

Sabbath — the Signifier

[Last night a blind man visited us for the Erev Shabbat celebration. We ought to quote to him Jn 9:39-40. It is true that even a blind man can see.]

I wanted to talk a little bit about the Sabbath this morning since it is the Sabbath: Ex 31:12-17 — Then you see verse 18 how the law was written on tablets of stone. You see here that the Sabbath is a sign. What is a sign? It signifies something. It is very significant — something you can recognize. The Sabbath is a sign for all generations. All generations are not through yet.

It is a sign of the covenant that Israel has with YHWH. Ex 31:12-17 is the sign of that covenant.

Sign — it is very significant. It signifies, *sign*-ifies who was and who was not God's holy people. Signal — it *signals* who is and who is not God's holy people. Whoever keeps the Sabbath is God's people. Whoever does not is not. All the way down through history those in Israel who kept the Sabbath were His people. The others were not — they despised the word of God.

Num 15:30-32 — He should have gathered his kindling on the preparation day. It was a flagrant violation of the word of God; his guilt remains forever. Num 15:27-31 shows the difference between deliberate and not deliberate sin. There are some sins we would not be able to bring ourselves to repentance for in this age — we cannot face what we did, therefore we cannot repent. Breaking the Sabbath is one of those things. Even among us there are some who only keep the Sabbath ritualistically. They would rather be doing something else. The day will come when all of those who do not keep the Sabbath will be eliminated. It is the sign of a people (not for individuals) who live tribally (Rev 7:5).

The day will come when it is clear who serves God and who does not.

When the Jews came back in 500 BC they thought they would be that people who would be restored back to that tribal nation. It is recorded in Zechariah. But they never developed into it. That is why they only talk about the *Jews* from then on. It was not the restoration of all things. But everything in Zechariah is projected into this day. If we are not doing it we are only pretenders.

The Sabbath was made the sign of God's own relationship with His own people. The sign of the covenant is very significant, for it signified who was and who was not God's people. It is the sign of God's own unique relationship with Israel. He has a relationship with Israel greater than with anybody else. The importance of this sign is seeing. The prophets prophesied against Israel — of what was going to happen because Israel didn't keep the Sabbath day holy as a sign that they were God's people on the earth. Israel did not see the significance of the sign. They could keep it as a sign for the whole world (Ex 20:8; 31:17), as a demonstration of who the true God is, so all the world will know Him. Whoever has the sign has the Creator God. Everyone who does not keep the Sabbath has a false god. They may call him “God” but it is not the God who created heaven and earth. They don't know Him, otherwise they would keep the Sabbath. It is very important that we understand this so we can help others to see it. The Catholics, through a decree, officially took the Sabbath away and gave it over to the sun god. They had a council. They caused the Jews to not keep the Sabbath.

Apart from Ex 31:17 it is very difficult for us to understand anything. When God rests, we rest. He rested. We rest. The prophets of old insisted, kept on talking about how Israel broke the Sabbath. They said themselves that keeping the Sabbath is an indicator — like some stoves have an indicator in them to tell you how hot it gets. The Sabbath was given to the people as an indicator. It is an indicator of their spiritual condition, how they were doing spiritually. Even if they kept it under the law ritualistically (they had several hundreds of rules of what they could not do on the Sabbath), they should have judged their heart. They did not receive it as a gift. The Sabbath is the best day to make money for them and us. The best day for the market and cafe's.

When it was actually written in the law (Ex 20:8-11) it is the longest commandment.

Jer 17:19-27 reproves Israel for not keeping the Sabbath, telling them what would happen. They would be scattered all over the earth. When they are re-gathered they would keep the Sabbath again as a sign, indicator. It indicates God's relationship with His people, a twelve-tribed nation (1 Pet 2:9-10).

Mt 21:43 — The word of God spoke those words to them because they broke the covenant, they broke the sign. They did not regard the day as a day God made for them. You don't have the sign anymore. It's a duty for you to

rest on that day. God made the Sabbath for man. It is a gift. He didn't make man for the Sabbath. He didn't make man to keep the Sabbath.

Trusting and resting is the same thing. If you are not trusting, you want to go out and make some money.

Mt 21:43 is for us, the new nation, to keep (Heb 4:8-10). Joshua brought Israel into the promised land. Only the generation that was 20 years and under did not incur the guilt. Their parents all died. After all of their parents had died, they were taken over the Jordan and given the land. Not long after that they stopped keeping the Sabbath — taking on the customs of the nations, marrying their women, taking on their gods, the Baals, they had tribal wars. You can read it in Judges. Finally David came and established some order. In the first part of Solomon's life things were going pretty good, but soon afterwards the mess started again. They broke up. They were taken into Assyria and scattered. Later on the Jews were taken into Babylonia. They returned, but they never reestablished the twelve tribes. After 500 years our Master came and said Mt 21:43 — I gave you the vineyard but you never produced the fruit of it. Most of the Jews were killed in 70 AD when Titus of Rome destroyed the city. Things got so bad they started eating their own children. The rest were scattered. The probably also went into Europe where the ten tribes were scattered. That's why the twelve tribes will be in the westernized countries. [I don't know if we will go to the land of Yapheth. It says that Yapheth will come into the tents of Shem. That's what it says. And then they come into Israel. We will have to see.]

Heb 4:8-10 — There is *another day*. It all ties together with rest, trust, the next age — keeping the Sabbath. This is the other day. We are the other people in that other day (Mt 21:43). We will bear fruit where old Israel failed to bear fruit. It is a future day. The first church started out to bear fruit but didn't continue to bear it. We can see that clearly in Rev 2 and 3. In Heb 4 it says *because of unbelief*. It is given to a nation who will show the significance of the Sabbath sign. It will signify that God still has a holy people. It will be very significant later on. Not too long ago they even had laws that you could not work on Sundays. They used to almost kill people for working on Sundays. In America too. It was brought over from Europe. The same disease came over with them. They could not get away from what was in them. Even across the ocean they persecuted people for keeping the Sabbath. It originated back in Rome even before the third century, but in the third century there was a council in Laodecia and they all transferred over to Sunday Sabbath, the sun god's day.

Mt 21:43 talks about Israel, a new Israel, a new nation that produces the fruit of the life of Israel, since they weren't producing it. This is hard to understand, but it is being rewritten on our heart. It is hard — it has to be engraved. It is new learning for us. It has to come into us until it is part of us (2 Cor 3:3,6,8).

The Shabbat signifies that there is a people who keep God's commandments and the testimony of YAHSHUA. Commandments and testimony of YAHSHUA go together. (Rev 12:17). Our Master is the new Joshua who brought us out of the wilderness into the promised land.

That's just a little bit of a synopsis of the Sabbath.

Rev 15:3 — The song of Moses *and* the song of the Lamb. They sang them both. We really see how He didn't come to abolish the law but to write it in our heart. Ex 31:18 is the Old Covenant on stone tablets. It was engraved. But the covenant is the commandments. The new covenant is the covenant of the commandments of God engraved in tablets of the human spirit, of the human heart.

Ex 34:28 — The covenant is the ten commandments. The sign of the covenant is the Sabbath. Ex 20:8-11; 31:17 — All the way through Ex 20 it speaks about the ten commandments. One of them is the Sabbath. It was written on tablets of stone.

If we truly keep the Sabbath we are keeping all the commandments. If we break the Sabbath or do not keep it, we break the rest of the commandments as well. We wouldn't keep the Sabbath in the Spirit and not the rest of them. The same in the nations with Gen 3:15-19. That's the sign. If they are doing this they do everything else and do not do the sins of Rev 21:8. There is consistency there. A woman who gave birth under pain and whose desire is for her husband, wouldn't go out and commit adultery and all kinds of other things — even gossip.

Rev 12:17 — The last people on the earth are doing this. They are not under the law, and keep the witness of Yahshua, too.

2 Cor 3:2-3 — That is going on right now at this very moment.

Verse 6 — He made us competent as engravers.

Verse 7-8 — It is the ministry of the Holy Spirit coming into the human heart bringing in the Word of God writing it into our heart.

Rev 15:3 — We have the song of Moses and the song of our Master.

Jer 30:18 - 31:1 speaks about the edah of the Old Testament. This edah cannot be separated from the new edah of the New Testament. We do not do away with Moses. We do away with the antiquated system that is without the Spirit. It is entirely different for people who have the Spirit, but it is not different for people who do not have the Spirit. It is a duty, a burden to them. They have no joy. There is no joy under the law. It is either a burden or a delight. Isa 58:12-13 — If we keep it as a delight it is a sign to the world that we have the Holy Spirit.

Ex 20:8-11 — Somehow we have to remember it. It is out of our memory. It has to be brought back to our remembrance.

The commandment is to work six days, just as much as the commandment is to rest. There are certain things you have to do on the Sabbath, but it is not breaking the Sabbath, because it is not making a living — ~~w~~**trust**/rest on this day. Anxiety about the things of this life or making a living, doing business is what our Master warned us of (Lk 21:34).

Hushai: The Sabbath is an indicator of your spiritual condition. During this day we can prepare ourselves for the breaking of bread. Our Father made Sabbath for man and not man for the Sabbath. The Jews cannot keep the Sabbath because they are under the law. It is a wonderful day our Father gave to us. It is a wonderful gift.

It is obvious that the Holy Spirit is writing our Father's laws on our heart. Don't think about your physical heart when we say this. Don't even think like that. It is talking about our spirit — He is putting it there. [He addressed this to the children.]

Guillomme: The Sabbath is not only a sign for outsiders, but also for us. In the way that I keep the Sabbath I can see whether I'm part of God's people or not. If I think about work, my alternative service, etc., and worry about these things, but by laying aside these things I know that I am part of God's people.

Haggai: Israel was more affected by not working on the Shabbat. They were agricultural. They didn't trust the Creator who created everything, the Creator of heaven and earth. They thought it might rain too much or however the day might influence their crops.