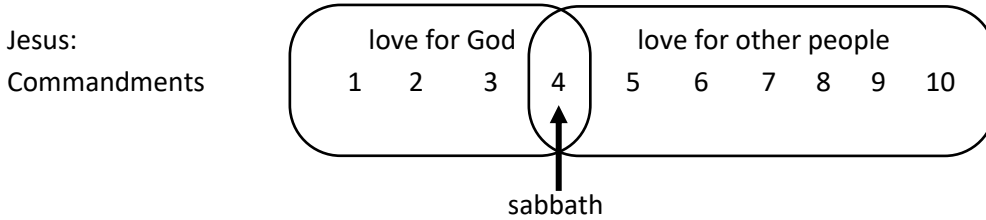


WAS THE SABBATH MADE FOR CHRISTIANS?

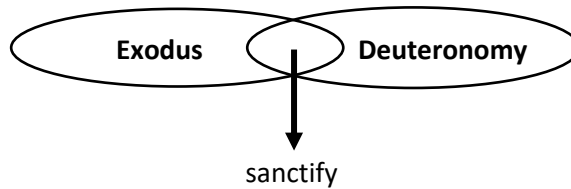
(a brief theology of sacred time), David Green, CCD 14 April 2026

WHY? THE OT IDEA OF SABBATH [Gen 29:27 a 7-day week; Exod 16:25 first use of the word 'sabbath']

1 The Ten Commandments [Exod 20:1-17; Deut 5:6-21; Jesus: Matt 22:36-40]



2 The Fourth Commandments in Exodus 20:8-11 and Deuteronomy 5:12-15



3 Exodus 20 and Genesis 2 – Sabbath and Creation

Exodus 20:11

11 For [during] six days Yhwh made
the sky and the earth,
the sea and all which is in them

and he rested [nwh] on the seventh day.

Therefore Yhwh blessed the sabbath day
and declared it holy.

Genesis 2:1-3

1 So the sky and the earth were finished
with all their inhabitants [lit. host]

2 And God finished on the seventh day
his work which he had done,

and he ceased [šbt] on the seventh day
from all his work which he had done

3 Then God blessed the seventh day
and declared it holy

for on it he ceased [šbt] from all his work
which God had created by doing.

The idea of 'rest' [Ruth 2:7 and 1:9; Deut 12:9; Psalm 95]

4 Exodus 20 and Deuteronomy 5

Exodus 20:11

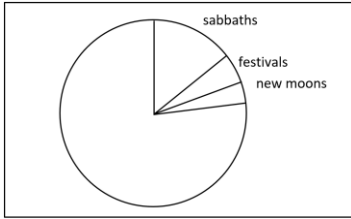
11 For [during] six days Yhwh made
the sky and the earth,
the sea and all which is in them
and he rested [nwh] on the seventh day.
from all his work which he had done
Therefore Yhwh blessed the sabbath day
and declared it holy.

Deuteronomy 5:15

15 and you must remember that you were a slave
in the land of Egypt
and Yhwh your God brought you out from there
by a strong hand and outstretched arm
therefore Yhwh your God commanded you
to observe [lit. do] the sabbath day

HOW?: THE OT PRACTISE OF SABBATH

- 5** **sign** [Exod 34:21; Ex 31:14, 15; Lam 2:6; Hos 2:11]
- Relief** [Exod 23:10-11; Lev 25:1-7; 20-22; Dt 23:10-11; 15:1-18]
- Festivals** [Gen 1:14-19; Exod 23:14-17; 34:18-26; Lev 23:4-44; Num 28-29; Dt 16:16]



How did Israel get it wrong?

- Non-observance [e.g. Amos 8:4-6]
- Mere observance [e.g. Isa 1:13-15]

WHAT DID JESUS SAY ABOUT THE SABBATH?

[Luke 4:16; Matt 5:17-18; John 5:17; Mk 2:27; Matt 12:8]
 [Sabbath controversies: Mt 12:1-8 (= Mk 2:23-28; Lk 6:1-5) cf. Dt 23:25 – Jesus’ disciples picked grain on the sabbath; Mt 12:9-14 (= Mk 3:1-6; Lk 6:6-11) – Jesus healed a man with a withered hand, in the synagogue; Lk 13:10-17 – healing a woman who had had a spirit of infirmity for 18 years, in the synagogue; Lk 14:1-6 – Jesus healed a man with dropsy on a sabbath, in the home of a leader of the Pharisees; Jn 5:1-18 – Jesus healed a man at the pool of Bethesda; this is raised again in Jn 7:22-24; Jn 9:1-16 – Jesus healed a man born blind, also in Jerusalem]

WHAT DID THE NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH DO WITH THE SABBATH?

[Gal 4:10; Rom 14:5; Col 2:16]
 [1st day of week/Lord’s Day Ac 20:7; 1 Cor 16:2; Rev 1:10]

WHERE DID THE SABBATH GO?

- 6** Temple → Christ / church / believer
- Circumcision → Baptism
- Passover → Lord’s Supper

[Hebrews 4; Psalm 95]

HOW DO I OBSERVE THE SABBATH PRINCIPLE NOW?

1. Rest in Christ
2. Creation-time
3. Work, rest and worship
4. Covenant sign

Thinking biblically:

Was the Sabbath made for Christians?
(a brief theology of sacred time)

Was Eric Liddell right to refuse to compete on a Sunday?	Is my work-time or my leisure-time the 'real me'?	Why do we have a seven-day week?
Is work a curse or a blessing?		Why have Christians changed their thinking on Sabbath since 1994?
Is Sunday the Sabbath?	What if Friday is the national day of rest?	Is 'leisure' the same as 'rest'?
Are Trade Unions more sabbatarian than churches?	Did Jesus keep the Sabbath?	This affects me how?