

EXAMINING OUR FAITH, part 10 quotes

1 “Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves.” 2 Corinthians 13:5.

(Picture #12 - the Sabbath of the Fourth Commandment of the Decalogue)

2 Why is the Sabbath so special and important that it was the only commandment specifically mentioned before Sinai?

“And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, Speak thou also unto the children of Israel, saying, **Verily my sabbaths ye shall keep: for it is a sign between me and you throughout your generations; that ye may know that I am the LORD that doth sanctify you.** Ye shall keep the sabbath therefore; for it is holy unto you: every one that defileth it shall surely be put to death: for whosoever doeth any work therein, that soul shall be cut off from among his people. Six days may work be done; but in the seventh is the sabbath of rest, holy to the LORD: whosoever doeth any work in the sabbath day, he shall surely be put to death. Wherefore the children of Israel shall keep the sabbath, to observe the sabbath throughout their generations, for a perpetual covenant. **It is a sign between me and the children of Israel for ever: for in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, and on the seventh day he rested, and was refreshed.**” Exodus 31:12-17.

This passage reveals the reason why the Sabbath was specially exalted above all the rest of the 10 commandments, and it was because it is the sign between God and His people.

The Hebrew word for "sign" used in this text is "owth", and it translates and means "a signal, as a flag, beacon, monument, evidence, mark, sign, token" (Strong's, word #226). This means that each weekly 7th day Sabbath is the evidence that God rested after creating all things, which makes the Sabbath a visible signal, like a flag, sign, token, beacon, monument or mark, that all who worship God on this day are His people and He is their God. Knowing this fact of truth allows anyone to determine who are the true followers of God just by noticing on what day they choose to worship God on.

3 Closely examining the Sabbath commandment itself will allow you to see that it contains the three main parts that are necessary to make a decree or law of any king valid - which are his Name, his Position and his Dominion. The Sabbath commandment contains the NAME of the Lawgiver - "the Lord thy God"; His official POSITION - Creator who "made heaven and earth, the sea and all that in them is"; and His DOMINION - "heaven and earth".

But just as significant as this is, these same three things are also necessary in making a royal seal of a king. The king's seal must have his name, his position and his dominion in it in order to be official. Since the Sabbath commandment contains these 3 necessary things within it, then this reveals that the seventh day Sabbath commandment contains the official seal of God.

A royal seal of a king is placed upon any royal decree to authenticate it as being directly from him, as well as to ratify it as legally binding and enforceable over all his rightful subjects. Since God - the King of heaven and earth - has placed His seal into the Sabbath, and the Sabbath is the 4th commandment of His decree of 10 commandments, then God's entire law of 10 commandments is authenticated to be directly from Him, as well as being ratified and legally binding and enforceable over all His subjects. But if you remove the Sabbath from being connected with God's law, then God's commandments no longer are valid or enforceable upon any of His subjects, because it no longer contains God's official seal needed to authenticate it!

This salvational truth was one of the reasons why God repeated the importance of this 7th day to His people some 1000 years after Mount Sinai!

"Moreover also I **gave them my sabbaths, to be a sign between me and them, that they might know that I am the LORD that sanctify them....I am the LORD your God; walk in my statutes, and keep my judgments, and do them; 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.**" Ezekiel 20:12, 19-20.

4 The word "Sabbath" itself contains the following elements:

- "ab", means "father" (Strong's, word #1).
- "b" indicates a "dwelling place" - like Bethlehem, or meaning "of something" (for instance "Tisha B'Av" in Hebrew means "the ninth day of (or dwelling in) the month of Av").
- "ath" means "a sign" (Strong's, word #852).

The word "Sabbath" means the dwelling place of the sign of the Father!

5 Those who love God and who keep God's commandments, including the Sabbath, will indeed be able to obtain and possess the seal or mark of God, because God Himself will make sure of it!

“And after these things I saw four angels standing on the four corners of the earth, holding the four winds of the earth, that the wind should not blow on the earth, nor on the sea, nor on any tree. And I saw another angel ascending from the east, **having the seal of the living God**: and he cried with a loud voice to the four angels, to whom it was given to hurt the earth and the sea, Saying, Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, **till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads**...And it was commanded them that they should not hurt the grass of the earth, neither any green thing, neither any tree; but only those men which have not the seal of God in their foreheads.” Revelation 7:1-3, 9:4.

“And the glory of the God of Israel was gone up from the cherub, whereupon he was, to the threshold of the house. And he called to **the man clothed with linen, which had the writer's inkhorn by his side; And the LORD said unto him**, Go through the midst of the city, through the midst of Jerusalem, and **set a mark upon the foreheads of the men that sigh and that cry for all the abominations that be done in the midst thereof**. And to the others he said in mine hearing, Go ye after him through the city, and smite: let not your eye spare, neither have ye pity: Slay utterly old and young, both maids, and little children, and women: but come not near any man upon whom is the mark; and begin at my sanctuary. Then they began at the ancient men which were before the house....And, behold, **the man clothed with linen, which had the inkhorn by his side, reported the matter, saying, I have done as thou hast commanded me.**” Ezekiel 9:3-6, 11.

What is it that is actually sealed within our foreheads or hearts?

“Bind up the testimony, **seal the law among my disciples.**” Isaiah 8:16.

Those who love God and keep His commandments, including the Sabbath, will receive the seal or mark of God in their foreheads or hearts, because the Sabbath is a distinguishing sign to all the world that we love and serve God and no one else! Those who do not love God supremely will not receive God's seal, and will be forever destroyed.

6 Who is the God who places this mark or seal of God within our foreheads and hearts?

“Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers. And grieve not **the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption**. Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.” Ephesians 4:29-32.

The Holy Spirit is the God who continually works upon our heart to rid us of self-love and in its place establishes love for God and Jesus Christ. Once this love has begun, the Holy Spirit steadily transforms us from rebellion to loyalty, from disobedience to obedience, and gradually settles or fixes us in the truth of God's word to the point that His commandments, especially the Sabbath, becomes our delight to keep. The Sabbath then becomes to us a special time we look forward to each week, not where we can do our own will, but where we come into close communion with the God we truly love and adore, and He with us! If we keep the Sabbath day in this way, we will be greatly blessed by our time spent with our God!

“If thou turn away thy foot from the sabbath, from doing thy pleasure on my holy day; and call the sabbath a delight, the holy of the LORD, honourable; and shalt honour him, not doing thine own ways, nor finding thine own pleasure, nor speaking thine own words: **Then shalt thou delight thyself in the LORD;** and I will cause thee to ride upon the high places of the earth, and feed thee with the heritage of Jacob thy father: for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken it.” Isaiah 58:13-14.

7 But it is not only God - the Holy Spirit that is working upon our heart and preparing us to receive God's seal and mark, but so is God - the Father Himself.

“Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, **work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.**” Philipians 2:12-13.

“For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication: That every one of you should know how to possess his vessel in sanctification and honour....For God hath not called us unto uncleanness, but unto holiness. He therefore that despiseth, despiseth not man, but God, who hath also given unto us his holy Spirit.” 1 Thessalonians 4:3-4, 7-8.

“**Holy Father**, keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me, that they may be one, as we are....**Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.**” John 17:11, 17.

“Thy righteousness is an everlasting righteousness, and **thy law is the truth.**” Psalms 119:42.

8 But the Holy Spirit and the Father are not the only Gods involved in getting us prepared to receive the seal and mark of God.

“As thou (Father) hast sent me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world. And for their sakes **I sanctify myself, that they also might be sanctified through the truth**....And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one: I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one”. John 17:18-19, 22-23.

“**For the Son of man is Lord even of the sabbath day.**” Matthew 12:8.

“And he said unto them, The sabbath was made for man, and not man for the sabbath: **Therefore the Son of man is Lord also of the sabbath.**” Mark 2:27-28.

Jesus sanctified Himself so that all of His followers could become sanctified. And who is the Lord God of the Sabbath? Jesus Christ. Since He is the Lord God of the Sabbath day, then He will indeed also work within us through the Holy Spirit to sanctify us.

“Moreover also I **gave them my sabbaths, to be a sign between me and them, that they might know that I am the LORD that sanctify them.**” Ezekiel 20:12.

“Verily **my sabbaths ye shall keep: for it is a sign between me and you throughout your generations; that ye may know that I am the LORD that doth sanctify you.**” Exodus 31:12.