

**Is One Particular Day of the Week More Sacred Than Any Other Day?
December 18, 2011**

The question that we will be seeking to answer this morning is this: Is one particular day of the week more sacred than any other day? Is Sunday more sacred than Monday? Is Monday more sacred than Tuesday? Is Tuesday more sacred than Wednesday? Is Wednesday more sacred than Thursday? Is Thursday more sacred than Friday? Is Friday more sacred than Saturday? Is Saturday more sacred than Sunday?

I don't know how each of you here this morning might answer this question. But I do know how a Jew living under the Law of Moses would answer that question. And what would their answer be? Their answer would be that Saturday, the seventh day of the week, is more sacred than any other day of the week for it is the sabbath of the Lord and we have been commanded to do no work on that day.

And if there is any doubt about this let me now read for you the words of God given to the nation of Israel through Moses in **Exodus 20:8-10**. **“Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. (9) Six days you shall labor and do all your work, (10) but the seventh day is a sabbath of the Lord your God; in it you shall not do any work, you or your son or your daughter, your male or your female servant or your cattle or your sojourner who stays with you.”** So clearly a Jew living under the Mosaic Law would of course see the seventh day, or in other words Saturday as being more sacred than any other day of the week.

But as Christians this should not be our viewpoint. So, what should our viewpoint be concerning the sacredness of days? There is no particular day that is more sacred than any other day. They are equally the same, or in other words Sunday is not more sacred than Monday. Monday is not more sacred than Tuesday. Tuesday is not more sacred than Wednesday and so on and so forth.

And I believe that this position can be supported, not by ignoring what the Bible teaches about the sabbath but rather by understanding what the Bible does teach. And this is exactly what we will be doing this morning. So, what is the first thing that we need to understand about the sabbath?

The first thing that we need to understand about the sabbath is that the sabbath rest as commanded by God did not exist prior to the Law of Moses. But even though the sabbath rest as commanded by God did not exist prior to the Law of Moses this should not communicate to us that the Bible doesn't speak about a sabbath rest prior to the Law of Moses. There was a sabbath rest, the sabbath rest of God.

Let me read for you **Genesis 2:2** and see if this is not so. And what does it say? It says this, **“By the seventh day God completed His work which He had done, and He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had done.”** So was there a sabbath rest prior to the giving of the Law? Yes, it was God's sabbath rest.

So why did God rest? Was He tired? No, God was not tired? God rested because everything that needed to be done, in respect to creation, had been done and done perfectly. This is why He rested. He had not rested on Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, or Friday but He rested on Saturday and because He rested on Saturday He in effect sanctified or set apart Saturday from every other day, for it was on the seventh day that everything that needed to be done, in respect to creation, had been done and done perfectly. And because He sanctified the seventh day, in this particular way, He in effect blessed the seventh day, for the seventh day became synonymous with the completion of God's perfect work of creation.

So was there a sabbath rest prior to the giving of the Law of Moses? Yes! It was God's sabbath rest. But now listen very carefully. Though there was a sabbath rest prior to the giving of the law, nowhere in Genesis, and certainly not in Genesis 2, do we find God commanding people to rest on the sabbath, as He had done after His six-day creation. So if this is true, then when did God give the sabbath rest command, and to whom did He give it?

And all we have to do in order to answer these questions is to search the Scriptures so that we might discover when God first gave it and to whom He gave it. And as we do that what will we discover? We will discover that the sabbath rest command was given to Israel by God when God gave Israel the Mosaic Law (Exodus 20:8-10). This is when the command was first given and to whom it was given.

So let us look at the Mosaic Law and see if this is not so. And we will be once again looking at **Exodus 20:8-10**. **“Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. (9) Six days you shall labor and do all your work, (10) but the seventh day is a sabbath of the Lord your God; in it you shall not do any work, you or your son or your daughter, your male or your female servant or your cattle, or your sojourner who stays with you.”** So when did God give the sabbath rest command, and to whom did He give it? God gave the sabbath rest command to Israel when He gave them the Mosaic Law.

So now let me ask you this question. Why did God give to Israel the sabbath rest as a command? This is why: The sabbath rest was to serve as a sign, or in other words as a reminder of the Mosaic covenant that Israel entered into with God just prior entering into the promised land (Exodus 31:12-17).

So now let me now read for you **Exodus 31:12-17** and see if this is not so. **“The Lord spoke to Moses, saying (13) ‘But as for you, speak to the sons of Israel, saying, “You shall surely observe My sabbaths; for this is a sign between Me and you throughout your generations, that you may know that I am the Lord who sanctifies you. (14) Therefore you are to observe the sabbath, for it is holy to you. Everyone who profanes it shall surely be put to death; for whoever does any work on it, that person shall be cut off from among his people. (15) For six days work may be done, but on the seventh day there is a sabbath of complete rest, holy to the Lord; whoever does any work on the sabbath day shall surely be put to death. (16) So the sons of Israel shall observe the sabbath, to celebrate the sabbath throughout their generations as a perpetual covenant.” (17) It is a sign between Me and the sons of Israel forever; for in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, but on the seventh day He ceased from labor and was refreshed.”** So was the sabbath rest to be perpetual sign or reminder to Israel of the covenant that God established with them just prior to entering the promised land? Absolutely!

And what was this covenant that the sabbath rest was to remind them of? It was the Mosaic covenant.

So, what exactly was the Mosaic covenant? The Mosaic covenant was a conditional covenant established between God and Israel in anticipation of Israel entering the promised land. And what were the terms of this covenant? If Israel obeyed the Mosaic Law they would be blessed, but if they disobeyed the Mosaic Law they would be cursed. This is all spelled out for us in **Exodus 23:20-24:8** as well as in **Deuteronomy 28**.

So, what was the sign or the reminder of this covenant? The sabbath rest was to be the sign or a reminder of this Covenant. In other words, He wanted Israel every sabbath, when they were no longer distracted by work, to think about this conditional covenant that He had given them in anticipation of their entrance into the promised land, a covenant that promised blessing if they obeyed and cursing if they failed to obey.

Unfortunately, because of Israel's consistent pattern of disobedience in matters pertaining to the Law, the sabbath rest served only to remind them of their failures and of God's judgments.

How ironic this was. Now why would I say this? When David in Psalm 95 spoke of the promised land, he pictured it a place of rest. But even though this was possible, and certainly would have been, if Israel had been faithful to the Mosaic covenant, this is certainly not what happened.

Rather than finding the promised land a place of rest, Israel found the promised land, for the most part, as a place of conflict, struggle, and disappointment.

So did God anticipate this failure? Yes! God knew that Israel would fail to keep the Law. God knew that they would fail to honor the covenant. And God knew that the sabbath rest would only serve to remind them of their failure. So why did God give them the Law? Why did He make a covenant with them? And why did God give Israel the sabbath rest as a sign or a reminder of that covenant?

God gave Israel the Mosaic Law, the Mosaic Covenant, and the sign of the covenant in order to prepare them for the coming of Christ (Galatians 3:24).

Let me read **Galatians 3:24** and see if this is not so. **“Therefore the Law has become our tutor to lead us to Christ, so that we may be justified by faith.”**

Israel believed that they, through obedience to the Law, could enter into the rest of the promised land and they were not incorrect in their belief, for if they been obedient they would have entered into that rest, that earthly rest. The only problem was that there was no way, in light of their weaknesses and their frailties, that they would be able to live in obedience to the Law. They were therefore doomed from the get go.

And it was not as it Moses did not know this. He knew exactly what was going to happen for he already prophesied that Israel would fail and would ultimately be displaced from the land in **Deuteronomy 29:22-28**.

So why did God give Israel the Mosaic Law, the Mosaic covenant, and the sign of the covenant? It was to prepare them for the coming of Christ and the true sabbath. And this leads us to our next point.

The sabbath rest command given to Israel by God in the Mosaic Law that focused on the Old Covenant is rendered meaningless when people put their faith in the gospel of Christ and enter into the blessings of the New Covenant (Hebrews 4:8-10).

So now let us now read **Hebrews 4:8-10** and see if this is not so. **“For if Joshua had given them rest, He would not have spoken of another day after that. (9) So there remains a sabbath rest for the people of God. (10) For the one who has entered His rest has himself also rested from his works, as God did from His.”**

So has the sabbath rest command given to Israel by God in the Mosaic Law that focused on the Old covenant been rendered meaningless by the preaching of the new covenant? Absolutely!

So if this is true, that those who have placed their faith in Christ have rendered the sabbath rest command given to Israel by God in the Old

Covenant meaningless, then how should those who have placed their faith in Christ view the various days of the week?

Those who have placed their faith in Christ and have entered into the blessings of the New Covenant should not consider any day anymore sacred than any other day (Romans 14:5-9; Galatians 4:8-11; Colossians 2:16-17).

May we by the grace of God be able to see Valley Bible's Christmas worship schedule as a tangible expression as having entered into the blessings of the New Covenant through faith in Christ.