

## THE SABBATH



Shabbat Shalom – Sabbath Peace

### 4 Views Of The Sabbath.

- ▶ The Sabbath understanding is complex. Those who want a simple one size fits all approach need to study more. There 4 are different views.
- 1. The original Torah's Sabbath commandment number 4 given to Israel. Ex 20:8.
- 2. The current extreme Rabbinical Judaism view of Sabbath requirements.
- 3. The Messianic Jew's understanding based upon Torah and Messiah.
- 4. The Gentile who wants to follow the Sabbath / aligning themself with Israel.

### ORIGINAL COMMANDMENT

#### Commandment Purpose

- ▶ The original covenant made at Mt. Sinai was with the nation of Israel and also those who were circumcised and joined them.
- ▶ The 4<sup>th</sup> commandment of the Sabbath has the following purposes.
- 1. As a sign of God's covenant with Israel.  
EX 31:12 Then the LORD said to Moses, <sup>13</sup> "Say to the Israelites, `You must observe my Sabbaths. This will be a sign between me and you for the generations to come, so you may know that I am

the LORD, who makes you holy.

<sup>EZ 20:12</sup> Also I gave them my Sabbaths as a sign between us, so they would know that I the LORD made them holy.

- ▶ On it you shall not do any work. Two reasons are given:
- 2. Having completed his work of creation God "rested on the seventh day" (v. 11), and the Israelites are to observe the same pattern in their service of God in the creation. As His people.
- 3. The Israelites must cease all labor so that their servants can also participate in the Sabbath-rest-just as God had delivered his people from the burden of slavery in Egypt (see Dt 5:14-15). The Sabbath thus became a "sign" of the covenant between God and Israel at Mount Sinai.

### Sign For Israel

<sup>DEUT 5:14</sup> but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, neither you, nor your son or daughter, nor your manservant or maidservant, nor your ox, your donkey or any of your animals, nor the alien within your gates, so that your manservant and maidservant may rest, as you do. <sup>15</sup> Remember that you were slaves in Egypt and that the LORD your God brought you out of there with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm. Therefore the LORD your God has commanded you to observe the Sabbath day.

### The Sabbath Has Kept Israel

- ▶ All though the last 3000 years up till today the Sabbath has distinguished and preserved the Jewish people as God has intended.
- ▶ It has given them their cultural and religious identity from the Gentiles.
- ▶ It has kept them from assimilating. It has given them a God centered home life.
- ▶ It has helped them remember God even when they were far from their own land during exile.
- ▶ Today in Israel everything still goes quiet as Sabbath starts and also for Jews everywhere.

### RABBINICAL JUDAISM

#### Holy Place To Holy Time

- ▶ At the 1<sup>st</sup> century the place of Jerusalem was the Holy place and Israel was the Holy land. Emphasis was on the Holy Temple. This is seen in the Talmud writings.
- ▶ But Rabbis, after the Jews were scattered, Teachers like Yokkanen Ben Zakai, have changed the teaching to say that time is Holy not place.
- ▶ The honor given to the Sabbath has increased more and more till it personified as a Queen and given a place of adoration.

- ▶ This can be seen in Abraham Joshua Heschel's book "The Sabbath". An Ultra Orthodox view.

### Holy Day

- ▶ Holiness is an emphasis of current Judaism.
- ▶ The foundation is God's creation.
- ▶ <sup>GEN 2:3</sup> And God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it he rested from all the work of creating that he had done.
- ▶ In the 10 commandments the word holy is applied to one word only - the Sabbath.

<sup>EX 20:8</sup> "Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. <sup>9</sup> Six days you shall labor and do all your work, <sup>10</sup> but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, neither you, nor your son or daughter, nor your manservant or maidservant, nor your animals, nor the alien within your gates. <sup>11</sup> For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but He rested on the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.

### Honest Work During the Week

- ▶ God has given man the blessing of labor from the beginning. Although with the fall came "toil" as well.
- ▶ <sup>GE 2:15</sup> The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it.
- ▶ But Israel is commanded to cease from their work on the Sabbath. This command is not a depreciation but an affirmation of work, a divine exalting of its dignity. As God commands us "6 days you shall labor and do all your work".

### No Work

- ▶ During the Sabbath God wants his people to rest and not to kindle a fire. The Sabbath is to be spent in charm, grace, peace, love.
- ▶ No worry or job related thoughts. But joy.
- ▶ God rested on the 7<sup>th</sup> day – I.E at the end of the 7<sup>th</sup> day God created menuha - tranquility, serenity, peace and repose. – Happiness. = Life in world to come, eternal life.

### Give It Special Honor

- ▶ The Jewish people have seen the Sabbath as a sanctified period of sacred time separated from the secular days. Time itself is the place for God.

- ▶ Great expectation and ceremony is given to seeing in the arrival of the day at Friday sunset and also of fondly seeing it off at the Havdalah ceremony with its spices that linger at the completion of the Sabbath.
- ▶ Special honor with best food, clothing and table settings being used plus religious prayers and songs.

#### Sanctuary

- ▶ “In the bible, nothing, no place on earth, is holy by itself.”
- ▶ “The Sabbath is a sanctuary in time, not place”.
- ▶ “To stand still and embrace the presence of an eternal moment. To touch eternity though time”.
- ▶ “An armistice in man’s cruel struggle for existence, a truce in conflicts, personal and social, peace between man and man, man and nature, peace within man, no commerce away from the world’s idol of money”.
- ▶ “The Sabbath is an island from the world”.

#### Current View

- ▶ Love for the Sabbath as romance. The views on the Sabbath have become more and more extreme over time. I.E. Singing to the Sabbath Queen.
- ▶ “It is as if a whole people were in love with the seventh day. Much of its spirit can only be understood as an example of love carried to extreme”.
- ▶ “The art of keeping the seventh day is the art of painting on the canvas of time the mysterious grandeur of the climax of creation: as He sanctified the seventh day, so shall we. The love of the Sabbath is the love of man for what he and God have in common. Our keeping the Sabbath day is a paraphrase of His sanctification of the seventh day”.

#### Pilgrimage to the Sabbath and Covet Time Not Things

- ▶ “Judaism tries to foster the vision of life as a pilgrimage to the seventh day; the longing for the Sabbath all days of the week which is a form of longing for the eternal Sabbath all the days of our lives.
- ▶ It seeks to displace the coveting of things in space for coveting of the things in time, teaching man to covet the seventh day all the days of the week”.

#### MESSIANIC JEWISH VIEWPOINT

#### A Spokesman In Israel

- ▶ Recently Asher Intrater of Revive Israel was asked on Israel Television what are your views on the 10 Commandments.
- ▶ “The commandment that causes the most argument is the Sabbath. Rabbinic Judaism can be obsessive at times regarding Sabbath laws. For example, there is disagreement as to allowable to tear toilet paper on the Sabbath – and therefore some groups use toilet paper “pre-separated” into small sections for the Sabbath.

#### Yeshua’s Sabbath Law

- ▶ There are 1000s of pages of rabbinic literature about Sabbath laws. Yeshua summarized His halacha in three simple rules:
  1. Mark 2:27 – The Sabbath was made for man  
Yeshua returns to the original purpose of the Sabbath. It was designed to be a weekly release from the curse of sin of Adam. It was to be a taste of the Millenium kingdom to come. It was to be a time to rest from the things of this world and turn our hearts to the Lord.
  2. Mark 2:28 – The Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath.  
Yeshua refers to Himself as the final authority of how to keep the Sabbath. It was He in the form of the Angel/YHVH who wrote the Sabbath commandment in the first place. The rabbis say that it is impossible to keep commandments without supervision. Everybody needs a rabbi to instruct how to fulfill the details. If you have a rabbi’s instruction, then you will have no doubts of whether you have acted correctly. Yeshua is our rabbi, and we fulfill the Sabbath according to His instructions.
  3. Mark 3:4 – It is lawful to do good on the Sabbath.  
Yeshua reiterates that moral law overrides ritual law. He reminds us that correct interpretation of the law demands simple morality, logical discernment, and a healthy approach to human life.
    - ▶ (He gives the example that the 8<sup>th</sup> day circumcision of a baby on the Sabbath is allowed. As one has priority over the other). Also He asked on the Sabbath, is it lawful to save life or to kill?
    - ▶ He healed the man with the withered hand on the Sabbath.

#### Original Meaning Under Yeshua

- ▶ Asher says:  
“I reject the position that traditional Jews keep the commandments and Messianic Jews don’t. We do keep God’s commandments, but seek to do so by restoring their original meaning in the light of the New Covenant. Much of Christianity has dismissed the commandments of God by theological excuses; much of Judaism has distorted the commandments of God by ritual traditions. Let us walk in the balance of salvation by grace and the obedience of faith under the lordship of Yeshua.

## MESSIANIC GENTILES

- ▶ <sup>COL 2:16</sup> 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.<sup>17</sup> These are a shadow of the things that were to come; the reality, however, is found in Messiah.
- ▶ Paul addressing Gentiles in Colossae and tells them that the Sabbath Day observance is not essential for them. "Let no man judge you".
- ▶ No where does the New Testament teach this as mandatory. But worship is encouraged.

## Care On External Details

- ▶ Apostle Paul is warning them here not to be too concerned with external religious observances. But seek the reality of Messiah himself. In other words beware of Jewish obligations or emphasis on externals.
- ▶ Having said, that He is not saying that it is wrong to do the things he mentions. Just ensure to keep Yeshua in first place.
- ▶ So The Gentiles do have "freedom" to choose to participate in Jewish things, if they desire, including the Sabbath and the Feasts.

## The Lord's Day

- ▶ There is records in AD300 by Eusebius that Ebonite (Jewish) believers met on both Sabbath for teaching and on Sunday the 1<sup>st</sup> day of the week to commemorate Yeshua's rising from the dead. Both days.
- ▶ There is evidence from very early Christian writings like Dianch (70AD), of Gentiles meeting on 1<sup>st</sup> day of the week. Because Yeshua's resurrection was seen as central to their faith.
- ▶ This is not because of Constantine etc which is 200 years later. But he did use it for political use when he "Christianized" the Roman Empire.

## Dianch On The Lord's day Worship

- ▶ Dianch - a 70 AD disciple training manual  
Chapt 14:1 And on the Lord's own day gather yourselves together and break bread and give thanks, first confessing your sins to one another that your sacrifice may be pure.
- ▶ Note: this record is centuries before the incorrect enforcement of the 1<sup>st</sup> day as a "Christian Sabbath" by Origen in 220AD, the beginning of this error in the Catholic Church.
- ▶ Sunday is not the Sabbath.

- ▶ Also Passover is tied to the Passion by Apostle John/ Quartodecism (14<sup>th</sup> Nissan) and his disciple Polycarp celebrated this, not the 1<sup>st</sup> day for Easter as in Roman Church.

### The Lord's Day

- ▶ <sup>AC 20:7</sup> On the first day of the week we came together to break bread.(In Troas a Gentile place)
- ▶ The term on the "Lord's day" in Rev 1:10 is same as the "Lord's" table in 1Cor10:21. = Yeshua.
- ▶ The collection for the saints was done on the Lord's day in 1Cor16:2. So it seems to have been meeting day for the Gentile believers early on.
- ▶ Commentary – Rev 1:10 the Lord's Day. A technical term for the first day of the week--so named because Yeshua rose from the dead on that day. It was also the day on which the Christians met (see Ac 20:7) and took up collections (see 1Co 16:2).
- ▶ But this is history. Now is the appreciation of the intention of God to gather all things into one as Ephesians teaches the "One New Man" comprised of Jewish Believers and Gentiles believers.

### Gather Together In One Body

- ▶ <sup>EPH 2:15</sup> ..His purpose was to create in himself one new man out of the two, thus making peace,<sup>16</sup> and in this one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility.<sup>17</sup> He came and preached peace to you who were far away (Gentile) and peace to those who were near (Jew).<sup>18</sup> For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit.<sup>19</sup> Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God's people (Jews) and members of God's household.
- ▶ How can this ever happen unless we all worship together? The Holy Spirit is leading this way in the Church.
- ▶ We can't move the mountain of the Sabbath for the Jews, so we must move across to it.

### Sabbath The Worship Day

The other main things to consider are:

1. It is better to worship on the day Yeshua Himself worshipped when He was here.
2. It is better to worship on the day our Jewish brothers in Messiah worship for unity.
3. The future day of worship is the Sabbath, when the Roman/Greek influence is gone, in the Millennium.  
<sup>ISA 66:23</sup> From one New Moon to another and from one Sabbath to another, all mankind will come and bow down before me," says the LORD.