvent the reality that sin is death. When the veil is finally removed, disaster will be the sure fate of all who sanctimoniously shun light.

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The Gospel (con't)

- Matthew 19:16 The **Question** is, “what good thing shall I do that I may have eternal life?” Jesus replied, “Keep the commandments.”
 - We can see how the Sabbath is as central to our Gospel message as Sunday is to theirs.
 - Sabbath is symbolic of righteousness by faith.
 - Sunday is symbolic of righteousness by works, because they have devised their own method of salvation.

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- **Conclusion:** There can be no more sure path to disaster than for one to reverence or even casually believe in the symbols of the New Covenant while at the same time reject the message for which they stand. Through it all we are perfectly poised to repeat the history of the Jews. We, like them, do not see, nor do we understand the future significance of our present day covenant.
- Remember, the New Covenant promises and predicts that God will have a purified church.
- The fact that a man died on the cross is the greatest evidence we have that we can overcome.
- The Bible says that Christ was a forerunner. That's why Christ tells us in Matthew 16:24 to "take up His (your) cross and follow Me (Christ)."

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Hebrews 4:2 says, “For unto us was the gospel preached, as well as unto them: but the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard it. Vs.6, “Seeing therefore it remaineth that some must enter therein, and they to whom it was first preached entered not in because of unbelief: Vs.7, “Again, He limiteth a certain day, saying in David, “To day, after so long a time; as it is said, To day if ye will hear His voice, harden not your hearts. Vs.8, “For if Jesus had given them rest, then would He not afterward have spoken of another day. Vs.9, “There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God. Vs.10, “For he that is entered into His rest, he also hath ceased from his own works, as God did from His. Vs.11, “Let us labour therefore to enter into that rest, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief.”

Question: Will History repeat itself?

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- **Conclusion:** (con't)
 - The **Cross of Christ** is a prophecy – the **cross of the saints** will be the fulfillment of that prophecy.
 - Desire of Ages p.680 says, “Christ looks upon His people in their purity and perfection, as the reward of His humiliation, and the supplement of His glory, . . .”
 - Refer to Chart (Last Day Events).
 - Jerusalem’s stance against the new covenant will be Babylon’s stance against the Sabbath.

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- **Conclusion:** (con't)

In other words, the fall of Jerusalem can be seen in the later fall of Babylon, and in the fall of Babylon can be seen the earlier fall of Jerusalem.

Both: are to assume that same position against the new covenant.

Both: are to become the habitation of devils and the hold of foul spirits, and the cage of every unclean and hateful bird.

Both: are to persecute the righteous.

Both: are to commit the abomination of desolation.

Both: are to be fled from. (their influences)

Both: are to fall

Both: in their turn, are to be punished with a series of seven fearful judgments.

Last Day Event Chart (Explanation)

This chart was developed on the principle that history repeats itself. The bible teaches that all the books of the bible meet and end in the Revelation, and that the stories and many prophecies have more meaning for us today than when they actually occurred.

Our chart is based on and developed with this principle in mind. In fact we read in the Spirit of Prophecy that the whole life of Christ will be re-enacted in the last days, His ministry, His betrayal, and His crucifixion. In other words, every facet of Christ's life will be re-enacted in the lives of His people.

If Christ's life is to be re-enacted, it would stand to reason that the 70th week of the 490 year prophecy of Daniel 9 would be repeated as well. That prophecy of Daniel 9:24 foretold exactly when the Messiah the Prince (Christ) would come to the Jewish nation and confirm the (New)₃₃ Covenant with many for one week, ...

Last Day Event Chart (Explanation)

“...but in the middle of the week, He would cause sacrifice and oblation to cease.” So the chart depicts that prophecy finding its counterpart in the last days.

Just as Christ came to confirm the New Covenant with many in His day, God’s remnant will confirm the New Covenant with many in ours.

Question: At the beginning of Christ’s ministry he told His disciples to start where?

Answer: Matthew 10:6 says, “But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.”

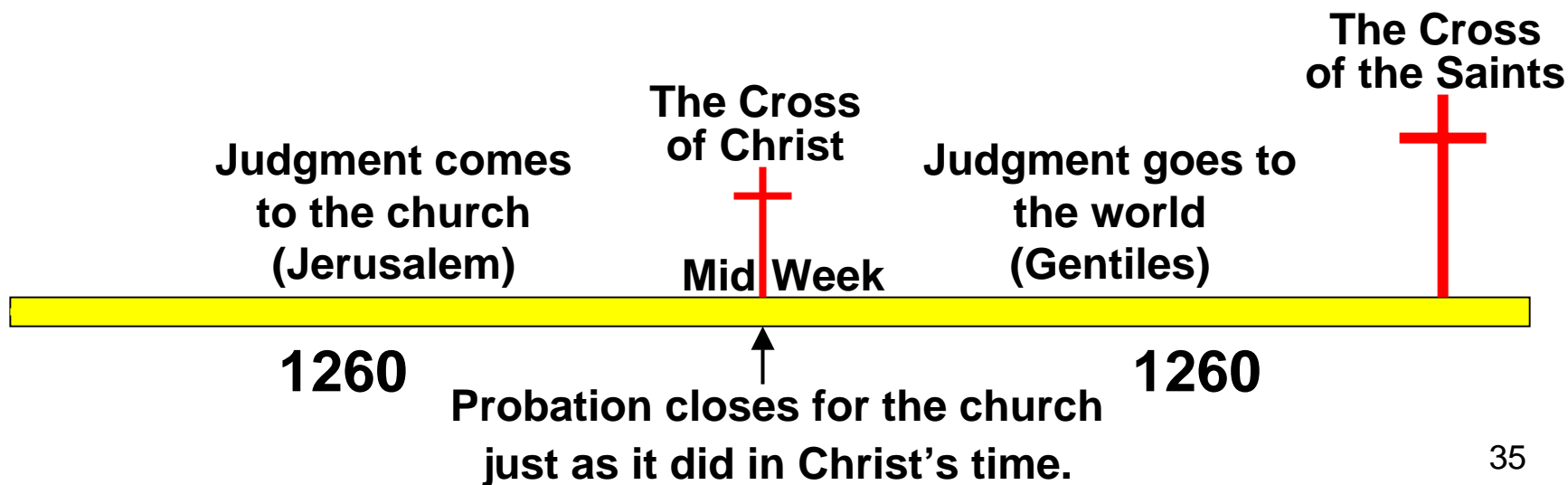
Ezekiel 9 tells us that judgment starts first at the house of God.

1 Peter 4:17 says, “For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God.”

Last Day Event Chart (Explanation)

This judgment is represented during the first half of our week, then judgment will go to the world during the second half, thus the 70th week.

So basically the chart is representative of two weeks, the one during Christ's ministry and the other during ours. The two are superimposed upon each other.



1260=3 1/2 days or years?

Last Day Event Chart (Explanation)

Explanation (con't)

The yellow line running horizontally, represents God's people (wheat) and the path of refinement that they are willing to subject themselves to. The black line below represents the wicked (tares) and the path to destruction they follow.

Our people are anxious to study the second half of the week, sunday laws, the abomination of desolation etc., but if they don't know what is happening during the first half of the week, the second becomes moot.

Let them make Me a Sanctuary that I may Dwell...

EX. 25:8

DAN 9:24 70 WEEKS ARE DETERMINED UPON THY PEOPLE

1844
SABBATH
TEST
PS. 95:10-11

DAN 9:27 **CHURCH CONFIRMS THE COVENANT**



JACOB - REMNANT ISA. 58:5-7 PS. 51:16-17

144,000

My
hour

PROBATION
CLOSES

**JACOB'S
TROUBLE**

PERFECTING SEALING LATTER LOUD CRY

WHEAT

Gethsemane

1260 DAYS

JUDGMENT BEGINS AT THE HOUSE OF GOD

RAIN

1260 DAYS

JUDGMENT OF THE WORLD

SATAN'S
PERSONATION

1290 →
SEVEN
FIRES

BIRTH
2-BECOME-1

TARES

LITTLE HORN DAN 8:9

SHAKING

REV.3:9

APOSTATE
CHURCHES
SPIRITUALISM
CATHOLICISM

**IMAGE
NATIONAL
SUNDAY
LAW**

ABOMINATION OF
DESOLATION

**UNIVERSAL
SUNDAY
LAW**

ANGER OF THE NATIONS

**DEATH
DECREE**

1335 →
7 PLAGUES
**Joseph's
Story**

WILDERNESS **ESAU** - APOSTATES EZK. 13:22 ACTS 3:19

JERUSALEMS STANCE AGAINST THE COVENANT

BABYLONS STANCE AGAINST THE SABBATH