

# The Law For Life

## Week 2: The Law for Today Sabbath as a Model for 21<sup>st</sup> Century Application *Grace BFC – Summer 2011 – by Mark Bickel*

~ TEACHING ~

**\*\* Note – did not complete week 1 last week, so first 12 pages are summary things from lesson 1 – new material begins on page 13 \*\***

### **Exodus Overview**

- Book of Deliverance
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Creation (creation not of all mankind, but of God's people)
- Key Stories
  - Moses birth, protection, life in Pharaohs house and in dessert
  - Burning Bush, call to deliver the people
  - Plagues, Passover and Deliverance
  - Red Sea and God's Provision in Dessert
  - Mount Sinia and the giving of the Law
  - The Golden Calf and the Intercession of Moses
  - The Tabernacle and the Glory of God

### **1. The Deliverance Narrative (1:1-15:21)**

#### **Exodus 1-6**

- *Israel Increases Greatly in Egypt*
- *Pharaoh Oppresses Israel*
- *The Birth of Moses*
- *Moses Flees to Midian*
- *God Hears Israel's Groaning*
- *The Burning Bush*
- *Moses Given Powerful Signs*
- *Moses Returns to Egypt*
- *Making Bricks Without Straw*
- *God Promises Deliverance*
- *The Genealogy of Moses and Aaron*

## **Exodus 7-11**

- 10 Plagues

## **Exodus 12-15**

- The Passover
- Final Plague
- Exodus
- Consecration of the Firstborn
- The Feast of Unleavened Bread
- Pillars of Cloud and Fire
- Crossing the Red Sea

## **Exodus 15**

- The Song of Moses

*1 Then Moses and the people of Israel sang this song to the LORD, saying,*

***"I will sing to the LORD, for he has triumphed gloriously; the horse and his rider he has thrown into the sea.***

***2 The LORD is my strength and my song, and he has become my salvation; this is my God, and I will praise him, my father's God, and I will exalt him.***

***3 The LORD is a man of war; the LORD is his name.***

...

***11 "Who is like you, O LORD, among the gods? Who is like you, majestic in holiness, awesome in glorious deeds, doing wonders? 12 You stretched out your right hand; the earth swallowed them.***

***13 "You have led in your steadfast love the people whom you have redeemed; you have guided them by your strength to your holy abode. 14 The peoples have heard; they tremble; pangs have seized the inhabitants of Philistia. 15 Now are the chiefs of Edom dismayed; trembling seizes the leaders of Moab; all the inhabitants of Canaan have melted away. 16 Terror and dread fall upon them; because of the greatness of your arm, they are still as a stone, till your people, O LORD, pass by, till the people pass by whom you have purchased. 17 You will bring them in and plant them on your own mountain, the place, O LORD, which you have made for your abode, the sanctuary, O Lord, which your hands have established. 18 The LORD will reign forever and ever."***

## 2. In the Wilderness (15:22-18:27)

### Exodus 15 - 18

- Bitter Water Made Sweet
- Bread from Heaven
- Water from the Rock
- Israel Defeats Amalek
- Jethro's Advice

## 3. Covenant and Law (19-24)

### Exodus 19

- Israel at Mount Sinai

**1**On the third new moon after the people of Israel had gone out of the land of Egypt, on that day they came into the wilderness of Sinai. **2**They set out from Rephidim and came into the wilderness of Sinai, and they encamped in the wilderness. There Israel encamped before the mountain, **3**while Moses went up to God. The LORD called to him out of the mountain, saying, "Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob, and tell the people of Israel: **4** **You yourselves have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself.** **5**Now therefore, if you will indeed obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession among all peoples, for all the earth is mine; **6**and you shall be to me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation. These are the words that you shall speak to the people of Israel."

**7**So Moses came and called the elders of the people and set before them all these words that the LORD had commanded him. **8** **All the people answered together and said, "All that the LORD has spoken we will do."** And Moses reported the words of the people to the LORD.

**9**And the LORD said to Moses, "**Behold, I am coming to you in a thick cloud, that the people may hear when I speak with you, and may also believe you forever.**"

When Moses told the words of the people to the LORD, **10**the LORD said to Moses, "**Go to the people and consecrate them today and tomorrow, and let them wash their garments** **11**and be ready for the third day. For on the third day the LORD will come down on Mount Sinai in the sight of all the people.

**16**On the morning of the third day there were thunders and lightnings and a thick cloud on the mountain and a very loud trumpet blast, so that all the people in the camp trembled. **17**Then Moses brought the people out of the camp to meet God, and they took their stand at the foot of the mountain. **18**Now Mount Sinai was wrapped in smoke because the LORD had descended on it in fire. The smoke of it went up like the smoke of a kiln, and the whole mountain trembled greatly. **19**And as the sound of the trumpet grew louder and louder, Moses spoke, and God answered him in thunder. **20**The LORD came down on Mount Sinai, to the top of the mountain. And the LORD called Moses to the top of the mountain, and Moses went up.

## Exodus 20

- The Ten Commandments

**1** And God spoke all these words, saying,

**2** **"I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.**

- **NOTE:** Ten Commandments predicated on the LORD being the God who delivered them – it is that God you are to worship, and that God who tells Israel how to live

**3** "You shall have no other gods before me.

**4** "You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. **5** You shall not bow down to them or serve them, for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and the fourth generation of those who hate me, **6**but showing steadfast love to thousands[c] of those who love me and keep my commandments.

**7** "You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not hold him guiltless who takes his name in vain.

**8** "Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. **9** Six days you shall labor, and do all your work, **10**but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, you, or your son, or your daughter, your male servant, or your female servant, or your livestock, or the sojourner who is within your gates. **11**For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.

**12** "Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.

**13** "You shall not murder.[d]

**14** "You shall not commit adultery.

**15** "You shall not steal.

**16** "You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

**17** "You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his male servant, or his female servant, or his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is your neighbor's."

**18** Now when all the people saw the thunder and the flashes of lightning and the sound of the trumpet and the mountain smoking, the people were afraid and trembled, and they stood far off **19** and said to Moses, "You speak to us, and we will listen; but do not let God speak to us, lest we die." **20** Moses said to the people, "Do not fear, for God has come to test you, that the fear of him may be before you, that you may not sin." **21** The people stood far off, while Moses drew near to the thick darkness where God was.

### **Exodus 20-23**

- Laws About Altars
- Laws About Slaves
- Laws About Restitution
- Laws About Social Justice
- Laws About the Sabbath and Festivals
- Conquest of Canaan Promised

### **Exodus 24**

- The Covenant Confirmed

**7** Then he took the Book of the Covenant and read it in the hearing of the people. And they said, "All that the LORD has spoken we will do, and we will be obedient." **8** And Moses took the blood and threw it on the people and said, "Behold the blood of the covenant that the LORD has made with you in accordance with all these words."

**9** Then Moses and Aaron, Nadab, and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel went up, **10** and they saw the God of Israel. There was under his feet as it were a pavement of sapphire stone, like the very heaven for clearness. **11** And he did not lay his hand on the chief men of the people of Israel; they beheld God, and ate and drank.

**12** The LORD said to Moses, "Come up to me on the mountain and wait there, that I may give you the tablets of stone, with the law and the commandment, which I have written for their instruction

**15** Then Moses went up on the mountain, and the cloud covered the mountain. **16** The glory of the LORD dwelt on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it six days. And on the seventh day he called to Moses out of the midst of the cloud. **17** Now the appearance of the glory of the LORD was like a devouring fire on the top of the mountain in the sight of the people of Israel. **18** Moses entered the cloud and went up on the mountain. And Moses was on the mountain forty days and forty nights.

#### 4. The Blueprints for the Tabernacle and It's Service (25-31)

#### 5. Infidelity and Reconciliation (32-34)

### Exodus 32

- *The Golden Calf*

*1* When the people saw that Moses delayed to come down from the mountain, the people gathered themselves together to Aaron and said to him, "**Up, make us gods who shall go before us. As for this Moses, the man who brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him.**" *2* So Aaron said to them, "Take off the rings of gold that are in the ears of your wives, your sons, and your daughters, and bring them to me." *3* So all the people took off the rings of gold that were in their ears and brought them to Aaron. *4* **And he received the gold from their hand and fashioned it with a graving tool and made a golden calf. And they said, "These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!"** *5* When Aaron saw this, he built an altar before it. And Aaron made proclamation and said, "Tomorrow shall be a feast to the LORD." *6* And they rose up early the next day and offered burnt offerings and brought peace offerings. And the people sat down to eat and drink and rose up to play.

*7* And the LORD said to Moses, "**Go down, for your people, whom you brought up out of the land of Egypt, have corrupted themselves. 8** They have turned aside quickly out of the way that I commanded them. They have made for themselves a golden calf and have worshiped it and sacrificed to it and said, 'These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!'" *9* And the LORD said to Moses, "**I have seen this people, and behold, it is a stiff-necked people. 10** Now therefore let me alone, that my wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them, in order that I may make a great nation of you."

*11* But Moses implored the LORD his God and said, "O LORD, why does your wrath burn hot against your people, whom you have brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand? *12* Why should the Egyptians say, 'With evil intent did he bring them out, to kill them in the mountains and to consume them from the face of the earth'? Turn from your burning anger and relent from this disaster against your people. *13* **Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, your servants, to whom you swore by your own self,** and said to them, 'I will multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have promised I will give to your offspring, and they shall inherit it forever.'"

*14* And the LORD relented from the disaster that he had spoken of bringing on his people.

*15* Then Moses turned and went down from the mountain with the two tablets of the testimony in his hand, tablets that were written on both sides; on the front and on the back they were written. *16* The tablets were the work of God, and the writing was the writing of God, engraved on the tablets. *17* When Joshua heard the noise of the people as they shouted, he said to Moses, "There is a noise of war in the camp." *18* But he said, "It is not the sound of shouting for victory, or the sound of the cry of defeat, but the sound of singing that I hear." *19* And as soon as he came near the camp and saw the calf and the dancing, Moses' anger burned hot, and he threw the tablets out of his hands and broke them at the foot of the mountain. *20* He took the calf that they had made and burned it with fire and ground it to powder and scattered it on the water and made the people of Israel drink it.

*21* And Moses said to Aaron, "What did this people do to you that you have brought such a great sin upon them?" *22* And Aaron said, "Let not the anger of my lord burn hot. You know the people, that they are set on evil. *23* For they said to me, 'Make us gods who shall go before us. As for this Moses, the man who brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him.' *24* So I said to them, 'Let any who have gold take it off.' **So they gave it to me, and I threw it into the fire, and out came this calf.**"

*25* And when Moses saw that the people had broken loose (for Aaron had let them break loose, to the derision of their enemies), *26* then Moses stood in the gate of the camp and said, "**Who is on the LORD's side? Come to me.**" And all the sons of Levi gathered around him. *27* And he said to them, "Thus says the LORD God of Israel, 'Put your sword on your side each of you, and go to and fro from gate to gate throughout the camp, and each of you kill his brother and his companion and his neighbor.'" *28* And the sons of Levi did according to the word of Moses. And that day about three thousand men of the people fell. *29* And Moses said, "Today you have been ordained for the service of the LORD, each one at the cost of his son and of his brother, so that he might bestow a blessing upon you this day."

*30* The next day Moses said to the people, "**You have sinned a great sin. And now I will go up to the LORD; perhaps I can make atonement for your sin.**" *31* So Moses returned to the LORD and said, "Alas, this people has sinned a great sin. They have made for themselves gods of gold. *32* But now, if you will forgive their sin—but if not, please blot me out of your book that you have written." *33* But the LORD said to Moses, "Whoever has sinned against me, I will blot out of my book. *34* But now go, lead the people to the place about which I have spoken to you; behold, my angel shall go before you. Nevertheless, in the day when I visit, I will visit their sin upon them."

*35* Then the **LORD sent a plague on the people**, because they made the calf, the one that Aaron made.

- **Why did Golden Calf Happen?**
  - People were stiff-necked
  - **Difference between hard-heart and stiff-neck? Nothing!**
  - **Difference between Pharaoh and Israel? Nothing!**
    - It is only God's orientation toward them
    - God's covenant with Abraham is only difference
  
- **We Need a Mediator**
  - To speak for God
  - To Interceded
  - **Christ our Mediator – I Timothy 2:5-6**

*For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all, which is the testimony given at the proper time.*

### **Exodus 33**

- *The Command to Leave Sinai*

**1**The LORD said to Moses, **"Depart; go up from here, you and the people whom you have brought up out of the land of Egypt, to the land of which I swore to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, saying, 'To your offspring I will give it.'** **2**I will send an angel before you, and I will drive out the Canaanites, the Amorites, the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. **3** Go up to a land flowing with milk and honey; **but I will not go up among you, lest I consume you on the way, for you are a stiff-necked people."**

**4**When the people heard this disastrous word, they mourned, and no one put on his ornaments. **5**For the LORD had said to Moses, "Say to the people of Israel, 'You are a stiff-necked people; if for a single moment I should go up among you, I would consume you. So now take off your ornaments, that I may know what to do with you.'" **6**Therefore the people of Israel stripped themselves of their ornaments, from Mount Horeb onward.

- *The Tent of Meeting*

**7**Now Moses used to take the tent and pitch it outside the camp, far off from the camp, and he called it the tent of meeting. And **everyone who sought the LORD would go out to the tent of meeting, which was outside the camp.** **8**Whenever Moses went out to the tent, all the people would rise up, and each would stand at his tent door, and watch Moses until he had gone into the tent. **9**When Moses entered the tent, the pillar of cloud would descend and stand at the entrance of the tent, and the LORD would speak with Moses. **10**And when all the people saw the pillar of cloud standing at the entrance of the tent, all the people would rise up and worship, each at his tent door. **11**Thus the LORD used to speak to Moses face to face, as a man speaks to

- his friend.** When Moses turned again into the camp, his assistant Joshua the son of Nun, a young man, would not depart from the tent.
- *Moses' Intercession*

**12**Moses said to the LORD, "See, you say to me, 'Bring up this people,' but you have not let me know whom you will send with me. Yet you have said, 'I know you by name, and you have also found favor in my sight.' **13**Now therefore, if I have found favor in your sight, please show me now your ways, that I may know you in order to find favor in your sight. Consider too that this nation is your people." **14**And he said, "My presence will go with you, and I will give you rest." **15**And he said to him, "**If your presence will not go with me, do not bring us up from here.** **16**For how shall it be known that I have found favor in your sight, I and your people? Is it not in your going with us, so that we are distinct, I and your people, from every other people on the face of the earth?"

**17**And the LORD said to Moses, "This very thing that you have spoken I will do, for you have found favor in my sight, and I know you by name." **18**Moses said, "**Please show me your glory.**"

**19**And he said, "**I will make all my goodness pass before you and will proclaim before you my name 'The LORD.'** And I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will show mercy on whom I will show mercy. **20**But," he said, "you cannot see my face, for man shall not see me and live." **21**And the LORD said, "**Behold, there is a place by me where you shall stand on the rock, 22and while my glory passes by I will put you in a cleft of the rock, and I will cover you with my hand until I have passed by. 23Then I will take away my hand, and you shall see my back, but my face shall not be seen.**"

### Exodus 34

- *Moses Makes New Tablets*

**1**The LORD said to Moses, "**Cut for yourself two tablets of stone like the first, and I will write on the tablets the words that were on the first tablets, which you broke.** **2**Be ready by the morning, and come up in the morning to Mount Sinai, and present yourself there to me on the top of the mountain. **3**No one shall come up with you, and let no one be seen throughout all the mountain. Let no flocks or herds graze opposite that mountain." **4**So Moses cut two tablets of stone like the first. And he rose early in the morning and went up on Mount Sinai, as the LORD had commanded him, and took in his hand two tablets of stone.

**5The LORD descended in the cloud and stood with him there, and proclaimed the name of the LORD. 6The LORD passed before him and proclaimed,**

**"The LORD, the LORD, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, 7 keeping steadfast love for thousands,[q] forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, but who will by no means clear the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children and the children's children, to the third and the fourth generation."**

**8And Moses quickly bowed his head toward the earth and worshiped. 9And he said, "If now I have found favor in your sight, O Lord, please let the Lord go in the midst of us, for it is a stiff-necked people, and pardon our iniquity and our sin, and take us for your inheritance."**

- *The Covenant Renewed*

**10And he said, "Behold, I am making a covenant. Before all your people I will do marvels, such as have not been created in all the earth or in any nation. And all the people among whom you are shall see the work of the LORD, for it is an awesome thing that I will do with you.**

- **God Shows Himself & Declares His Name** (key verses: Exodus 34:5-10)
  - Judges Sin
  - Speaks Face to Face
  - Answers Prayer
  - Glory Passes By
  - Declares His Name (Exodus 34:5-10)
  - Moses – A Face That Shone
  - **Today – Veil Removed (II Cor. 3:12-18)**

*Since we have such a hope, we are very bold, not like Moses, who would put a veil over his face so that the Israelites might not gaze at the outcome of what was being brought to an end. But their minds were hardened. For to this day, when they read the old covenant, that same veil remains unlifted, because only through Christ is it taken away. Yes, to this day whenever Moses is read a veil lies over their hearts. But when one turns to the Lord, the veil is removed. Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.*

- **NOTE Presence of God through Exodus**
  - Hear cry
  - Speak to Moses
  - Show Power (and protection for Israel)
  - Guide in cloud and fire
  - Descend on Mountain
  - then – after sin and threatening to kill people, or let them go on without him – God passes by Moses
  - Comes to live in the camp!
  
- **NOTE on God’s Presence in Mountain / Tabernacle**
  - **Mountain:** People at bottom, elders in middle, God meet Moses and in a once in a lifetime experience pass by Him ... Moses also serve as mediator for people
  - **Tabernacle:** Court for people, Holy Place for priest, Holy of Holies for presence of God and high priest once a year ... High Priest serve as mediator for the people

## 6. **The Building of the Tabernacle (35-40)**

### **Exodus 40**

- *The Tabernacle Erected*

***16This Moses did; according to all that the LORD commanded him, so he did. 17In the first month in the second year, on the first day of the month, the tabernacle was erected.***

- *The Glory of the LORD*

***34Then the cloud covered the tent of meeting, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle. 35And Moses was not able to enter the tent of meeting because the cloud settled on it, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle. 36Throughout all their journeys, whenever the cloud was taken up from over the tabernacle, the people of Israel would set out. 37But if the cloud was not taken up, then they did not set out till the day that it was taken up. 38For the cloud of the LORD was on the tabernacle by day, and fire was in it by night, in the sight of all the house of Israel throughout all their journeys.***

## The Central Themes of Exodus

- God's Power
- God's Mercy
- God's Deliverance
- God's Law
- God's Presence
- Man's Sinfulness (parallels between Egyptians and Israelites!)
- God's Grace
  - All above attributes of God exercised in spite of knowing Israel would rebel
  - God's presence comes closer and Israel moves further away!
- Salvation by Grace Alone
  - Rescue from God's hand alone
  - Redemption not based on obedience to law – first deliverance comes before law, and later redemption comes when Israel breaks first command as it is given!
  - Something greater needed – all miracles and laws of Exodus not enough to change hearts!

## Exodus for Life

- How do we apply these themes?

### Application from Exodus:

- Do you cry out to God in distress? Do you trust God to hear your cry?
- **Who is this God** you come to – just father, friend – or the God of the universe, the God of all power, the God of fire, the Holy God who can't be in presence of sin?
- What **idols** have we set up? Where are we **stiff-necked**?
- Do you **intercede** with God for his name and his people?
- Would you ever **ask God to show you His glory**? And expect Him to do it!
- Do you **talk with God** face to face?

### Application through Christ

- **How does God show his power?** In creation, and most of all in his incarnation in Christ!
  - **Who will intercede** for us as Moses did for the people? Christ lives to intercede for us
  - **How is our sin atoned for?** Christ's once for all Sacrifice
  - Can we **come into God's presence** like Moses / High Priest? Yes, Heb. Says come boldly because of Christ ... veil is torn, sin is atoned for
  - **Where is God now?** He now dwells in us with the Holy Spirit
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- We often want to see miracles of Exodus and see / speak to God as Moses – we have it better!
  - **close section with Video: A Face That Shone** (song by Michael Card, lyrics in handout)
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## Understanding and Applying the Sabbath as a Model for all the Law

- **Main text today** – Law regarding the Sabbath
- **Secondary Goal for Today** – Understand and Apply the Sabbath
- **Primary Goal for Today** – as we look at the Sabbath develop model for Understanding and Applying all of the Law.

### Principle 1: Read the Law, each place it is presented, and note what the passages say about it

- **Sabbath** is part of the **10 Commandments**, which are given in **Exodus 20** and **Deuteronomy 5**

#### Exodus 20:8-11

<sup>8</sup> “Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. <sup>9</sup> Six days you shall labor and do all your work, <sup>10</sup> but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, neither you, nor your son or daughter, nor your manservant or maidservant, nor your animals, nor the alien within your gates. <sup>11</sup> For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but he rested on the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.

#### Deuteronomy 5:12-15

<sup>2</sup> “Observe the Sabbath day by keeping it holy, as the LORD your God has commanded you. <sup>13</sup> Six days you shall labor and do all your work, <sup>14</sup> but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, neither you, nor your son or daughter, nor your manservant or maidservant, nor your ox, your donkey or any of your animals, nor the alien within your gates, so that your manservant and maidservant may rest, as you do. <sup>15</sup> Remember that you were slaves in Egypt and that the LORD your God brought you out of there with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm. Therefore the LORD your God has commanded you to observe the Sabbath day.

- **What do we learn about the Sabbath here?**
  - Israel is commanded to Remember / Observe it ... how?
    - By keeping it Holy ... how?
    - As God commands
  - What is the Sabbath? How do people observe it?
    - They work 6 days, and on the seventh do no work
    - Everyone is given rest – people of God, all family, servants, animals, alien in city ...
  - Why does God command a Sabbath?
    - Exodus: Creation – God worked 6 days, rested on the seventh ... thus made it holy
    - Deuteronomy: Deliverance – You were slaves (i.e. no rest), God delivered, therefore observe the Sabbath (rest, and honor the God who delivered you)

- Sabbath Notes
  - Holy – not just day to relax, rather day to be holy, special day for God
  - Unique – most religions have form of other commands, but this is Israel’s, makes separate
  - Gracious Provision – not have to work 7 days, or worship 6 and only work 1 ...

## **Principle 2: Look for Applications of the Law within the Old Testament**

- **How did Moses and the people in the Pentateuch observe the Sabbath?**

- Note: word “Sabbath” appears 94x in OT, 57x in NT in ESV
- **1<sup>st</sup> Observation of Sabbath** – God in Genesis 2!

### **Genesis 2:1-3**

<sup>1</sup> Thus the heavens and the earth were completed in all their vast array.

<sup>2</sup> By the seventh day God had finished the work he had been doing; **so on the seventh day he rested from all his work.** <sup>3</sup> And **God blessed the seventh day and made it holy**, because on it he rested from all the work of creating that he had done.

- Also see God setting up this principle in the deliverance, **before 10 Commandments** given

### **Exodus 16:13-30**

<sup>13</sup> That evening quail came and covered the camp, and in the morning there was a layer of dew around the camp. <sup>14</sup> When the dew was gone, thin flakes like frost on the ground appeared on the desert floor. <sup>15</sup> When the Israelites saw it, they said to each other, “What is it?” For they did not know what it was.

Moses said to them, **“It is the bread the LORD has given you to eat.** <sup>16</sup> This is what the LORD has commanded: ‘Each one is to gather as much as he needs. Take an omer for each person you have in your tent.’”

<sup>17</sup> The Israelites did as they were told; some gathered much, some little. <sup>18</sup> And when they measured it by the omer, he who gathered much did not have too much, and he who gathered little did not have too little. Each one gathered as much as he needed.

<sup>19</sup> Then Moses said to them, **“No one is to keep any of it until morning.”**

<sup>20</sup> However, some of them paid no attention to Moses; they kept part of it until morning, but it was full of maggots and began to smell. So Moses was angry with them.

<sup>21</sup> Each morning everyone gathered as much as he needed, and when the sun grew hot, it melted away. <sup>22</sup> **On the sixth day, they gathered twice as much**—two omers for each person—and the leaders of the community came and reported this to Moses. <sup>23</sup> He said to them, “This is what the LORD commanded: **‘Tomorrow is to be a day of rest, a holy Sabbath to the LORD.** So bake what you want to bake and boil what you want to boil. Save whatever is left and keep it until morning.’”

<sup>24</sup> So they saved it until morning, as Moses commanded, and it did not stink or get maggots in it. <sup>25</sup> "Eat it today," Moses said, "**because today is a Sabbath to the LORD. You will not find any of it on the ground today.**" <sup>26</sup> **Six days you are to gather it, but on the seventh day, the Sabbath, there will not be any."**

<sup>27</sup> Nevertheless, some of the people went out on the seventh day to gather it, but they found none. <sup>28</sup> Then the LORD said to Moses, "How long will you refuse to keep my commands and my instructions?" <sup>29</sup> **Bear in mind that the LORD has given you the Sabbath; that is why on the sixth day he gives you bread for two days. Everyone is to stay where he is on the seventh day; no one is to go out."** <sup>30</sup> **So the people rested on the seventh day.**

- Sabbath Year, Sabbath Day, and yearly Festivals set up on Mt. Sinia

### Exodus 23:10-14...

<sup>10</sup> "For six years you are to sow your fields and harvest the crops, <sup>11</sup> but during the seventh year let the land lie unplowed and unused. Then the poor among your people may get food from it, and the wild animals may eat what they leave. Do the same with your vineyard and your olive grove.

<sup>12</sup> "**Six days do your work, but on the seventh day do not work, so that your ox and your donkey may rest and the slave born in your household, and the alien as well, may be refreshed.**

<sup>13</sup> "**Be careful to do everything I have said to you. Do not invoke the names of other gods; do not let them be heard on your lips.**

<sup>14</sup> "**Three times a year you are to celebrate a festival to me. ...**

- Eternal sign, for every generation to celebrate ... **Death for all who do any work on the Sabbath!**

### Exodus 31:12-18

<sup>12</sup> Then the LORD said to Moses, <sup>13</sup> "Say to the Israelites, '**You must observe my Sabbaths. This will be a sign between me and you for the generations to come, so you may know that I am the LORD, who makes you holy**

<sup>14</sup> "'Observe the Sabbath, because it is holy to you. **Anyone who desecrates it must be put to death; whoever does any work on that day must be cut off from his people.** <sup>15</sup> For six days, work is to be done, but the seventh day is a Sabbath of rest, holy to the LORD. **Whoever does any work on the Sabbath day must be put to death.** <sup>16</sup> The Israelites are to observe the Sabbath, **celebrating it for the generations to come as a lasting covenant.** <sup>17</sup> It will be a **sign between me and the Israelites forever, for in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, and on the seventh day he abstained from work and rested.**'"

<sup>18</sup> When the LORD finished speaking to Moses on Mount Sinai, he gave him the two tablets of the Testimony, the tablets of stone inscribed by the finger of God.

- Instruction from Moses – do **not even light a fire** on the Sabbath

**Exodus 35:1-3**

<sup>1</sup> Moses assembled the **whole Israelite community** and said to them, “These are the things the LORD has commanded you to do: <sup>2</sup> For six days, work is to be done, but the seventh day shall be your holy day, a Sabbath of rest to the LORD. **Whoever does any work on it must be put to death.** <sup>3</sup> **Do not light a fire in any of your dwellings on the Sabbath day.**”

- Leviticus has lots of **laws governing Sabbath**, many of the Festivals start or end with sacrifices and ceremonies on the Sabbath, as well as Sabbath Offerings in Tabernacle ... (word Sabbath appears 19x in Leviticus alone)
- **Leviticus 25 sets up Sabbath Year** every 7 years, and **Year of Jubilee** every 50 years (after 7x7 years)
- Leviticus promises  **blessings for nation if observe Sabbath , curse if not**

**Leviticus 26:1-5, 27-35**

<sup>1</sup> “Do not make idols or set up an image or a sacred stone for yourselves, and do not place a carved stone in your land to bow down before it. I am the LORD your God.

<sup>2</sup> “**Observe my Sabbaths and have reverence for my sanctuary. I am the LORD.**

<sup>3</sup> “**If you follow my decrees and are careful to obey my commands,** <sup>4</sup> **I will send you rain in its season, and the ground will yield its crops and the trees of the field their fruit.** <sup>5</sup> Your threshing will continue until grape harvest and the grape harvest will continue until planting, and you will eat all the food you want and live in safety in your land. ...

<sup>27</sup> “**If in spite of this you still do not listen to me but continue to be hostile toward me,** <sup>28</sup> then in my anger I will be hostile toward you, and I myself will punish you for your sins seven times over. <sup>29</sup> You will eat the flesh of your sons and the flesh of your daughters. <sup>30</sup> I will destroy your high places, cut down your incense altars and pile your dead bodies on the lifeless forms of your idols, and I will abhor you. <sup>31</sup> I will turn your cities into ruins and lay waste your sanctuaries, and I will take no delight in the pleasing aroma of your offerings. <sup>32</sup> I will lay waste the land, so that your enemies who live there will be appalled. <sup>33</sup> I will scatter you among the nations and will draw out my sword and pursue you. Your land will be laid waste, and your cities will lie in ruins. <sup>34</sup> **Then the land will enjoy its sabbath years all the time that it lies desolate and you are in the country of your enemies; then the land will rest and enjoy its sabbaths.** <sup>35</sup> **All the time that it lies desolate, the land will have the rest it did not have during the sabbaths you lived in it.**

- While in dessert, shortly after 10 Commandments, see **seriousness of disobeying command**

### **Numbers 15:32-36**

<sup>32</sup> While the Israelites were in the desert, **a man was found gathering wood on the Sabbath day.** <sup>33</sup> Those who found him gathering wood brought him to Moses and Aaron and the whole assembly, <sup>34</sup> and they kept him in custody, because it was not clear what should be done to him. <sup>35</sup> Then the LORD said to Moses, **“The man must die. The whole assembly must stone him outside the camp.”** <sup>36</sup> So the assembly took him outside the camp and stoned him to death, as the LORD commanded Moses.

- **Nehemiah finds the law, and sees they are breaking the Sabbath ... so goes and fixes it!**

### **Nehemiah 13:1, 15-22**

<sup>1</sup> On that day **the Book of Moses was read aloud** in the hearing of the people and there it was found written...

<sup>15</sup> In those days **I saw men in Judah treading winepresses on the Sabbath** and bringing in grain and loading it on donkeys, together with wine, grapes, figs and all other kinds of loads. And they were bringing all this into Jerusalem on the Sabbath. Therefore I warned them against selling food on that day. <sup>16</sup> Men from Tyre who lived in Jerusalem were bringing in fish and all kinds of merchandise and **selling them in Jerusalem on the Sabbath to the people of Judah.** <sup>17</sup> I rebuked the nobles of Judah and said to them, **“What is this wicked thing you are doing—desecrating the Sabbath day?”** <sup>18</sup> Didn’t your forefathers do the same things, so that our God brought all this calamity upon us and upon this city? Now you are stirring up more wrath against Israel by desecrating the Sabbath.”

<sup>19</sup> When evening shadows fell on the gates of Jerusalem before the Sabbath, **I ordered the doors to be shut and not opened until the Sabbath was over.** I stationed some of my own men at the gates so that no load could be brought in on the Sabbath day. <sup>20</sup> Once or twice the merchants and sellers of all kinds of goods spent the night outside Jerusalem. <sup>21</sup> But I warned them and said, “Why do you spend the night by the wall? If you do this again, I will lay hands on you.” From that time on they no longer came on the Sabbath. <sup>22</sup> **Then I commanded the Levites to purify themselves and go and guard the gates in order to keep the Sabbath day holy.**

- **Psalms provides a more positive picture with this song for the Sabbath**

### **Psalm 92**

**A psalm. A song. For the Sabbath day.**

<sup>1</sup> It is good to praise the LORD  
and make music to your name, O Most High,  
<sup>2</sup> to proclaim your love in the morning  
and your faithfulness at night,  
<sup>3</sup> to the music of the ten-stringed lyre  
and the melody of the harp. ...

- **Isaiah commends the Sabbath**, and shows the blessings of keeping it

**Isaiah 56:1-2**

<sup>1</sup> *This is what the LORD says:*

*“Maintain justice  
and do what is right,  
for **my salvation is close at hand**  
and my righteousness will soon be revealed.*

<sup>2</sup> **Blessed is the man** who does this,  
*the man who holds it fast,  
**who keeps the Sabbath without desecrating it,  
and keeps his hand from doing any evil.”***

**Isaiah 58:13-14**

<sup>13</sup> *“If you **keep your feet from breaking the Sabbath**  
and **from doing as you please on my holy day**,  
if you call the Sabbath **a delight**  
and the LORD’s holy day **honorable**,  
and if you **honor it by not going your own way**  
and **not doing as you please or speaking idle words**,*  
<sup>14</sup> *then **you will find your joy in the LORD**,  
and I will cause you to ride on the heights of the land  
and **to feast on the inheritance** of your father Jacob.”*  
*The mouth of the LORD has spoken.*

- Isaiah condemns those who would **keep the Sabbath simply as law**, with **no heart & deeds** to match

**Isaiah 1:10-17**

<sup>10</sup> *Hear the word of the LORD, you rulers of Sodom;  
listen to the law of our God, you people of Gomorrah!*

<sup>11</sup> *“The multitude of your sacrifices— what are they to me?” says the LORD.*

*“I have more than enough of burnt offerings, of rams and the fat of fattened animals;  
I have no pleasure in the blood of bulls and lambs and goats.*

<sup>12</sup> *When you come to appear before me, who has asked this of you, this trampling of my courts?*

<sup>13</sup> *Stop bringing meaningless offerings! Your incense is detestable to me.*

*New Moons, Sabbaths and convocations— I cannot bear your evil assemblies.*

<sup>14</sup> *Your New Moon festivals and your appointed feasts my soul hates.*

*They have become a burden to me; I am weary of bearing them.*

<sup>15</sup> *When you spread out your hands in prayer, I will hide my eyes from you;  
even if you offer many prayers, I will not listen. Your hands are full of blood;*

<sup>16</sup> *wash and make yourselves clean. Take your evil deeds out of my sight! Stop doing wrong,*

<sup>17</sup> *learn to do right! Seek justice, encourage the oppressed.*

*Defend the cause of the fatherless, plead the case of the widow.*

- God gives very specific instructions, and warning to the people about the Sabbath

**Jeremiah 17:19-27**

<sup>19</sup> This is what the LORD said to me: **“Go and stand at the gate of the people, through which the kings of Judah go in and out; stand also at all the other gates of Jerusalem.** <sup>20</sup> Say to them, **‘Hear the word of the LORD, O kings of Judah and all people of Judah and everyone living in Jerusalem who come through these gates.** <sup>21</sup> This is what the LORD says: **Be careful not to carry a load on the Sabbath day or bring it through the gates of Jerusalem.** <sup>22</sup> **Do not bring a load out of your houses or do any work on the Sabbath, but keep the Sabbath day holy, as I commanded your forefathers.** <sup>23</sup> **Yet they did not listen or pay attention; they were stiff-necked and would not listen or respond to discipline.** <sup>24</sup> But if you are **careful to obey me, declares the LORD, and bring no load through the gates of this city on the Sabbath, but keep the Sabbath day holy by not doing any work on it,** <sup>25</sup> then **kings who sit on David’s throne will come through the gates of this city with their officials.** They and their officials will come riding in chariots and on horses, accompanied by the men of Judah and those living in Jerusalem, and this city will be inhabited forever. <sup>26</sup> People will come from the towns of Judah and the villages around Jerusalem, from the territory of Benjamin and the western foothills, from the hill country and the Negev, bringing burnt offerings and sacrifices, grain offerings, incense and thank offerings to the house of the LORD. <sup>27</sup> **But if you do not obey me to keep the Sabbath day holy by not carrying any load as you come through the gates of Jerusalem on the Sabbath day, then I will kindle an unquenchable fire in the gates of Jerusalem that will consume her fortresses.”**

- The end of II Chronicles tells of the fall of Israel, the destruction of the Temple, and the Exile

**II Chronicles 36:15-21**

<sup>15</sup> The LORD, the God of their fathers, sent word to them through his messengers again and again, because he had pity on his people and on his dwelling place. <sup>16</sup> But they mocked God’s messengers, despised his words and scoffed at his prophets until **the wrath of the LORD was aroused against his people and there was no remedy.** <sup>17</sup> He brought up against them the king of the Babylonians, who killed their young men with the sword in the sanctuary, and spared neither young man nor young woman, old man or aged. **God handed all of them over to Nebuchadnezzar.** <sup>18</sup> He carried to Babylon all the articles from the temple of God, both large and small, and the treasures of the LORD’s temple and the treasures of the king and his officials. <sup>19</sup> **They set fire to God’s temple and broke down the wall of Jerusalem; they burned all the palaces and destroyed everything of value there.**

<sup>20</sup> **He carried into exile to Babylon the remnant, who escaped from the sword, and they became servants to him and his sons until the kingdom of Persia came to power.** <sup>21</sup> **The land enjoyed its sabbath rests; all the time of its desolation it rested, until the seventy years were completed in fulfillment of the word of the LORD spoken by Jeremiah.**

- So what do we learn about the Sabbath from all these passages?

## Principle 2.5: Look for Applications of the Law during Old Testament Times / in Jesus' Day

- Studying culture of the day can be helpful here ... note that culture can be right or wrong, and even where we get hints it is right it is not Canonical like Scripture!
- What else do we know about the Sabbath from Jewish history / history of Jesus' time?

- Laws of the Sabbath, as found in the Dead Sea Scrolls:

About the Sabbath, how to keep it properly. A man may not work on the sixth day from the time that the solar orb is above the horizon by its diameter, because this is what is meant by the passage, "Observe the Sabbath day to keep it holy."

- **On the Sabbath day, one may not speak any coarse or empty word.**
- One is not to seek repayment of any loan from his fellow.
- One may not go to court about property or wealth.
- **One may not discuss business or work to be done the next day.**
- **A man may not go about in the field to do his desired activity on the Sabbath.**
- One may not travel outside his city more than a thousand cubits.
- **A man may not eat anything on the Sabbath day except food already prepared.** From whatever was lost in the field he may not eat, and he may not drink unless he was in the camp.
- **If he was on a journey and went down to bathe, he may drink where he stands, but he may not draw water into any vessel.**
- One may not send a Gentile to do his business on the Sabbath day.
- A man may not put on filthy clothes or clothes kept in wool unless he washes it in water or if they scrub it with spice.
- A man may not voluntarily cross Sabbath borders on the Sabbath day.
- **A man may walk behind an animal to graze it outside his city up to two thousand cubits. One may not raise his hand to hit it with a fist. If it is uncooperative, he should leave it inside.**
- **A man may not carry anything outside his house, nor should he carry anything in.** If he is in a temporary shelter, he should not take anything out of it or bring anything in.
- No one should open a sealed vessel on the Sabbath. No one should carry medicine on his person, either going out or coming in, on the Sabbath. No one should pick up stone and dust in an inhabited place. No caregiver should carry a baby on the Sabbath, either going out or coming in.
- No one should provoke his servant, his maid, or his employee on the Sabbath.
- **No one should help an animal give birth on the Sabbath; and if it falls into a well or a pit, he may not lift it out on the Sabbath.**
- No one should rest in a place near to Gentiles on the Sabbath.
- No one should profane the Sabbath for wealth or spoil on the Sabbath.
- **Any living human who falls into a body of water or a cistern shall not be helped out with ladder, rope, or other instrument.**
- No one should offer any sacrifice on the Sabbath except the Sabbath whole burnt offering, for so it is written, "besides your Sabbaths."

{excerpt from: <http://theologia.indicium.us/2011/04/sabbath-keeping-worse-than-a-pharisee.html>}

### Principle 3: How does this point to Jesus / How does Jesus fulfill this Law in the New Testament

- **What does Jesus do on the Sabbath / Say about the Sabbath?**
  - Note: word “Sabbath” close to 50x in Gospels – Jesus does a lot on the Sabbath!
    - Goes to Synagogue
    - Teaches
    - Reads from Isaiah in Synagogue and claims he fulfills it
    - Heals – multiple times, some in synagogue (which gets religious leaders upset)
    - Picks grain
    - (also goes to religious festivals ... staying behind when 12, and being crucified during Passover)
  - **Talks about the Sabbath – it’s purpose, and Jesus’ fulfillment of it** – Matt. 12:1-14, 11:28-30 (also: Mark 2:23-28; Luke 6:1-9; 13:10-17; Luke 14:1-6; John 5:1-18; John 7:21-24)

#### **Mathew 11:28-30, 12:1-14**

28 **“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. 29 Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. 30 For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.”**

1 At that time **Jesus went through the grainfields on the Sabbath**. His disciples were hungry and began to pick some heads of grain and eat them. 2 When the **Pharisees saw this, they said to him, “Look! Your disciples are doing what is unlawful on the Sabbath.”**

3 He answered, **“Haven’t you read what David did when he and his companions were hungry? 4 He entered the house of God, and he and his companions ate the consecrated bread—which was not lawful for them to do, but only for the priests. 5 Or haven’t you read in the Law that on the Sabbath the priests in the temple desecrate the day and yet are innocent? 6 I tell you that one greater than the temple is here. 7 If you had known what these words mean, ‘I desire mercy, not sacrifice,’ you would not have condemned the innocent. 8 For the Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath.”**

**\* Mark 2:27 adds:**

<sup>27</sup> Then he said to them, **“The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath.”** <sup>28</sup> So the Son of Man is Lord even of the Sabbath.”

9 Going on from that place, he went into their synagogue, 10 and a man with a shriveled hand was there. Looking for a reason to accuse Jesus, they asked him, **“Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath?”** 11 He said to them, **“If any of you has a sheep and it falls into a pit on the Sabbath, will you not take hold of it and lift it out? 12 How much more valuable is a man than a sheep! Therefore it is lawful to do good on the Sabbath.”**

13 Then he said to the man, **“Stretch out your hand.”** So he stretched it out and it was completely restored, just as sound as the other. 14 But the **Pharisees went out and plotted how they might kill Jesus.**

**\* Mark 3:1-6** gives us some additional details:

<sup>1</sup> Another time he went into the synagogue, and a man with a shriveled hand was there. <sup>2</sup> Some of them were **looking for a reason to accuse Jesus**, so they watched him closely to see if he would heal him on the Sabbath. <sup>3</sup> Jesus said to the man with the shriveled hand, “Stand up in front of everyone.”

<sup>4</sup> Then Jesus asked them, “**Which is lawful on the Sabbath: to do good or to do evil, to save life or to kill?**” But they remained silent.

<sup>5</sup> **He looked around at them in anger and, deeply distressed at their stubborn hearts, said to the man, “Stretch out your hand.” He stretched it out, and his hand was completely restored.** <sup>6</sup> **Then the Pharisees went out and began to plot with the Herodians how they might kill Jesus.**

### **Luke 13:10-17**

<sup>10</sup> On a Sabbath Jesus was teaching in one of the synagogues, <sup>11</sup> and a woman was there who had been **crippled by a spirit for eighteen years**. She was bent over and could not straighten up at all. <sup>12</sup> When Jesus saw her, he called her forward and said to her, “**Woman, you are set free from your infirmity.**” <sup>13</sup> Then he put his hands on her, and immediately she straightened up and praised God.

<sup>14</sup> Indignant because Jesus had healed on the Sabbath, the **synagogue ruler** said to the people, “**There are six days for work. So come and be healed on those days, not on the Sabbath.**”

<sup>15</sup> The Lord answered him, “**You hypocrites! Doesn’t each of you on the Sabbath untie his ox or donkey from the stall and lead it out to give it water?**” <sup>16</sup> Then should not this woman, a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan has kept bound for eighteen long years, **be set free on the Sabbath day from what bound her?**”

<sup>17</sup> When he said this, all his opponents were humiliated, but the people were delighted with all the wonderful things he was doing.

### **John 7:21-24**

<sup>21</sup> Jesus said to them, “I did one miracle, and you are all astonished. <sup>22</sup> Yet, because Moses gave you circumcision (though actually it did not come from Moses, but from the patriarchs), you circumcise a child on the Sabbath. <sup>23</sup> **Now if a child can be circumcised on the Sabbath so that the law of Moses may not be broken, why are you angry with me for healing the whole man on the Sabbath?** <sup>24</sup> **Stop judging by mere appearances, and make a right judgment.**”

### **Summary**

- Sabbath is a day to observe God’s Law, law of God is for benefit of whole man
- Sabbath is a day of rest and freedom – so setting people free is appropriate
- Sabbath is an example of God’s mercy – acts of mercy are very appropriate to the Sabbath
- Sabbath for man, not man for the Sabbath
- Jesus is Lord of the Sabbath
- Jesus brings true rest to the weary

### **Principle 3.5: Look for Jesus in larger picture / principles that derive from the law**

- **Again, these are our observations, so not Canonical like Christ's own claims.**
  
- **Are there principles we have drawn about the Sabbath that apply to / are fulfilled by Jesus?**
  - **Traditional division of law is Moral, Ceremonial/Religious, Civil/Governmental law**
    - **Part of Sabbath is Moral** – Part of creation order, part of deliverance, 10 commands for all generations
    - **Part of Sabbath is Ceremonial** – Specific laws for the worship in the tabernacle, role of priests, forms of worship for the Sabbath
    - **Part of Sabbath is Civil** – how to treat servants, animals ... regulation of sales, even by foreigners, within the gates of the city. Also punishments for offenders.
  
  - **All three aspects point to / are fulfilled in Christ**
    - **Moral** – Jesus is the firstborn over all creation, and the creator of all things ... Jesus is the ultimate deliverer and bringer of true rest, rest from sin and Satan!
    - **Ceremonial** – Jesus was careful to observe the Sabbath himself. And He kept it fully, not just in some letter of the law, but in the true spirit in which the law was meant – how do we know he was right and the religious leaders were wrong? – he is Lord of the Sabbath – He is the God who first implemented it, who wrote it down, and who by very definition does it right!
    - **Civil** – He gave freedom to the captives and rest to the weary, applying the Sabbath equally to all. One day he will set up the holy city and bring in the final Sabbath, the eternal year of jubilee!
  
  - **Question for us is how will we apply the Sabbath** – how does Jesus' re-interpretation of the Sabbath, his observation of the Sabbath, and His fulfillment of the Sabbath effect us?
    - **Moral** – Sabbath was from creation, and was not overturned, so how practice today?
    - **Ceremonial** - We no longer bring sacrifices on the Sabbath nor do we have temple and priests, so what is any of the Sabbath day rituals apply to us?
    - **Civil** – we do not currently live in a country that is by law Christian, and even if we did we are not the Nation of Israel by heritage, nor can we legislate the heart ... so what should or should we not regulate or expect of the Sabbath in society? And if society does not practice, where do we go with society and where go against it?

## Principle 4: How do the New Testament Authors apply this law?

- What does the rest of the New Testament say about the Sabbath?
  - **Paul on Practice of Sabbath:** Galatians 4:8-11, Romans 14:1-8, Colossians 2:16-23

### Galatians 4:8-11

<sup>8</sup> **Formerly, when you did not know God, you were slaves to those who by nature are not gods.** <sup>9</sup> But now that you know God—or rather are known by God—how is it that you are **turning back to those weak and miserable principles?** Do you wish to be enslaved by them all over again? <sup>10</sup> You are **observing special days and months and seasons and years!** <sup>11</sup> I fear for you, that somehow I have wasted my efforts on you.

### Romans 14:1-8

<sup>1</sup> **Accept him whose faith is weak, without passing judgment on disputable matters.** <sup>2</sup> One man's faith allows him to eat everything, but another man, whose faith is weak, eats only vegetables. <sup>3</sup> **The man who eats everything must not look down on him who does not, and the man who does not eat everything must not condemn the man who does, for God has accepted him.** <sup>4</sup> Who are you to judge someone else's servant? To his own master he stands or falls. And he will stand, for the Lord is able to make him stand.

<sup>5</sup> **One man considers one day more sacred than another; another man considers every day alike. Each one should be fully convinced in his own mind.** <sup>6</sup> **He who regards one day as special, does so to the Lord.** He who eats meat, eats to the Lord, for he gives thanks to God; and he who abstains, does so to the Lord and gives thanks to God. <sup>7</sup> For none of us lives to himself alone and none of us dies to himself alone. <sup>8</sup> **If we live, we live to the Lord; and if we die, we die to the Lord. So, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord.**

### Colossians 2:16-23

<sup>16</sup> **Therefore do not let anyone judge you by what you eat or drink, or with regard to a religious festival, a New Moon celebration or a Sabbath day.** <sup>17</sup> These are a **shadow of the things that were to come; the reality, however, is found in Christ.** <sup>18</sup> Do not let anyone who delights in false humility and the worship of angels disqualify you for the prize. Such a person goes into great detail about what he has seen, and his unspiritual mind puffs him up with idle notions. <sup>19</sup> He has lost connection with the Head, from whom the whole body, supported and held together by its ligaments and sinews, grows as God causes it to grow.

<sup>20</sup> **Since you died with Christ to the basic principles of this world, why, as though you still belonged to it, do you submit to its rules:** <sup>21</sup> **“Do not handle! Do not taste! Do not touch!”?** <sup>22</sup> These are all destined to perish with use, because they are based on human commands and teachings. <sup>23</sup> Such regulations indeed have an appearance of wisdom, with their self-imposed worship, their false humility and their harsh treatment of the body, but they lack any value in restraining sensual indulgence.

○ **Hebrews and Entering God's Rest: Hebrews 4**

<sup>1</sup> Therefore, **since the promise of entering his rest still stands, let us be careful that none of you be found to have fallen short of it.** <sup>2</sup> For we also have had the gospel preached to us, just as they did; but the message they heard was of no value to them, because **those who heard did not combine it with faith.** <sup>3</sup> Now we who have believed enter that rest, just as God has said,

“So I declared on oath in my anger,  
“They shall never enter my rest.””

And yet his work has been finished since the creation of the world. <sup>4</sup> For somewhere he has spoken about the seventh day in these words: “And on the seventh day God rested from all his work.” <sup>5</sup> And again in the passage above he says, “They shall never enter my rest.”

<sup>6</sup> **It still remains that some will enter that rest,** and those who formerly had the gospel preached to them did not go in, because of their disobedience. <sup>7</sup> Therefore God again set a certain day, calling it Today, when a long time later he spoke through David, as was said before:

“Today, if you hear his voice,  
do not harden your hearts.”

<sup>8</sup> For if Joshua had given them rest, God would not have spoken later about another day. <sup>9</sup> **There remains, then, a Sabbath-rest for the people of God; <sup>10</sup> for anyone who enters God's rest also rests from his own work, just as God did from his.** <sup>11</sup> **Let us, therefore, make every effort to enter that rest, so that no one will fall by following their example of disobedience.**

<sup>12</sup> For the **word of God is living and active.** Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. <sup>13</sup> **Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight.** Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account.

<sup>14</sup> Therefore, since we have a **great high priest** who has gone through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. <sup>15</sup> **For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet was without sin.** <sup>16</sup> **Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.**

### Summary

- Jesus never eliminated the Sabbath – he practiced it
- Women that buried Jesus practiced it (did not prepare body until after Sabbath)
- Paul is often said to be in the synagogue on the Sabbath
- But we are free from law ... know now keeping law not get us to God, so not follow Sabbath as it bound to a law, as if slaves, or as if it earns us favor with God
- Different people practice differently ... that is alright, it is an area we can disagree
- It is also an area we should be full convinced of, and practice in away we are convinced fulfills the Scriptures and honors God ... while also honoring those with different convictions
- It is a gracious provision, for our benefit – both in providing rest, and in being a holy day
- Should lead us to Christ, being careful to enter His rest, holding firmly to our High Priest!

## **Principle 4.5: How did the early church interpret / apply this law?**

- Again, not Canonical like Scripture, but we believe God does lead and guide the church, so practices of the early church, especially ones continued through time, are good starting points in our own application.

- How did the early church apply the Sabbath Laws / Sabbath Principles?

- Is Sunday ‘the Sabbath’, ‘the Lord’s Day’, or both?

- Why did church change day? What did it look like in NT times?

- “Number 1 of the Sabbath” / “Marrow after the Sabbath”

- Sunday, Wave Grain, Pentecost, Jubilee ...

- Westminster Longer Catechism on 4th Commandment (Q. 116, 117)

Q: ***What is required in the fourth commandment?***

A: The fourth commandment requireth of all men the sanctifying or keeping holy to God such set times as he hath appointed in his word, expressly one whole day in seven; which was the seventh from the beginning of the world to the resurrection of Christ, and the first day of the week ever since, and so to continue to the end of the world; which is the Christian sabbath, (Deut. 5:12–14, Gen. 2:2–3, 1 Cor. 16:1–2, Matt. 5:17–18, Isa. 56:2,4,6–7) and in the New Testament called The Lord’s day. (Rev. 1:10)

Q: ***How is the sabbath or the Lord’s day to be sanctified?***

A: The sabbath or Lord’s day is to be sanctified by an holy resting all the day, (Exod. 20:8,10) not only from such works as are at all times sinful, but even from such worldly employments and recreations as are on other days lawful; (Exod. 16:25–28, Neh. 13:15–22, Jer. 17:21–22) and making it our delight to spend the whole time (except so much of it as is to be taken up in works of necessity and mercy (Matt. 12:1–13) ) in the public and private exercises of God’s worship: (Isa. 58:13, Luke 4:16, Acts 20:7, 1 Cor. 16:1–2, Ps. 92, Isa. 66:23, Lev. 23:3) and, to that end, we are to prepare our hearts, and with such foresight, diligence, and moderation, to dispose and seasonably dispatch our worldly business, that we may be the more free and fit for the duties of that day. (Exod. 20:8,56, Luke 23:54, Exod. 16:22,25-26,29)

## Principle 5: Applying the Law in my Life / the Churches Life Today

- **A good starting point can be summarizing and big picture issues / principles.**

- **Options for Today**

- Have to Practice – Sabbath as Law for Today (legalism?)
- Ought to Practice – Sabbath as Model for Today
- Helpful Practices – Sabbath Principles for Today
- Not Practice – Sabbath Repealed (what about eternal Sabbath?)

- **Principles from the Sabbath**

- {see summaries in prior sections ... do these help us narrow down our options?}

- **Wisdom from other Godly Men of Today**

- **BFC Articles of Faith** (article 21 – The Lord’s Day)

**21-1** The first day of the week has been recognized by the Church as the Lord's Day since apostolic times. We believe, therefore, that it ought to be observed by all believers, voluntarily and in love, as a continuation of the sabbath principle, a day of remembrance of the resurrection of our Lord from the dead and a day of worship of God, rest from physical toil, service for the Master, and fellowship of the saints. Christians should engage only in duties of necessity and mercy on the Lord's Day.

- **BFC Biblical Principles for Living** (article 104-2 – Work and Rest)

**104-2.1 Human work and rest find their origin in the work and rest, or sabbath, of God.** The original cycle of God's work and rest at creation sets the pattern for human work and rest. Work and rest are therefore an essential part of God's design for the human race. Humanity's fall into sin brought a curse upon work and rest, resulting in pain, difficulty, and futility.

...

**104-2.4 Christians should also observe the principle of rest in reverence for God, Who mercifully provides a weekly rest for weary workers.** The law of Moses also required rest during the three annual feasts, and during the sabbatical and jubilee years. These establish a precedent for **occasional opportunities of extended rest** as the Lord provides. **The principle of rest is violated when people fail to take proper physical and emotional rest.**

**104-2.5** Human work and rest will be consummated at the return of Jesus Christ, when He rewards Christians for their labor and invites them into His rest. In heaven, where the Christian will be completely free from sin's curse, meaningful work for the Lord and glorious rest in His presence will continue forever.

- **John Piper Summary of the Sabbath** (from 2005 Sermon)

Therefore the Sabbath principle was not abandoned by the early church. The shadow of Christ across this weary world still offers shade, namely, the first day of the week—the Lord’s day. And the meaning of that day is that Jesus is risen and Jesus is Lord and Jesus is Creator and Jesus is Redeemer and Jesus is the only place of rest for the soul. It’s a day for worshipping Jesus. It’s a day for saying by what we do and don’t do that Jesus, not our work and not the money we get from our work, is our treasure and our meaning. It is a special day for the honor and the glory of the Lord. A day for mercy and for man.

- **Practical Applications for Today**

- **Example: Lord’s Day Celebration:**

- Resting from our work of the week/ Celebration the Lord’s Day with the Lord’s People
- Psalm of the Sabbath – Psalm 92
- Sabbath Worship & Prayer
- Thanking God for His Work this week
- Thanking God for the Work he is doing in others / Appreciating each other
- Feasting in Celebration of Christ and His Day
- Looking forward to the Spirit’s filling and anointing in His Church
  
- Setting our minds on the Rest that is to come!

### **Understanding and Applying the Sabbath as a Model for all the Law**

- **Principle 1:** Read the Law, each place it is presented, and note what the passages say about it
- **Principle 2:** Look for Applications of the Law within the Old Testament
  - **Principle 2.5:** Look for Applications of the Law during Old Testament Times / in Jesus’ Day
- **Principle 3:** How does this point to Jesus / How does Jesus fulfill this Law in the New Testament
  - **Principle 3.5:** Look for Jesus in larger picture / principles that derive from the law
- **Principle 4:** How do the New Testament Authors apply this law?
  - **Principle 4.5:** How did the early church interpret / apply this law?
- **Principle 5:** Applying the Law in my Life / the Churches Life Today