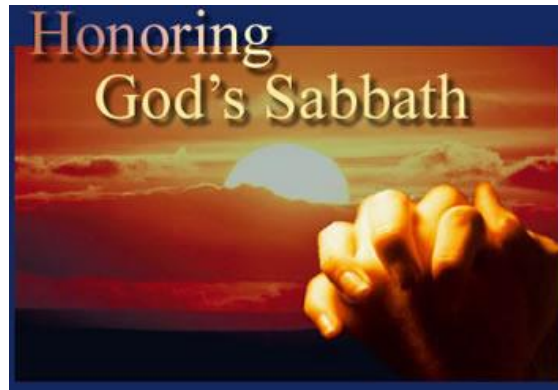


FALL QUARTER SUNDAY SCHOOL 2017
THEME – COVENANT WITH GOD
UNIT I – SIGNS OF GOD’S COVENANTS

“NOW CONCERNING THE OBSERVANCE OF THE SABBATH”



Lesson III – September 17, 2017

Lesson Presented by Rev. Frank A. Davis, III – Pastor-Teacher

- Lesson Text:** Exodus 31:12-18
- Required Reading:** Genesis 2:1-3; Exodus 31:12-18; Isaiah 56:1-8
- Motto Text:** Exodus 31:13-14, *“Speak thou also unto the children of Israel, saying, Verily my sabbaths ye shall keep: for it is a sign between me and you throughout your generations; that ye may know that I am the LORD that doth sanctify you. Ye shall keep the sabbath therefore; for it is holy unto you: every one that defileth it shall surely be put to death: for whosoever doeth any work therein, that soul shall be cut off from among his people.”*
- Reliable Resources:** Logos Bible Software; Union Gospel Press Expositor and Illuminator; Precepts for Living (UMI); Holman Illustrated Bible Dictionary; Standard Commentary; Word Search 10 Electronic Library; Analytical Bible Expositor by Butler; Life Application Bible Notes

LESSON INTRODUCTION

Beloved, quoting David A. Hamburg of Union Gospel Press: “Ye shall keep the Sabbath...Someone has said that our great-grandfathers called it the holy Sabbath, our grandfathers the Sabbath, our fathers Sunday, but we call it the weekend. Although the Sabbath was given only to Israel and Sunday was never meant to be a ‘Christian Sabbath’, we have indeed substituted the holiday for the holy day, recreation for reverence, games for godliness, and dissipation for devotion.”

But what did God mean concerning observing the Sabbath?

The Holman Illustrated Bible Dictionary says: “Sabbath Day of rest, considered holy to God by His rest on the seventh day after creation and viewed as a sign of the covenant relation between God and His people and of the eternal rest He has promised them.”

The Life Application Bible Notes declare in Exodus 31:12-17: “The Sabbath had two purposes: It was a time to rest and a time to remember what God had done. We need rest. Without time out from the bustle, life loses its meaning.”

“Now Concerning the Observance of the Sabbath.” Our **Anticipated Power Points** are quoted from Butler’s Analytical Bible Expositor:

- **“The Command for the Sabbath Day. Exodus 31:12-14**
- **The Compensation in the Sabbath Day. Exodus 31:13c**
- **The Character of the Sabbath Day. Exodus 31:15**
- **The Continuation of the Sabbath Day. Exodus 31:16**
- **The Commemoration of the Sabbath Day. Exodus 31:17”**
- **The Commitment of the Sacred Stones. Exodus 31:18**

Reading a little background from Precepts for Living, we note: “The Israelites had been slaves for 400 years before God sent Moses as a deliverer. Many miracles occurred and are documented in Exodus. This book also contains the Ten Commandments.

Chapters 25-40 focus on building the Tabernacle as well as on receiving a covenant. The specific details for constructing the portable tabernacle were given so the Israelites would honor the holiness of God, as this would be His dwelling place among them. God also gave precise instructions for making the priestly garments and consecrating the priests. Today's focal verses stress the importance and necessity of keeping the Sabbath as a sign of the covenant relationship between God and His people. The word 'Sabbath' comes from the Hebrew word meaning, 'to cease from exertion'."

“Now Concerning the Observance of the Sabbath”

LESSON OUTLINE

(NOTE: Points I through V are taken from Butler's Analytical Bible Expositor)

I. “The Command for the Sabbath Day.” Exodus 31:12-14

Moses first gives Israel Sabbath command in Exodus 20:8-11; but God speaks of it initially in the Garden of Eden (Gen. 2:1-3). Remember what Jesus said of the Sabbath in Mark 2:27. God needed no rest but understood we humans need to rest and reflect upon the person and power of God!

Butler reiterates concerning the command of the Sabbath Day:

- “The source of the command. vv. 12-13a (NLT)
- The sign in the command. v. 13b”

(No other people had such a relationship with Jehovah and the Sabbath was their specific sign!)

- “The seriousness of the command. v. 14”

The soul who denied this command and covenant was under the sentence of death! **Note: Numbers 15:32-36 remembers the holiness and sovereignty of God and does not take Him lightly!**

II. “The Compensation in the Sabbath Day. Exodus 31:13c

...Obedience to God's commands always helps our spiritual knowledge.” *“To whom much is given, shall much be required...One reaps what he sows.”*

III. “The Character of the Sabbath Day.” Exodus 31:15

There must be rest and reflection! America has done away with most of its “Blue Laws” which were transplanted from Europe to the early USA. Later the states kept them for a long time. I remember the “Blue Laws” in Louisiana that closed many stores by noon on Sundays and would not sell all products! **Lord, what happened!?!**

IV. “The Continuation of the Sabbath Day.” Exodus 31:16

The Sabbath law was permanent to the Jews and not temporary. It demonstrated a complete identification with Jehovah for the Israelites.

V. “The Commemoration of the Sabbath Day.” Exodus 31:17

Jehovah God has tied in Sabbath Day recognition to the Divine creation of the universe, even earth. This puts a hole in the philosophy of every evolutionist.

VI. The Commitment of the Sacred Stones. Exodus 31:18

God fulfills His own promise to Moses from Exodus 24:12, *“And the LORD said unto Moses, Come up to me into the mount, and be there: and I will give thee tables of stone, and a law, and commandments which I have written; that thou mayest teach them.”* These stones became the textbook of God to His leader for His people. As the text says, *“Written by the finger of God.”*

CLOSING

Beloved, thank God that He loves and keeps His Word! Remember Psalm 119:89-93, *“For ever, O LORD, thy word is settled in heaven. Thy faithfulness is unto all generations: thou hast established the earth, and it abideth. They continue this day according to thine ordinances: for all are thy servants. Unless thy law had been my delights, I should then have perished in mine affliction. I will never forget thy precepts: for with them thou hast quickened me.”* *“Remember the Sabbath Day to keep it holy!”* Exodus 20:8



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LOOKING AHEAD:

September 24, 2017

Ezekiel 36:22-32

Please join us each Wednesday noon at Bibleway where Pastor Davis teaches the Sunday School lesson.

Pastor Davis invites you to hear him teach the Sunday School lesson at Bibleway on Wednesday at noon.