

SABBATH DAY HEALINGS

"The Daughter of Abraham Set Free"

Introduction: *Sitting on the mine shaft. Do not know exactly where we are going.*
-Foreshadowing of Kingdom connections.
-Foreshadowing of creation of being a shadow.

My greater area of study has been the Jehovah names of God. "I am the Lord who makes you holy" is intricately tied into the observance of the Sabbath (Ex.31:13). What bearing does this have on us? How are we to proceed? For nearly 2000 years, the Christian church has supplanted the Sabbath with Sunday. And in recent times, substitute Sunday has been defiled as well.

In this sharing, we will begin to look at some of these issues.

Mark 2:27-28

27 Then he said to them, "The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath.

28 So the Son of Man is Lord even of the Sabbath." (NIV)

This statement (among others) got Jesus killed. A statement of belief without action is simply a statement of opinion. It's not a statement of faith. When He said, "I am the Lord of the Sabbath," He acted out on being Lord of the Sabbath. And we are going to look at what He did as Lord of the Sabbath. His actions as Lord of the Sabbath got Him killed.

An examination of His statement, "Man made for the Sabbath": Adam and Eve were made on the sixth day, toward the latter end of it. The first full 24-hour period they spent together with God was the Sabbath day. Though God set Adam in the garden to work it, his first full day on the job was the day of rest, the Sabbath day.

Gen 1:31-2:3

31 God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. And there was evening, and there was morning-- the sixth day.

1 Thus the heavens and the earth were completed in all their vast array.

2 By the seventh day God had finished the work he had been doing; so on the seventh day he rested from all his work.

3 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. (NIV)

Thus we see that man was made on the sixth day and then the Sabbath day was "created." God did not institute the Sabbath and then create man to serve it. No, He created, made, and formed man and then placed him almost directly into His Sabbath day.

-Six is the number of man (man created on sixth day). 666 complete incompleteness of man.

Exod 20:8-11 (NIV)

8 "Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.

10 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.

11 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.

This is the fourth commandment. Four is the number for the world (four corners of the earth, four winds, etc.). The fourth commandment thus reminds man of God's relation to the heavens and the earth (His creation). The Lord made it a blessed day, a happy day.

Son of man involves the full spectrum of Messiah. No place to lay his head (Matt. 8:20) refers to man in his humblest means, homeless. The other extreme is shown in the title we are looking at, "Lord of the Sabbath". This statement is nothing less than a claim on divinity because Jehovah owns the Sabbath day.

Luke 13:10 "On a Sabbath Jesus was teaching in one of the synagogues," (NIV)

Synagogue was an institution that began in captivity in Babylon. It was born out of necessity in the land of captivity. Thus the Jews would worship in the synagogue on the Sabbath.

Luke 13:11

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. (NIV)

A spirit of infirmity is what crippled this woman, not arthritis, bad posture or malnutrition. It was a spirit of infirmity.

Luke 13:12-13

12 When Jesus saw her, he called her forward and said to her, "Woman, you are set free from your infirmity."

13 Then he put his hands on her, and immediately she straightened up and praised God. (NIV)

Notice what the Lord didn't say. He didn't speak to the spirit. He simply set the woman free.

Luke 13:14

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." (NIV)

The synagogue ruler prohibits healing on the Sabbath day. Is healing work? Yes and no. The real question is: what is the Lord's intent on the Sabbath? Is healing work (for we know that it is a good work Acts 4:9) disallowed by God's law? This is what we are after, the Father's real heart and intent for and about His Sabbath day. And no man knew or knows the Father's heart like Jesus.

Luke 13:15-16

15 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?

16 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?" (NIV)

In direct contradiction to the synagogue ruler, Jesus emphatically states that the Sabbath day is the day that children of Abraham (believers) should be set free.

Some observations:

The synagogue ruler was involved in what is biblically defined as bewitchment or witchcraft. He was trying to bind and hold back the Holy Spirit, which is called "resisting the Holy Spirit", which is also a facet of blasphemy against the Holy Spirit (Matt. 12:22ff; Acts 7:51).

Jesus never chose His analogies loosely. He didn't choose analogies that just fit the situation either. He always spoke into eternity (prophetically through time and beyond), for He is the Word Incarnate and as such, liveth and abideth forever.

Jesus compares the woman bound by a spirit of infirmity, who had a synagogue ruler that disallowed Sabbath day healings, to a beast of burden that has been kept locked in its stall and not given water to drink.

She is bound by a spirit, but Jesus calls her a "daughter of Abraham." He is saying that she is a daughter of faith. Believers can get bound by demons. Praise God, believers can be set free.

The synagogue ruler, by his witchcraft, had kept a daughter of Abraham from her Sabbath day deliverance for 18 years. He resisted the work of the Holy Spirit in her life by keeping her in "her place" (the stall) and not giving her the word of life (water).

Some thoughts on beasts of burden:

Matt 11:28-30

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." (NIV)

The Sabbath day is a day of rest. Here, Jesus says if we take on His yoke, we will find rest for our "souls". Where is rest for the soul realized? In the Millennial Kingdom. In Luke, a daughter of Abraham (who looked for a country and a city whose founder and maker was God) is set free on the Sabbath day. Her binding is compared to a beast of burden that not only is not watered, it is penned up, not used. If we get in the yoke with Him, we find rest for our souls.

Heb 4:1-3

1 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.

2 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.

3 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. (NIV)

In that a promise of a rest still stands, then we cannot be talking about the weekly Sabbath (for His work has been done since the end of the first week, verse 3) or the original occupation of the land. In that it remains, we are talking about something future.

Heb 4:4-9

4 For somewhere he has spoken about the seventh day in these words: "And on the seventh day God rested from all his work."

5 And again in the passage above he says, "They shall never enter my rest."

6 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.

7 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."

8 For if Joshua had given them rest, God would not have spoken later about another day.

9 There remains, then, a Sabbath-rest for the people of God; (NIV)

A Sabbath-day's rest remains for God's people. A little bit about the Sabbath day:

Col 2:16-17 (NIV)

16 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.

17 These are a shadow of the things that were to come; the reality, however, is found in Christ.

The Sabbath day was just a foreshadowing of the reality of Christ. The difficulty with this concept is that the Sabbath day celebration is a commemoration and worship of God as creator. If we were Sabbath observant, it would go a long way in ingraining in our children that God created the universe and that we didn't spring from some subatomic, organic muck! And if the observance of the Sabbath is but a shadow of reality, then it would follow that that which it commemorates, the creation, is but a shadow as well.

Heb 12:26-29

26 At that time his voice shook the earth, but now he has promised, "Once more I will shake not only the earth but also the heavens."

27 The words "once more" indicate the removing of what can be shaken-- that is, created things-- so that what cannot be shaken may remain.

28 Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe,

29 for our "God is a consuming fire." (NIV)

When God spoke from Sinai, the earth shook. Here He says that He will shake it one more time. But that which will shake are the created things. In essence, He says one last time I'll shake creation up and the dust (creation) will fall off reality (the kingdom that remains).

2 Pet 3:8-10

8 But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years,

and a thousand years are like a day.

9 The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.

10 But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything in it will be laid bare. (NIV)

All that we see is but a shadow and a covering on reality. After the shake up of Hebrews we are told that "our God is a consuming fire." In Peter, concerning the same event, we are told that elements will be destroyed by fire and all that is in the earth will be laid bare. The covering over reality will be removed.

2 Pet 3:11

Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives (NIV)

And this is the point of it all, holy and godly lives. We are to live holy and godly lives, not just one day of the week. Seeing that a Sabbath-day's rest remains and an unshakable kingdom, our entire lives should be holy. The Sabbath day was training (and still can be training) for holiness. If we get used to the idea of setting aside a day for God, just maybe we will get hold of the vision of setting aside a life for God! But we are to be about the kingdom business of being holy all of our lives. The point of not esteeming one day greater than the other is not so that we can do as we fool please every day of the week! No, the standard of esteeming every day equally is holiness. We are to esteem every day holy to God.

2 Pet 3:11-13

11 Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives

12 as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming. That day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat.

13 But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, the home of righteousness. (NIV)

Creation is a shadow. The seen world masks and illustrates reality (the unseen world).

2 Cor 4:18

So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.(NIV)

Heb 11:3

By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God's command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible. (NIV)

A pattern of Sabbath day healings is that the Lord always brings the subject back around to the Kingdom. We need to understand the Sabbath day of the law in light of what it foreshadowed and to what it pointed. It tells us of a rest to come in a kingdom that will not fade away and is arrived at by holiness and faithfulness.

The daughter of Abraham was set free of what bound her on the Sabbath day. We, in seeing that our rest is yet to come, need to live godly and holy lives, pushing forward the kingdom of God every day.