

## The Sabbath Test

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When are we Tested on the Sabbath?

### The Creation of the Sabbath

And on the seventh day God ended his work which he had made; and **he rested on the seventh day from all his work which he had made.** And God blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it: because that in it he had rested from all his work which God created and made. Genesis 2:2,3.

“The great Jehovah had laid the foundations of the earth; He had dressed the whole world in the garb of beauty and had filled it with things useful to man; He had created all the wonders of the land and of the sea. **In six days the great work of creation had been accomplished. And God “rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had made. And God blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it: because that in it He had rested from all His work which God created and made.”** God looked with satisfaction upon the work of His hands. All was perfect, worthy of its divine Author, and He rested, not as one weary, but as well pleased with the fruits of His wisdom and goodness and the manifestations of His glory.” *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 47.

### The Sabbath A Sign

“When the Lord delivered His people Israel from Egypt and committed to them His law, He taught them that by the observance of the Sabbath they were to be distinguished from idolaters. It was this that made the distinction between those who acknowledge the sovereignty of God and those who refuse to accept Him as their Creator and King. “It is a **sign** between Me and the children of Israel forever,” the Lord said. “Wherefore the children of Israel shall keep the Sabbath, to observe the Sabbath throughout their generations, for a perpetual **covenant.**” Exodus 31:17,16.

**“As the Sabbath was the sign that distinguished Israel when they came out of Egypt to enter the earthly Canaan, so it is the sign that now distinguishes God’s people as they come out from the world to enter the heavenly rest. The Sabbath is a sign of the relationship existing between God and His people, a sign that they honor His law.** It distinguishes between His loyal subjects and transgressors.

“From the pillar of cloud Christ declared concerning the Sabbath: “Verily My Sabbaths ye shall keep: for **it is a sign between Me and you** throughout your generations; that

Monday, May 1, 2017

ye may know that I am the Lord that doth sanctify you.” Exodus 31:13. The Sabbath given to the world as the **sign** of God as the Creator is also the **sign** of Him as the Sanctifier. **The power that created all things is the power that re-creates the soul in His own likeness. To those who keep holy the Sabbath day it is the sign of sanctification.** True sanctification is harmony with God, oneness with Him in character. It is received through obedience to those principles that are the transcript of His character. And **the Sabbath is the sign of obedience.** He who from the heart obeys the fourth commandment will obey the whole law. He is sanctified through obedience.

“To us as to Israel the Sabbath is given “for a perpetual covenant.” To those who reverence His holy day the Sabbath is a sign that God recognizes them as His chosen people. It is a pledge that He will fulfill to them His covenant. Every soul who accepts the sign of God’s government places himself under the divine, everlasting covenant. He fastens himself to the golden chain of obedience, every link of which is a promise.” *Counsels to the Church*, 261,262.

### **Sabbath a Test of Loyalty**

“I am instructed to say, Gather from the Scriptures the proofs that God has sanctified the seventh day, and let these proofs be read before the congregation. Let those who have not heard the truth be shown that all who turn aside from a plain “Thus saith the Lord,” must suffer the result of their course. **In all ages the Sabbath has been the test of loyalty to God. “It is a sign between Me and the children of Israel forever,” the Lord declares.**” *Gospel Workers* 1915, 148,149.

**“The Sabbath will be the great test of loyalty,** for it is the point of truth especially controverted. When the **final test shall be brought to bear upon men, then the line of distinction will be drawn between those who serve God and those who serve Him not.** While the observance of the false sabbath in compliance with the law of the state, contrary to the fourth commandment, will be an avowal of allegiance to a power that is in opposition to God, the keeping of the true Sabbath, in obedience to God’s law, is an **evidence of loyalty** to the Creator. While one class, by accepting the sign of submission to earthly powers, receive the mark of the beast, the other choosing the token of allegiance to divine authority, receive the seal of God.” *The Great Controversy*, 605.

### **Preparation for the Sabbath**

**“While preparation for the Sabbath is to be made all through the week, Friday is to be the special preparation day.** Through Moses the Lord said to the children of Israel: “Tomorrow is the rest of the holy Sabbath unto the Lord: bake that which ye will bake today, and seethe that ye will seethe; and that which remaineth over lay up for you to be kept until the morning.” “And the people went about, and gathered it [the manna], and ground it in mills, or beat it in a mortar, and baked it in pans, and made cakes of it.” Exodus 16:23; Numbers 11:8. There was something to be done in preparing the heaven-sent bread for the children of Israel. **The Lord told them that this work must be done on Friday, the preparation day.**” *Counsels to the Church*, 262.5.

Then said the Lord unto Moses, Behold, I will rain bread from heaven for you; and the people shall go out and gather a certain rate every day, that I may **prove** them, whether they will walk in my law, or no. And it shall come to pass, that on the sixth day they shall prepare that which they bring in; and it shall be twice as much as they gather daily. Exodus 16:4,5.

Six days ye shall gather it; but on the seventh day, which is the sabbath, in it there shall be none. And it came to pass, that there went out some of the people on the seventh day for to gather, and they found none. Exodus 16:26,27.

**“On Friday let the preparation for the Sabbath be completed.** See that all the clothing is in readiness and that all the cooking is done. Let the boots be blacked and the baths be taken. It is possible to do this. If you make it a rule you can do it. **The Sabbath is not to be given to the repairing of garments**, to the cooking of food, to pleasure seeking, or to any other worldly employment. Before the setting of the sun let all secular work be laid aside and all secular papers be put out of sight. Parents, explain your work and its purpose to your children, and let them share in your preparation to keep the Sabbath according to the commandment.” *Counsels to the Church*, 263.

**“There is another work that should receive attention on the preparation day. On this day all differences between brethren, whether in the family or in the church, should be put away. Let all bitterness and wrath and malice be expelled from the soul. In a humble spirit, “confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed.” James 5:16.**” *Counsels to the Church*, 263.

Monday, May 1, 2017

And in those days Peter stood up in the midst of the disciples, and said, (the number of names together were about an **hundred and twenty**),). Acts 1:15

And **when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord** in one place. Acts 2:1.

“The first disciples went forth preaching the word. They revealed Christ in their lives. And the Lord worked with them, “confirming the word with signs following.” Mark 16:20. These disciples prepared themselves for their work. **Before the day of Pentecost they met together, and put away all differences. They were of one accord.** They believed Christ’s promise that the blessing would be given, and they prayed in faith. They did not ask for a blessing for themselves merely; they were weighted with the burden for the salvation of souls. The gospel was to be carried to the uttermost parts of the earth, and they claimed the endowment of power that Christ had promised. Then it was that the Holy Spirit was poured out, and thousands were converted in a day.” *The Desire of Ages*, 827.

### **Closed Door at the Sabbath**

“In the time of Christ the people of Palestine lived in walled towns, which were mostly situated upon hills or mountains. **The gates, which were closed at sunset, were approached by steep, rocky roads**, and the traveler journeying homeward **at the close of the day often had to press his way in eager haste** up the difficult ascent in order **to reach the gate before nightfall. The loiterer was left without.**” *Thoughts from the Mount of Blessings*, 138.

“**Nehemiah rebuked** them for their shameful neglect of duty, which was largely responsible for the fast-spreading apostasy. “What evil thing is this that ye do, and profane the Sabbath day?” he sternly demanded. “Did not your fathers thus, and did not our God bring all this evil upon us, and upon this city? yet ye bring more wrath upon Israel by profaning the Sabbath.” He gave command that “**when it began to be dark before the Sabbath,**” **the city gates should be shut, and that they should not be opened till the Sabbath was past**; and, having more confidence in his own servants than in those the magistrates of Jerusalem might appoint, he stationed them at the gate to see that his orders were enforced.” *The Signs of the Times*, January 17, 1884, par. 7.

Monday, May 1, 2017

### The Final Test

“It is in a crisis that character is revealed. When the earnest voice proclaimed at midnight, “Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him,” and the sleeping virgins were roused from their slumbers, it was seen who had made preparation for the event. Both parties were taken unawares; but one was prepared for the emergency, and the other was found without preparation. So now, a sudden and unlooked-for calamity, something that brings the soul face to face with death, **will show** whether there is any real faith in the promises of God. It **will show** whether the soul is sustained by grace. **The great final test comes at the close of human probation, when it will be too late for the soul’s need to be supplied.**” *Christ Object Lessons*, 412.

### The Day of Gods Preparation

“This has been repeated to me so many times, **“It is the day of God’s preparation to prepare a people to stand in the day of the Lord.”** *Sermons and Talks*, volume 2, 90.

“I cannot express to you the intense desire of my soul that you should all seek the Lord most earnestly **while He may be found. We are in the day of God’s preparation.** Let nothing be regarded as of sufficient worth to draw your minds from **the work of preparing for the great day of judgment.** Get ready. Let not cold unbelief hold your souls away from God, but let His love burn on the altar of your hearts. *Testimonies to the Church*, volume 5, 590.

“Both **the parable of the tares and that of the net plainly teach** that there is no time when all the wicked will turn to God. The wheat and the tares grow together until the harvest. The good and the bad fish are together drawn ashore for a final separation.

**“Again, these parables teach that there is to be no probation after the judgment.** When the work of the gospel is completed, there immediately follows the separation between the good and the evil, and the destiny of each class is forever fixed.” *Christ Object Lessons*, 123.

“Sabbath, March 24, 1849, we had a sweet and very interesting meeting with the brethren at Topsham, Maine. The Holy Ghost was poured out upon us, and I was taken off in the Spirit to the city of the living God. Then I was shown that the commandments of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ relating to the shut door could not be separated, and that the time for the commandments of God to shine out with all their importance, and **for God’s people to be tried on the Sabbath truth, was when the door was opened in the most holy place** in the heavenly sanctuary, where the ark is, in which are contained the ten commandments. **This door was not opened until the mediation of Jesus was finished in the holy place of the sanctuary in 1844.** Then Jesus rose up and shut the door of the holy place, and opened the door into the most holy, and passed within the second veil, where He now stands by the ark, and where the faith of Israel now reaches.” *Early Writings*, 42.

