

# Entering into Our Sabbath Rest

by Jim Rinker

*Exodus 31:14 "Ye shall keep the sabbath therefore; for it [is] holy unto you: every one that defileth it shall surely be put to death: for whosoever doeth [any] work therein, that soul shall be cut off from among his people".*



Why did God speak so numerously about the Sabbath? Why was it so important to God that we entered into a day of rest were we would do no work? Was He merely thinking of resting our flesh or did He have something completely different in mind?

The word Sabbath itself is *shabbat* (07673 in the Strong's). It's many meanings include:

- 1) to cease, desist, rest
  - 1a) (Qal)
    - 1a1) to cease
    - 1a2) to rest, desist (from labour)
  - 1b) (Niphal) to cease
  - 1c) (Hiphil)
    - 1c1) to cause to cease, put an end to
    - 1c2) to exterminate, destroy
    - 1c3) to cause to desist from
    - 1c4) to remove
    - 1c5) to cause to fail

So God was intent on the children of Israel to have a day of ceasing from their labors. Was this merely to rest the flesh? Human reasoning would say so.

**HIS WAYS ARE HIGHER THAN OUR WAYS  
AND HIS THOUGHTS HIGHER THAN OUR  
THOUGHTS!**

The Old Covenant along with its laws and statutes were, as glorious as they were, merely a foreshadow or symbol of the New Testament or Covenant that we now live under.

*Hebrews 8:5 "Who serve unto the example and shadow of heavenly things, as Moses was admonished of God when he was about to make the tabernacle: for, See, saith he, [that] thou make all things according to the pattern shewed to thee in the mount".*

*Hebrews 10:1 "For the law having a shadow of good things to come, [and] not the very image of the things, can never with those sacrifices which they offered year by year continually make the comers thereunto perfect".*

*1 Corinthians 10:11 "Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come".*

So what was the Sabbath, a foreshadow or symbol of?

The future millennial reign of Christ would be one event. Six days ye shall work but on the seventh day ye shall rest. Symbolism of the seventh 1000-year period or millennium was we "cease" from our labors is one meaning. When we are "transformed" in a twinkling of an eye from corruption to incorruption, from mortality to immortality, we will indeed enter into our rest.

I would say that the symbolism of the Sabbath has a much greater application for such a time as this. Although there is a future "kingdom", Jesus taught us to pray to the Father:

*Matthew 6:10 "Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as [it is] in heaven".*

So the application is for now. The key to this is ceasing from our labors. Jesus teaches us:

*Matthew 11:28-30 "Come unto me, all [ye] that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you <<rest>>. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find <<rest>> unto your souls. For my yoke [is] easy, and my burden is light".*

The symbolism of the Sabbath for today is that Jesus is our Sabbath rest. If we hide our lives in Christ and cease from our labor's (self life), yoking ourselves with Him, we will then cease from our labor's and enter into the kingdom realm were we only do the will of the Father.

*Galatians 2:20 "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me".*

Paul further elaborates on this doctrine.

*Hebrews 4:1-11 "Let us therefore fear, lest, a promise being left [us] of*

*entering into His rest, any of you should seem to come short of it.*

*2 For unto us was the gospel preached, as well as unto them: but the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard [it].*

*3 For we which have believed do enter into rest, as he said, As I have sworn in my wrath, if they shall enter into my rest: although the works were finished from the foundation of the world.*

*4 For he spake in a certain place of the seventh [day] on this wise, And God did rest the seventh day from all his works.*

*5 And in this [place] again, If they shall enter into my rest.*

*6 Seeing therefore it remaineth that some must enter therein, and they to whom it was first preached entered not in because of unbelief:*

*7 Again, he limiteth a certain day, saying in David, Today, after so long a time; as it is said, Today if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts.*

*8 For if Jesus had given them rest, then would he not afterward have spoken of another day.*

*9 There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God.*

*10 For he that is entered into his rest, he also hath ceased from his own works, as God [did] from his.*

*11 Let us labour therefore to enter into that rest, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief".*

In order for us to enter into His rest, we must cease from our labor! We must believe God and have our lives totally hidden in Him. We must cease from trusting in our own strength, our own labor's, and our own ideas and enter into the kingdom realm under the divine lordship of Jesus Christ so that we may do only His will. It is in the kingdom realm that we are equally yoked with Christ. This is the essence of the works vs. faith-based doctrine. We cease from our labors that we may enter into His rest...to do the will of the Father.

It's His grace, His power, His labor, His works...finished from the foundation of the world (Hebrews 4:3)...the finished work of Christ. We simply wait on God and allow Him to display His handwork and let Him move as He pleases, when He pleases, and through whom He pleases so that He may gain the glory He deserves and fulfill the plans He has laid out as He sees fit. All emphasis is on God from this perspective, not man. His works will stand! Our works will always fall short.

Entering the kingdom is for now!

*Matthew 6:10 "Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as [it is] in heaven".*

Paul teaches us, "let us labor to enter into that rest". That word labor is *spoudazo* (4704 in the Strong's) and means to be diligent, endeavor, or make haste. This is also borne out in the NASB translation. So Paul is saying that we should be diligent to run to the cross and die to our ways so that we may enter into His rest, having divine fellowship and intimacy (to know Him - Jewish idiom for marital relations; two becoming one) with the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit that we may be fully capable of doing the

will of the Father under His power and not our own efforts.

Let us therefore have the patience to wait on God in these last days and allow Him to work in us both to will and to do His good pleasure. Let us take upon us His yoke, because His yoke is easy and His burden is light. Let us cease from our labors, our ways, and our thoughts so that we may enter into His rest.