

PART 5

7th- day Sabbath-Keeping commanded of Jews in the Wilderness

[Moses] said to them, “This is what the LORD has commanded: ‘Tomorrow is a day of solemn rest, a holy Sabbath to the LORD; bake what you will bake and boil what you will boil, and all that is left over lay aside to be kept till the morning’” (Exodus 16:23).

We now have a definitive command – not to all mankind, but to the Jews only – to set aside the 7th-day as a holy day of solemn rest unto the Lord.

It should be noted the miracle of heavenly manna was a result of the contemptuous murmurings of the Jews against the Lord (vs. 3-4). The rate of daily gathering, as well as the forbidding of gathering manna on the Sabbath was to be a test of obedience to God (v. 4). Nevertheless, many disobeyed. Many never entered the Promised Land (Deut. 1:35).

Manna a type of Christ, the Living Bread, Killed by the Sabbath-Keeping Unbelieving Jews

In the fulness of time, Jesus was sent to a proud, rebellious people. He was the prophetic living fulfillment of heavenly manna (John 6:32-35). But rather than devour His heavenly doctrine as the words of eternal life, the Jews dismissed His

teachings as 'offensive.' So offensive that Christ's death was the only remedy.

The Jews Careful to Keep the Passover Yet Able to Murder Innocent Christ

This was no easy feat. It took careful planning, extreme cunning and serious strategizing. The Romans had to agree to the crucifixion of Jesus, the crucifixion completed, His body placed in a tomb, and all this before the start of the Sabbath, in which no work is allowed.....not even murder.

God Rested From His Work After Creation, Yet is Still Working

Jesus encouraged the Jews to expend their energy toward gaining that which is eternal, which Christ shall give. They responded by asking, what work of God must they do?

Jesus answered and said unto them, This is the work of God, that ye believe on him whom he hath sent (John 6:29).

Simply put, faith is the work of God. This new creation of God is far greater than the 6-day creation of the world and its creatures. For the creation of faith requires the creation of a new heart (Psalm 51:10; Ezekiel 36:26). With the new heart comes a new creation: *Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come (2 Cor. 5:17).*

This New Creation Required the Cross Work of Christ

Although the Son of God, the Word, was an integral part of the original creation (John 1:3; Col. 1:16), it did not compare to His role in the work of the new creation.

But Jesus answered them, "My Father is working until now, and I am working" (John 5:17).

And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross (Phil. 2:8).

In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him (1 John 4:9).

Conclusion: All men are to recognize and believe the visible creation is the work of Jehovah God. Likewise, all men are to recognize their sinful condition, repent and believe the Gospel of His Son, Jesus Christ.