

## Gleanings from the Pentateuch

### Keeping the Sabbath Day (Exodus 20:8-11)

## The Sabbath Day

### Exodus 20:8-11

“Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all you work, but the seventh day is a sabbath of the LORD your God; in it you shall not do any work, you or your son or your daughter, your male or your female servant or your cattle or your sojourner who stays with you.

For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the 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 Day

### Traditional View

➤ *Premise: the Ten Commandments are the eternal, unchanging moral law of God*

- The Sabbath is a creation ordinance
- The law prescribes one day in seven for rest and worship (not merely the seventh day)
- After the resurrection, the Sabbath day was transferred to the first day of the week

## The Sabbath Day

### Traditional View

➤ *Practical Implications*

- Sunday worship is mandatory
- No work on Sundays (except “works of mercy and necessity”)
- Limits cooking, travel and entertainment on Sundays

## The Sabbath Day

### Sabbath in the OT

#### 1. Creation (Gen. 2:2-3)

- The goal and culmination of creation is God’s “rest”
- A seven-day time cycle points to God’s goal for creation
- God does not here establish a seventh-day Sabbath ordinance

## The Sabbath Day

### Sabbath in the OT

#### 2. The Law

- Ex. 16:22-30 – first use of “Sabbath”; God gave them a “rest” on the seventh day
- Ex. 20:8-11 – forbidden to work; analogous to God’s rest on the seventh day of creation
- Deut. 5:12-15 – a reminder of Israel’s redemption from Egypt

## The Sabbath Day

### Sabbath in the OT

- **Primary Significance (Ex. 31:12-17)**  
(secondary significance – a gracious gift of rest from daily labor)

## The Sabbath Day

### Sabbath in the OT

- **Primary Significance (Ex. 31:12-17)**
  - A sign of the Mosaic Covenant
    - it is a memorial of God's culminating rest of creation on the seventh day
    - it is a memorial of God's redemption of Israel from slavery in Egypt

## The Sabbath Day

### Sabbath in the OT

- **Primary Significance (Ex. 31:12-17)**
  - A sign of the Mosaic Covenant
    - it is a weekly sign of Israel's covenant (saving) relationship to Yahweh
    - keeping it was an outward display of covenant consecration to the Lord

## The Sabbath Day

### Sabbath in the OT

- **Conclusion**
  - In pointing back to Creation and the Exodus, Sabbath ultimately points forward to fulfillment in Jesus