

A Day to Remember!

Discover a Mysterious Secret in Genesis

Grab your Authorized KJV Bible and let's do a Bible study!

A: The Beginning:

"In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth." Genesis 1:1.

It is interesting in the original there is a definite article over there; "In *The* Beginning". In the Hebrew mind set when there is a definite article, we are talking about a definite beginning in terms of time. So here we have time coming into play.

John 1 says, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." But in the original there is no definite article there; so in actual fact it reads, "In beginning was the Word." "In beginning"—no definite article. So in the Hebrew mindset, that 'beginning' is an eternal beginning, a non-specific beginning. So the 'Word' was eternal, it did not have a specific starting point. Different with the earth; 'in THE beginning', definite article, God created the heaven and the earth.' So Genesis is the story of a definite beginning of sorts.

"For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it." Exodus 20:11.

Here was another period of time—the Sabbath day—the seventh day that was part of the Creation Week. The Sabbath came at the end of the six days of creation. The Hebrew word 'days' is 'yowm', and when there are designated ordinal numbers—1, 2, 3, then again we are dealing in this Hebrew mindset with the literal 24 hour period.

The Creation had a particular sequence; a particular order. So there is a very definite sequence in the Creation Week.

Day One—Day Four: Light on day one, and bodies of Light on day four.

Day Two—Day Five: Firmament, and Filling of the firmament.

Day Three—Day Six: Earth with Food; Filling the Earth.

So what we have here is something quite phenomenal; in the first three days of Creation, God Creates the spaces. So Day One, He Creates Light. Now God being light in Himself, being the Author of light, does He need the sun in order to have light? Yes or No? No.

So God said "Let there be light" and there was light. Only on the fourth day does He actually place bodies to maintain light.

Day Two, He creates the firmament, and He splits it into the firmament above and the firmament below; so He creates the physical space. That is what He does; and in the Fifth Day, He fills the firmament with things that fly, and things that swim.

Day Three, He creates the Earth with food. So that is the plants; the plants are actually an order of life created for the specific purpose of being food. That is what they are—they haven't got blood, so they are not 'life' in the sense of organisms—the Bible says "For the life of the flesh is

in the blood:" Leviticus 17:11. They haven't got blood, they haven't got nervous systems—they are food.

So Day One, Day Two, Day Three, He creates the physical spaces. Day Four, Day Five, Day Six, He fills the physical spaces. Day One—Light; Day Two—Firmament—Day Three—Land:

"And God said, Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb yielding seed, and the fruit tree yielding fruit after his kind, whose seed is in itself, upon the earth: and it was so. And the earth brought forth grass, and herb yielding seed after his kind, and the tree yielding fruit, whose seed was in itself, after his kind: and God saw that it was good." Genesis 1:11-12.

Day Four He fills the space of the Light with the lesser and the greater lights. Day Five He fills the firmament with everything that flies. So birds were created on day five; and anything that flies, like bats and probably insects and things that fly were all created on Day Five.

And on Day Five, everything that swims. You have the fish, the whales, the seals, the porpoises, everything coming there on day five. Now those are mammals; and according to the evolution theory, they should have evolved in the next period of time, because mammals are the last thing to have evolved and they would secondarily have gone back to the sea. But here you have the whales and the porpoises and everything there before the land animals. Interesting! and what is also interesting is that there is no intermediary fossil between any land animal and an animal in the water. When they appear, they are fully formed. So Day Five the Firmament above, the atmosphere, the Firmament below, the ocean, the physical space is filled.

Day Six, the Earth with food, the dry land with all the plants on it, is filled with all the animals on this planet.

"And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. [This is at the end of the Sixth day] So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them. And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth." Genesis 1:26-28.

So God here creates an order of being that stands apart in His creation. As I read it, never before had there been such an order of being.

"Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them." Genesis 2:1.

Sabbath Rest:

"And on the seventh day God ended his work which he had made; and he rested [shabath] 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.

Question: was God tired? God wasn't tired. Was Adam tired? Well Adam had worked a little bit—he had named the animals. Isn't that right? Eve, was she tired? She hadn't done a stitch of work. Nothing; and in fact she was created just before bedtime, so she couldn't have been

tired. So on the Seventh Day, were any of them tired? None of them were tired. And yet the Bible says “He rested”, who rested? God—my Bible says He never slumbers or sleeps. [Psalm 121:4] He maintains all things with His powerful right hand. Nothing exists without Him; we move and breathe and have our being in Him. [Acts 17:28] Doesn’t He maintain us all the time? He is never tired. So what is this ‘rest’ all about?

Day One, Day Two, Day Three, He creates spaces. Day Four, Day Five, Day Six, He fills the spaces. And then He sets aside another space of time—the Seventh-Day; and what is He going to fill it with? Because that is the order of creation—what is He going to fill it with? He fills it with Himself. That is what the gift of the Sabbath is all about!

Why was it necessary to fill a special portion of time, set apart, with Himself? To have communication with His creation. The angels in heaven, before there was this creation, do you think they kept the Sabbath? I would like to suggest the answer is no.

“The Sabbath was created for man; not man for the Sabbath.” Mark 2:27.

The Sabbath was created at the end of the creation week. It was created after man had been created; it is the Seventh day of the Creation week. Angels always had unlimited access to God; but here was a new order of being; a totally different order of being.

“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 2:3.

ALL His work! God rested from ALL His work. This is fascinating stuff! What was going on here? What was God in need of ‘rest’ for? What was happening in this universe? Key questions; Who created? Why did He create?

B: Why am I here?

How many young people ask the question, “What am I here for?” And they say, “I didn’t ask to be here! You take care of it, I don’t care! I didn’t ask to be here. What have I got to do with Adam and Eve?” how many young people ask that?

Why six days? Why put in a sequence of time? “In THE Beginning”—it’s “start the stop watch”. Time—tick-tock, tick-tock. Why bring in time all of a sudden? What is the significance of the Seventh Day Sabbath?

Well the Bible says, **“For he spake, and it was done; he commanded, and it stood fast.” Psalm 33:9.** But that doesn’t tell us Who created, it just says God created. So we have to go a little but deeper:

“God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds.” Hebrews 1:1, 2.

So Who is the Creator? It is the Son.

“And to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ:” Ephesians 3:9.

So who created the Sabbath? Jesus created the Sabbath; Jesus is the Creator, and if we go a little bit further in John 1, it says, **“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with**

God, and the Word was God.” Remember we saw that it is not ‘the beginning’ in the original but ‘In Beginning’ timeless—Jesus was the Creator—He is God; He is from all eternity—‘In Beginning’ means a mystic beginning of no end, no definite time period.

“All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.”
John 1:3

“He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not.” John 1:10

“And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.” John 1:14

Who was the Creator? Jesus was the Creator!

“But to us there is but one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we in him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we by him.” 1 Corinthians 8:6.

Jesus created man in the Image of God.

“Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ; Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.” Titus 2:13, 14.

So Jesus is the God Who spoke!

“Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.” Revelation 4:11.

OK—clue! Why was everything created? For the pleasure of God, and for this community which comes with it, because it says there, He is worthy! So all things were created for God, by God; does that include the angels? It certainly does.

C: Rebellion in Heaven:

But the Bible tells us there was rebellion in heaven. It tells us there was a WAR in heaven! There was a great catastrophe, because at one point there was a major upheaval.

“For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: [above the angels] I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High.” Isaiah 14:13, 14.

Now what was that all about? And so we go back to Genesis. Let me give you a scenario: When God speaks angels into existence, He speaks—and they stand fast. If God wants a billion angels, He speaks—and there are a billion angels. But if we go to Genesis it says,

“So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.” Genesis 1:27.

Did God ever create male and female angels? No. **“And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness:”** now the angels were in the likeness of God, and they were in the image of God, they didn’t have a lower capacity or anything like that—but here was definitely something new going on!

Then He said, **“and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.”**

To which of the angels had God ever said, “Have Dominion”? to none of them; to none of the angels had God ever said, “Have dominion”.

“And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth,” Genesis 1:28.

To which of the angels had God ever said, “Be fruitful and multiply”? None of them. Wow!

“Subdue it, replenish the earth”; RE-penish—that means stock up again. If your pantry is empty, and you replenish it, what are you doing? Is it possible that this new order of being was being created and put into existence to replenish the universe? That angels that had lost their position and fallen from heaven, were to be replaced by this new order of being? And that God was reaching out to His creation in a very special sense, because He was being misunderstood at the level of His creation.

D: The Mighty Angel:

The angelic host, under this mighty angel Lucifer, had looked at the Godhead and seen Jesus Christ, the Savior of the world, Part of the Godhood—before He came to this earth, He had mingled with the angels, like one of them—nothing different. He was however, in the fullest sense, God, and taken up into the council of God, to the exclusion of all the heavenly host.

And Lucifer was the choir leader; he was the organizer; he was the one who ran the show; and when the angelic host appeared before the Almighty, everybody bowed down in adoration to the Son of God! And Lucifer eventually was fed up to the ears with that idea; and he said, “What is this? I am the one around here that does the work. I run the choir, I organize everything, and everybody bows down to HIM! What’s the difference between Him and me? In the image—I look like Him, just like Him, I can do what He can do, but He is taken into the counsel of the Godhead and I am not. And what is more, everybody obeys: Bow down, Bow down, Bow down! I’ve had it! I have had it up to here—I want to be honored like Him! I see no difference!”

Isn’t that what was happening? And he was saying to himself, “Now hang on a second; all these rules and regulations; ‘There must be no other important Being except God.’” And God seeing this mind-set developing, takes counsel, and decides to create a new order of being—to meet the greatest crisis this universe had ever had to face.

A New order of Being: God creates an order of being that would understand the mindset of God, more than any creature that had ever been created by Him. He was going to share His ultimate gift with this new creation—the capacity to bring forth life, and the capacity to rule like a Creator. That meant a totally new situation, a new planet; a new creative planet—where man would have the capacity to play out this role of a creative being.

When you bring forth children, how much care do you place in their upbringing? Lot’s! Now if your little child grows up and starts playing with a ball, and says, “Mom; I am going to play on the highway with my ball!” and you say to the child, “No way! There is a rule around here, you don’t play with a ball on the highway!”

And the child says, “Awe Mom, you haven’t seen how fast I am! I can doge cars like nothing! I am so fast! Nothing is going to happen to me! I’m off to the highway, with my ball!” And Mom goes. “Excuse me! Hello there! You are not going onto the highway!” “I am too!” “You are NOT going onto the highway!” “I can!” and off goes the child—what happens?

What does the parent eventually do? Well she sorts out the top of that child by modifying the bottom—right? Is that correct or not? WHY? Because with the mindset of someone charged with the care of the offspring, you understand what the dangers are that they don’t see.

The Greatest Gift: God created His beings with the greatest gift that He could endow them with—and that was the GIFT of Freedom of Choice. Without Freedom of Choice we would be puppets. Imagine my wife was programmed to love me and to obey me. Awe-what a blissful thought! Just imagine it. And for fifty-thousand years, there being no sin and no death and every morning she gets up and says, “Aah I love you!” After fifty thousand years you would say—“Enough already! Will you hush up!”

BUT if she has freedom of choice, and with all my faults and all my mistakes, she still comes to me and says; “You’re all right, I still love you!” Would I ever get tired of that? Never! Even if it went on for fifty thousand years, I would never tire of that thought! Freedom of Choice is the greatest Gift that God has ever given His creation. We are not puppets; we are something special.

But when God created it, He knew that things could go wrong! But He was prepared to carry the consequences Himself; and so He said, “Be fruitful and multiply”, which He had said to none of the angels. “Replenish the earth”, replace that which has fallen. “Subdue it; have dominion; rule like I rule!”

And Lucifer looked at this creation and he knew what was happening! He knew God was doing something new! God was creating a being more in the Image, in terms not of brain capacity or anything like that, but in terms of, “Wow! Sharing the creative capacity of God.” Lucifer was awestruck; and he knew that this order of being was being created to expose his hypocrisy. And he knew that this order of being was going to one day be the means to put sin to an end in a sense as well, because they will judge even angels! Doesn’t the Bible say that man will judge angels?

“Know ye not that we shall judge angels? how much more things that pertain to this life?” 1 Corinthians 6:3.

Because from the mindset of a Creator, we would be able to see that. Notice Psalm 8:

“O LORD our Lord, how excellent is thy name in all the earth! who hast set thy glory above the heavens. Out of the mouth of babes and sucklings hast thou ordained strength [WHY?] because of thine enemies, that thou mightest still the enemy and the avenger.”

So human beings, speaking about God, are there to shut the mouth of the enemy! Who is the enemy? Satan, the adversary. Continue:

“When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained; What is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visitest him?”

And we always read this like this—“When I consider the greatness of the heavens, what is this man-worm that you even bother with us?” some afterthought—some creation way down here—some side issue. No-No it doesn't say that! It says; “What is man, what is so important about man, that the God of the universe is so mindful of him?” Let's prove that! Continuing:

“For thou hast made him a little lower than the angels, [the word there in the original is ‘elohiyim’ which is God. Thou hast made him a little lower than God] and hast crowned him with glory and honour.”

Does that sound like a worm? Something that is crowned with glory and honor—is that a worm? No!

And **“Thou madest him to have dominion over the works of thy hands; thou hast put all things under his feet:”** Does that sound like a worm? Here was a new order of being, something the universe had never experienced before. You are not worms; lift up your heads, you are sons and daughters of God!

The Test: Then, unfortunately, because there was a crisis, again there had to be a test.

“And out of the ground made the LORD God to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight, and good for food; the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of knowledge of good and evil.” Genesis 2:9.

“And God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, it was very good. And the evening and the morning were the sixth day.” Genesis 1:31.

“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.

E: The Rest:

Now let's go into this rest—the word there is [shabath] to desist, to cease from work, to cease from your labor. And he said unto them, the Sabbath was made for Man, not man for the Sabbath.

“It is a sign between me and the children of Israel for ever: for in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, and on the seventh day he rested, and was refreshed.” Exodus 31:17.

On the Seventh day He rested and was refreshed! What does that mean? The Hebrew there is ‘naphash’, let's see what it means: “to breathe; passively, to be breathed upon, i.e. (figuratively) refreshed (as if by a current of air).” Now what is all this breathing bit about? When did God breathe the breath of life into them? On the sixth day—so what was He breathing here? What was God doing on the Seventh-Day that He ‘breathed’?

“Can a woman forget her sucking child, that she should not have compassion on the son of her womb? yea, they may forget, yet will I not forget thee. Behold, I have graven thee upon the palms of my hands; thy walls are continually before me.” Isaiah 49:15, 16.

Let me give you a scenario: here is this new creation; it's going to be a creative being, it's going to work like God, in the sense that it has control and management of a universe-type set up. It

is also a creative being: there is not a human being that's not creative; that doesn't want to do things that are creative. Much more in the image in terms of the creator aspect—not in terms of the greatness thereof or mental capacity or any one of those—just in terms of the mind-set of a creator. And this new being is here for a purpose.

God is going to prove to the universe through this being, that if you think like a Creator, then His government is actually fair. You must have rules; you must have boundaries; and you must have certain conditions in order to be happy!

The Devil says, "No! I don't need rules; I don't need boundaries; I don't need certain conditions; and I hate what You have created over there, especially in this reproduction business because that is going to replace me!" And he says, "I know what you are going to do; You are going to make Yourself great in front of them, and what about ME? If I could tell You what I really think about You and if I could inform Adam and Eve about it—they would never serve You!"

God says, "Okay, there will be a test; you can access them at the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil."

By the way, was the Sabbath a test of obedience in Eden? Yes or No? the answer is No. Never was it a test of obedience in Eden. What was the test of obedience in Eden? The Tree—that was the test of obedience. In fact, you couldn't have kept Adam and Eve away from that first Sabbath with ten wild horses!

Who of you has been in love? Very many have been in love. Do you remember that first love? That first time you met—can you imagine that shaking feeling that you really don't know what to say so you say nothing? Or whatever you say comes out wrong anyway, so you don't say anything?

Now imagine this; you have met this love of your life; you met at campmeeting—whatever. And off the person goes to their respective city. And then one day, you get a telephone call, Are you excited when you get the telephone call? Sure, a telephone call is great; is it as good as the real thing though? No. Alright; and then a friend comes to visit, and the friend says, "Hey, I've got news for you! So and so, says to tell you this and this!" Is that exciting? Sure! Is it as good as the real thing? Nope. So the telephone call is prayer; and the friend coming to visit is an angel telling you about the Creator.

God says to the devil, "Okay, I will give them space to do what they like. I will visit them in the cool of the day, and you can meet with them at the tree, and on the Sabbath I have set aside time for them. I will meet on the Sabbath with them and they can be with me and I with them. and after a period of test and trial, the test will come to an end and it will stop. But up until that time, you have access at the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil."

Now you get a phone call from this love of your life which says, "I'm coming! I'm coming to visit you. Wednesday—pick me up at seven o'clock I am coming on this and this plane at the airport." What time are you up to meet them? You are up long before and you are at the airport grumbling that the planes are on time, right? Why doesn't it come early? And this individual comes off the airplane and you rush towards each other, and you grab each other and you both have the same feeling for each other, and you look into each other's eyes and you sigh, "Hahhh! It's worth it!"

That is what God did on the Sabbath! He took His new creation and He knew He was going to die because of them! but He looked at them and He breathed, “Hahhh! It’s worth it!” that is what the Sabbath is about! It is about a love relationship with God! Filling that space of time with God.

Now imagine they say, “I will arrive at seven o’clock on Wednesday,” and you say, “Well—that’s Okay, I’ll pick you up on Thursday.” Does that make any sense? Doesn’t make much sense at all! And if you do come together, and you do go into this embrace, do you then say, “Nice of you to be here, but today is the big game; please don’t bug me, I have to watch it!” Do you do that or not?

Or do you say, “I’ve just received my new ‘Time Magazine’ and really I am very interested in it and please don’t talk to me, I am reading it.” Do you do that? No! what is this day all about? You couldn’t care less about who is going to win the ‘big game’ because this is the biggest game that has ever happened in your life. Your knees are gone, your mind is gone, and all you can do is to sigh! Isn’t that right? That is the Sabbath. “You must call the Sabbath a delight; and the Lord’s Day honorable.” Not doing your own things but Haaah—sigh, love relationship. That is the Sabbath!

Not sleeping in and saying “Oh-Oh I got to pick up this person and they’re arriving at seven; I want to sleep another hour—can’t we postpone this?” No-no! Up and on your way, that’s what you do on the Sabbath Day. When Jesus looked at His creation, He knew that He would find ultimate rest from what? From the war in His universe. When He looked at this couple and He went, “Hahh [sigh], it’s worth it!”

“And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me.” John 12:32.

He created them with the capacity to choose. Thank God for that! I would hate to serve God because I had no choice! I want to serve Him because I want to!

F: Satan’s Rage:

No wonder this fallen angel was so angry! No wonder he went ballistic! “Did God really say you must not eat from the trees in the garden?”

“We may eat of the trees in the garden but God DID say we must not eat of this one or touch it or we will die!”

“You will surely not die! You will be like God!” That is what he said.

And Eve looked at this and she was mesmerized and she thought, “Wow! That’s great! I can be like God!” And she took it and she ate it. And that is when sin came into the world. Sin is the transgression of the law; she broke the law; she coveted the position of God—that is breaking the commandments.

We sometimes ask ourselves, the Ten Commandments, are they part of the character of God? Of course they are part of the character of God. Were they codified “Thou shalt not—Thou shalt not—Thou shalt not”? I don’t think so; not from the beginning. They were part of the character of God. But they are now in a special condition to meet the needs of fallen mankind.

And you know God gets the blame for everything that goes wrong. God is not to blame! Sin is to blame. Satan is to blame. Not ‘God is to blame’! Let me give you a parable; it might sound like a

silly story but let's run through this.

Let's say you have a little child, and the child comes to you one day, and he says, "Daddy, Daddy, may I have a puppy dog?" and you say, "Hmmm, Okay, you can have a puppy dog." You give your little child a puppy dog. And you go out one evening to the neighbors to have a chat and you come back and the puppy dog is dead. Blood all over the walls, it's hacked to pieces.

You say to your child, "What is going on here? What happened here?" and the child says, "Well I told the dog to bark and it wouldn't bark, so I hit him, and he bit me, and so I killed him and I chopped him up!"

What would you do? You would freak wouldn't you? You would take the child to every psychiatrist that you can imagine! "You would say, "OHH! Where did I go wrong with this child" and you go totally crazy, is that right? Mother would cry for weeks. That is what would happen.

But let's say your child rehabilitates and everything is fine; the child is totally recovered—perfectly normal. One day the child comes back to you and says, "Dad, May I have a puppy dog?" Whew; how do you feel? You would say, "Okay, let me tell you something, you can have a puppy dog, but Thou shalt not chop it's head off; Thou shalt no beat it to a pulp; Thou shalt not smear its blood all over the walls." Isn't that right?

Now imagine that first time the child comes to you in excitement and none of this has happened, and he says, "Daddy, may I have a puppy dog please?" and you said, "Thou shalt not do this and thou shalt not do that—the boy would look at you and say, "Mom, my Dad needs a psychiatrist! What's the matter with him? Is he bonkers?"

So the law is codified to meet the crisis; understand how it works? So we have the law, it is part of the character of God—of course you don't want to kill the puppy dog; of course you don't want to smear his blood all over the walls; but it is there to meet the special crisis. When you offer yourself to obey someone as slaves, you become a slave to the one you obey. Romans 6:16. So we had rebellion on earth—terrible!

We have two groups of people on this planet; the one is the group of Cain which say, "I shall be saved by my works, and I don't care about anything else, I am selfish—it's me, me and me alone!" The other group says, "I will rely on the merits of my Saviour who has promised to save me."

Where there is no law, there is no transgression; so did Adam and Eve have a law? Yes or no? There must have been a law. So we should not read the Ten Commandments as "Thou shalt not—thou shalt not." Don't read them like that—if you are converted to Christ, you must read it, "thou shalt not commit adultery, you wouldn't do that! Thou shalt not kill—it wouldn't even come into your mind! Steal? No never! It is not 'thou shalt not' instead each one is a promise—it is what shall be your mindset if you love God.

"And the LORD passed by before him, and proclaimed, The LORD, The LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth, Keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, and that will by no means clear the guilty; visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children, and upon the children's children, unto the third and to the fourth generation." Exodus 34:6.

These are the attributes of God; the Lord is compassionate and longsuffering, and He keeps

love for thousands. So what is our duty now? It is to stand in the breach, and to rectify to the world the misconception of the character of God. God's people must stand like a rock speaking up for the character of God.

Jesus never forces anyone; He says "I, when I be lifted up will draw people to Me." The devil is the one that forces. The devil is the one that coerces; he is the one that hates—God is the One that loves—He never, ever forces.

So the Law of the Lord is perfect! Now what about the Sabbath? All of a sudden the test with the tree in the Garden of Eden is over. Adam and Even are driven out of the Garden and it is withdrawn and it is now planted in the New Jerusalem, waiting for the Redeemed. What becomes the new test of obedience? The Sabbath.

Remember the Sabbath! What does that mean? Remember how we were in the beginning. How many couples after a couple of years of marriage get to this point Where the one says to the other, "What has happened to us? Remember what it was like when we loved each other?"

On the Sabbath God calls His people and He says, "Let us be refreshed together again! Let us feel that first love." The Sabbath is not a commandment of "Thou Shalt", it is a commandment of "think on these things—remember what God is all about!" Remember that He rested, that He wanted to be together with us. So the Sabbath becomes a sign that God is the One that sanctifies. "It is the sign between me and you that you may know that I am the Lord your God." It becomes the great perpetual covenant. Exodus 31:16.

So the Sabbath becomes the ultimate test. It wasn't the 'Jewish' Sabbath—it was created at the end of the six days. It is a special day put aside for man. It has become such a memorial of confederacy with God—that it will stand for all eternity. And angels will also keep the Sabbath because in the beginning, angels had 24 hour access to God and time was not an issue. They were living in eternity. But now time—tick-tock, tick tock—it is a sign between Me and My children forever because He was refreshed, this is to have this 'Haahh—sigh' experience.

The Sabbath was created in Eden; and at the end of time the Sabbath will be the issue which will determine who your allegiance is with. When you know that He said, "I will be there on the seventh day", you don't go on the first day, the third day, the fifth day; you cannot wait to be there to say, "Haah—sigh." Does it make sense?

"If thou turn away thy foot from the sabbath, from doing thy pleasure on my holy day; and call the sabbath a delight, the holy of the LORD, honourable; and shalt honour him, not doing thine own ways, nor finding thine own pleasure, nor speaking thine own words: Then shalt thou delight thyself in the LORD; and I will cause thee to ride upon the high places of the earth, and feed thee with the heritage of Jacob thy father: for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken it." Isaiah 58:13, 14.

Purpose of the Sabbath

A day of Rest; A day of Peace; A day of Blessing; A Sign; A memorial to Creation; A symbol of sanctification; A hallowed Day; A perpetual Covenant; It will be maintained forever and ever.

If we keep His commandments, our peace will be like a river; our relationship to God will be restored:

“O that there were such an heart in them, that they would fear me, and keep all my commandments always, that it might be well with them, and with their children for ever!” Deuteronomy 5:29.

It is a sign that we are sanctified by Him.

“Moreover also I gave them my sabbaths, to be a sign between me and them, that they might know that I am the LORD that sanctify them.” Ezekiel 20:12.

God send His Son into the world, not to condemn it, but to redeem it!

“Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.” Hebrews 2:14, 15.

He was like us—isn’t this incredible? God again reaches out to His creation and He becomes like them. Unbelievable! It boggles the mind. And the Pharisees look around and say, “Huh! Who are You that we should be mindful of you? Look at you—you don’t even have any education—pooh!—who are you?” Didn’t they do that?

Jesus did nothing to attract attention; this is His character; He came to this world and He did good; He lifted up the poor; He spoke an encouraging word; He was kind; He was gentle; He was longsuffering; He never forced anyone; He never coerced anyone; and when they finally slaughtered Him for that, He was led like a Lamb to the slaughter and He didn’t open His mouth. What a God to serve! One day I would like to stand before Him, take the crown that He will give each one of His children and lay it at His feet and say, “Lord, I want to bow my knees, not because you force me like the devil thought, not because ‘bow down, bow down’—no! Because I want to! Serving a God with a character like Yours will be my pleasure.

Those who love His commandments and obey Him know that they are not burdensome and we know that Jesus will help us.

“Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness.” Isaiah 41:10.

Let us change the mindset of the youth, “I didn’t ask to be here!” Let’s tell them who they are; sons and daughters of God! Created in the image of God; Created to even take the place of angels. Let us stand for what is right; let us not listen to the voice that says, “I will pervert the Sabbath! I will pervert the creative act of man—the bringing forth of children! I will pervert the marriage relationship! I will destroy it!

Those are the two pet hates that Satan has: the Sabbath and the Family, because both of them reveal his nasty character in contrast to the lovely character of God. Let us go back to the Bible, let us prayerfully ask the Lord to show us what the real intention of the creation of man was, so that we can lift our heads and say, “This is our God, we have waited for Him!” Amen!