

For those of us who have been in this walk for a while, we can forget our “first love” and how passionate we were when we came to the truth. The kids who grew up in Yahweh’s lifestyle will never appreciate the contrast between the Bible’s lifestyle and our previous way of life. This is the way it ought to be but kind of a double-edged sword. They only know the truth which is good, but we have come out of error and into truth. It’s important to speak about the Sabbath from time to time just the same. Even though it’s old hat, we can’t forget about the newcomers and also continue to preach the truth.

Slide 2 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. Then God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it, because in it He rested from all His work which God had created and made. (Gen 2:2-3)

Does anybody think God needed to rest? This is similar to Yeshua being baptized. The Messiah had no sin, so He had no reason to get baptized other than for our example. This is the same thing. Yahweh had no need to rest. In fact, He doesn’t even reside within the constraints of time and space. He is resting here to demonstrate what mankind is supposed to do. After making man, YHVH takes a break. The first thing Adam experienced as a living being was Shabbat. Have you ever thought of that? YHVH made the heavens and the earth and all that are in them. Then, on the 6th day, He makes man. On the seventh, He rests while in fellowship with man and His creation. The beginning of that age began with peace and that peace was established upon order.

Order is required for peace. Order is established at Creation. Order creates peace. Knowing what to expect. Six days of labor and then one where God appreciates all He had made.

Satisfying to have a clean house every Friday. Satisfying to have a family routine. Same as creation week. Gas tank is full. House is clean. Shopping done. Laundry done and put away. Yard mowed. Take out for dinner to keep the mess to a minimum. Time to relax with God, family, and then our family in Messiah. Get together in person with people that we can trust. People who will support each other and share things we can’t with the world. We share a message, some songs, a meal. After having done this for over 20 years, it’s impossible to imagine not doing it. It’s a lifestyle and a very pleasant one nonetheless.

Slide 3 "Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is a sabbath of YHVH 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. For in six days YHVH made the heavens and the earth, the sea and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day; therefore YHVH blessed the sabbath day and made it holy." (Exo 20:8-11)

They were slaves in Egypt. Now they get time off. And everybody gets the same. Man, beast, foreigner, you name it. Equality. Order. Society. This day of rest and worship became the sign of Yahweh's people throughout the world because of order. A society established on justice and equality. One day a week the entire land gets a break. Together. This establishes a society. This order has the entire land preparing and observing simultaneously. For those who have never lived like this, it would seem a foreign concept. In our 24X7 world today, this could seem odd. But is our 24X7 world really just? It's not. People expect to have a day off to do whatever they want irrespective of their neighbor. Everyone assumes that the people serving them on their "day off" have some other day off. Time off is used primarily for chores instead of for community. It contributes to people being narcissistic and introverted. Having a day where then entire society rests provides order but also community and empathy. You learn not to task people with things and due dates that might conflict with Shabbat. In fact, it becomes your normal to act like this, respecting one another's time with Yahweh and family.

Slide 4 For six days work may be done, but on the seventh day there is a sabbath of complete rest, a holy convocation. You shall not do any work; it is a sabbath to YHVH in all your dwellings. (Lev 23:3)

This time the commandment has some more teeth. It reads that this sabbath belongs to YHVH. It's time marked out for Him, not for ourselves. It is not a day to get our chores done, but it's a day He set apart by His example on the 7th day of creation. It could literally say intermission here instead of sabbath. It's a break in time, on the 7 day cycle established at creation.

The words for holy convocation are *miqra Qodesh*. They will be out of order if you're checking this with the Strong's because adjectives follow nouns in Hebrew like they do in other languages such as Spanish. *Miqra* means something called out, like a calling for a public gathering. It's an assembly of people. *Qodesh* is something sacred or dedicated. This is a day that's literally holy. We talk about holiness and usually associate that with the priests and Levites, but this is the holiness for all mankind. It's baseline holiness meant to teach us that there are things, days, times, etc. that are not for us and we must behave differently when observing them. Think about when Moses met God in the burning bush. God told Moses not to come near and to remove his sandals because he was standing on holy ground. The same word *Qodesh* is there and Moses is warned to stay away and pay respect by removing his sandals. It's dedicated land in that case. In the case of the Sabbath, it's dedicated *time*. Our behavior is to change when we spend time with our creator. And there's a baseline for behavior for the entire society that shows, on a broad scale, a community that believes in the God who made heaven and earth.

Slide 5 Yeshua said to them, "The Sabbath was made for man, and not man for the Sabbath." (Mar 2:27)

Still slide 5 God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. (Gen 1:27)

Sabbath made for mankind. Anthropos. Show the linkage to Adam and how that really means everyone. Ish translated into anthropos in LXX. Means mankind, male and female. Everybody. Not restricted for just Israel or just the Jews.

Slide 6 'So the sons of Israel shall observe the sabbath, to celebrate the sabbath throughout their generations as a perpetual covenant.' 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." (Exo 31:16-17)

Still slide 6 For you are all sons of God through faith in Messiah Yeshua. (Gal 3:26)

Even though the Sabbath is for all mankind, it is a sign that we are His people. Those who accept Yeshua as the Messiah become adopted Sons of God. In the Exodus verse, the phrase sons of Israel is synonymous with sons of God. If you are observing Shabbat, you are showing Yahweh that are His child. If you are observing Shabbat, you are also showing the world which God you serve, YHVH the creator of the universe. This is one of the signs to the rest of the world which God we serve. And it is no mystery then why the enemies of YHVH force mankind to stop observing His day and then force people into observing the false Sabbaths. Remember 10/7 was both the weekly Sabbath and an annual Sabbath, the 8th day of Tabernacles, aka Shemini Atzeret. Israel was attacked on Shabbat in the book of Maccabees by the Greeks, the Romans forbade sabbath keeping, the Roman church forbade sabbath keeping, and now in modern times Satan's demons attack Israel on God's high days. This alone should have mankind wanting to keep the Sabbath, as solidarity with Israel and to stick a finger in the eyes of the enemies of God.

Slide 7 "For Moses from ancient generations has in every city those who preach him, since he is read in the synagogues every Sabbath." (Act 15:21)

Moses read on Shabbat. More order. More peace. Everybody gets together and hears the same info. Discusses the same info. The first converts abandoned their made up days and adopted God's days.

Slide 8 "And it shall be from new moon to new moon and from sabbath to sabbath, all mankind will come to bow down before Me," says YHVH. (Isa 66:23)

In this case, the word for mankind is flesh, not adam or anthropos. He's making it abundantly clear that, in the future, all that draws breath will observe Shabbat. The bible shows a pattern of about 6K years where YHVH is encouraging mankind to obey Him. He's being very patient. He has shown us through the many cycles of obedience and apostasy that He will forgive if we repent and obey. But there is coming a point where He's going to execute judgment. The Sabbath is a remarkable blessing. The lifestyle today is quite a blessing. We benefit from observing the order presented by the Most High in this life. Our children are raised properly while we live properly in this fallen world. But there is coming a point where it will no longer be optional, and rebellion will not be a thing. Both things are true – love God and keep His commandment or fear God and keep His commandments. Either way, the result is the same.

Observing the Sabbath is a blessing. It shows us the order established for mankind at Creation. It gives us a pattern for our lives that incorporates faith, obedience, order, compassion, empathy, study, and fellowship. This order brings a peace that can't be explained. It becomes second nature to live the lifestyle mankind was intended to have and, without even thinking, it shows Yahweh that we serve Him. Please enjoy the rest of your Shabbat and I'll see you next week!