

## The Shabbat is the Sign

One of the main things that condemned the Jews was that they didn't keep the Shabbat as a joy, as a delight, as it says in Isa 58:13-14. Our Father saw their ritualistic observances of His festivals, new moons, Shabbats, etc., in Isa 1:13-15. He sarcastically calls them *your* new moons and festivals and not *His*. They were keeping those festivals in a ritualistic way, without joy, otherwise our Father would have said, "My festivals." People changed the spirit from His Spirit to being under the ceremonial Law, from love to being under the Law. They were keeping it for their own advantage, not facing the fact that you can't shine Him on. They were trying to get on His good side, flattering Him by keeping the Law, but not loving Him. To all those who loved Him, the Law was a blessing.

Isa 1:15 — "When you stretch out your hands" is talking about the morning and evening sacrifices. So many of us at certain times have tried to shine God on by doing things out of rote, as if to please Him, but you can't fool Him.

Ex 31:13 — A sign tries to tell us something, like where Wal-Mart is, or the next road, etc. Everyone needs to know who Yahweh's people are and who they aren't. The Shabbat can't be kept by isolated individuals in certain denominations, but only by Israel.

It says, "Surely you shall observe My Shabbats." The proper translation actually is "above all" — above everything in the Ten Commandments. The Shabbat is *above all*, because it is the sign of who His people are and who aren't His people. Of course, all the commandments are essential, and if you break one you break them all, but the Shabbat is *above all*.

The Shabbat is an institution, a day of rest, which we honor. It shows who God is and who His people are. It has to be kept by a twelve-tribed nation, the sons of Jacob (Isa 49:6). They are being raised up again on the earth. Paul talked about this in the first

century. They fell and turned into Roman Catholicism and ended up murdering people in crusades and inquisitions, as if the Holy Spirit could be passed on through coercion. Then Luther came along and now there are 36,000 denominations. But can Christ be divided?

All in the Body are one without diversity. We are a royal priesthood and we lift up our hands in the morning and in the evening in every place as one people. Wherever His people are, they keep the Shabbat as a sign.

All the rest of the commandments are essential, but they don't necessarily show who God's people are — the twelve tribes of Israel, the church, the Body of Messiah who will rule the universe. God will dwell in them. We are one Body, all together, and that's how we keep the Shabbat. Over in Australia they are 14 hours ahead of us. There it is already morning. From the rising of the sun to its setting our Father's name will be great. It goes all over the world as Mal 1:11 says.

Mal 1:5 talks about the true Israel of God, the spiritual seed of Abraham that will make His name great all over the world. They will be among the nations, outside the borders of Israel. Verse 14 — His name is to be feared among the nations, even beyond the borders of Israel. Our Father didn't want to be just there in this little section of the earth, in Israel. The kingdom was taken away from them and given to the twelve-tribed nation of Isa 49:6 that will bring salvation to the ends of the earth. This is Old Testament prophecy that must be fulfilled before the end of this age can come.

1 Pet 2:9-10 and Gal 3:29 say that the true spiritual seed of Abraham will be a nation. No one in Christianity is saved. To be saved they have to come out of her. The Holy Spirit can't dwell there. It is a false religion, just like Judaism. So there has to be a restoration of the true church (Mk 9:12).

1 Cor 3:16-17 — We can be destroyers or builders according to how we keep the Shabbat. We rest from our normal work that we are doing through the week. But we still

milk our goats. Our Father has common sense. Keeping the Shabbat under the Spirit of grace and not under the Law is going to be a sign to the whole world.

After Constantine they changed the day of rest, and it became the first day of the week. It was the day the pagans worshipped the sun god.

If you are not in one of the twelve tribes you are not a part of the Bride (Rev 21:9,12). The true Christ can't be divided. He is one and so all His people are one. Christianity is diverse. They have gone off the path (1 Cor 1:10,13).

*Denomination* comes from *name*. You follow this man or that man. That's denominationalism. "Jesus is divided, but we all follow Him." People have to come out of that and into the restoration of all things. You can't reform something that is dead. Luther just tried to reform Christianity, but it is dead. The Holy Spirit left. All the lampstands in the first edah were taken out of their places (Rev 2:5; Mal 1:11). We have to lift up holy hands without any division. Christianity is divided. If one person won't agree they call him a heretic. Then he goes and starts another denomination with different practices and doctrine.

In the Body of Messiah we are one in essence, just as the Father and the Son are one. The Spirit is one and we are all taught by that one Spirit. There is no diversity.

The Shabbat is a sign of the covenant. It is given to the whole nation in each tribe and clan. We have a corporate identity. If we keep the Shabbat all over the world in every place and locality, that is a sign. If we just don't lie or steal, that is not a sign designating God's holy people — even the nations are expected to keep those commandments. But if we quit on the busiest day of the week, that is a sign.

The Jews in Israel aren't supposed to cultivate their gardens in the sabbatical year. So they just sell it to a Gentile who keeps on cultivating it, and then the next year they buy it back. Isa 1:13-15 — They try to shine God on.

Jer 31:1, depending on the translation, uses the word *tribes*, *clans*, or *families* of Israel. A family of Israel could only be in a clan or tribe, and Israel consists of many clans

in twelve tribes. Jer 31:1 asserts that those were His people who kept the sign of the Shabbat. They have a corporate identity. If you keep Sunday you are not God's people and you are not saved. You received a spirit that made you part of a divided, diverse body. There has to be a corporate Body, otherwise there is no sign. Corporate means enjoined, united, corporeally, materially observable and tangible. People have to observe all tribes keeping the Shabbat. In every town they shut down on the Shabbat. Man changed the day of rest, but the Shabbat was our Father's invention. It wasn't man's invention. Resting on Sunday was man's invention.

All members of the Body are one in essence, although we are many numerically. If it is not like that, then we just have a form of godliness without reality.

After Constantine courted the church they started becoming politicians, policemen, soldiers, getting jobs in the world. It became just like today. Now people drive ten or twenty miles all over town to go to church. They don't gather in their neighborhood. They built those big great churches with steeples. I won't tell you what kind of sign that is.

The Shabbat is not a tradition. It is not a human invention, but all who honor the Creator will keep it in righteousness and not like Isa 1:13-15. It distinguishes Israel from the world around it. If God's people do the same things as the world on this day, it is not a sign. The Shabbat is a sign. It is the very thing people don't want to do, even in the first century.

In the First Edah they rested on the Shabbat. On First Day, they had First Day Festivals. They broke bread on First Day Eve, in the evening after the Shabbat was over (Acts 20:7-8). That's the time our Master rose again after three days and three nights in Sheol, in death. His body went to the tomb, but His Spirit and soul went to hell, Sheol, death — a place of torment. Acts 2:24 says that He rose again after He suffered the pains of death. He had to pay for our sins in death, not on the cross. The cross was the means to bring Him there. The wages of sin is death, not dying (Rom 6:23). Death is a place

where everyone goes who does not know our Master. For sure they will have to go to the first death, and then comes the judgment.

We have to be distinguished as Israel from the world around us. Ex 31:13 — Sanctified, set apart, so we can be a nation of people in different places all over the world who are a light as we work and rest together.

Those who were careless in observing the Shabbat brought destruction upon themselves. If they broke it deliberately, they were stoned, back in the Old-Covenant days. Whether someone is caught or not, our Father knows, and that person will experience spiritual death if he breaks the Shabbat.

The Shabbat is a sign between our Father and Israel forever. *Forever* means one age. *Forever and ever* is eternity. Has Israel kept the sign? No. Why? Because they did not produce the fruit of the kingdom. If there was no sign anymore it meant that they were not His people.

Are the Jews His people now? No. But they will be after Acts 26:7 is done for them. In the next age, Israel, who used to be our Father's people before the kingdom was taken away from them, will rise from the dead. Our Father will have a people, a nation, who will do it for them. Acts 26:8 and Rom 11:15 will only happen after someone has produced the fruit of the kingdom for them, so that our Father's name will be great beyond the borders of Israel. Then He can give the land to them. He must have a people who will do it for them. We have to keep the Shabbat in love; love fulfills the Law (Rom 8:4; 13:10).

Malachi 1 shows how the priests were doing a few years after the return from Babylon. It was horrible. The kingdom was taken away from them. The way they kept the festivals condemned them. It was futile. "Why are you doing it? It is not from your heart. You are under the Law." It was the same with circumcision. The Seventh Day Adventists keep the Shabbat under the Law. They are more divided than any other denomination. The group in Waco was an offshoot of them. They are so divided.

The Shabbat represents the kingdom, the 1000-year reign of our Master. The commandment in Ex 20:8 is to remember the Shabbat day, to remember what Moses wrote about (Gen 2:2). This commandment was given before the Fall. We are now restoring it. Israel didn't do it. The kingdom was taken away from them and given to another nation. The church was that nation. It lasted for about 50 years. Then they divided.

Of course, they are "all one in Jesus," but then their Jesus told the Christian German soldiers and the Christian American soldiers to kill each other. In the American Civil War their Jesus told the southern Christians and the northern Christians to kill each other. Before football games we would pray to Jesus, so we could make more tackles than anyone else. But that was not the right Jesus. I kept on getting baptized. I tried to convince myself that I was saved. They told me I was already saved when I said I believed in Jesus, but I wasn't saved. They don't know what they are doing.

The Body of Messiah must be one all over the world as a witness. We have to be a tangible and not a mystical Body. We're the true communists. Karl Marx saw the communal life in Acts; that's where he got it from. But it doesn't work under compulsion. You have to have the Holy Spirit.