

Sabbath

I was thinking about 'The Law' this weekend, and the words of 'the typical Genie' came to mind i.e. "Your Wish is my Command". Then I realised, that if we truly want to serve God, then the 'Will of God' is actually the 'laws, commandments and statutes of God', for us to do, as Christians.

Three observations on the righteousness of Abraham :

- 1) *And he believed in the Lord, and He accounted it to him for righteousness. (Gen 15:6)*
- 2) *"For I have known him, in order that he may command his children and his household after him, that they keep the way of the Lord, to do righteousness and justice, that the Lord may bring to Abraham what He has spoken to him." (Gen 18:19)*
- 3) *"Dwell in this land, and I will be with you and bless you; for to you and your descendants I give all these lands, and I will perform the oath which I swore to Abraham your father. And I will make your descendants multiply as the stars of heaven; I will give to your descendants all these lands; and in your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed; because Abraham obeyed My voice and kept My charge, My commandments, My statutes, and My laws." (Gen 26:5)*

Before the Lord gives the Hebrews the 10 Commandments etc. Moses is speaking to the elders.

Then he said to them, "This is what the Lord has said: 'Tomorrow is a Sabbath rest, a holy Sabbath to the Lord. Bake what you will bake today, and boil what you will boil; and lay up for yourselves all that remains, to be kept until morning. (Exo 16:23)

Now it happened that some of the people went out on the seventh day to gather, but they found none. And the Lord said to Moses, "How long do you refuse to keep My commandments and My laws?" (Exo 16:27-28)

The new covenant is announced in the old testament by Jeremiah 31:27-34 and Ezekiel 18. Each person is responsible for their own sins, whereas before the whole nation and their descendants, would suffer for the disobedience of their forefathers.

I've heard the arguments about the book of Galatians and believe that the root cause of the trouble was the results of the new covenant, which took away the authority and main occupation of the temple priests and teachers, hence the persecution of Christians:

- 1) Sacrifices had changed from animal flesh to sacrifices of praise and worship (as David had instituted), giving to and helping the widows, orphans and the poor.
(Isa 1:11,16; Hos 6:6; Psa 40:6-8; Psa 50:12-15,23; Psa 51:15-17; Psa 69:30-31; Isa 58:6-7; Jer 7:23; Jer 9:23-24)
- 2) Circumcision had changed from circumcision in the flesh to circumcision of the heart, which wasn't a new thing either according to Jeremiah 9:25-26. *"Behold the days are coming," says the Lord, "that I will punish all who are circumcised with the uncircumcised - Egypt, Judah, Edom, the people of Ammon, Moab, and all who are in the farthest corners, who dwell in the wilderness. For all these nations are uncircumcised, and all the house of Israel are uncircumcised in the heart."*
- 3) The temple teachers of the law had little knowledge of Jesus' teachings on love etc. so they now had to come under the tutorship of Christ's disciples.

Thus the heavens and the earth, and all the host of them, were finished. And on the seventh day God ended His work which he had done, and He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had done. Then God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it, because in it He rested from all His work which God had created and made. (Gen 2:1-3)

Sabbath day rest was instituted on day #7 for everyone, I think this may be the #1 reason for Sunday worshipping Christians, not receiving healing through their own faith.

This is later highlighted in the fourth commandment of God found in Exodus 20:8-11 and Deuteronomy 5:12-15.

"Remember the Sabbath, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labor and do no work, but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord your God. In it you shall do no work: you, nor your son, nor your daughter, nor your male servant, nor your female servant, nor your cattle, nor your stranger who is within your gates. For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day. Therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it."

Salvation for the Gentiles.

Thus says the Lord: "Keep justice, and do righteousness, for My salvation is about to come, and My righteousness to be revealed. Blessed is the man that does this, and the son of man who lays hold on it; who keeps from defiling the Sabbath, and keeps his hand from doing any evil." Do not let the son of the foreigner who has joined himself to the Lord speak, saying, "The Lord has utterly separated me from His people"; Nor let the eunuch say, "Here I am, a dry tree." For thus says the Lord: "To the eunuchs who keep My Sabbaths, and choose what pleases Me, and hold fast My covenant, Even to them I will give in My house and within My walls a place and a name better than that of sons and daughters; I will give them an everlasting name that shall not be cut off." (Isa 56:1-5, also read verses 6-8)

The promise of great blessing for honouring God's Sabbath day law.

"If you turn away your foot from the Sabbath, from doing your pleasure on My holy day, and call the Sabbath a delight, the holy day of the Lord honorable, and shall honor Him, not doing your own ways, nor finding your own pleasure, nor speaking your own words, Then you shall delight yourself in the Lord; and I will cause you to ride on the high hills of the earth, and feed you with the heritage of Jacob your father. The mouth of the Lord has spoken." (Isa 58:13-14)

"Moreover I also gave them My Sabbaths, to be a sign between them and Me, that they might know that I am the Lord who sanctifies them." (Eze 20:12)

"I am the Lord your God: Walk in My statutes, keep My judgements, and do them; hallow My Sabbaths, and they will be a sign between Me and you, that you may know that I am the Lord your God." (Eze 20:19-20)

Jesus also said :

"For the Son of Man is Lord even of the Sabbath." (Mat 12:8)

And He said to them, "The Sabbath was made for man, and not man for the Sabbath. Therefore the Son of Man is also Lord of the Sabbath." (Mar 2:27-28)

Will the Christians do what God said and keep the Saturday Sabbath of rest?

I hope obedience to God is more important than obedience to the Pope, who changed the Sabbath day from Saturday to Sunday.

Paul said :

For as many as have sinned without the law will also perish without law, and as many as have sinned in the law will be judged by the law (for not the hearers of the law are just in the sight of God, but the doers of the law will be justified; for when Gentiles, who do not have the law, by nature do the things in the law, these, although not having the law, are a law to themselves, who show the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and between themselves their thoughts accusing or else excusing them) in the day when God will judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ, according to my gospel. (Rom 2:12-16)

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