

YOU SHALL KEEP MY SABBATHS AND REVERENCE MY SANCTUARY

by Craig Wm. Peters

You shall keep My Sabbaths, and reverence My Sanctuary: I am יהוה.
Leviticus 19:30, 26:2

*This meditation will show why it is important to uphold the Seventh Day Sabbath. It is important to know why no other day can accurately be considered, or even called, the “Sabbath”¹ even if one does no work on that day. And no other day besides the Shabbat can be opted for if one desires to inherit the **spiritual blessing** which is only imparted upon those who observe the Seventh Day, Creation Memorial.² We pray the thoughts conveyed in the following study will show the truth of this matter in a way which brings peace, blessings, and clarity to those who seek to know and to do the truth.*

אבנדהוזהטיכלמנסעפצקרשה

Exceedingly Great and Precious Promises

Kepha ha’Sholiach³ indicated יהוה has given us very great promises, by which we are able to share in the nature and likeness of our Heavenly Father:

3 According as His mighty power has given to us all things that pertain to life and reverence, through the knowledge of Him that has called us to splendor and virtue: 4 Whereby are given to us exceedingly great and precious promises: that by these you might be partakers of the mighty nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust. 2Peter 1:3-4

One of those great promises to which Kepha referred – perhaps the greatest of the great – was the *sanctification-related promise* which יהוה clearly made in regard to observing His Sabbaths. The Shabbat was so important, it was pronounced to be the foundation of a perpetual covenant-sign between יהוה and His people:

¹ The original, Hebrew word for the Seventh Day is pronounced, “Shabbat.”

² For evidence the Day of worship is not “multiple choice” (as so many Christians allege based on false interpretations of Romans 14), see Chapter 12 and Appendix, Part 2 in the book, “*Is All Meat Meet to Eat?*”

³ The Apostle Peter. “Sholiach” is pronounced “shah-lee-ACH,” where the “ch” is as in the word “patriarch.”

*13 You speak also to the children of Israel, saying, Verily My Shabbatot⁴ you shall keep: for it is a **sign** between Me and you throughout your generations; that you may know that I am יהוה that sets you apart.⁵ 14 You shall keep the Shabbat therefore; for it is set apart unto you: every one that defiles it shall surely be put to death: for whosoever does any work therein, that soul shall be cut off from among his people. 15 Six days may work be done; but in the seventh is the Shabbat of rest, set apart to יהוה: whoever does any work in the Shabbat day, he shall surely be put to death. 16 Therefore the children of Israel shall keep the Shabbat, to observe the Shabbat throughout their generations, for a **perpetual covenant**. 17 It is a **sign** between Me and the children of Israel for ever: for in six days יהוה made heaven and earth, and on the Seventh Day He rested, and was refreshed. Exodus 31:12-17*

We point out the clearly *promised* result of keeping His Sabbaths: יהוה promises to sanctify, to *set apart*, those who honor the Seventh Day. He promises those who *set apart* this time period that *they* will be *set apart*: they will become partakers of His very nature and will partake in His great plans and purposes – both now and in the coming Kingdom. Further, יהוה stated observance of His Shabbat stood as a *perpetual covenant*! Exodus 31:16 The Shabbat, then, is a *covenant of promise*; it is one of those “*covenants of promise*” of which converted Gentiles partook in the first century! Following their expression of faith in the Messiah, Sha’ul stated the Gentile converts were *no longer alienated* from the Commonwealth of Israel and the covenants of promise! After becoming believers in the

⁴ “Shabbatot” is the Hebrew (plural) translated as “Sabbaths.”

⁵ The Hebrew word translated “sanctifies” means “set apart.”

Messiah, they were also observing the Shabbat; they were partaking in the *covenant of promise* which יהוה had given to Israel through Moses regarding the Seventh Day:

11 Therefore remember, that you being in time past Gentiles in the flesh, who are called “Uncircumcision” by that which is called “the Circumcision” (in the flesh made by hands):

12 that at that time you were without the Messiah, being aliens from the Commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without Elohim in the world: 13 But now in the Messiah יהושע, you who were once far off are brought near by the blood of the Messiah.

We note that faith in the Savior made these believers citizens of Israel! The blood of the Messiah made these Gentiles part of the Commonwealth of Israel,⁶ and as such, they were made partakers in the *covenants of promise*! As we have seen from the Exodus text,⁷ the Shabbat stands as one of those “covenants of promise;” in this case, יהוה has promised to set apart those who observe the Seventh Day. Other Scripture shows it was *clearly the case* that first century, Gentile converts kept the Shabbat.⁸

The Shabbat stands as a *perpetual covenant* and a *permanent sign* between יהוה and His people! It is a *sign* of His *promise* that we will *know Him*⁹ and that He will *sanctify us* – that is to say, He will *set us apart*. Is this Shabbat promise *abolished* in the Messiah? By no means! The promises of יהוה are *only established more firmly* in יהושע the Messiah!

For as many as are the promises of Elohim, in Him is the “Yes,” and in Him is the “Amein,” to the honor of Elohim through us. 2Corinthians 1:20

No wonder Sha’ul stated the active faith of Messianic believers is a faith which *upholds* the

⁶ Psalm 73:1, John 1:47, Romans 2:28-29, Acts 15:7-9, Romans 11:11-22, Ephesians 2:11-13, 19-22

⁷ Exodus 31:12-17

⁸ Acts 13:13-42, 42-48, 15:19-21, 16:11-15, 17:1-4, 18:1-11

⁹ John 17:1-3, Philippians 3:8-11, 1John 2:3-6, 5:20, Jeremiah 22:16. Contrast: Jeremiah 10:25, Hosea 5:3-4, John 8:19, 16:1-3, Titus 1:16, 1John 2:4

Torah.¹⁰ True faith will make any follower of יהושע a *doer* of the Torah.¹¹

Set Apart by His Presence/Spirit

The Presence of יהוה has been placed within the Sabbath Day in a special way. We must realize it is only the Presence of His Spirit which can sanctify, or *set apart*, a period of time,¹² or a place,¹³ or an object,¹⁴ or even a person.¹⁵

*The Presence of יהוה within the Shabbat makes this set apart Day a Sanctuary in time and space!*¹⁶

We begin to see this is the case in the very first mention of the Shabbat:

*2 And on the Seventh Day Elohim ended his work which He had made; and He rested on the Seventh Day from all His work which He had made. 3 And Elohim blessed the Seventh Day, and set it apart: because that in it He had rested from all His work which Elohim created to make.*¹⁷ Genesis 2:2-3

¹⁰ Romans 2:13, 3:31

¹¹ Matthew 5:17-20, 7:23-27 [“iniquity” (vs. 23) = lawlessness], Romans 2:13, 3:31, James 1:22-25, 4:11, Revelation 12:17, 14:12, 22:14

¹² Genesis 2:3 [“sanctified” = set apart], Exodus 20:8, 11 [“holy” and “hallowed” = “set apart”], Exodus 12:16-18, 16:23, 31:14-15, Leviticus 23:2-4, 7-8, 21,24,27, 35-37; 25:12, Nehemiah 8:1-2,9-11, 9:14

¹³ Exodus 3:5 [“holy” = “set apart”], Deuteronomy 26:15, Yehoshua 5:15, Nehemiah 11:1,18, Psalm 2:6, 5:7, 11:4, 15:1, 20:6

¹⁴ Exodus 29:21 [“hallowed” = “set apart”], 37, 43-44, 30:25-29, 40:9-10, Leviticus 8:10,15, 19:7-8, 22:31-33, 27:30,32, Numbers 3:13, 7:1, 16:36-38, 1Samuel 21:3-6, 1Kings 8:4, 9:2-3

¹⁵ Exodus 19:6 [“holy” = “set apart”], 29:21 [“hallowed” = “set apart”], 43-44, Leviticus 22:31-33, Numbers 3:13, Deuteronomy 7:6, Luke 1:70, Acts 3:21, 4:27,30, 1Peter 2:5,9, 3:5, 2Peter 1:21, Revelation 18:20, 20:6

¹⁶ Some well-meaning, but misled believers suppose they can keep a day “set apart” which יהוה never set apart in the first place. This is a notion which cannot be supported by any Scripture text. The Shabbat command mandates we *keep* set apart the Day which יהוה has *already* set apart. Exodus 20:8 This is our love-response by which we *obediently acknowledge* something יהוה has already done. Man has no power to sanctify *anything* in and of himself, and יהוה *never* set apart the pagan Sun-Day. Deuteronomy 12:30-32

¹⁷ The literal Hebrew reads: ... “which Elohim created to make,” meaning: He created the heavens and the earth because it was simply what He *wanted* to do! *He created*

The Scripture records יהוה blessed the Seventh Day and set it apart. This blessing came through His spoken word, and He set the Day apart by placing His Spirit, His Presence, within this specially designated period of time called the Shabbat.¹⁸ This explains why those who set apart the Sabbath through the Messiah will also partake of His nature/Presence/Spirit and receive of His blessed word. The Shabbat reveals this two-way, spiritual phenomenon:

If approached with reverence, the reading of His Word can impart His Presence, while approaching His Presence with reverence will also result in the Spirit imparting increasingly more of His Word.

If we walk before יהוה with reverence, both of the above will be our experience: the Word will impart His Presence while His Presence will impart the Word. Because of the special blessing of *His Presence* which יהוה placed within the Seventh Day, we glean more (and we glean differently) from His Word when entering this time set apart for hearing from Him. He will truly teach us in special ways if we sit at His feet on the Shabbat.¹⁹ This becomes quite evident when pondering His command that we keep His Shabbatot/Sabbaths and reverence His dwelling place.

You shall keep My Shabbatot, and reverence My Sanctuary: I am יהוה! Leviticus 19:30, 26:2

Like many of the proverbs, and like many other spiritual phenomenon, the above text reveals a two-way principle:

1. If we do not keep His Shabbatot, we cannot reverence (are not reverencing) His dwelling place. In this case, we are not reverencing His

all things for His good pleasure! We later read this very thing. Revelation 4:11, Colossians 1:16, Romans 11:36
¹⁸ “Shabbat” comes from the Hebrew word which means “to cease, or stop.” Shabbat time is a special time to *stop* what we are doing and fully concentrate on the will and ways of the Most High. It is a weekly period of time in which יהוה commands us to “be still and know that [He] is Elohim.” Psalm 46:10

¹⁹ Deuteronomy 33:3, Luke 10:39. No one who truly longs for His word [Psalm 119:20, 40, 131] will want to miss this opportunity.

Presence since He has chosen to dwell *in* Shabbat time.

2. If we do not reverence His dwelling place (that is, His abiding Presence placed *within* the Day of Rest), we are also not keeping His Shabbat.

For those who already observe Shabbat, we counsel each one to seek יהוה still more. Are we approaching and entering into this Day in a manner which recognizes it to be a Sanctuary in time and space? Are our hearts filled with reverence and awe before the Presence of יהוה which He has chosen to place within this Day? If not, we should be asking the Spirit to teach us more in regard to observing His set apart time.

For those who do not yet observe the Sabbath, we ask: “Who would refuse to partake in such great blessings of physical rest and spiritual renewal?” Unfortunately, many have hardened their hearts and put forth such a refusal,²⁰ and we pray you will not be among their number. Many today still refuse the rest which יהוה has always offered²¹ to all who observe His Shabbat.

Truth Begets Truth

Any time one begins walking in greater truth, the Word of יהוה opens anew in a fresh and invigorating way: new vistas are revealed²² within His ancient paths which, though previously unseen, have always been there. Such is the case with the Sabbath Day: if we begin to follow our Messiah’s example in observing the Day of Rest, the light of יהוה – the light which He places within the Seventh Day by His abiding Presence – will illumine His Word in special ways which are not possible at other times. Of this light, David wrote:

*For with You is the fountain of life:
in Your light shall we see light.* Psalms 36:9

This is confirmation that walking in the light of His Presence results in more light coming forth from His Word. This is not to say the Word of יהוה is revealed *only* on the Sabbath; by no means is that the case. The Spirit of יהוה indicates we must continually seek Him, and He

²⁰ Jeremiah 6:16, Isaiah 28:12, 30:15

²¹ Psalm 95:7-11, Matthew 11:28-30, Hebrews 3:7-11, 14-15, 4:1-10

²² Psalm 111:10, 119:98-100, Proverbs 4:18, John 14:21

is pleased to reveal Himself in many ways and on many occasions. However, there is a *special blessing* to be inherited by walking in the light of His countenance on the Shabbat.²³ This Sabbath blessing simply *cannot be inherited on any other day*: it is a special blessing which cannot be inherited apart from reverencing His Sanctuary, the special, abiding Presence which He has placed within the Seventh Day Sabbath. If we fail to observe the Shabbat, we fail to keep a *special appointment* with the Most High. We will never get back the time lost on any given Sabbath Day; each one is unique in all of eternity. And, in imitating יְהוָה as beloved children,²⁴ we do well to guard His Sanctuary in time and to set it apart. Only through reverent observance of the Sabbath Day can we partake of the promise to be set apart by His Spirit – His purifying Presence and nature.

Since our meditation has explained a significant aspect regarding the mitzvot/commandments which connect His Shabbat and His Sanctuary,²⁵ we now close with a few, additional thoughts on the ever-essential link between the Seventh Day and properly memorializing the creation.

Worshipping the Creator

Because the Shabbat is *His set-apart memorial of creation*, if we are not observing the Seventh Day, then we are also *not worshipping יְהוָה as the Creator* in the manner which *He intended*. The Savior not only indicated His followers would still be keeping the Seventh Day down through the centuries which followed His ascension,²⁶ His prophetic word to Yochanan ha’Sholiach (the Apostle John) showed all inhabitants of the earth would hear the Good News in the final hours. This word indicates the world will be warned to worship יְהוָה as the Creator by observing the Shabbat:

²³ Numbers 6:22-27, Psalm 89:15-16 (this text gives indication of being set apart as we partake in His righteousness, His nature, His character – precisely what Kepha had written and what יְהוָה had promised observers of Shabbat), Isaiah 58:13-14

²⁴ Ephesians 5:1, Genesis 2:2-3

²⁵ Leviticus 19:30, 26:2

²⁶ Matthew 24:20

6 And I saw another messenger fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting Good News to preach to those who dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people, 7 saying with a loud voice, “Fear Elohim, and give honor to Him; for the hour of His judgment is come: and worship Him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters.” Revelation 14:6-7

Sabbath observance is an *essential part* of worshipping יְהוָה as the Creator. The Sabbath Sanctuary is to be revered as a special time for memorializing His creation in all our dwellings.²⁷ Note the great similarity between the above text in *Revelation*²⁸ and the *original Sabbath commandment*:

8 Remember the Sabbath Day, to keep it set apart. 9 Six days you shall labor, and do all your work: 10 But the Seventh Day is the Sabbath of יְהוָה your Elohim: in it you shall not do any work: you, nor your son, nor your daughter, your manservant, nor your maidservant, nor your cattle, nor your stranger that is within your gates. 11 For in six days יְהוָה made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the Seventh Day; therefore יְהוָה blessed the Sabbath Day, and set it apart. Exodus 20:8-11

While we respect those who believe they can opt for “one day in seven” to rest and worship, we also pray many of their number will see *no person* has the right to choose another day above the Day which יְהוָה has *already chosen for us*. We cannot add to or take away from²⁹ what יְהוָה has already done in *making the Shabbat a memorial of creation* and in providing it for man’s rest and worship. Our meditation has shown *why* this is the case.

No Scripture has ever even hinted the Sabbath Day was changed or abolished by the Messiah.

²⁷ Exodus 31:16, Leviticus 23:3

²⁸ Especially the phrase ... “worship Him that made heaven and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters.”

²⁹ Ecclesiastes 3:14, Deuteronomy 4:2, 12:32, Revelation 22:18-19

However, such claims are the ever-present, commandment-nullifying traditions of man.³⁰ In all of His teachings regarding the Sabbath, **יהוה** clearly upheld its binding authority and its immutability. There was never even a hint He challenged the perpetuity of the Sabbath ordinance. The words of the Savior indicate the Sabbath commandment would remain *completely valid and absolutely authoritative* down through the centuries which would follow His time on earth. We see this clearly in His counsel to believers: not only were they to continue observing the Shabbat, they were directed to always *remember* its importance and to *pray* the sovereignty of **יהוה** would prevent them from ever having to profane it!

“And pray that your flight does not take place in winter or on the Sabbath.”
Matthew 24:20, ISRV

This statement by the Messiah only magnifies the Torah and makes it honorable.³¹ We see the teaching of **יהוה** upholds, in a special way, the long-standing directive to “Remember the Shabbat.”³² As for those who claim the New Covenant writings are “strangely silent” regarding the Shabbat, we can only say such unfounded claims are promulgated in the minds of those who do not know the Scriptures, nor the power of Elohim.³³

Finally, we assert Christianity has, by and large, increasingly degenerated across the centuries because of its *rejection* of the Seventh Day Shabbat. Scripture warns of the *spiritual degeneration* and *darkness* which will overtake any nation, or people, when they fail to worship **יהוה** as the Creator:

18 For the wrath of Elohim is revealed from heaven against all irreverence and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness; 19 because that which may be known of Elohim is manifest in them; for Elohim has shown it to them. 20 For the invisible things of Him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and might; so that they are without excuse:21

³⁰ Matthew 15:3-6,9, Mark 7:7-13

³¹ Isaiah 42:21

³² Exodus 20:8

³³ Mark 12:24

*Because that, when they knew **יהוה**; they honored Him not as Elohim, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. 22 Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, 23 and changed the splendor of the incorruptible Elohim³⁴ into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and four-footed beasts, and creeping things. 24 Therefore, Elohim also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonor their own bodies between themselves: 25 Who changed the truth of Elohim into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever, Amen ... 28 And even as they did not like to retain Elohim in their knowledge, Elohim gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not proper. Romans 1:25, 28*

Notice these who fell into darkness had previously known **יהוה**, but they turned aside³⁵ and no longer magnified Him as Elohim. They failed to worship Him as the Creator (through Shabbat observance) and so, they soon sank into false worship. No longer stopping each Shabbat to worship **יהוה** for the works of *His hands*,³⁶ they turned aside to idolatry and worshipped the works of *their own hands*.³⁷ Through idolatry, they worshipped and served the creature instead of the Creator. The result of rejecting Shabbat was spiritual darkness and apostasy. Referring to the above, we see Sha’ul wrote of this darkness repeatedly:

... their foolish heart was darkened (verse 21)

... Elohim also gave them up to uncleanness ... (verse 24)

... Elohim gave them over to a reprobate mind (verse 28).

This is the same darkness which the prophets warned was already setting in on Israel when they rejected the Sabbath ordinance. Through the prophet, Isaiah, **יהוה** declared the following to the nation regarding their rejection of this perpetual statute:

³⁴ Psalm 106:19-20, Jeremiah 2:11-13, 26-28

³⁵ Psalm 101:3, 125:5

³⁶ Exodus 20:8-11, 31:12-17, Psalm 28:5, 92:4

³⁷ Deuteronomy 4:23-28, 31:29, Psalm 115:4-8, 135:14-18, Isaiah 2:8-9, 17:7-8, 37:18-19, Jeremiah 10:14-16, Micah 5:11-14

Cry aloud, spare not, lift up your voice like a trumpet, and show My people their transgression, and the house of Jacob their sins. 2 Yet they seek Me daily, and delight to know My ways, as a nation that did righteousness, and forsook not the ordinance³⁸ of their Elohim ... Isaiah 58:1-2

יהוה states Israel was transgressing against Him by rejecting His Shabbat ordinance.³⁹ Isaiah then indicates their need to seek יהוה by prayer, fasting, and alms, indicating Israel was *already in darkness* because of their Sabbath-related disobedience:

*Then shall your **light** break forth as the morning (58:8) ... then shall your **light** rise in obscurity, and your **darkness** shall be as the noonday (58:10).*

At the end of the chapter 58 discourse, Isaiah once again speaks of the Sabbath ordinance which Israel had forsaken, and this is the promise they were given, but only if they would turn back to יהוה once more:

13 If you turn away your foot from the Shabbat, from doing your pleasure on My set apart Day; and call the Shabbat a delight, the set apart of יהוה, honorable; and shall honor Him, not doing your own ways, nor finding your own pleasure, nor speaking your own words: 14 Then you shall delight yourself in יהוה; and I will cause you to ride upon the high places of the earth, and feed you with the heritage of Jacob your father: for the mouth of יהוה has spoken it. Isaiah 58:13

Yet the reality of this darkness and degeneration were not even new in Isaiah's time. Some 300 years before Isaiah, King David warned against the darkness and apostasy which come upon those who do not memorialize the creation as

³⁸ i.e., the Sabbath ordinance. This we will see momentarily.

³⁹ He did so, once again, in the closing lines of Isaiah. See Isaiah 66:23-24. Jeremiah, Ezekiel, and Nehemiah also warned Israel transgressing the Torah by violating the Seventh Day would result in the wrath and judgment of יהוה. Jeremiah 17:19-27, Ezekiel 20:1-31, and Nehemiah 13:15-18 יהוה stated through Ezekiel that Israel profaned the Sabbath and refused to keep it because of their idolatry! Ezekiel 20:16, 24. Thus, even when John, Sha'ul, and the other apostles spoke *against idolatry* they were speaking in favor of the Shabbat!

they fail to properly regard the works of the Creator's hands every Shabbat:

Because they regard not the works of יהוה, nor the operation of His hands, He shall break them down, and not build them up. Psalm 28:5, Isaiah 5:12

Psalm 92, *A Song for the Sabbath Day*,⁴⁰ echoes the importance of memorializing the creation as seen in the original Sabbath command:⁴¹

4 For You, יהוה, have made me glad through Your work: I will triumph in the works of Your hands. 5 יהוה, how great are Your works! and Your thoughts are very deep. Psalm 92:4-5

יהוה set before us an *awe-inspiring creation* that we might learn of Him through seeking and observation.⁴² While we are not *forbidden* to do this on any day, we are *commanded to do this every Shabbat!* But failing to regard the works of *His hands*, through memorializing the creation each Shabbat, Israel soon turned aside to worship the works of their own hands!⁴³ This is the very thing of which Sha'ul spoke in his letter to the Romans as he detailed Israel's falling away into darkness through rejecting the Shabbat:

And changed the splendor of the incorruptible Elohim into an image made like corruptible man, and birds, and four-footed beasts, and creeping things⁴⁴ ... Who changed the truth of Elohim into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator ... Romans 1:23,25

Such is the darkness which falls upon any nation, people, or individual who rejects the Shabbat. Such is the darkness which has now nearly swallowed up America due to the long-standing Evangelical rejection of the Shabbat. The flagrant idolatry and homosexuality of which Sha'ul warned in the first chapter of *Romans*⁴⁵ have now become rampant nationwide. Apart from true repentance, we

⁴⁰ While some translations have omitted this title, it appears in the original Hebrew of the Masoretic text.

⁴¹ Exodus 20:8-11, 31:12-17

⁴² Psalm 111:2, Acts 17:24-27, Romans 1:19-21

⁴³ Deuteronomy 4:23-28, 31:29, Psalm 115:4-8, 135:14-18, Isaiah 2:8-9, 17:7-8, 37:18-19, Jeremiah 10:14-16, Micah 5:11-14

⁴⁴ Psalm 106:19-20, Jeremiah 2:11-13, 26-28

⁴⁵ Romans 1:26-32

believe judgment, destruction, and captivity⁴⁶ will soon follow for America.

יהושע also warned of the darkness and apostasy which would come upon those who failed to walk in the light of the Torah – of which the Shabbat is a central pillar of worship!

Remember therefore from where you have fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto you quickly, and will remove your lampstand out of its place, unless you repent. Revelation 2:5

Those who do not walk in the light of the Torah, יהושע warns, will have their lampstand, or their understanding, *removed*. This is exactly what we saw in Romans as the hearts of the disobedient were *darkened* by failure to memorialize the Creator’s deeds through the True Worship surrounding the Sabbath. After the darkness, follows apostasy. Many congregations today have become stagnant, and in their failure to learn more of יהוה,⁴⁷ in their failure to progress in the obedience of faith,⁴⁸ the lampstand has been (or is being) removed. During His earthly ministry, יהושע gave a warning nearly identical to the one seen above in the *Revelation*:

35 יהושע, therefore, said to them, “Yet a little while is the light with you. Walk while you have the light, lest darkness overtake you: for he that walks in darkness does not know where he is going. 36 While you have the light, believe in the light, that children of light you may become.” These things יהושע spoke, and having gone away, He was hidden from them. John 12:35-36

יהושע will only speak the Word of יהוה for so long before He departs from those who will not heed His teachings. And after He departs, יהושע will be hidden from them: they will no longer have the Light of the world and will very likely degenerate into complete darkness. We have seen this occur many times with many assemblies and with many individuals; it is not a pleasant thing. Those who are encountering the truth of the Word, and who are rejecting it, must

⁴⁶ Daniel 11:33-35

⁴⁷ Or, as is so often the case, in their *rejection* of newly presented truth!

⁴⁸ Romans 1:5,16-18, 2:6-7,10,13, 3:31, 5:17, 6:1-4,6-7, 12-14,17-18,22, 8:3-4, 12:1-2, 13:8-10, 16:26

take heed: if we turn from His commandments the lampstand will be removed. This is true of any Torah command, but it is especially true of Shabbat – a central pillar of True Worship and the time which יהוה has weekly designated for seeking Him through unbroken seasons of prayer, worship, and study of the Torah. יהוה stated through Ezekiel that Israel profaned the Sabbath and refused to keep it because of their idolatry.⁴⁹ We believe this is the case in our day as well. Thus, even when John, Sha’ul, and the other apostles spoke *against idolatry*,⁵⁰ they were speaking in absolute favor of the Shabbat!

יהושע, once more, held forth the immutability of the Torah when He indicated the Sabbath was made for man.⁵¹ We see the intent of Shabbat goes *far beyond* providing us with mere physical rest, though that rest is quite important and most essential! Because of the purifying and light-bearing power of His Presence – the light and splendor which יהוה placed within the Sabbath – we believe Satan’s mystery of lawlessness⁵² was crafted to *hide the truth of the Seventh Day* and to steal⁵³ the opportunity for sanctification from all mankind. Partaking of the nature of יהוה⁵⁴ is the greatest opportunity anyone can have on this side of eternity: there is no greater goal, no greater privilege, and no greater honor. No wonder יהושע teaches us to seek His Kingdom and righteousness above all other things.⁵⁵ Shabbat observance remains an integral part of authentically seeking יהוה and His Kingdom.⁵⁶ And should this in any way surprise us since the

⁴⁹ Ezekiel 20:16, 24

⁵⁰ 1Corinthians 10:14, 2Corinthians 6:14-18, Galatians 5:19-21, Colossians 3:5-6, 1Thessalonians 1:9-10, 1John 5:21, Revelation 2:14,20, 9:20

⁵¹ Mark 2:27-28, Psalm 118:24. יהושע is the Sovereign over all He created, including the Sabbath. While many believers proclaim Him to be “Lord of All” [Acts 10:36], through rejecting the Sabbath, they unwittingly deny His Lordship. Mark 2:28

⁵² 2Thessalonians 2:7-9 [“iniquity” = lawlessness].

⁵³ John 10:10

⁵⁴ 2Peter 1:4

⁵⁵ Matthew 6:33

⁵⁶ Psalm 119:2, Isaiah 51:6-8, 56:1-8, 58:1-13, Matthew 6:9-10

Shabbat will be an integral part of the Kingdom to come?⁵⁷

אבנדהוזהטיכלמנסעפצקרה

We have shown why the Shabbat remains so very important for walking in the light of His countenance. Those who fail to observe Shabbat also fail to reverence the Sanctuary/Presence of יהוה which He has placed within this special period of set apart time. And in failing to walk with reverence before יהוה on Shabbat, multitudes fail to partake in the opportunity to rest and to be set apart by His loving and light-filled Presence.⁵⁸ May no one fail to see the all-important role which Shabbat observance has in the great opportunity to be set apart. This opportunity will only become a reality in the lives of those who keep His Sabbaths and reverence His Dwelling Place. In closing, we commend our readers to Elohim and to the word of His favor, which is able to build you up and to give you an inheritance among all those who are set apart.⁵⁹

C.P.
Northridge, CA
8/4/2005

Postscript

A final note on reverencing the Sanctuary, or Dwelling Place, of יהוה. Our study does not deny יהוה has, in the past, chosen to place His Name/Spirit/Presence among His people through the Tabernacle in the wilderness, or through the Ark of the Covenant, or through His House/Palace in Yerushalayim. Not only did יהוה choose to dwell in the midst of these various tabernacles, we find a *very strong witness* against those who failed to reverence His Presence surrounding these set apart items/dwelling places.⁶⁰ Many testify His Presence remains in Yerushalayim to this very day.⁶¹ However, יהוה Himself said He does not dwell in any tabernacle made by human hands.⁶² In stating this, יהוה is declaring His *ultimate dwelling place* is something quite different than any physical edifice. This Sanctuary, we believe, is the Presence of His Spirit placed

⁵⁷ Isaiah 2:1-5, 66:22-23

⁵⁸ 1John 4:8,16, 1John 1:5

⁵⁹ Acts 20:32

⁶⁰ Leviticus 10:1-3, 2Samuel 6:1-7, Daniel 5:1-30

⁶¹ Psalm 132:13-14

⁶² Isaiah 66:1-2, Acts 7:47-50, 17:24-25

within His people⁶³ and placed within His set apart times of worship: the Sabbaths and Feasts of יהוה. These are the ultimate dwelling places of His Spirit as they are *not made with human hands*, and these are the tabernacles which are of the greatest importance to reverence.

אבנדהוזהטיכלמנסעפצקרה

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We believe most copyrights have been abused worldwide in religious circles as false shepherds and other merchants feed on the sin of the people. These many abuses have filled the worship house of יהוה with money changers who hinder *True Worship* by robbing and oppressing the poor. Zechariah 7:10 Many have turned reverence and the worship of יהוה into a means of great, personal gain. Micah 3:11, 1Timothy 6:5-10, 1Peter 5:2 We assert such things were never meant to be, Isaiah 55:1,2, Mark 11:15-17. Hence, our copyright is intended to allow for *free distribution* of the word of יהוה with the following, minimal limitations:

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See: Matthew 11:5, Luke 4:19, Galatians 2:10

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⁶³ 1Corinthians 3:16-17, 6:19-20, 2Corinthians 6:16-18, Ephesians 2:19-22

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For other free documents which are offered to provide encouragement and edification from the word of יהוה, please refer to the following website:

<http://www.yahuyahweh.org/iah>

All documents mentioned in this article, apart from a reference source, may be found at the above website. There is abundant evidence the Law regarding the Shabbat was not abolished for New Covenant believers, even beyond the evidence seen in this meditation. For this information, interested readers may refer to Part 7 of the Appendix in the book, *“Is All Meat Meet to Eat?”*

The INSTITUTE FOR SCRIPTURE RESEARCH is an organization of Messianic believers based in South Africa. They have published an excellent version of the word of יהוה which is entitled *“The Scriptures.”* This present study refers to the INSTITUTE’S translation of the Scriptures as the **ISRV** – an acronym for, *“INSTITUTE FOR SCRIPTURE RESEARCH VERSION.”* For those who are interested in learning more about this version or in obtaining it for study, their web address is:

<http://www.isr-messianic.org/>

For further information on the paganism of Sunday worship – instituted in 321 C.E. and christened by the emperor, Constantine – see the *Bible Sabbath Association* website article, *“Roman Catholic and Protestant Confessions About Sunday:”*

<http://www.biblesabbath.org/confessions.html>