

Without the Sabbath, Life Loses its Meaning

This is a special day that is set apart for our Father's holy people. No one has ever kept the Sabbath as a people in all their corporate dwellings, except His holy people.

By the seventh day, YHWH had finished the work He had been doing, so on the seventh day, He rested from all His work. YHWH blessed the seventh day and made it holy. (Genesis 2:2-3)

He made it holy, or set-apart. He set it apart for unfallen people. He made it holy and blessed the seventh day because on it He ceased from all of His work. He rested from all the work He had done in creation. That was before the Fall. He made the Sabbath for His creation, for His highest creation — man. He wanted man to rest every Sabbath, and this was the first one He rested on, after He made His highest creation.

After the Fall, it was a different story. Man quit observing the Sabbath. The world, fallen man, no longer observed the Sabbath. Does the world stop work on the Sabbath? No, they don't. A few individuals might stop work in their own houses, but not a people. Let's look at Exodus 20. When this holy nation came about through Abraham, and then after him, Moses, going back to the holy land, the eighth verse says,

“Remember, you are my holy people, so I want you to remember what I did in the beginning before man fell. Now you are my set-apart people and I want you to keep the Sabbath.” Therefore, now, an unfallen people, redeemed from the Fall — being redeemed — Israel, is to keep the Sabbath. “I made it for man, but they fell, and they didn't keep it until I created you. I made you as a nation from the seed of Abraham. I want you to remember the Sabbath.”

For the last two thousand years, they haven't kept the Sabbath.

Remember the Sabbath day. Keep it holy. Six days you shall labor, and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to YHWH, your God. On it you shall not do any work, neither you nor your sons, your maidservants, your slaves, nor your animals, nor the aliens within your gates. For in six days YHWH made the heavens and the earth and the sea and all that is in them and rested on the seventh day. Therefore, YHWH blessed the seventh day and made it holy. (Ex 20:8-11)

He blessed the Sabbath and made it holy. So, is anyone in the world supposed to keep the Sabbath? No, because fallen man won't keep it as a people — a corporate people in their *dwelling*s. In Lev 23:3 it says, "I want you to keep the Sabbath in all your *dwelling*s."

He is talking about the *dwelling*s where you live. He is talking about a nation here, not just individuals. He is not talking about a house, but where we dwell, a place, a locality. It is a witness. One person keeping it is not a witness. A nation keeping it is a witness in every place they dwell.

Then in Ex 31:13 you see the Sabbath again:

Then YHWH said to Moses, "Say to my people Israel, 'You must observe my Sabbaths. This will be a sign between Me and you for all the generations to come so that you may know that I am YHWH who makes you set-apart, who makes you a separate, set-apart people.'"

That is what holy means. Observe the Sabbath since it is holy, set-apart to you. Blessed, holy — there it is again.

Anyone who desecrates it is put to death. If we don't keep it we are dead anyway. There has been no one over a period of two thousand years that has kept the Sabbath as a holy nation. If they did keep it, then they were God's people, as a corporate people. Therefore, it is for His holy people on the face of the earth once again, Israel, a twelve-tribed nation. You are not even supposed to keep the Sabbath unless you are part of Israel, the generation to come (Ps 102:18), the seed of Abraham, as it says in Gal 3:29.

Whoever belongs to Messiah is the seed of Abraham, and that is a twelve-tribed nation, a holy nation, a set-apart nation, because it says, "You must observe My Sabbaths. This is a sign between Me and you for the generations to come."

It is the Sabbath, the witness, and it separates God's people from those who are not God's people. Obviously, there is no Christian that belongs to Messiah as Gal 3:29 says. Christianity is not the holy nation because they don't keep the Sabbath. Of course,

individuals can keep it under the law, by principle, but not as it speaks about in the Scriptures.

We, His people, need rest. He knows that. He needed rest. So He made the Sabbath for His set-apart people that they could rest from all their works because He loves them. Did He make the Sabbath for man, or man for the Sabbath? The Sabbath was made for redeemed man, not for anyone else, but for whoever has been redeemed from death — from the world — and now lives among a holy, set-apart people who live for Him to be a witness and a light to the world.

So, our Father reminds us that without the Sabbath we might forget the purpose for life. We might forget. The world has forgotten the purpose for life. You see how they work. It never ceases. We know the Sabbath is for two purposes: a time to rest and a time to remember what He did on the first Sabbath, that He rested and why.

Life Lost its Meaning

He said, “I want you to rest” — talking to unfallen people. Now, He is talking to redeemed people about keeping the Sabbath. They are no longer fallen. We are redeemed and we are being redeemed. We are being saved. Without the Sabbath we lose the balance crucial to a faithful life — a life lived for Him. If we don’t have that rest, life loses its meaning, as it did after the Fall. Life lost its meaning. They didn’t know what they were created for, what they were living for. They were just breathing air. I am thankful that our Father has once again restored and blessed the Sabbath, made it holy for His people, because He loves us so much. We can honor Him this day. Amen!

Shemiyah —In Deuteronomy 5 it says something very significant. When our Father gave Israel the command to keep the Sabbath, He said, “Six days you shall work and on the seventh day you shall rest.” Then He said, “For in six days God created the heavens and the earth, and on the seventh day He rested.” For six days we work, and then rest, because six days He worked, then rested. This week in our gatherings, Yônêq shared something really profound with us from 2 Peter.

2 Pet 1:4 says, “for by these He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, so that by them you may become partakers in divine nature.” But, that word *partakers* actually comes from the root word, *koinonia*. That word actually means to *participate*. Just as our Father worked for six days in creation, we work; we participate in His labor, taking on that divine nature; the very thing He is doing, we are doing. We are participating in that divine nature.

And then we rest on the seventh day. It is amazing. It is actually amazing that it says that, that we actually do the works of our Father for six days. We participate, working hand in hand with Him to build the Body of Messiah. It says that He causes the growth of the Body, but it also says, “The Body builds itself up in love.”

So, the works that we do, the works that we did this week when we were filled with His Holy Spirit, were actually participating in our Father’s work in heaven. It says He has been working since then. So, we are working with Him, participating in what He is doing.

And we talked about in Heb 10:23, where it says, “Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful. And let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, not forsaking the assembly of ourselves together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging ourselves all the more as we see the day drawing near.”

We know that is what our Father is doing right now. He is considering how to stimulate us to love and good deeds, and He is encouraging us daily. He speaks to us daily. Our Father actually redeemed us, set us apart, so that we could work with Him. The very same Spirit that works in Him, that is going to build the Body up, would work in us. Because that Spirit works in us, and the deeds that we do cause the growth of the Body, we rest with the same rest He rested with.

That is why we have the Sabbath day so that we wouldn’t forget that we are partakers in the divine nature. That we wouldn’t forget that the works we are doing we are doing for our Father, in His place. We are doing them for our Master Yahshua, in His place. 2 Peter gives us the path to the Kingdom. It is a good thing for us to think about on the Sabbath day.

It is a good thing to think about because it says that through His excellence and mercy we have become partakers in divine nature. Then it says, therefore, with all diligence, add to your faith virtue. What we heard about virtue is that it actually means valor, might, strength, confidence, and steadfastness. It actually means valor.

We need to remember who we are and what we are doing, and display valor in the works that we do. We have to display valor for those six days that we work. Just as our Master Yahshua was a valiant warrior when He came to the earth, and love conquered His enemies, we have to display that same valor. That is the purpose of our salvation. That is the purpose of our redemption. I am thankful I can participate in that. I am thankful I can live in the Body of Messiah and actually work with our Father in everything that I do.

Amen!

Chets Barur — A lot of people think that keeping the Sabbath is under the law, something from the Law of Moses. But what he said there from Genesis 2 makes it really clear that YHWH blessed the seventh day and sanctified it, or made it holy. Because of it He rested from all His work, which YHWH had created or made. After He created the heavens and the earth, all the universe, all the beautiful things we see, He rested from His labor, and made it holy.

That is why we hear in Ex 20:8 to remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy, for our Father already made it holy back in Genesis. He already made it holy, set it apart, and sanctified it. Moses was saying to remember the Sabbath day, which our Father had already set apart. He had already made it holy. Remember the Sabbath day. Don't forget about it. And keep it holy, keep it set-apart, keep it sanctified.

It takes a people to do that. Individuals can't just keep the Sabbath to do that. It takes a nation that can keep the Sabbath holy, maintaining the unity. Things can cause us to not keep the peace and not have unity with one another, to not discern the Spirit of our Father in one another.

Then, in Ex 31:14 it says, "You shall keep the Sabbath, for it is holy for you. Everyone who profanes it shall surely be put to death." This was the Old Covenant, but it is the same way here in the New Covenant. If we profane the Sabbath, if we slight it, if we have no regard for what our Father has already made holy, in this container of the community where there is peace, where we can truly rest; if we don't regard that, if we don't treat one another in the same manner that we would treat our Master Yahshua, realizing that Yahshua dwells in one another, if we don't regard that, then we are already spiritually dead. We are dead spiritually, as it talks about in Hebrews.

I am thankful that we are learning to keep the Sabbath holy. We are not under the Law of Moses; for it was our Father's heart all the way back

to Genesis. He made it holy because He wanted us to rest from all of our labors and truly be at peace, unity, and oneness with Him as a people — and that would be a sign that we are God's people and that it is He who sanctifies us and He who makes us holy.

You can't keep that which has already been made holy, unless you are holy. Otherwise, it is just hypocrisy. There are many religions that keep what they call the Sabbath. Some of them change it to Sunday. Then the Seventh Day Adventists changed it back to the Sabbath, since they read that was the right day, but they are not holy. They are not set apart. They are part of the world. They are conformed to the world. They are part of this worldly system that is going to come to an end someday because, like Shemiyah said, you see less and less virtue in society.

Sixty percent of all marriages in the United States end in divorce. How much virtue is that? Our Father is restoring a nation on the earth that is virtuous, that we are actually able to be men and women of character, that we are actually able to uphold the set-apart things that our Father has had on His heart since the very beginning. I am thankful that we can celebrate that tonight.

Kariy — I am really thankful for what Yônêq said. Somehow it reached deep down somewhere inside of me. I got more understanding about how important the Sabbath is.

I think what Shemiyah was reading from was Dt 5:12-15. It says in verse 12 to observe the Sabbath day to keep it holy, as the Sovereign your God commanded you. Then later on it says to remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt, and the Sovereign your God brought you out from there by a mighty hand and by an outstretched arm. Therefore the Sovereign your God commanded you to keep the Sabbath day holy. That is the key to what he is saying.

That is why Christians can't do it, because they haven't been delivered from Egypt into Israel. They are still part of Egypt. They are still part of Babylon. They are still part of the system. That is why. You can see why our Master said for us to break the bread and remember Him.

That is what Isaiah said in Isaiah 58. He talked about how we should live our life, what we should do with our life, how we should treat people, how we should feed the hungry, clothe the naked, all these things. Then after that it says if you turn away your foot from doing your own pleasure on My holy day, and call the Sabbath a delight, the holy day of the Sovereign honorable, and shall honor Him, not doing your own ways, not finding your own pleasure, nor speaking your own words, then you

shall delight yourself in the Sovereign, and I will cause you to ride on the heights of the earth, and feed you with the heritage of Jacob your father. The mouth of the Sovereign has spoken.

That is why we need a day of rest. The reality of it is that there is a force at work seeking to destroy the Creator and creation. It has worked for thousands of years to break apart the unity of creation. Look at how many animals go extinct every day. Look at how much trash gets piled up. Just look around. Look at the relationships, the cultures that have risen and fallen. Look at the relationships between men and women, children and their parents. Look around and you can see. There is something at work that is destroying the Creator, trying to erase the Creator from the consciousness of men.

So, our Father needed a people to show who He was. That is our work during the week, to labor to make sure the destroyer is not coming in, and that we are undoing those works. That is how we are being trained. We came out of Egypt, delivered with a mighty hand, and we need to be saved from all those things that are in us that destroy. The evil one comes in. He is an adversary, the enemy of God. He comes in and seeks to destroy our Father and creation. That is our work. The work of the Son of God is to undo the works of the evil one.

So, when he said that, it made me realize that is why we have to keep the Sabbath holy and set-apart, not because it is a law in a book, but we have to remember who we are and what we have been called to. It says to remember that you were in Egypt at one time, part of that trash and that trash was in you. But as 1 Peter says, "I called you out to proclaim My excellencies." This is the one who called you out of Egypt and into His marvelous light. We are warriors. He called us to undo the works of the evil one. Now, our Father is disciplining and teaching us how to judge the things that are in us and name those spirits that whisper in our ear to destroy what is holy and precious.

We have to get up and honor our Father every day. For sure we have to do it on the Sabbath. If we do that, He said He will take us on the heights of the earth, and we will see where we are going. We will see the valleys, and help each other remember who we are. If we don't do that, there is an adversary that seeks to destroy mankind, and we are our Father's hope for the world.

Amen!

Othniel — A month or so ago a prophetic word came to us that was really wonderful, that we would change a little bit, that we would understand who we are, that we would understand that we are kings. That we would understand that there was something new coming about on the face of the earth, that we wouldn't just put the diadem on in just a ritual or rote, but that there would be something in our hearts about it, because there has to be a place for our Father to rest.

There has to be a place for His glory to actually rest upon, so that His word can actually be spoken on this earth again, that redeemed man can actually speak about the worth of His Creator and the warmth of His heart. He rested on that day because there was something full in His heart about man. Our Father was full in His heart. He loved us so much. He was so satisfied that He rested. Otherwise, He wouldn't have had hope in His heart.

How do you have hope in your heart? Because our Father has hope in His heart. He put it there. He made our hearts this way. Being *royal* does not mean being part of this uppity crowd that people mistake that term for. It is the same thing as holy. It means set apart to have this special hope in your heart so you can give it to somebody else — a special, deep satisfaction, a warmth, a fullness of the Body of our Master. Our Master is kind, merciful, loving — He is full of that same joy that we want to be full of, that we want to rest upon His people.

Then they will be gathered as a people because they will be warm. They will understand that it was mercy upon mercy upon mercy that gathered them. It is, really. Who is worthy to put this [*pointing to his diadem*] on, apart from our Master Yahshua, to be even here at all and hear these wonderful things?

I was thinking about Isaiah 54. Isa 54:7 says, "For a mere moment I have forsaken you, but with great mercies I will gather you." That is our Father's heart to us, that He would gather us. That is our Father's heart to us. It is mercy upon mercy upon mercy, which puts His warmth in our hearts. Then it goes on to say, "With a little wrath I hid My face from you, for a moment, but with everlasting kindness I will have mercy on you," says the Sovereign, your Redeemer," — with that same mercy.

If you go on down to verse 10 it says, "My kindness shall not depart from you, nor shall My covenant of peace be removed from you." That is that warmth, that mercy, that kindness — that same fullness that He was filled with when He created man in the fullness of His stature.

And here is a really wonderful part of Isa 54:13 — “And all your children shall be taught by the Sovereign, and great shall be the peace of your children.” Isn’t that really what we would love to have — in a people, a people who are His possession, to have that hope filling their heart always? Generation upon generation would have peace and hope, and we would be those who could command hope into another human being — as that witness of the Sabbath.

If we carry that rest, then we will command hope into others when we speak to them. All of a sudden, a little pep will go into their step. They will start understanding who they are. They will start realizing that they are loved. For maybe the first time in their lives they will start feeling full again. A little bit something empty will start feeling full again and they will be being redeemed and filled up again with the love of God, which will be poured out into their hearts.

Something new will start springing up on the earth — that royal priesthood, that holy nation that lives the Sabbath. Just on this day? No, every day, otherwise those works Shemiyah was talking about will never be done. They won’t be His works, they will be some other works — if it is not in residence every day in us as a people. Then our children aren’t going to have that peace. It is really hard to be taught by someone when you don’t have warmth in your heart towards him. It is hard to receive someone if you don’t have warmth in your heart towards him. But our Father is that way. He has warmth in His heart towards us. He has never been any different.

But man doesn’t know it. Man is stony-cold because he forgot to keep His Sabbath. He forgot his Creator. I want that warmth. I want to be able to discern the Body. I want to have that Sabbath. I want to be that witness. Don’t you? I want to have that hope to command into another human being that he could actually live.

Amen!

Jeremiah — I am thankful for what we have heard tonight. Yônêq said really simply that apart from that rest, apart from observing the Sabbath, we would lose our meaning in life and forget what we are doing. There is a lot that I could say, but I am thankful for what we have heard. It brought life back into my heart already. That is what this day is for, to refresh us and help us remember why we are alive and what we are doing.

I am thankful for the purpose that we have and the Word of our Father that comes and encourages us. We can remember what we are

doing. I am thankful. I saw this when people were reading the different verses about the Sabbath that it doesn't say anywhere, "Just sit around and sleep," or, "Just play volleyball." It doesn't say that. It actually says, "Remember our Father, remember that you were a slave in Egypt." Then it says, "Observe, celebrate, and keep it holy."

I am thankful there is a purpose for this day. A lot of times I don't even think about what it might mean to observe it or celebrate it in the true sense of remembering our Father, remembering my purpose, remembering why I am alive. I am thankful for that.

Lev Zahav — I was looking around, and everyone had diadems on. I said, "Wow, that is amazing. Almost everybody had these diadems." We wear these diadems because we have that hope that our Master Yahshua will crown us when He returns. I was reading in 2 Tim 4:6 earlier, and it said, "I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought the good fight. I have finished the race. I have kept the faith. Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Sovereign, the righteous judge, will give to me on that day, and not only to me, but to all those who loved His appearing."

I was reading in the Living Bible and it says, "To all those whose lives show that they eagerly await for Him." I said, "Wow, that is the people who keep the Sabbath." They have that hope of His return. Also, 1 John says, "Little children, abide in Him, that when He appears we may not be ashamed before Him at His coming" — that we wouldn't shrink back at His coming. We know that we pour out our lives six days a week and that we can truly rest. I am thankful for that revelation. That is why we are here.

I realized this week it is going to be a people, not just individuals, that He is going to come back for. I am thankful for everything that we have been hearing. Wasn't it Paul who was saying that his life is poured out? He always remembered what our Master did for him, how he was one of the worst of sinners. He always remembered. It caused him to pour out his life and love his brothers and sisters.

I am thankful for that love and I always want to remember that love, every day of the week, and especially the Sabbath, when we start the breaking of bread.

Amen!

Joseph Fisher — I remember our Father's faithfulness. Ten or eleven years ago, in the meaningless of life, I would like to say I was crying out to God,

but I wasn't. I was yelling at Him, because I hated the meaninglessness of life. I hated death. I unleashed all my wrath at God, and I was humbled, but that is another story. But something I learned right there is that I asked, "If I knew what to do, I would do it." I just remember saying that, "If I knew what to do, I think I would do it."

I woke up earlier this week thinking about that for some reason. Here we are. Here is what to do — to come together. All those people with that same heart, who are looking for the thing to do. Here we are, we are being gathered, and we are finding out what the Sabbath is. I still don't even know what it is. When I hear all these things, I am really excited. I am looking forward to bringing it to birth with those people who have it in their hearts, so here it is.

Amen!

Almah — Yônêq was speaking earlier how if we forsake the Sabbath, then life has lost its meaning. Those words went straight into me. I was just like Joseph. There was a time when my life had no meaning, no purpose. I am sure that all of us have met people whose life had no meaning. The blank stares on the buses and the trains and the sides of the roads — and such were we.

It is so amazing that our Father has given our life meaning. When he said that about the Sabbath, I thought, "The more we come into a life of surrender, the more we are going to experience the Sabbath." That really encouraged me. That is where our Father is taking us. It has made me want to do those works prepared for me with valor, as Shemiyah was saying. It is so awesome. I don't want to be lost to His purpose. It says the Pharisees were lost to His purpose.

It is so wonderful that we can abide in His *chessed* and surrender our life to Him, and abide there with Him. I know that is the Shabbat — that we could be with Him, labor with Him, and rest with Him. I am thankful for what I have heard tonight.

Amen!

Kepha — When Yônêq was sharing about the Sabbath, I was thinking about how important the Sabbath is to our Father, and how many times it is in the Scriptures. How clear it is in the Scriptures. I thought about how our Father loved the Sabbath and how our Master Yahshua loved the Sabbath. One of the misconceptions Christianity has is that this Jesus person came in and changed the Sabbath. He changed it to Sunday, but our Master Yahshua loves the Sabbath. He loved our Father's commands.

I thought about the apostle Paul. Did he keep the Sabbath? Yes, definitely. He loved the Sabbath. Did the first communities keep the Sabbath? Yes, they did. They loved the Sabbath. They were God's people and they had to keep the Sabbath. They loved to keep the Sabbath. But when the first Edah fell, you see the Sabbath started to drift away. Our Father had to do something because now the people were not His people anymore. He had to take the Sabbath away from them.

I thought about the prophet Hosea. He was told by our Father to do this strange thing — to marry this prostitute named Gomer. He told him, "Name one of your sons Lo-Ammi, which means *not My people*." There was a judgment against old Israel. They were disobedient. They were in idolatry. It was like that with Christianity. When Christianity came on the scene, our Father couldn't keep the Sabbath with them. He had to say, "Not My people," so He had to take the Sabbath, which Yônêq was saying was the mark of His people, and He had to pull it out.

Then you see how Constantine made it official. They changed the Sabbath to Sunday. It was like a mark that says, "Not My people anymore." Our Father could say, "That is not My people." And of Christianity through the ages our Father is still saying, "Not My people." But our Father wants to say, "That is My people," so He has taken the Sabbath, which was hidden, and He is putting it back into a people, and He is going to say, "That is My people."

He is going to show the world who His people are. The Sabbath is going to be the mark on them. I am thankful to be a part of that.

After the Celebration

We sang the song, "Come as You Are"...

Elliot — In Genesis 2 it says He blessed and sanctified the Sabbath. Our Father has never rested apart from sanctifying the day, or whatever He is blessing. It is the same with us when we are immersed. We are first sanctified and then He can rest in us. I realized the purpose of the Sabbath. The Sabbath started before the Fall. It has nothing to do with the Fall, but really, it has everything to do with the Fall, since it is restoration.

Everyone knows that somewhere on earth there should be God's people who are being made more and more like God. Someday this age is going to come to an end. That is the sign of the Sabbath, the hope for us. There is a people on the earth who are being sanctified and set apart, and they take hope in that day that all evil will be done away with.

That is right. And the Sabbath age will begin, a thousand-year day.

Joseph Fisher — It is amazing that evil would be done away with. But, it is not going to be mystically done away with, and everyone goes to heaven to be with God. But, evil is going to be *dealt with*. It starts with me. It starts with us, dealing with it in ourselves. That is what I was thinking the other day, “What is the gospel?”

Sometimes I want to talk to people and tell them about it. But really, it comes down to judging myself. When I am about to do something and realize, “That is not what I am supposed to be doing,” and I judge that, and do what I am supposed to be doing — I do what is right and fitting for our Father — when we do that, we are going to deal with evil and then there will be a day of judgment where all evil can be dealt with and then peace can come. I am thankful that we are bringing that forth.

We sang the song, “Abiding in the Vine”...

Julie — I am thankful to look around and see us with our arms around one another, swaying and singing together. It is a miracle that we are all here singing together. It is a miracle that we want to be in love with each other all of our days. It is a miracle, and I am a part of it.

Mevaser — Just a few verses before where Yônêq read earlier in Genesis 2 it talks about what our Father was doing right before He rested. It says, “Let us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness, and let them be fruitful and multiply and rule on the earth.”

It was so wonderful that our Father could rest and be satisfied, not just in what He did, but He actually created a creature that He knew would do what He just did — that they would labor diligently for six days and be satisfied, and they would rest on the seventh day.

Man fell, but I was thinking that the Sabbath is a sign that man is being restored back to the image of God. Man is once again on the earth doing what God does. And that is what it is when we love one another. It is so wonderful that we can live our lives doing what our Father in heaven does, and that He could be seen on the earth, that His character could be seen. That is a sign that we belong to Him, that we rest today, satisfied with our labor. We rest, we are not anxious. There is no anxiety. We are satisfied. We remember who we belong to and what we are living for, and are thankful we are being conformed to His image, to fulfill the purpose He created us for.

Amen!