

# Delightful Discoveries in Prayer

Prayer Lessons in Creation

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## Lesson 15: Answers to Sabbath Questions

Q: What does praying creatively has to do with keeping Saturday?

The answer is found in several texts of Scripture. Principal ones would be Genesis 2:1 to 3, Exodus 20:8 to 11, and Hebrews, chapter 4. In the first of these Scriptures, we learned that God Himself rested on the 7th day at creation. In Exodus, chapter 20, we found that He commanded us to observe it as a memorial of creation. Thus every 7th day of every week we will be reminded, in a very special way, that He is the creator of all things; had the 7th day been faithfully observed by all mankind down through the centuries, there would never have been an atheist, an agnostic, or evolutionist. And we find this command of God right in the center of the moral law—the law of Ten Commandments. In Hebrews, chapter 4, we learned that it is blended throughout the entire chapter with the claiming of Bible promises in prayer. So God connects the 7th day with the claiming of Bible promises.

Q: I've heard all my adult life that the 7th day Sabbath is a Jewish institution

When we go through the 6 days of creation, we then come to the 7th day, and see that the 7th day, as a rest day, or worship day, was instituted at creation—not at the time of the birth of the Jewish nation. It antedated the Jewish nation by more than 2,000 years.

God sanctified the 7th day, the very first week of time; this was about 2,000 years before the call of Abraham—the grandfather of the Jewish nation. But the Jewish nation itself was not founded until Sinai, which was around 400 years later than that. So the 7th day Sabbath was sanctified and blessed nearly 2,500 years before Sinai.

When God spoke the 4th commandment, He made clear in that command itself that His blessing was placed on the 7th day at creation. He gave creation itself as the reason for its blessing, its sanctification, and its being remembered by mankind. Scripture tells us that it is His holy day. This is stated repeatedly throughout the Bible. In the 4th commandment He says it “is the sabbath of the Lord thy God.” Exodus 20:8 to 11. And in Isaiah 58:13 He calls it “my holy day.”

Q: Somewhere in the New Testament I have read that Christ nailed the sabbath to His cross.

The text referred to is Colossians 2:14 to 17. It says that the sabbaths nailed to Christ's cross were those which were “a shadow of things to come; but the body is of Christ.” Verse 17. The 7th day of the week is never said to be a shadow of the body of Christ. The 4th commandment gives creation only as the reason for its observance. So we need to find if there were any other sabbaths which might fit into Colossians 2:17.

Leviticus, chapter 23, says that there were sacrifices and ceremonies, and 7 yearly sabbaths which were connected with the slaying of lambs, and so forth. Passover, occurring the first month of the year, had a yearly sabbath associated with it. 1 Corinthians 5:7 says: “For even Christ our passover is sacrificed for us.”

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What Colossians 2:14 to 17 is talking about is the sacrifices pointing forward to Christ's death. Those 7 yearly sabbaths, which came on different days of the week each year, were nailed to Christ's cross, because Christ was the antitype of all these ceremonies and sacrifices. This makes the whole matter clear. Leviticus, chapter 23 cites these yearly sabbaths, and adds, "beside the sabbaths of the Lord." Verse 38. There were other sabbaths "beside the sabbaths of the Lord." The Sabbath of the 4th commandment points to creation. The other sabbaths were a part of the types and shadowy services pointing to our Lord's death.

The same passage that speaks of these sabbaths being nailed to the cross, speaks of "blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us." Colossians 2:14. What in the ten commandment law is against God's people? Nothing! Yet in the law of sacrifices, the people in Old Testament times would take a lamb and sacrifice it. It was "against" any family to take their lamb, so innocent, so helpless, and kill it. But when Christ, the Lamb of God, came, it was no longer necessary to offer lambs. They were but a type of Christ. So "Christ our passover is sacrificed for us." 1 Corinthians 5:7.

There is nothing about the holy Sabbath day that is against us. The blessed Sabbath day is a gift; it was made for man.

Notice the words in Romans 7:22, "I delight in the law of God." And we read the precious and meaningful words of Christ, "The Sabbath was made for man." Mark 2:27 and 28. Again we read in Isaiah 58:13, "call the Sabbath a delight." So there is absolutely nothing in the 7th day Sabbath that is against us. It was made for us.

When the first week of time—the week of creation—ended, there was no sin, yet. That came in later. So there could be no shadow of a cross when the Sabbath was made by the Lord. All was peace. All was righteousness, sinlessness. No suggestion of Christ's dying for Adam, and for us; for man had not sinned. So there could be no shadow in Eden when the 7th day was blessed.

### SYSTEMS OF LAW

Q: I had always heard that the ten commandment law was nailed to the cross.

A: There are several systems of law in the Old Testament that did not carry over to our time.

1. The national laws of the Jewish nation. Just like we might have a certain speed limit in one state or town, and another in another state or town. So the Jewish nation had certain national laws which were applicable to their national life. These had to do with civil duties.
2. Then there were the laws of types and shadows of Christ, who was to come and die for the sins of mankind. This set of laws was to be nailed to His cross, as already mentioned, just as soon as type met antitype, you see.
3. But the Ten Commandment Law, in which the 4th commands the keeping of the 7th day, is part of another law which is still in force. We turn to James 2:8 to 12, and there read that God says we will be judged by the "royal law," the "law of liberty." And He cites some of the ten commandments to show that the Ten Commandment Law is still to be observed, and will be the final standard of judgment for all mankind. The 7th day Sabbath, being the sign of our Creator, would, by its very nature, never pass away.

### GOOD TO LIVE BY!

A man was in church one day, listening to his minister telling that the Ten Commandments were nailed to the cross. When service was over, this man, not well educated, met the pastor out in the foyer. Looking into his face, the humble parishioner ventured to speak to his pastor. He could not follow the

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deep philosophy of this learned minister. So he just said, "Pastor, after all, ain't those ten commandments pretty good things to live by?"

Those commandments must have to do with moral duty. It is wrong to steal, to commit adultery, to kill, to covet, to swear. Surely God would not nail these laws to the cross!

Q: What if keeping God's 7<sup>th</sup> Day Sabbath results in one losing his job?

A: In creative prayer we can go to the very God of creation. He is the God of the Sabbath. He is the One the Sabbath proclaims. In every problem of life, we can turn to Him. We take one of His promises on our lips. Then we ask Him, with the simplicity of a little child, to fulfill His promise to us. We tell Him how much we believe Him. We sometimes tell Him why we believe Him so fully, we know it is "impossible for" Him "to lie," as stated in Hebrews 6:18. And in Numbers 23:19 we read that "God is not a man, that he should lie."

From the study of Hebrews, chapter 4, we see that we are to mix His promises with faith. We believe, we have confidence that He will keep His word. We say in our hearts, "this promise already contains the answer," and proceed to thank God that we have received.

Our foundation for believing that God will take care of us is the very fact that He is Creator. As such, His word, His promise, contains the very gift He promises. So we can't lose. We are sure to win every time, when we keep looking to Christ, and keep our Creator's day.

In this new kind of creative prayer, "we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him" 1 John 5:15. We are looking for the soon return of our Saviour, to take us home with Him. And we want to fulfill all His commands, through His grace and strength, so we will be ready to go with Him when He returns.

### **The Sabbath and Our Creator**

"The Sabbath calls our thoughts to nature and brings us into communion with the Creator. In the song of the bird, the sighing of the trees, and the music of the sea, we still may hear His voice who talked with Adam in Eden in the cool of the day. And as we behold His power in nature we find comfort, for the word that created all things is that which speaks life to the soul. He "who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ." 2 Corinthians 4:6." The Desire of Ages, page 255.

### **The Sabbath Message**

"And the Holy Spirit through the prophet Isaiah declares: "To whom then will ye liken God? or what likeness will ye compare unto Him? ... Have ye not known? have ye not heard? hath it not been told you from the beginning? have ye not understood from the foundations of the earth? It is He that sitteth upon the circle of the earth, and the inhabitants thereof are as grasshoppers; that stretcheth out the heavens as a curtain, and spreadeth them out as a tent to dwell in....

To whom then will ye liken Me, or shall I be equal? saith the Holy One. Lift up your eyes on high, and behold who hath created these things, that bringeth out their host by number: He calleth them all by names by the greatness of His might, for that He is strong in power; not one faileth.

Why sayest thou, O Jacob, and speakest, O Israel, My way is hid from the Lord, and my judgment is passed over from my God? Hast thou not known? hast thou not heard, that the everlasting God, the Lord, the Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary? ...

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He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might He increaseth strength." "Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of My righteousness."

"Look unto Me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: for I am God, and there is none else." This is the message written in nature, which the Sabbath is appointed to keep in memory. When the Lord bade Israel hallow His Sabbaths He said, "And hallow my sabbaths; and they shall be a sign between me and you, that ye may know that I am the LORD your God." Isaiah 40:18-29; 41:10; 45:22; Ezekiel 20:20. Desire of Ages, pg 256.

"If our love were but more simple,  
We should take Him at His word;  
And our lives would be all sunshine  
In the sweetness of our Lord."

## Review Questions

Note: Be free to fill in the blanks in the following, then check with the correct answers.

1. In Colossians 2:14-17 the Lord tells us that the sabbaths which were nailed to Christ's cross were those which were "a \_\_\_\_\_ of things to come."
2. "But the body is of \_\_\_\_\_." Col. 2:17. 3. These sabbaths were yearly sabbaths, and in addition to, or " the sabbaths of the Lord." Lev. 23:38.
4. The yearly sabbaths were a shadow of things to come, but the weekly Sabbath, the 7th day of the week, was blessed, and sanctified, "because that in it he [God] \_\_\_\_\_ from all his work which God created and made." Gen. 2:1-3.
5. The 4th commandment of the Decalogue gives the reason why we are commanded to keep the 7th day holy. "For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and \_\_\_\_\_ the seventh day." Ex. 20:8-11.
6. When 40 years after the Lord gave the ten commandments on Mt. Sinai, Moses was reviewing them before God's people, he also emphasized that they should let their servants rest, also, on the 7th day, remembering that they themselves were once servants in the land of \_\_\_\_\_. Deut. 5:13-15.
7. Approximately how many years before the Jewish nation existed was the 7th day first blessed and sanctified by our Lord? \_\_\_\_\_
8. Whose day is the 7th day? The Sabbath of the (a) Jews \_\_\_\_\_, (b) Arabians \_\_\_\_\_, (c) "Lord thy God" \_\_\_\_\_? Ex. 20:8-11.
9. "Blessed is the" (a) Jew \_\_\_\_\_, (b) man \_\_\_\_\_, "that doeth this, and the son of man that layeth hold on it; that keepeth the Sabbath from polluting it, and keepeth his hand from doing any evil." Isa. 56:2.
10. When we seek Christ's kingdom before our own selfish needs, He promises that all our temporal needs will be (a) subtracted \_\_\_\_\_, (b) added \_\_\_\_\_. Matt. 6:33.
11. If people misunderstand us because we begin to observe the 7th day, should we be sarcastic in our replies? Yes \_\_\_\_\_. No \_\_\_\_\_. 1 Peter 2:19, 20.
12. Should husbands or wives (a) nag their mates to do what is right \_\_\_\_\_, or, (b) have a meek and quiet spirit \_\_\_\_\_? 1 Peter 3:1-4.

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13. Since the law is spiritual, or pure, should we Sabbath-keepers use carnal weapons, like disputings and murmurings? Yes \_\_\_\_\_. No \_\_\_\_\_. Phil. 2:14, and 2 Cor. 10:4.

14. The true Lord's day of the New Testament is found in three New Testament texts. The first is Rev. 1:10, which states that the Lord still has a specific \_\_\_\_\_.

15. The second New Testament text states that the Lord's day, or the day of which He is the Lord, is the \_\_\_\_\_. Mark 2:27, 28.

16. The third text states that God's rest day is the \_\_\_\_\_ day. Heb. 4:4.

Answers found on answer sheet.