

## The School of Biblical Law

### Covenant and Law

#### Lesson Twenty-Two: “The Covenant Model and Commandment Four”

Commandment Four is recorded in Exodus 20:8-11 and reads, “Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy. Six days shall you labor and do all your work; but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord thy God; in it you shall not do any work, you, nor your son, nor your daughter, nor manservant, nor maidservant, nor cattle, nor the stranger that is within your gates. For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day; wherefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it.” Commandment four corresponds to the fourth section of the covenant model, which is sanctions.

Commandments 1-5	Covenant Model	Commandments 6-10
No other gods	Transcendence	
No graven images	Hierarchy	
Do not take God’s Name in vain	Ethics	
Remember the Sabbath Day	Sanctions	

1. The sanctions of blessings or cursing result from the obedience or disobedience, respectively, of the hierarchy to the ethics.

Sanctions are rewards, and the over-arching principle of the commandment that corresponds to covenant point four is that man may not assault the reward that God has determined and that man is due.

2. The foundation of the Sabbath is based on the creation account (verse 11).

Examples of a Sabbath rest are found in many areas of life: night follows a day of work; the sleep of death follows a life of work; the history of work ends at the consummation of the ages; Israel’s laws included weekly and yearly Sabbaths.

The commandment to honor the seventh day was given in the Law but was first observed in the gathering of manna in the wilderness (Ex. 16) where a double portion was collected and prepared on the sixth day in order for the Israelites to observe the Sabbath rest.

3. Leviticus 23:1-3 presents the Sabbath day in context with the other Feasts of Israel, therefore it was to be observed as a day of celebration.

Festivals were days that remembered the work of God as the nation’s Creator, Redeemer, Provider, and Covenant God; therefore the citizens were to celebrate the goodness of God in faith in what God had already accomplished and in faith that He would continue to perform all He had promised.

Fasting was forbidden except for the Day of Atonement.

4. Ezekiel 20:12 states that God gave Israel the Sabbaths “to be a sign between me and them, that they might know that I am the Lord that sanctify them.”

Sign is the Hebrew word *oth* (Strong’s #226) meaning a signal, omen, or evidence and implies a miraculous appearing.

- The provision of Manna and the preservation of it to supply for the Sabbath was supernatural.
- Sabbath-keeping affirms trust in supernatural provision without a day of work.
- Festival of Sabbath celebrates God a Creator, Redeemer, Provider, and Covenant God.

The prior three commandments were stated in the negative, “Thou shall not.” Most law is considered to be negative because law, by nature, puts a restraint on man. This commandment calls for a positive action for observance. This may be, in part, because this commandment celebrates the blessing of God’s supernatural supply and reward for His covenantal hierarchy.