



Homes of H.O.P.E. Prayer and Study Guide #8
Based on sermon: "A Pause for Peace"
Preached Feb. 7, 2009

Introduction

1. Read Genesis 2:1-3. What did God do to set the seventh day apart from the other days of creation week?

The Hebrew word *Shabbat* comes from the Hebrew verb *shavat*, which literally means "to cease." Although *Shabbat* (or its anglicized version, "Sabbath") is almost universally translated as "rest" or a "period of rest," a more literal translation would be "ceasing", with the implication of "ceasing from work." Thus, *Shabbat* is the day of ceasing from work; while resting is implied, it is not a necessary denotation of the word itself. For example, the Hebrew word for "[strike](#)" (as in work stoppage) is *shevita*, which comes from the same Hebrew root as *Shabbat*, and has the same implication, namely that striking workers actively abstain from work, rather than passively.

2. How does the definition above help answer the question, "Why did God need to rest?"

3. What's the significance of humans being created on the sixth day, making their first full day of life on the Sabbath?

4. Read Exodus 16:22-26. What lessons about grace can be learned from this incident? What's the significance of this taking place a month and half before Moses received the Ten Commandments on Mt. Sinai?

5. How does the Seventh-day Sabbath reveal Jesus Christ as Creator? (John 1:1-3; Col. 1:15, 16)

6. Read Exodus 20:8-11. How is the Seventh-day Sabbath God's "trademark"?

7. How does the Sabbath remind me that I am not God, and everything I have, everything I am, everything I hope to be, belongs to Him?

8. Isn't the Sabbath for the Jews? (See Mark 2:27)

9. How did the Jews manage to turn the Sabbath into a curse rather than a blessing?

10. "Without knowing Jesus all you can do is keep a day but you won't enter into God's rest." Explain.

11. According to Jesus, which day is "the Lord's"? (Matt. 12:8)

12. How does the Seventh-day Sabbath reveal Jesus Christ as Redeemer? (See Deut. 5:15)

13. Explain how keeping the Sabbath celebrates salvation by grace instead of salvation by works.

14. How do we know that the law wasn't removed at the cross?

15. Discuss the following statement by Shawn Boonstra: “To suggest that Christ abolished God’s moral law creates a logical absurdity. He came to deal with our sin problem, which was a result of transgressing God’s law. If the moral law has been abolished, sin itself must have come to a halt at the cross of Christ—and if that’s the case, no one since that time has actually needed a Savior!”

14. Read Hebrews 10:16, 17 and discuss God’s strategy in these last days to transform our characters.

15. Discuss how Satan’s strategy in these last days is to eliminate the need for Jesus. Give examples of how he’s doing this.

16. Who is the “dragon” of Revelation 12:17 and why is he angry? See Rev. 12:9.

17. “Trademark infringement” happens when a rival company tries to confuse consumers by using a symbol that looks like their competitor’s. How is Satan guilty of this in relation to the Sabbath?

18. Is one day as good as another? Explain.

19. What qualifies God to rule and reign? See Rev. 4:9-11; 2 Kings 19:15; Neh. 9:6; Psalm 124:8; Jer. 10:11, 12; Acts 4:24; Rev. 14:6, 7.

20. What does Lucifer/Satan really want? See Isaiah 14:13, 14; Matt. 4:8, 9.

21. Read 2 Thess. 2:3,4,7. How does this prophecy reveal Satan’s plans? How will people at the end of time unknowingly fall into those plans? 2 Tim. 3:5.

Who changed the Sabbath?

“You may read the Bible from Genesis to Revelation, and you will not find a single line authorizing the sanctification of Sunday. The Scriptures enforce the religious observance of Saturday, a day which we never sanctify.” (James Cardinal Gibbons, *The Faith of Our Fathers* [Rockford, Ill.: TAN Books, 1980], 72, 73. [Originally published in 1876 by the John Murphy Company, Baltimore, Md.]

“Q: Which is the Sabbath day? A: Saturday is the Sabbath day. Q: Why do we observe Sunday instead of Saturday? A: We observe Sunday instead of Saturday because the Catholic Church transferred the solemnity from Saturday to Sunday.” (Peter Geiermann, C.S.S.R., *The Convert’s Catechism of Catholic Doctrine* [Rockford, Ill.: TAN Books, 1977], 50.)

“The Bible still teaches that the Sabbath or Saturday should be kept holy. There is no authority in the New Testament for the substitution of Sunday for Saturday. Surely it is an important matter. It stands there in the Bible as one of the Ten Commandments of God. There is no authority in the Bible for abrogating this Commandment, or for transferring its observance to another day of the week. . . . The Church is above the Bible, and this transference of Sabbath observance is proof of that fact.” (*The Catholic Record*, September 1, 1923, vol. XLV, no. 2342, 4.)

22. In light of the above, reflect on the word, “Remember” in Exodus 20:8, and the end-time message in Revelation 14:6, 7.