



God's Appointed Times
"Shabbat Shalom"

Leviticus 23:1-3

God's appointed times as recorded in Leviticus 23 are intended for His people to understand His redemptive program. Since sin entered the world, God has been intentional to deliver on His promise to restore the relationship between Himself and man that was broken by sin.

In order to understand the redemptive program that God demonstrates through the Seven Feasts of Israel, we must understand the Sabbath. The Sabbath illustrates the very character of redemption; it is the goal that redemption was to bring about: ***Shabbat Shalom, "Sabbath Peace."***

Leviticus 23 is God's appointment schedule to meet with His redeemed people. The weekly Sabbath, or *Shabbat* in Hebrew, points to the theme and goal of God's redemptive program.

The Sabbath is identified in the Scripture through four ways:

➤ ***The Sabbath is identified with creation. (Exodus 20:11)***

"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."

The Sabbath is about relationship. Of all His creation, God created man in His own image. The Sabbath is a time when we reflect on our very existence as coming from His creative hand, and we reflect on our very life as coming from His own breath. This is a weekly time to reorient our lives around Him.

➤ ***The Sabbath is identified with redemption. (Deuteronomy 5:15)***

"You shall remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt, and the Lord your God brought you out from there with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm. Therefore the Lord your God commanded you to keep the Sabbath day."

New Testament counterpart to make the point about our being in bondage to sin:

"Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God." (1 Corinthians 6:9-11)

God redeemed us for Himself. He delivered us from bondage and judgment. This was not done to merely escape His wrath and punishment, but so that we might be His people. We can relate to Him

and properly represent Him. He redeemed us from the bondage of sin and **“...brought you out from there with a mighty hand** (pierced with the nails) **and an outstretched arm...**” (bearing the cross).

➤ ***The Sabbath is identified with sanctification. (Exodus 31:13; 17)***

You are to speak to the people of Israel and say, “Above all you shall keep my Sabbaths, for this is a sign between me and you throughout your generations, that you may know that I, the Lord, sanctify you...It is a sign forever between me and the people of Israel that in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, and on the seventh day He rested and was refreshed.”

The word, **sanctify**, means, **“set apart.”** By definition the word, **saints** means **“set apart ones.”** All believers are set apart to God. Therefore, in light of who we are in Christ, we are to be setting our lives apart unto God. The degree to which one’s life is set apart to God, demonstrates the degree to which one’s relationship with the Lord is valued. God sees His sanctifying relationship with us as holy – **kadosh** in Hebrew. God sets us apart for His purpose and glory. The Sabbath is a re-prioritization of a relationship with God in your life.

➤ ***The Sabbath is identified with Jesus Messiah. (Romans 5:1; Colossians 2:16-17)***

“Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.” (Romans 5:1)

“Therefore let no one pass judgment on you in questions of food and drink, or with regard to festival or a new moon or a Sabbath. These are a shadow of things to come, but the substance belongs to Christ.” (Colossians 2:16-17)

Jesus is a picture, a type, and the fulfillment of the Sabbath Peace. In other words, when we take a day to rest, we remember all we are and have in Jesus. We evaluate our life in Him. We refocus on what is most important. We come back to center on the purposes of God in us.

The Sabbath is a day of reflection on the relationship we have with Christ, a re-orientation on the Father, and a re-prioritization of all that we are as the people of God.

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Teachings on God’s Appointed Times

April 9/Passover (Unleavened Bread)

April 16/Firstfruits

April 23/Pentecost

April 30/Harvest

May 7/Trumpets

May 14/Day of Atonement

May 21/Tabernacles