

Lord of the Sabbath

Pg 1

"At that time Jesus went on the Sabbath Day through the grain-fields; and His disciples were hungry, and began to pick the ears of grain, and to eat. But when the Pharisees saw it, they said unto Him, 'Behold, Your disciples are doing what is not lawful to do on the Sabbath Day.' But He said unto them, 'Have you not read what David did, when he was hungry, and those who were with him; how he entered into the house of God, and ate the showbread, which was not lawful for him to eat, nor for those who were with Him, but only for the priests? Or have you not read in the law, how on the Sabbath Days the priests in the Temple profane the Sabbath, and are blameless? But I say unto you, 'That in this place is One greater than the Temple' (speaking of Himself). But if you had known what this means, "I will have mercy, and not sacrifice" (Hosea 6:6), you would not have condemned the blameless." --- "And He said unto them, 'The Sabbath was made for man, and not man for the Sabbath; for the Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath." (Matthew 12:1-8, Mark 2:23-28, Luke 6:1-5)

Lord: from the Greek word *Kurios* meaning: Lord, properly, a person exercising absolute ownership rights, thus being supreme in authority. Also an 'expressed' title of honor, respect, and reverence, with which servants salute their master: - lord, master.

Sabbath: from the Greek word *sabbaton*, which means: the seventh day of each week, which was a sacred festival-day, or Holy Day, on which the Israelites were required to abstain from all work. (from the Hebrew word *shabbath* which means: to cease, to desist, to rest, an intermission of rest from life's regular routine.

Consider these background verses and commandments:

"Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. And on the seventh day God ended His work which He had made; and **He rested** (*shabbath*) on the seventh day from all His work which He had made. And God blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it; because in it He had rested from all His work which God created and made." (Genesis 2:1-3)

"Remember the Sabbath Day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labor, and do all your work; but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the LORD your God. In it you shalt not do any work, not you, nor your son, nor your daughter, nor your manservant or maidservant, nor your cattle, nor the stranger that is within your gates. For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and He rested on the seventh day; therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day, and made it Holy" (Exodus 20:8-11)

"And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, 'Speak also to the children of Israel, saying, Surely My Sabbaths you shall keep; for it is a sign between Me and you throughout your generations; so that you may know that I am the LORD who sanctifies you. Therefore, you shall keep the Sabbath, for it is holy unto you. Everyone who defiles it shall surely be put to death; for whoever does any work on it, that soul shall be cut off from among his people. Six days may work be done; but on the seventh day is the Sabbath of Rest, Holy to the LORD. Whoever does any work on the Sabbath day, he shall surely be put to death. Therefore, the children of Israel shall keep the Sabbath, to observe the Sabbath throughout their generations, for a perpetual covenant. It is a sign between Me and the children of Israel forever; for in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, and on the seventh day He rested, and was refreshed.'" (Exodus 31:12-17)

"If you turn away your foot on the Sabbath, from doing your pleasure on My Holy Day; and call the Sabbath a delight, the holy-day of the LORD honorable; and shall honor Him, by desisting from your own ways, nor seeking your own pleasure, nor speaking your own words; then you shall delight yourself in the LORD; and I will cause you to ride upon the high places of the earth, and will feed you with the heritage of Jacob your father; for the mouth of the LORD has spoken it." (Isaiah 58:13-14)

Lord of the Sabbath

Pg 2

Notes of context #1:

- The disciples of Jesus were picking grain, to eat, on the Sabbath.
- The Pharisees said that it was unlawful to pick grain on the Sabbath.
- Jesus shared about an unlawful action being set aside for the sake of doing good.
- Jesus tells the Pharisees that if they had known God's Word, "I will have mercy, and not sacrifice," then they would not have condemned the blameless.
- Then He tells them, that He, the Son of man is Lord of the Sabbath.

Notes of context #2:

- The Sabbath Day of rest was established, blessed, and made a Holy Day, by God Himself.
- The reason was: that in six days (of work) God created the heaven and the earth, but then rested from His work on the seventh day.
- God told the children of Israel to Remember the Sabbath Day, to keep it holy always.
- God told the children of Israel not to do any work at all on the Sabbath Day.
- God said the Sabbath day was to be a sign between Himself and the children of Israel throughout their generations.
- Failure to keep the Sabbath Day holy required the penalty of death!
- God told His people that if they delight in the Sabbath Day, rather than seeking after their own pleasures, that He would bless them with the promised 'heritage of Jacob' their father.

Of first importance: God, who created all things, also established and made the Sabbath day Holy. As such, He is Lord over all of His creation, and He is **Lord of the Sabbath** that He established.

Of second importance: Jesus used this occasion to declare Himself to be **Lord of the Sabbath**; thus equating Himself to be equal to, and one with the Father.

Of third importance: Jesus, exercising His Lordship over the Sabbath, declares that "the Sabbath was made for man, and not man for the sabbath." The Sabbath Day is thus, as it was always supposed to be, a day that God's people can rest after six long days of work, and "delight themselves in the LORD." Exercising His Lordship over the Sabbath, Jesus freely healed many people on the Sabbath Day, much to the anger of the hypocritical leaders of the time. To them Jesus declared it to be lawful to do good on the Sabbath; even if it 'seemed' to violate the 'work prohibition' of the law. (see Matthew 12:9-14)

"And therefore, the Jews were persecuting Jesus, and they sought to kill Him, because He had done these things on the Sabbath Day. But Jesus answered them, My Father is working until now, and I am working. Therefore the Jews were seeking even more to kill Him, because He not only had broken the Sabbath (in their false opinion), but said also that God was His Father, making Himself equal with God." (John 5:16-18)

Christ Jesus exercises absolute Lordship rights over the Sabbath Day, and is supreme in authority over this the Lord's Day! Jesus is **Lord of the Sabbath** – the **Day of Rest**!

Consider this remarkable promise of Jesus:

"Come unto Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you, and learn of Me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and you shall find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy, and My burden is light." (Matthew 11:28-30)

Lord of the Sabbath

Pg 3

Here Jesus is speaking of a new kind of Rest of which He is Lord over – a New Covenant Rest in Christ Jesus! By coming to Christ Jesus in faith, and learning about Him, we will find rest for our souls, and freedom from heavy laden labors, the curse of sin and unrepentance.

We no longer have to work to gain God's Rest. The Father is working for us through the working of His Son Jesus! As it says, "By Grace we are saved" - by His grace we enter into His Rest through faith! Consider this passage from the book of Hebrews:

"Let us therefore fear, since a promise remains for us of entering into His Rest, lest any of you should seem to come short of it. For unto us was the gospel preached, as well as unto them: but the word preached did not profit them, not being united with faith in those who heard it. For **we who have believed do enter into that Rest**, as He said, '*As I have sworn in My wrath, they shall not enter into My Rest*' (Psalm 95:11); although the works were finished from the foundation of the world. For He spoke in a certain place about the seventh day in this way, 'And God rested on the seventh day from all His works' (Genesis 2:2). And in this place again, '*They shall not enter into My Rest.*' Seeing therefore it remains that some must enter it; and those to whom it was first preached entered not in because of disobedience; He again fixes a certain day, saying in David, '*Today*,' after so long a time; as it is said, '*Today if you will hear His voice, harden not your hearts*' (Psalm 95:7). For if Joshua had given them rest, then He would not afterward have spoken of another day. There remains therefore a **Sabbath-Rest** (*sabbatismos*) for the people of God. For he who has entered into His Rest, he has also ceased from his own works, as God did from His. Let us therefore be diligent to enter into that Rest, lest any man fall after the same example of disobedience." (Hebrews 4:1-11)

Jesus is Lord of the seventh-day Sabbath Rest; and He is Lord of the Sabbath Rest that we receive when we put our faith wholly in Jesus Christ. The children of Israel rested from their six-day work routines on the seventh day – the Sabbath. Today, in Christ Jesus, we have entered into the Lord's **every-day** Sabbath-Rest!

We have ceased from our own works! **We have entered into His Rest!**

In doing so we have been set free from doing the works of the Law in pursuit of righteousness. In doing so we have been set free from doing the works of sacrifice for forgiveness of sin.

Consider this final truth shared by Jesus:

"Then said Jesus to those Jews who believed on Him, "If you continue in My word, then you are My disciples indeed; and you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.' But they answered Him saying, 'We be Abraham's seed, and were never in bondage to any man; how is it that You say, 'You shall be made free?' Jesus answered them, 'Truly, truly, I say unto you, 'Whoever commits sin is the servant of sin. And the servant does not abide in the house forever: but the Son abides forever. **If the Son therefore shall make you free, you shall be free indeed.**' " (John 8:31-66)

JESUS is ...

Lord of the Sabbath,

He is Lord of the seventh-day Sabbath

He is Lord of our forever Sabbath-Rest

He has set us free from the works of the Law, and from the bondage of sin!

Thank you Lord Jesus

Thank you for making Your Sabbath Rest – for us!!