

The School of Biblical Law

Covenant and Law

Lesson Twenty-Three: "The Covenant Model and Commandment Four, Part 2"

Commandment Four commands that the Sabbath day be honored and observed. The reward of rest and supernatural supply is attached to those who honor the principle of Sabbath, which is trust or faith in the blessings of God. Fulfillment of Sabbath-keeping is more about faith in the God of the day rather than focus upon the day of God.

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 pattern for the Sabbath Day is found in the creation account where God labored for six days and rested on the seventh.

Man was created on day six.

- Man, male and female, were created on the sixth day (Gen. 1:26-31)
- Adam was created first (Gen. 2:7-8)
- Eve was created later from Adam's rib (Gen. 2:21-25)
- Both male and female were created before the end of day six. "Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. 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." (Gen.2:1-2)

Man's first full day would have been on God's rest day or day seven.

2. The first Sabbath gives insight as to the meaning of this commandment.

Man should have entered the first Sabbath with celebration, thanksgiving, reveling in the reward God had provided for him.

Adam was to have enjoyed the rest of God before beginning his labor for God.

- Mankind's work pattern found in the first Sabbath was rest one/work six not work six/rest one.
- Had Adam rested by worship and faith on the seventh day, he would have been ready to enter day eight (or the first day of a new week – man's work week) as God's hierarchy to build heaven on the earth.

3. Scripture gives insight on how effectively Adam kept the Sabbath day holy.

Adam sought to change the reward.

- He attempted to cast off the reward system that God ordained.
- He attempted to establish a new reward through his own 'works.'
- He abandoned God's rest and sought to redefine his reality and home.
- Instead of worshipful submission, he offered disrespectful autonomy.

The result of Adam's lack of trust in the reward God had laid up for him was the loss of reward and the loss of rest.

- God placed a curse on the ground that required extra effort for reward.
- Adam lost his portion, his home, his future: his rest in this life.
- The threat of death and judgment took away his security in eternal rest.

Adam entered his day eight (or the first day of a new week – man's work week) as a fallen man with a fallen mind and fallen values to build a fallen world. Adam failed to honor the Sabbath when he failed to have faith in the God who ordained the day and who had already provided Adam with a reward that could never be matched by the works of man's hands.